THE BEST SHOW
The pride and joy of SP engineering students on show!

GENERATION NEXT!
Are there personality differences between students from different courses?

FLY AWAY!
What SP students do during their overseas trips.

IOS VS ANDROID
Which is the better platform?
content highlights

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Cover Story
Personality clash, really?
Find out if SP students from different schools are the same, or different.

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The world is their oyster after going through an overseas programme.

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An SP-made solar car races across the Australian Outback.

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Mixed martial arts is not for women? You got it wrong!

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A Courting Campus
Blushing brides and dashing grooms – newlywed SP alumni framed on campus!

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH
WE RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Our Army is the foundation of our nation’s security. Capable of performing a wide spectrum of operations at home and abroad, we constantly push our limits and stand ready to act swiftly and decisively when called upon. As a competent and respected force, we are committed to protect our country, our loved ones and our way of life. For this is our home we are defending. Our Army always rises to the challenge. Visit us at armycareers.gov.sg
With close to 16,000 students spread across the humongous SP campus, have you ever wondered what makes you different from the rest? Who is the Running Man fan and who goes crazy over FC6 prawn mee? And what’s hiding inside the bag of an engineering student vis-à-vis a business one? SPirit digs into the personalities of nine SP students from across its nine academic schools.

Lee Jian Wei
Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR)
Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA)

What do you like about SP?
It’s like my second home. I can meet my friends from my class and CCAs anytime and anywhere! The choice of food in SP is superb – six food courts plus a few fast food outlets. And we always say SP means SO POSSIBLE and SURE PASS! I always hold onto the belief that I can PASS all my exams with flying colours and that it is SO POSSIBLE to do any activity within the school. Thus, I always boast to people about how great SP is with the awesome acronym!

What do you dislike about SP?
My school’s block, SMA, is located a bit far from the MRT station, like a 10-minute walk. And sometimes the food court is too packed during break time and I have to queue up for 20 minutes when I only need 10 minutes to eat.

The boys / girls in SP are:
Boys are hot? Girls are hotter? Everyone has their own style!

I wish my lecturers could be more...
Lenient and considerate. Allow us to have a break when we feel too tired during lessons. If they put themselves in our shoes then they will know how many assignments they give to us, haha. Hopefully our lecturers won’t compare us too much with the seniors. Now it’s the 21st century and everything has changed!

What in my bag / wallet:
Cash, coins, EZ-link and IC in my wallet. Earphones and a book: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey to kill boredom. The most important thing is an external battery charger to charge my phone!

What is it you can’t leave home without?
My phone and wallet. Both are must-have items for me to go to any place. And of course, proper attire and hairdo!

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My SP chillax corner:
Besides the classroom, I think it’s the food court where I can buy snacks anytime when I feel hungry.

My fave food court stall is:
Food Court 2’s chicken rice stall as I am a chicken lover! Chicken is high in protein.

My fave celebrities are:
Johnny Depp. He is versatile and can play his role convincingly in different movies. Oprah Winfrey for her charitable donations and successful career. Taylor Swift for her beautiful and well-composed songs.

My all-time fave songs are:
I like oldies the best. I loved Backstreet Boys, Westlife, Savage Garden, Whitney Houston and Celine Dion back when I was a kid. Backstreet Boys - As Long As You Love Me, Whitney Houston - I Will Always Love You, Westlife - My Love, etc.

My all-time fave TV shows are:
I don’t really have an all-time favourite but I do watch Korean variety show Running Man for entertainment as I find it really hilarious!

My fave hangout outside SP:
Cafés and old vintage shops where I can find nice food and the strangely vintage smell.
What do you like about SP?
The GOURMET FOOD! Haha just kidding. I like how the facilities in SP are very accessible and useful to us students!

What do you dislike about SP?
Too many people in the food areas during lunch and dinner time. Just look at the queue in Food Court 3 for the chicken rice stall...

The boys / girls in SP are:
Really cool and lovely people to be with!
I love meeting people from all walks of life :) My DMAT classrooms! There's a drum set and keyboards for me to jam with my course mates all the time!

My fave food court stall is:
The nasi padang stall in Food Court 6.

My fave celebrities are:
Paramore, One Ok Rock, Ed Sheeran. I don’t know if they’re singers or celebrities, but I look up to them as my top inspirations and role models!

My all-time fave songs are:
Well, basically, I’d love anything punk rock. Introduce some good bands to me?

My all-time fave TV shows are:
Running Man! OMG they’re so funny!

My fave hangout outside SP:
Esplanade’s music library! It’s such a conducive place for me and not to mention, there’s a jamming studio inside too. Perfect for all music lovers, or if you want a nice place for a date with your special someone :) My trusty ear piece!

My fave websites:
What’s in my bag / wallet:
Nothing special really. Most exciting thing in my bag would be my phone charger, while my wallet would be empty as always.

My all-time fave TV shows are:
The Big Bang Theory. The only educational show that I enjoy.

My fave place to shop for clothes:
Nothing special really. Most exciting thing in my bag would be my phone charger, while my wallet would be empty as always.

What is it you can’t leave home without?

My mum nagging about why saving money is important… I know right.

Kaela Chua Xin Rui
Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)
School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT)

My favorite celebrities are:
Miranda Kerr, Adam Levine and Kevin Hart.

My favorite TV shows are:
The Big Bang Theory. The only educational show that I enjoy.

My favorite place to shop for clothes:
Nothing special really. Most exciting thing in my bag would be my phone charger, while my wallet would be empty as always.

My favorite hangout outside SP:
My friends’ houses. The best places to “study”.

My favorite websites:
YouTube and Instagram.
What do you like about SP?
It’s really convenient to get to as it’s just beside the MRT station. And the path to school is sheltered from the rain and sun. What more can we ask for?

What do you dislike about SP?
Haha. It can get a little crowded at times! Looking for seats in food courts during break is a pain!

The boys / girls in SP are:
Outgoing and adventurous?
I wish my lecturers could be more…
Hmm… less serious?

My fave celebrities are:
Kimi Raikkonen, Finnish F1 driver from Lotus F1 Team. I’m a big fan of F1 and Kimi drives really well and fast. He is also famous for giving really short answers to reporters that usually leave them with more questions than answers. Besides that, I’m a big fan of Coldplay too. I think Fix You by Coldplay. It was written by Chris Martin (lead vocalist of Coldplay) for his wife, Gwyneth Paltrow (Pepper Potts in Iron Man), after her father passed away. Coldplay has managed to deliver words of encouragement to everyone through the mellow tunes of this song.

My all-time fave songs are:
Fix You by Coldplay. It was written by Chris Martin (lead vocalist of Coldplay) for his wife, Gwyneth Paltrow (Pepper Potts in Iron Man), after her father passed away. Coldplay has managed to deliver words of encouragement to everyone through the mellow tunes of this song.

My all-time fave TV shows are:
Top Gear. It was introduced to me by one of my poly friends. Although it is a motoring show, Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond never fail to make you laugh with their crazy stunts and ridiculous tests and experiments. I like The Walking Dead too. The never-ending suspense keeps me tuning in week after week.

My fave hangout outside SP:
Food Court 6. It is the most convenient for me as it is located near to SP Business School. My fave place to shop for clothes:
ASOS. This online store has most of the brands that I usually wear.

What's in my bag / wallet:
My specs, earphones, wallet and notes. My Westone W2 earphones. They were given to me by my good friends for my 20th birthday and they are really comfortable and great-sounding.

My fave food court stall is:
The meat ball soup stall in Food Court 6! Sadly, they are not selling it anymore now. Their prawn noodles are pretty decent too.

Hmm... less serious?

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Hmm… less serious?
I wish my lecturers could be more... Passionate in what they're educating, and not just teaching because it's their job. (I'm just talking about some of them, not all!!)

My SP chillax corner: SDC 1111! Better known as the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering Clubroom!

My fave food court stall is: Chicken Talk at Food Court 3. Some days you crave for it, and other days you just can't make up your mind on what to eat and the store just pops up automatically in your head!

My fave celebrities are: I don't follow celebrities that much, but if I have to answer, they would be... the cast from How I Met Your Mother: JoshRadnor, JasonSegel, NeilPatriot, Harris, AlysonHannigan and CobieSmulders! Then there's LeonardoDiCaprio and EmmaWatson too, hahahaha!

My all-time fave songs are: There are too many! I'll just name a few, I guess? 1997 - Phoenix, Reasoness - Kakimmmmmmmmmmm (sorry, but the band's name has to be censored :X); Sweater Weather - The Neighbourhood; Matilda - Always Like

What's in my bag / wallet: YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram! That's included as a website, and for research purposes, Google!

What is it you can't leave home without?: My phone, a necklace I bought with my friends (from the band, The Pretty Reckless). My sisters' wardrobes. The clothes are free, and there's a huge variety to choose from. But they're gonna kill me if they read this.

What do you like about SP?: How SP is constantly improving to provide us a better environment to study in! For example, The Agency was built to give us a feel of how it is like working in a real integrated marketing agency. And the food is awesome!

What do you dislike about SP?: I think accessibility. Getting around the school can be pretty tiring and we don't get to mingle with people from the other side of SP due to the distance.

The boys / girls in SP are: Awesome! And we're a crazy bunch to work with.

I wish my lecturers could be more... Nerdy! They're too hipster-ish and it's hard to keep up with them!

Where I usually hang out in SP (my chillax corner): The Agency! It's a great place!

My fave food court stall is: Prawn mee in Food Court 6! It's sooooooo good! I eat it at least three times a week! The new ayam penyet stall is the reason why I don't eat prawn mee everyday now, though! Yup, it's that good.

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What do you like about SP?: The way some examinations are structured. I believe there's more to learning than that.

What do you dislike about SP?: I hate the fact that we're still graded on how well we're able to memorise and regurgitate information during tests for certain modules. I believe there's more to learning than that.

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What do you like about SP?
I like how it is So Possible with Singapore Poly!

What do you dislike about SP?
Initially, the campus was so huge that it felt like there were surprises awaiting at every corner, but it got dull after a while!

The boys / girls in SP are:
The girls are Super Pretty in SP.

I wish my lecturers could be more…
I think they are perfect just the way they are >.0

My SP chillax corner:
The DESIGN SCHOOL CLUBHOUSE. It’s home to me. I spend more time there than in my own home!

My fave food court stall is:
Japanese food at Food Court 3! I used to be able to call the aunty directly to order a serving of salmon omelette rice! But she don’t work there anymore T.T

My fave celebrities are:
My mother. She’s my Superstar!

My all-time fave songs are:
Hannah Hunt’s Vampire Weekend.

My all-time fave TV shows are:
The Walking Dead because it teaches me impeccable skills to survive a zombie apocalypse!

My fave hangout outside SP:
Nex! I’m always there because my friends are too lazy to get out of the Serangoon area!

My fave place to shop for clothes:
I usually do online shopping on ASOS and River Island.

What’s in my bag / wallet:
Hmm… the usual? Wallet, pencil case, keys, pet puddle, laptop and phone.

What is it you can’t leave home without?
My positive outlook on life!
Who They Are, Where They Went:
Thirty School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology students went to Vietnam to teach photography techniques to students in Nguyen Huu Canh College. They also raised money to buy and deliver 1,300kg of rice, 60 boxes of noodles and stationery sets to children at an orphanage home.

What They Did:
The photography and digital arts training that the Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG) and Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA) students in the group underwent in SP gave them expertise to tutor the Vietnamese students in areas like DSLR camera handling and composition (guidelines for taking good photos).

This trip was organized under the Go Serve initiative in SP, which encourages students to be socially responsible and involved in the lives of others. To date, SP students have travelled to places like Vietnam, India and Nepal to serve others; besides performing community services locally.

To learn more, go to goserve.sg.
Who They Are, Where They Went:
Twenty-four SP students from across SP’s nine academic schools went to snowy Ringha Valley in Shangri-La.

What They Did:
The students helped to build toilets for their host village. This was done in order to show the villagers the benefits of adopting modern sanitation systems. The team also planned games to entertain children in the village nursery.

While building the toilets, the students experienced being pelted with snow from an oncoming snow storm! Also, they were deeply impressed by the villagers, who patiently helped to build the toilets alongside them and showed them the warmest hospitality.

Austen Cheah, Diploma in Energy Systems and Management (DESM) recent graduate, says:
“Operation Shangri-La is over & done Unquestionably we had loads of fun Though the work was intense & all In the end we stand proud & tall.

“See every sight & hear every sound Taste all flavours, smell the scents around Envision the impossible, watch it come true Many surprises the future holds for you.”

Sim Xi Zhe, second-year Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) student, says:
“Although the games we organised were simple, the children truly enjoyed themselves. In a decade’s time, many of us would probably have forgotten the finer details of today, but the kids could remember it for a long time to come.”

SHANGRI-LA (YUNNAN) CHINA
So Possible

Who They Are, Where They Went:
Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology (DADP) students attended a three-week long course at the University of London to learn specialised theatre skills and techniques. Another group of Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) students went through a week-long course at the University of Melbourne to gain new perspectives on writing and the changing media landscape.

What They Did:
Viewpointing, a philosophy focusing on refining subtle body movements and posture to improve one’s portrayal of a character, was but one of the interesting techniques picked up by DADP students during their stay. As for the DTVM students, they took classes such as Media Futures and New Technologies and creative writing workshops, and also explored Melbourne’s lively streets and cool bookstores in their free time!

Joanne Chim, second-year DTVM student, says: “I discovered so many things, especially during the creative writing lessons! As writers, we were encouraged to hone our observational skills to see the details others would normally ignore. It’s these details that could be just what we need for our next big story!”

Victor Pang, final-year DADP student, says: “The key thing I learned is that there are so many different ways to create a theatrical experience. You can actually combine many different art forms and techniques and still make something that is artistically authentic and truthful.”

Who He Is, Where He Went:
Christopher Lye Mingzhong from the Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) went on a 10-day, all-expense paid trip to America to compete in the 2013 Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship finals!

What He Did:
Trained by SP’s School of Mathematics and Science, the second-year student honed his skills in Microsoft Excel (you’d be sorely mistaken if you think Excel is only meant for making inventory sheets or simple tables!). With expert precision, Christopher rose to the top of the Excel category at the national level of the competition, which earned him the right to go to Washington DC to represent Singapore on the world stage. As part of the trip, he also got the chance to tour New York City and Chicago to see iconic landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty and Times Square!

Chris also got the chance to try authentic American pizza. Fun fact: Chicago-style deep-dish pizza is baked in a round steel pan, and has a crust up to three inches tall at the edge. It also contains large amounts of cheese and chunky tomato sauce!

Christopher says: “My experience was incredible! It was my first-ever trip to the US, and I was really blessed to have this chance to represent Singapore, make new friends and eat delicious food – all of it for free!

Learning the deeper applications of Excel from SP’s lecturers not only gave me this opportunity, but also helped me as a person as well. I now use Excel to make complex calculations and keep track of my work, and it’s helped me to become more organised and productive in all that I do.”

As a DEPM student, watching the competition take place was also a great learning experience. Observing how the organisers had to arrange for translators and understand many different cultures, for example, taught me about the hard work that goes into a prestigious international event.”
So Possible

Who They Are, Where They Went:

Thirty-one Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) students went to India to gain a deeper understanding of building materials and perspective of Indian architecture. During the 14 day trip, they took part in a workshop with hands-on activities to help them understand the tectonics of basic materials such as clay and paper. The experience helped strengthen their sensitivity towards materials, and hence architecture as well.

What They Did:

In the cities of Ahmedabad and Bhuj, they visited different places ranging from heritage temples, tribal villages and palaces to modern contemporary buildings. This helped them appreciate both the local culture and the architecture of various periods in Indian history. A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Great Rann of Kutch, a salt marsh that is about 7,505km² in size and reputed to be the largest salt desert in the world.

At the workshop, each student composed a clay tablet and learned the different techniques of making, kneading, handling and firing the clay. They also learned to apply glaze on their tablets and fired them at temperatures as high as 1300°C. Another part of the workshop was handmade papermaking, where the students learned the process of making paper from banana stems.

Lucas Nguyen Cheuk Heng, final-year DARCH student, says: “Every monument on the journey has no doubt awed me, each of them representing different periods of Indian history that, when pieced together, form a marvellous timeline of societal change and advancement that has enabled the creation of taller and grander architecture. Being brought around India as a traveller to some of its most captivating places was a wonderful thing. Being able to break away from comforts back home, survive the treacherous traffic, interact with both young and old villagers and explore uncommon activities such as clay and paper making definitely immersed me in the full colours of Incredible India.”

Who They Are, Where They Went:

Three final-year Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) students went to Canada for a six-week internship to study the science of baking at the University of Guelph.

What They Did:

There, they worked under research supervisors who taught them how to effectively use flour and millet to create sumptuous bread and muffins. They also learnt to use new types of food technology such as the Farinograph machine, which can determine the amount of water required for the different types of flour to make a perfect dough for bread or cakes. During breaks, they visited the majestic Niagara Falls and Toronto City, and attended one of Canada’s delightful Maple Syrup Festivals. And back at their school dorms, they went grocery shopping, cooked their own meals, made snowmen outdoors and started snowball fights with each other!

Ee Hai En, final-year DFST student, says: “In secondary school, I discovered I had this huge passion for baking, and since then I’ve been aspiring to open my own café in the future! This passion was also one of the reasons I decided on the DFST course at SP! After graduating, hopefully I’ll get to return to Canada for another trip! Haha. But more importantly, I aim to further my studies in food science, either locally or overseas. I’d love to be one of those kinds of people who invent brand new types of food!”

GUELPH, CANADA

AHMEDABAD & BHUJ, INDIA
A team of 45 students spent one year developing SunSPEC 3, a solar vehicle that participated in the biennial World Solar Challenge race that took place in September.

SunSPEC 3, a solar vehicle, was designed and assembled by a team of 45 students from SP. The vehicle participated in the world-class World Solar Challenge 2013 held in Australia.

The race required solar cars to travel 3,000km from Darwin in the Northern Territory to Adelaide in South Australia, in six days. The SP team was not hoping to win the race but to complete the required distance. The biennial event has seen an average of only 10 vehicles completing the entire race.

SunSPEC 3 travelled 1,676 solar mileage. It has the capability to travel further, and would have even completed the race if not for the breakdown of its support vehicle.

Jayson explains: “The support vehicle was very important as it carries our parts and stores, including food. Even if it got repaired, we would have missed the checkpoint deadline which every car must meet.” Throughout the race, all cars had to be at 10 checkpoints before a stipulated date and time. Otherwise, they would be deemed as not having completed the race. Even though their vehicle had to be trailered to the finishing point, they were ahead of some other Asian teams including China, Malaysia and Indonesia, and just two positions behind Japan and South Korea. A Netherlands team won the race in 33 hours and 3 minutes.

Nonetheless, the experience was exhilarating for Jayson and the 16 other students who went on this trip. “It was a very beneficial project as it allowed us to see different approaches adopted by other countries in developing their solar cars. It’s not something that we could have learned in the classroom. Besides that, we also learned how to solve problems with limited resources and survive outside our comfort zones,” says Jayson.

Fun moments were not lacking despite the harsh conditions in the vast outback that had neither streetlights nor shops. The team had fun camping in the outback where they built their own tentages, slept on hammocks and cooked salmon (purchased from the grocers before the race started) with instant noodles. Houseflies were their main irritants.

The project, which took a year to conceive and execute, was also a final-year project (FYP) for Jayson. The hard work has paid off for him as he was rewarded with a distinction score for this FYP. This added another feather to his cap, as he had already scored a distinction for his internship earlier.

We hear him say, “With SP, it’s so possible!”
When our SP boys say the sky’s the limit, they really mean it! Don’t believe them? Well you should. After all, 14 SP students received their Private Pilot Licenses (PPL) at the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC) just last year!

These 14 students, who are mainly from the Diplomas in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE), Aerospace Electronics (DASE) and Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE), were presented with their PPLs by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore. These licenses entitle them to pilot a Singapore-registered aircraft for non-commercial use.

In order to attain their prestigious pilot wings, they joined the SYFC as their CCA and went on more than 30 training flights over a period of about one year. They also took written examinations and studied aircraft theory. Though the process was certainly time-consuming and difficult, it was definitely worth it for all of them to feel their licenses in their hands!

Normally, such training would be incredibly expensive. Luckily for them though, the programme is highly subsidised for poly students; it is almost fully funded by the Ministry of Defence which hopes to identify suitable candidates to become air force pilots. Take note though, for those of you choosing aerospace-related diplomas: having knowledge gained from DARE or DASE doesn’t automatically guarantee that you will succeed in being a pilot. It will however, give you a better understanding of how planes work, and that will be an added advantage if you wish to be a pilot in future!

Besides the fact that SP received a majority of the licenses awarded this year (14 out of 38), two of our students also received awards given to the best trainees in the cohort! Final-year DEEE student Lee Hong Hui was honoured with the SYFC Best in Flying Award and the MAJ Best in Ground School Award, while final-year student Muhd Azkhairy Bin Mohd Ramezan from DARE won the MAJ Best in Ground School Award. And to top it all off, Hong Hui was one of two incredibly lucky ones who were selected to go on familiarisation flights on an F-16 fighter plane! Without a doubt, these boys will soar higher when they graduate from SP!
Gasps and shouts of encouragement filled the air in Open Plaza as the girls from Gusto!, SP’s cheerleading team, were tossed into the air and safely caught by their male partners. Inside the SP Convention Centre, a more solemn mood prevailed as SP students and lecturers counselled post ‘O’ level students on the details of the diploma courses they hoped to take up. At Eleven Square, final-year students showcased their months of hard work (and for some, hardship too!) encapsulated in projects at the SP Engineering Show. The annual SP Open House saw more than 15,000 visitors thronging the various activities. From course counselling to CCA performances and tours to school facilities, the entire campus was bustling to the brim. This brings to you in photos the excitement and highlights of the three-day event.
So Possible!

OPEN HOUSE 2014

A confetti welcome for SP Robot, special guest at the Engineering Show 2014.

SP so steady. Got iPad to help us choose a course.

The freestyle flash mob.

Spinning, winning and grinning. We are the Gatsby Specky Boys.

I'm from SP Strongman Club! Never heard of it? Eh, you saying hello or what?

Ma'am, no need to look further. SP is the right choice.

It's not Halloween, we're just showing you what we do for the visual effects course.

SP cyclists must wear so tight?

Cam ready… you guys are on air!

Join this course, we teach you how to build a car.

This is our final-year project, not pasar-malam game ok!

You see this? Our students built it. So clever they all!

Thank you for coming to SP Open House.

Yes boy, SP can bring you to higher ground.

Thank you for coming to SP Open House. And for those who got into SP, congratulations! Gong Xi Gong Xi!
It takes courage to create something, and even more so to bring that creation into the public eye. Out in the open, it can be judged and criticised – you can be judged and criticised. But if you dare to take the risk, push the boundaries of your creativity and work hard on your designs, a reward lies in store: the chance for praise and appreciation from a like-minded professional in your craft.

For a group of final-year and second-year Diploma in Interior Design (DID) students, satisfaction came from sharing their lovingly-crafted ideas and designs with professionals from creative circles at the DID Industry Night 2013. Held at Chan Hampe Galleries, the event showcased their design concepts forged through tireless refinement, reflection and research.

Their ideas caught the eyes of art directors, architects, interior designers, account executives and even business owners in the creative industry. The range of retail and hospitality experiences and concepts presented not only evoked interest and delight; several final-year students also received enquiries about their portfolios and invitations for interviews at well-established design firms and agencies.

But perhaps the greatest reward of all was simply this recognition and appreciation of one’s blood, sweat and tears from a fellow craftsman. Second-year student Yong Ming Jie said, “It was the first time that my own individual work was openly displayed. And to have it seen and appreciated by industry professionals… it was all simply sensational.

“Working on a project is like running a race where you trip, fall and get up over and over again. You make mistakes and get plenty of critiques, too. But each time you get up, you also get stronger. And through this, you can push your limits. You learn to stretch the boundaries of your ideas and continually think out of the box. Maybe at the start of the day, all you have is a small dot of an idea. But if you keep trying to grow that dot and make it more colourful and bold with your own mind, you might eventually create a place or a space that ends up having a truly positive impact on the lives of others.”

EXHIBITING SIGNS OF SKILL

Besides the Industry Night organised for DID students, other SP Design School (SD) students also took their projects outdoors. At The Singapore Blend held at Bugis+ shopping mall, Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) students displayed their creations: a range of exhibits and social movement ad campaigns inspired by Singaporean culture and targeted at solving social problems.

And over at the ArtScience Museum, The Student Agency, an ad agency run by students from SD, put up another exhibition titled Sydney Surfing where they shared their overseas experience via 11 interactive works.

Students shared their ideas with a multitude of creative professionals from the industry.

Movement of the Shadows is a project by third-year student Lin Lei. It is a 14-meter-long bench that explores and redefines the experience of resting outdoors. The project is part of a series called The Tree Hotel, which explores how design can redefine existing approaches to the hospitality experience.

Students from SD’s Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design display their advertisements for Bliss, a game app that promotes social interaction between young Singaporeans.

An internal perspective of The Wellness, a personal resting space for Central Business District workers. The project studies the human ergonomics of rest.

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The National Environment Agency (NEA) recently collaborated with SP students from the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) to envision new designs to solve problems faced by today’s hawker centres. Exactly what were these design revolutions that made front page news in The Straits Times? 

The Architecture of Good Eating

Overcrowding, greasy surroundings and walkways, unreturned food trays left on tables – these are just some of the problems discouraging people from eating at hawker centres and giving these centres an unglamorous image. To revitalise these places and ensure these centres an unglamorous image. To revitalise these places and ensure these centres an unglamorous image. To revitalise these places and ensure these centres an unglamorous image. To revitalise these places and ensure these centres an unglamorous image. To revitalise these places and ensure these centres an unglamorous image.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) tapped on the creativity of SP’s Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) and Diploma in Landscape Architecture (DLA) students. Using analytical skills and Design Thinking techniques gained in SP, the students observed Ghim Moh Hawker Centre and Adam Road Hawker Centre to understand the social, geographical, and architectural aspects of the problem. They then used the information gathered to create 20 proposals ranging from a total redesign of the hawker centre structure to designs of individual stalls and even specially customised food trays.

These designs ranged from large-scale reimagining of hawker centre structures (stalls with sleek, circular shapes and options for extensive customisation and decoration to simple but highly practical concepts (table designs which have two two-seater tables placed closely to each other to allow them to double as a four-seater table. The small distance between the two-seaters provides enough privacy for two pairs of strangers to eat near each other, but still allows a group of four to eat together. This eliminates situations where two people might take up a four-seater table and waste space. Many of them focused on providing elegant solutions to key issues such as lack of space or perceived uncleanness or outdated-ness of these places.

Minister of the Environment and Water Resources Mr Vivian Balakrishnan viewed an exhibition of these ideas at the Environment Building, and at the end of it he said he hoped he would see the students’ ideas coming into fruition. “We need fresh ideas for some of the problems we have been struggling with for some time… and we can take some of these ideas, build prototypes and test-bed them in our hawker centres,” he shared. The students’ ideas may be implemented in 10 new hawker centres that are run by social enterprises, or other existing centres that will be refurbished in the next few years. This exercise was conducted under the “Detailing for Sustainable Design” module, which teaches students to utilise sustainable, cost-effective and thoughtful design ideas to create long-term, environmentally sustainable solutions to problems. DLA student Viviana Lie’s group created the Choppee Table, a quirky and unmistakably Singaporean concept table that can be flipped open to show that the table is reserved. When asked if she felt her project was linked to her architecture studies, she declared: “It definitely was. Architecture is a multi-disciplinary course which not only teaches technical skills, but also the critical thinking and design perspectives to solve all kinds of problems. With these abilities, we could achieve anything in any area of design, including even jewellery and product design, if we put our minds to it!”

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The Hawker Bar is a stall concept with a countertop where individuals in a rush can quickly consume their food. The countertop surrounds the stall and allows for increased interaction between hawkers and customers. It also creates a large number of individual eating spaces, which frees up table space in the centre. Designed by DARCH students Angela Yap, Ang Beng Kiat, Eugenie Foo, Elizabeth Ho, and Wu Wenwei, and DLA student Claudia Ang.

Carreco is a specially designed tray and shelf system. This tray structure has compartments that can contain multiple food items, drinks and utensils. This efficient organisations and food spillage, and make buying food a convenient and hassle-free experience. Designed by DARCH students Xia Jing, Srimo, Michael Tang and Ross Tanzer, and DLA student Melinda Cheung.

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Besides getting a job and opportunities for further studies at uni, did you know an SP diploma can also be used to scare the living daylight out of people? But of course, it’s all done in the name of fun. SP found out how Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG) and Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) students use their skills to create thrilling Halloween events for the public while on work attachments with Universal Studios Singapore and Sentosa 4D Adventureland.

Over several weeks, the two teams created a series of locales for Halloween Horror Nights and Fright Nites, special ticketed events at USS and Sentosa 4D Adventureland, respectively. Using their make-up skills, they transformed plain-looking actors into an army of undead nurses, ghostly ballerinas and one-eyed demons that went out to frighten and amuse couples, families and friends at the two events.

“Because filming is a big part of DVEMG and DEPM students’ success is where their contribution comes in,” says Charles Loo, a second-year DEPM student. “We liaise with clients, who was cursed with black magic by a jealous best friend. Their concept involved visitors walking through a path in a house possessed by Annabelle, a rising ballerina starlet, who wasettoed with fear and excitement. The tasks of our scare actors was critical because they are the ‘spirits’ for this event, which ultimately meant success would be dependent on them. Communication was also very important, as we had to ensure that every one of us understood what Trapped was all about and could execute it as planned. Throughout the process, we stayed well-connected to our client to clear doubts and ensure things went smoothly for all.”

For Joo Ting, the biggest payoff for the event came at the end. “Organising Trapped was like being pregnant for nine months and then finally delivering a child!” she laughs. “But the fact that we got to see the result of all our hard work—that is something that can’t be bought or gained with money. More than anything else, it’s the feedback from guests, hearing them scream and seeing them jump up with a mix of fear and delight that are what we’re most proud of!”

Besides Halloween, DEPM students also get practical, real-world experience to hone their people skills and organisational abilities at a variety of exciting events. One group of students recently worked with the Central Narcotics Bureau on its key Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign 2013 event at Bugis. And several others have helped out at concerts for bands such as Metallica, Death Cab for Cutie and Snow Patrol.
Armed with months of research and meals to MRT and bus trips, was keen to hear the students’ ideas. Honour Mr Jeffrey Goh, NET’s CEO, was impressed with leading companies and organisations. Recently, they impressed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NETS at the NETS Marketing Plan Competition 2013. on top was the A-Team, who were praised by NETS’ senior management for demonstrating remarkable effort, unconventional thinking and a detailed understanding of NETS’ needs. Their reward? $1,000 in cash and $200 worth of FlashPay card stored value. NETS sponsored a total of $3,000 worth of prizes for the event.

Team leader Nicolas Lai was grateful for the incredible real-world experience gained. He said, “One thing we found amazing was the sheer level of application that our course knowledge had in this client-based project. In SP, one of our greatest strengths is our exposure to the real world, but it is through competitions, internships or overseas trips. To me, these are invaluable experiences that will give us the competitive edge when we embark on our careers in future.”

This year’s sponsor company was Mentholatum (an American healthcare company). Using skills gained from their course, they generate cash prizes to reward the students for their work. Donald Chua saw a series of 200 colours flash before his eyes on a screen. Then, after committing them all to memory, he picked up his pen and, in a historic moment, started writing down the order of all 200 colours at one go. With this, he challenged the current Guinness World Record for longest colour sequence memorised.

On his first try, under the gaze of an expectant audience and with three video cameras fixed on him, Wellon was definitely feeling the pressure. Slowly, methodically, he cycled through the colour patterns in his mind, relying on memory techniques he had trained himself in order to topple this gargantuan task. But in two short minutes after he’d penned down his last answer, the results were announced. The count did not go on because Wellon had given the wrong answer on the 69th colour. Visibly disappointed, but still proud of their student for trying, the SP lecturers in the room passed a mic to him to let him say a few concluding words. And what Wellon said to them was: “I need to thank all the witnesses and friends who came here… I practised hard for half a year on this. And I’m not making excuses for myself, but all humans make mistakes. Since everything has been set up here… please give me a second chance.”

Once again, the room was energised and with little hesitation, everyone granted him his request. After a short five-minute breather, Wellon got back into his seat. This time round, his increased confidence and focus was palpable. Smoothly, he wrote down his 200 answers and submitted it to the record witnesses who started counting. Red, white, yellow, black… soon they hit the 195th and smiles lit up in the room. White, red, yellow, black… 200 colours successfully memorised. The audience burst into applause.

Wellon, who has already secured five memory records in the Singapore Book of Records (memorisation of binary digits, pi numbers, historic dates, names and faces, and spoken numbers), is now awaiting confirmation of his achievement from Guinness World Records. If he succeeds, the Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) student will get a spot on the world map. And even if he doesn’t, it won’t change the fact that many have already witnessed the stuff of legends. If he succeeds, the Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) student will get a spot on the world map. And even if he doesn’t, it won’t change the fact that many have already witnessed the stuff of legends.

On his second try, with the audience of over 500, Wellon went about his task with renewed confidence. He was determined to do better on his second attempt. He had trained himself in order to topple this gargantuan task. But in two short minutes after he’d penned down his last answer, the results were announced. The count did not go on because Wellon had given the wrong answer on the 69th colour. Visibly disappointed, but still proud of their student for trying, the SP lecturers in the room passed a mic to him to let him say a few concluding words. And what Wellon said to them was: “I need to thank all the witnesses and friends who came here… I practised hard for half a year on this. And I’m not making excuses for myself, but all humans make mistakes. Since everything has been set up here… please give me a second chance.”

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Wellon also teaches memory techniques to children and his fellow classmates in his free time. He shares about the power of what he calls right-brain memory techniques.

“Right-brain techniques rely on imagination, creativity and personal associations, whereas left-brain techniques are more fixed, logical and statistical in nature. During the test, I actually saw the colours as pictures I could associate a story with.”

As for his earnest plea for a second shot at the world record, he says, “At that point, it wasn’t about myself anymore. The deputy principal and my directors, lecturers and friends all came down to support me and make all this possible, so I didn’t want to let them down. And I thought to myself, ‘As a young man, I should keep trying, and just go for it.’” As everyone who was there would agree, we’re all really glad he did.

SP Business School students also got to travel overseas to gain a global perspective of business. China, Finland and USA are just a few of the countries where they go on study trips, immersion programmes or internship attachment. A Team member Tan Tien Huu mastered her internship period in Shanghai, China, where she worked in Shanghai Ltd. Certified Public Accountants Co., Ltd., a multinational auditing firm, and experienced the beauty of spring. “Being in China during springtime was most memorable,” she said. “Experiencing the change of seasons and watching flowers bloom made my trip even more meaningful!”

Fellow course mate Gerald Lim also had his record-breaking moment a couple of weeks earlier. Together, he and Wellon challenged the Singapore Book of Records and they broke three records between them. He says: “The memory techniques we learnt aren’t a short-term. After an exam, we don’t just dump everything we memorised. We would review and look at the same materials again, the whole picture comes back to us. It’s really quite amazing.”
A Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life. This was the theme for Arts Fiesta 2013 – the annual festival for SP music and arts performance groups where months of rehearsal culminated in ticketed performances played to appreciative audiences. Conceived in 2011 as a platform for SP aspiring artistes to showcase their works, it has now morphed into a month-long celebration of dance, music, theatre and interactive arts.

It was indeed a celebration of life as the SP performance groups trashed their books and donned costumes for the moment of their life. Besides their mastery of skills, be it in music, dance or magic, they also engaged the audience with their energy and dedication to individual art forms.

ARTS FIESTA 2013

Facts & Figures

8 performing groups
10 ticketed productions
days of performance
13 productions
600 performers
5,106 tickets sold
5,985 seats available
2,665 highest attendance

Viva la Guitar
by SP Guitar Club at SP Auditorium

Classical Renaissance XIV
by SP String Ensemble @ SOTA

Improvise 6
by SP Jazz Band at Esplanade Recital Studio

Waves 18
by SP Strictly Dance Zone at Kallang Theatre

The Beginning
by SP Magicians at SP Auditorium

Dear Chuck
by SP Theatre Compass at SP Auditorium

Opening of Arts Fiesta 2013 at SP Open Plaza

Splendid Performances

Celebration of Life
Numerous overseas trips are organised each year for SP students but one stood out because their inspirations from the trip were immortalised in a book. Students and staff from the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) took a study trip to London in 2011 where they visited renowned advertising agencies there and also soaked in the spirit of the London Design Festival.

Upon their return, they staged an exhibition titled London’s Calling at *SCAPE to share their experiences with other youths. The thought of documenting the visit and the exhibition came about thereafter so that more students but one stood out of the city.

The book was launched at the trendy BooksActually bookstore in Toong Bahr. Now, it is also available at Kinokuniya outlets. An initial 1,000 copies was published by Math Paper Press, a collaborative publisher who even shipped the book to Dubai! London’s Calling retails at $20 here.

The first book has excited the TSA team which is now looking into a second and even third book that will draw inspiration from subsequent trips in Sydney and Taipei.

The book team (back row from left): Nicholas Goh, Jonathan Wee, Liu Yuan I, Ms Lee Huei Hoon (DVMD Course Chair).
Tchoukball, Love, and Peace

In a lesser-known corner of a sports landscape largely occupied by rugby, soccer and tennis, a certain SP team is regularly crushing their competition. The catch is that, in contrast to their dominating stance, their sport of choice has core foundations of peace, non-violence and team work. Read on to learn more about the SP Tchoukball team and the sport they love!

For the uninstructed, tchoukball is a game where two teams try to outscore each other by shooting a ball into a netted post, volleyball scoring when the ball touches the ground or squash (bouncing a ball off a surface)? Probably so. But there’s more to it. The sport also involves no physical contact between the opposing teams, and there’s a pretty thoughtful reason behind it.

Tchoukball was created in Switzerland by a man named Hermann Brandt. He was concerned by the many serious injuries sustained by athletes in sports with substantial amounts of aggression and physical contact. Hermann believed in the idea of a sport that would not only groom champions, but also contribute to creating a better, more humane society. Therefore, tchoukball is deeply grounded in the values of teamwork, non-aggression and sportsmanship.

Do these values still hold up today? Nico Quek, SP Tchoukball (Men) Team captain and third-year Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) student, feels it’s made all the difference. Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) captain and third-year Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM) student, got hooked onto the sport through Sports for Life, an SP programme which makes physical education compulsory for students, but in a fun manner through sports like badminton, martial arts and even yoga (writer’s note: Sports for Life is currently available for students from certain polies and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM) students, respectively.

Others appreciate simpler, but no less important aspects of the game. Ong Miao Hwee, final-year Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM) student, got hooked onto the sport through Sports for Life, an SP programme which makes physical education compulsory for students, but in a fun manner through sports like badminton, martial arts and even yoga (writer’s note: Sports for Life is currently only available for students from certain polies and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM) students, respectively.

"And if there’s anything better than improving my skills, it would be playing the game together as a team. And winning,” she adds, laughing. Miao Hwee celebrated a moment of triumph with the SP Tchoukball (Women) Team this year by winning first place with them in the PDL-ITE Games. This win improves on their previous second place ranking in the 2012 POL-ITE Games and a third place ranking in the 2011 POL-ITE Games.

Are you intrigued by all you’ve read thus far? If so, try playing the game with friends, or go down to support the team’s matches in the name of tchoukball, love, and peace!

ADDITIONAL TCHOUKBALL POINTERS
Still feel puzzled about the game after reading the description at the start of the story? Here are more tips to help you understand it:

❖ Each game has three periods. Each period is 12 minutes long.
❖ The game is very fast-paced. A team can only make a maximum of three passes before the ball must be shot at the net, and a player can only hold the ball for three seconds before he must pass.
❖ When the ball bounces off the net, the opposing team’s defenders will try to block or catch it before it lands in the scoring zone.
He’s a taekwondo black belt, a water polo goalkeeper, and a lifesaver, all-in-one. She’s a canoeist, dragonboat paddler, biathlete and track and field runner. Both Denis Seow (Diploma in Aerospace Electronics – DASE, final-year) and Shermaine Tung (Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science – DPCS, final-year) are sports champs who strike a fine balance between excelling in competitions and handling studies. How do they do it, and why? SP student Sports Writers Alexander Tan and Jovy Sim talk to them:

Hi Denis. Can you share more about how you balance both studies and sports?

It’s like when I play DOTA – the game is all about good time management. There’s only 24 hours in a day and I try to make the best out of every second. It’s definitely a very challenging task, though.

Do you have a fixed schedule of what you are going to do in the day?

Sometimes I do, but at other times I’m just happy-go-lucky! I do have a schedule but it’s not fixed or unchangeable. When I’m feeling more garang I will train more, but if not I’ll train less. Generally I try to sleep by midnight and wake up by 6am, but most of the time I fail, haha! Everyone should have a schedule though. I believe it’s like a guideline for the day.

Can people adopt a certain mental attitude to prevent them from losing focus on their goals?

First, they have to find motivation. Being hardworking is one thing, but it usually won’t last for very long. My sources of motivation come from everywhere: from my seniors, from movies or from past experiences. Having these sources is very important in the long-term.

Hi Shermaine, could you share what motivates you to excel in sports?

That would be my teammates and the hunger to win. Canoeing is a team sport and we train as a team. We bond through training and we are accountable to one another. If you miss trainings often though, that bond will wear thin. Whenever I’m stressed out about my commitments, I will talk to my mom. She will give me advice on how to juggle between school and sports, and remind me of my responsibilities and ultimate purposes in both areas.

I understand that your family is active in sports as well. How has that helped shape your journey as an athlete?

My mum exposed me to sports from a young age such as tennis, swimming etc. She always tells me that sports builds character and leadership. It also helps in cultivating mental strength. That really inspires me to strive athletically.

What type of mentality do you bring to a race?

Once I am in the competition I don’t really have time to think. It is alright to feel stressed out but there is nothing to be afraid of if I know I’ve trained hard. It doesn’t matter if someone else finishes first because they probably put in more effort than I did and that’s fine. I always tell myself to put in my best. You reap what you sow. I believe in hard work.

Some of Denis’s achievements include a taekwondo black belt dan 2, a merit award from the SP Lifesavers club, and a gold medal in the 2013 POL-ITE Games.

Shermaine’s victories include a string of gold and silver medals in the National Canoeing Championship and the National Women Canoeing Championship. She also won a bronze in the biathlon (women’s individual category) and was part of the SP Dragonboat (Women) team that took the gold, both at the POL-ITE Games this year.
With a record of about 200 experiments between them, science lovers Xenia Lim and Goh Wei Ting definitely felt amazing chemistry with their courses in SP! Now, armed with a wealth of practical experience from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, they are now at the National University of Singapore (NUS) discovering how far their passion for life science will take them.

Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) graduate Goh Wei Ting remembers her days in SP’s labs fondly. For a secondary school student interested in things like genetics and cell biology, even the first year of SP life was enough to excite her: “I definitely enjoyed lab sessions the most,” she says. “Once, we got a chance to draw each other’s blood for microscopic observation. I remember one of my friends had the flu that day, and under the microscope, you could see tons of her white blood cells that had been produced to fight off the cold! Observing the different cellular components inside people was quite cool.”

Experiments such as this got Wei Ting even more interested in her DBS course, which focuses on research and technology to understand and treat human ailments and diseases. As a student preparing for a future career as a scientific researcher, the actual experience of conducting medical research could only fuel her sense of pride. “Even from secondary school, I found it interesting how biomedical science helps to save lives. In the front line of medicine, there are doctors and nurses. But in the back line there are researchers like us who support every part of the medical process!” she says.

For Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT) graduate Xenia Lim Lin, experiments and tests in SP are still clear memories. “I remember my first-ever experiment in SP!”, says the science enthusiast. “We got the chance to culture bacteria like Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae on agar plates. And over time, I think we eventually completed over 100 experiments in school!”

Perhaps her favourite memories of all are her final-year project (FYP) and her overseas internship. Her FYP had her studying dengue diagnostics with Dr Tan Eng Lee, an SP lecturer famous for developing the world’s fastest hand, foot and mouth disease detection kit. Under him, she researched ways to create a rapid, easy-to-administer test to check people for the dengue virus. For her three-month internship, she travelled to Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA, where she worked on DNA nanotechnology to create cellular mediums for containing medical drugs.

All these experiences developed her passion for her DBT course, which taught her to understand and manipulate various aspects of an organism’s biology, especially on a cellular or microbial level.

“I felt SP really gave me opportunities to grow and understand the world around me,” Xenia says. “My internship in particular exposed me to professional life, and let me explore a very different culture.” Besides her internship, Xenia also involved herself deeply in other parts of school life as well. She helped to organise a freshmen orientation camp and did community service in Batam.

In the end, Wei Ting and Xenia’s three years in SP not only gave them useful knowledge and skills; it also kindled their passion to go deeper into the world of biology and science. After graduation, Xenia and Wei Ting enrolled successfully into NUS to pursue a degree in Life Sciences. And they’re not alone; almost 60 per cent of Xenia’s DBT cohort and 70 per cent of Wei Ting’s DBS cohort made it to local unis like NUS and Nanyang Technological University.

Both of them are now busy exploring the mysteries of science in a new environment and community. Looking further ahead, Xenia and Wei Ting plan to pursue postdoctoral research studies and become a science teacher, respectively. But they haven’t forgotten the second home they found in SP. Says Xenia: “Although I do miss my lecturers and friends, when I look back, I know I made the best out of my three years here. And I just feel happy that it’s been the best three years of my education so far — coming to SP is something I’ll never regret!”

**OVERSEAS STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

Students from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences also have the valuable opportunity to intern under professional researchers and scientists around the world! Yale (US), Harvard (US), Cornell University (US), Imperial College London (UK), the Max Planck Institute (Germany) and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Australia) are just some of the places they have gone to gain a global perspective of the scientific world.

*We Love Bacteria and Viruses!* With a record of about 200 experiments between them, science lovers Xenia Lim and Goh Wei Ting definitely felt amazing chemistry with their courses in SP! Now, armed with a wealth of practical experience from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, they are now at the National University of Singapore (NUS) discovering how far their passion for life science will take them.

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Escaping to SP... and Wishing They Could Stay There

The mission to save the planet from destruction was entrusted to 500 students from secondary schools. Leading them was a community of eager beavers comprising SP students from across all its nine academic schools. Divided into teams of Forest, Mountain and Sea, they were led by their leaders named Legolas, Tiberius and Atlanta respectively.

Escapade 2013 - the annual adventure camp for secondary school students to discover life at SP ended with the event being the top twitter trending hashtag in Singapore on the second day! With curry puffs and donuts in between experiential learning sessions in engineering and marketing theories, it literally gave life to the often preached “fun-in-learning” ideology. Not to mention Singapore’s latest rap sensation and SP alumnus Shigga Shay, and Hot FM DJ Adam Piperdy ending off the adventure with an epic gig and party!

Missed out on the fun? BRINGS you the excitement of this two-day adventure.
Music is a huge part of our lives, and all of us have that song that’s close to our hearts. But despite how commonplace it is, people passionate about music sometimes don’t really know what a life in that world can possibly bring. We talk to three Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) alumni to learn where pursuing their passion has brought them.

Huang Peh Linde
DMAT Class of 2010, undergraduate, at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

When she listens to an orchestra, the melodious blending and crashing of winds and strings gets her mind bubbling with ideas. Tunes flutter in her head, and she imagines different ways to arrange the flow of the music. Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music (Recording Arts and Sciences) with an NUS-Kent Ridge scholarship at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Peh Linde, the first-ever SP student accepted into Yong Siew Toh, wants to be the “big picture” person in music production. She gets excited by everything – from music recording and performing to arranging and composing musical scores. Her ultimate goal is to be a successful producer who can influence every part of the creative process.

To that end, this energetic young lady keeps improving herself. She learned the piano at age seven, picked up the saxophone during band practice in secondary school, and is now self-teaching the guitar. At Yong Siew Toh, she studies sound recording and mixing daily, and outside school she does freelance work arranging music for songwriters who need help to add instrumentation tracks into their songs. Some of her more prominent gigs are as an assistant sound engineer with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra and keyboardist and music programmer for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games and the 2012 Marina Bay Singapore Countdown.

Peh Linde says her passion grew when she entered DMAT: “When I was a student in Zhonghua Secondary, I saw music as mainly just performing, but when I joined the course and saw the production process, I realised there were actually many more kinds of opportunities.” The course taught her every aspect of music, from songwriting and arrangement to music recording and even the business aspect of the industry. Her parents, knowing their daughter to be clear-headed and independent, supported her decision from the beginning to enter the course.

For music and arrangement and mixing, Peh Linde gets inspired by K-pop and US music. Of K-pop sensation Big Bang, she says: “Their production values are really high! If they feel they need a live orchestra for a song, they just go and hire one! Basically they don’t have this thing called a ‘budget’, hahaha!”

Leong Mei Poh
DMAT Class of 2009, graduate from the Berklee College of Music (USA)

She graduated with a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average and topped her 2012 cohort at Berklee College of Music, receiving a Summa cum laude for the Bachelor of Music in Music Production and Engineering. Impressed? Maybe you should be.

Mei Poh credits a big part of her success to her time in DMAT.

Eight years ago, she entered the course from St Margaret’s Secondary School enthusiastically. “I was extremely fortunate to have parents who wanted me to be happy pursuing my interests,” she explained. “And DMAT was easily my first choice: I put in extra effort for my ‘O’ Levels to make sure I got in!”

In DMAT, Mei Poh discovered an intense interest in engineering and sound recording. Her passion for music was nurtured by her community as well. She says, “My first three years were really exciting. Instead of classrooms, we learned in music studios and labs, studied music notation instead of textbooks and worked with like-minded musicians. My lecturers and classmates discussed music in ways that I couldn’t with others. That’s how I knew I’d found my people.” After graduating top of her cohort from SP, she enrolled into Berklee. “DMAT definitely gave me an edge,” she says. “What I learned in SP qualified me for advanced standing and let me dig right into my major. DMAT also got me acquainted with a music studio environment, which some of my Berklee classmates had not experienced before.” Currently, Mei Poh is working as a supervisor at another music college, SAE Institute Los Angeles, and plans to get more involved in sound recording and mixing projects in future.

Ng Tian Hwee

Founders of SoundFarm

Two careers tend to worry parents of enthusiastic children more than anything else: music and entrepreneurship. Yet these three DMAT graduates have done both and come out smelling like roses. SoundFarm is a music production company set up by them in 2012 to provide music recording and audio solutions for live performances and concerts. So far, the business has already worked with more than 100 clients (more than 25 projects a year) ranging from children’s book makers to pop music and even church music productions! Some of their more notable projects include sound mixing for MediaCorp’s The Final 1 singing competition, music production for the National Day Parade 2013 and music editing for Taiwanese pop sensation Aska Yang’s MTV Sessions concert in Shanghai. Grateful to DMAT for their success, the three also started a SoundFarm Production Music Scholarship for SP students, which awarded $1,000 each to three students last year.

Currently, Mandric and Reuben are furthering their education in Berklee College of Music and New York University respectively, with Mandric’s studies being financed by the Berklee Achievement Scholarship and the MES scholarship from the Media Development Authority of Singapore. They fully intend to grow the business further when they return. Says Reuben: “We’ve been venturing out into the broadcast market with the specific niche of working with music for TV and have found reasonable success in this area. Now, we’re considering the possibility of acquiring a second studio facility so that we can increase our capacity for projects happening at the same time.”
Special Profile

SP alumna Sherilyn Lim recently brought glory to Singapore at the ONE Fighting Championship (ONE FC): Total Domination event. She toughed out 15 minutes of intense mixed martial arts (MMA) combat against a female fighter from Malaysia to emerge victorious on Asia’s largest MMA stage.

As a teenager, I was, fat, unfit and dealing with teenage issues. When I decided to learn MMA, I was only thinking of losing weight and getting a little fitter. Little did I know how walking through the doors of Fight G MMA Academy Singapore in 2007 would change my life.

Mixed martial arts is something that allows me to constantly push my limits, both physically and mentally.

After winning at ONE FC, I almost couldn’t believe any of it was happening. It began with something so small and today it’s become something I love doing, something that I want to become better at. The blood, sweat, tears and sacrifices I had to make... all pays off.

I was from SP’s Diploma in Business Administration (DBA), Class of 2010. Playing a part in running clubs and organising school events was an unforgettable experience. It gave me a glimpse of what management was like and helped me hone my relational skills.

The SP Muay Thai club gave me a real sense of belonging. Whenever I stepped into a ring with an opponent, I knew whatever I did would make or break the fight. But in the days and training sessions leading up to those moments, I knew I always had great team mates who would support and encourage me.

School might seem like a chore now, but you will realise sooner or later that it will turn out to be one of the more carefree times in your life. Study smart, work hard, and sometimes, don’t forget to have fun.

Working and studying at the same time was no easy feat for me. It required discipline, and I had to constantly weigh what was more important at any point in time. If you’re doing so right now, you would ultimately need to put more focus on studying because you can always earn all the money in the world once you’ve acquired what is necessary to secure a job after graduation.

Besides competing in tournaments, Sherilyn also works as an operations manager at Fight G MMA Academy, a martial arts training gym located at 41C North Canal Road. Want to pick up some self-defence tips or delve deeply into the world of MMA? Call 6438 5788 or visit www.fightg.com for more details.

SP alumna and mixed martial arts practitioner, Sherilyn Lim.
As the cheeky former president of the SP Tennis club, Bernard Neo’s first question to his fellow club member during freshmen training was, “Hey, any babes in the new intake?” His teammate simply smiled, rolled her eyes, and brought him to a tennis court with a tall, slender young lady with braided hair.

“Not bad,” Bernard thought at first, “but I don’t know if she’s my type. No harm trying.” He boldly asked for her number that same night.

Christy Chia remembers that moment well. “I remember how my senior came over with this guy,” she says, smiling. “She came over to say hi, and weirdly started talking about my braids! So strange! Haha. Who knew that her intention was to single me out to the guy behind her?”

Their beginning was simple, starting from one person’s light-hearted, playboy-ish attitude rather than an intense or fiery attraction. Nevertheless, a strong relationship blossomed. Bernard and Christy (left and bottom photos) would talk over the phone for hours each night. They went through joyous moments, splits, good patches and bad times, but for Bernard, nothing has changed since their first meeting: “It ain’t always a fairy tale; sometimes those good feelings can flip to the other extreme. But each obstacle made us stronger as a couple. Do we still share the same strong feelings towards each other? The answer is definitely yes.”

Their relationship began in 2002. Eleven years on, Bernard and Christy are happy newlyweds. And where would they go for a photo shoot other than the very tennis courts where they felt that first spark? Besides them, SP has, unintentionally, played cupid for many couples. And many of them have returned to the school in splendid wedding apparel to take pictures at their favourite spots on campus. This brings you some of the recent wedding photos shot on location at 500 Dover Road.

Pang Shiou Song (left) and Koh Sheau Tong (both from the Diploma in Chemical Process Technology, 2004) felt drawn to one of their old haunts: the labs in the School of Chemical and Life Sciences.

Nygel Tan (Diploma in Chemical Engineering, 2005) and Angeline Cai (Diploma in Chemical Process Technology, 2005) spent many days together studying in the classrooms at Block W5A.
Want to know where to get the latest fashion pieces? How about unique stationery for school that no one else might have? UT writer Shairel Foo checks out some of these places online and on the streets where you can go to without having to bust your wallet.

**FILMBOX**
Location: 54 Haji Lane

Haji Lane is known to have interesting shops, one of which is Filmbox. This mix-and-match shop has unique items from one-of-a-kind stationery to funny car accessories, sourced from all around Asia. Their interesting pricing is one of their unique characteristics; everything is priced at $19.90 with stickers coloured red, green and yellow. Red means one item for $19.90, green means two for $19.90 and yellow means three for $19.90. Filmbox is the place to get awesome birthday presents that are not only rare but affordable as well, especially when you’re buying in a group. What I loved the most were the notebooks and the graphic origami wallets. The notebooks that went for three for $19.90 were a great bargain, as it’s hard to find good-quality printed notebooks under $10.

**HITO**
Location: 3 New Bugis Street CSL A3/A4, 2nd floor
Website: Bugis_hito@facebook.com

If you’re into the more street-style look, Hito is where you girls should check out. With just $10 to $30, you can piece together a trendy outfit without having to bust your wallet. I like this place because their statement pieces are easy to coordinate with basics; you’ll effortlessly fit in on the streets of Tokyo with these clothes! With the pre-accessorised parkas at $20 a piece, you can easily create a Topshop look without busting your budget. The high quality of the clothes is undeniable, and the designs make you spoilt for choice. I couldn’t stop myself from buying something. I resisted the temptation of buying the whole shop and decided to settle for a parka, which the shop assistant helpfully recommended to me.

**MAGGIE**
Location: Bugis Street BLV/A9 A10, A11

Maggie is their unofficial name but this three unit-long shop features pieces that are not only fashionable but easy to piece together as well. Prices here start as low as $6! The interesting thing about Maggie is that each unit or segment of the shop caters to a different audience, from the young and edgy to the more chic and fashionable. The clothes they offer generally veer toward sweet, gypsy-styled printed skirts, shorts and pinafores. Maggie imports its high-quality clothes from China, Korea and Thailand. The reason why I like this place is because they offer many different sizes, which is hard to find in Bugis Street as most clothes are free-sized. So you don’t have to worry whether or not that pair of cute jeggings will fit you!

**LADYINMESS**
Location: shopladyinmess.weebly.com
Instagram: Ladyinmess

Nothing beats shopping online for great bargains. One online shop I’ve found is a blogshop called Ladyinmess. The girly style that Ladyinmess has got going on is so sweet yet chic — you will fall in love with every piece that’s available. Not only that, you’ll go head over heels for the prices. From $12-$25 you can get unique maxi dresses, baby doll dresses, rompers, shorts… the list goes on. The interesting thing about Ladyinmess is that it has an exclusive category for apparels that go up to $25. Buying from that category makes me feel luxurious without having to spend excessively. It’s a pre-order site but it’s totally worth waiting two weeks for the clothes to arrive.
Android vs iOS: Who Wins?

It’s the same question again: is it iOS or Android phones that have a greater standing among SP mobile phone users, in the perennial race between these two mega-contestants? That being said, writer Tee Man Kaa is not here to sway your opinion or to deliver the verdict — he lays bare some simple facts, and you decide.

There are so many hot and contentious debates raging around this issue, ranging from newspaper columns and tech magazines to YouTube videos and online spats between fanatics from both camps. So given all the anarchic cacophony resounding from all corners of the battlefield, how do you make sense of things? That’s simple: like a good scout gathering intelligence piece by piece before a battle, look at basic facts and observations about iOS and Android phones and make your own judgment about it. (And of course, explore on your own if the observations gathered below are not enough for you to reach a conclusion!)

### Bluetooth Connectivity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANDROID</th>
<th>iOS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Android phones can connect through Bluetooth with other Android phones from other companies. Since Android phones made up 81% of all smartphones shipped in the third quarter of 2013, this means you’re connected to a huge community of fellow users.</td>
<td>Bluetooth for iPhones can only link you to other iPhones. With a smartphone market share of about only 12% of all phones shipped in the third quarter of 2013, the amount of connectivity that the iPhone’s Bluetooth provides is limited.</td>
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### App Store

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<th>iOS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Android Play Store appears to have more free apps than the iPhone App store.</td>
<td>However, reports generally suggest the iPhone App store is updated with more new apps on a regular basis than Android.</td>
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### Battery Changeability

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<tr>
<td>Most Android phones have changeable batteries that you can swap and replace in the event of battery faultiness or failure.</td>
<td>For the iPhone, there is no possibility of changing batteries if something happens to your phone. Straight it goes to the service centre!</td>
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### Voice Recognition

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<td>From my observations of my own Android phone, Google Voice Search seems to process commands less quickly than iOS’s Siri. It also seems less linguistically talented than Siri. It cannot even remotely understand commands in Chinese, whereas Siri is now able to understand the Cantonese dialect!</td>
<td>iOS’s Siri seems to be faster at processing voice inputs and commands than Google Voice Search on Android. And of course, it still delivers its famed witty retorts, replying to questions like “Siri, why don’t you love me?” with answers such as “You’re looking for love in all the wrong places” in cool, matter-of-fact tones. There’s even Cantonese included in the latest version of Siri — unbelievable, isn’t it?</td>
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### Speed

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<tr>
<td>There have been some reports of lagging in certain Android phones. Apps can open slowly, and actions can stutter or pause. There are however, settings you can tweak on your phone to increase the speed.</td>
<td>The iPhone iOS generally delivers a smooth and seamless interface navigation experience with little lag (unless you’re on an older iPhone model and have updated to the latest iOS, in which case you’re likely to experience some slowdown).</td>
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### Phone Sizes and Screens

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<th>iOS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Many different companies use Android on their phones which come in diverse sizes and colours, such as the Samsung Galaxy series and the Sony Xperia phones. Furthermore, phones like the Samsung Galaxy S4 and HTC One provide full HD (high-definition) screens!</td>
<td>It basically comes in a limited number of sizes that boils down to Slim and Slimmer. Which is great and all, but it wouldn’t hurt to have a little variety. The latest iPhone 5s also only offers a less-than-HD 1136 x 640 screen resolution.</td>
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Now, after all that’s been said, what’s your verdict?
Great rewards were reaped by SP students at the Amazing Science-X Challenge 2013, an event organised by DSO National Laboratories, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Science Centre Singapore to spark and fuel passion for science.

The competition involved creating an attractive exhibit that could effectively explain a physical science phenomenon. Competing against teams from schools like NUS, NUS High School of Mathematics and Science and Republic Polytechnic, Team Experi-Metal came out on top with the Gold Medal, the Best Logbook Prize and an overall cash prize of $2,250 from the National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Nanyang Polytechnic to clinch the top spot. For the effort and skill they displayed, the team won a $3,000 cash prize and a plaque. Great job on taking the top spot, guys!

Experi-Metal’s exhibit, Big Bang, entertained and educated audiences at the competition by showcasing shape memory alloy, a metal with a special atomic structure that allows it to be bent or dented but still be restored to its original shape using heat energy. The team wowed the crowds with a playful demonstration that involved hanging the alloy into a wall by placing it on the bonnet of a toy race car, and then restoring the dented alloy by heating it with a hair dryer. They also taught them about the alloy’s properties through various 2D and 3D models of the atoms in its crystal structure.

Recent SP graduates were crowned champions at the National Infocomm Security Competition 2013. The yearly event aims to promote mental dexterity among students by challenging them to think like IT security experts. Teams go through a two-round competition, with each round consisting of an eight hour-long case study where the groups must analyse, solve and propose solutions to cyber security intrusions described in the case.

Yang Xudong (Diploma in Infocomm Security Management – DISM), Tan Shi Hui (Diploma in Business Information Technology – DBIT) and Alicia Dee (Diploma in Financial Informatics – DFI) beat teams from the National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Nanyang Polytechnic to clinch the top spot. For the effort and skill they displayed, the team won a $3,000 cash prize and a plaque. Great job on taking the top spot, guys!

As a Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) student in SP, Nur fiyana Biu Isman made sure that her three years here were well spent. Besides working hard on her course modules, she also embarked on developing her skills in non-academic areas such as community service, adventure learning and physical recreation. She achieved all of that and was awarded the National Youth Achievement Gold Award this year. The Class of 2012 graduate, now a broadcast journalist with Mediacorp, received her award from the President of Singapore Tony Tan Keng Yam recently.

SP Dragonboaters brought their paddles to the Taiwan International Dragon Boat Championship held at Changhua City in Western Taiwan. The boys and girls put up their best show and rowed hard against competitors from countries like China, India and of course, host country Taiwan. They took the bronze in the Open Men (200m and 500m) and Open Mixed (500m) categories.
WINNING POL-ITELY

The sporting spirit in SP boys and girls soared high during this year’s POL-ITE Games, an annual sports meet where the five polys and ITE compete for sporting glory. Team SP scored gold in several games but more importantly, the spirit of teamwork amongst the teams was also definitely worthy of celebration. SP NEWS brings you the results.

Double celebrations for the SP Squash teams! Both the Men’s and Women’s teams clinched the championship! This is the fourth consecutive year that the SP teams came in first.

The Floorball Women’s Team finished second for the first time since the team’s inception, improving their position from third place last year.

For the second year running, the Women’s Road Race team won the team title in the competition, while the men improved on last year’s performance and finished team third. For individual medals, SP female athletes took a silver and bronze, while a bronze went to the men’s team.

SP Rugby boys improved on their placing with a silver finish this year, one up from the bronze in 2012. All the way boys for a gold next year!

The frisbee team, otherwise also known as SP Ultimate, has a good following among SP students. They turned up a third place showing at the POL-ITE Games.

Overall, the swimming teams did well, coming in third for both the Men’s and Women’s categories. Chow Yan Teng, a feisty first-year student, clinched four golds (400m freestyle, 200m medley, 100m backstroke and 4 X 50m relay medley). Second-year student Emma Lee also equalled Yan Teng’s medal tally by clinching golds (100m breaststroke, 200m breaststroke, 50m butterfly and 4 X 50m relay medley). The best performance for the boys came from Jiang Rui Zhe who took the gold in 100m and 200m backstroke events.

The Boys in SP Volleyball team ended the finals with a very close fight and picked up the silver. The women’s team also put up a spirited fight to claim the bronze medal.

After a full day of kyorugi (sparring) and poomsae (pattern), the SP Taekwondo team took the overall second position, with a medal tally of 14 golds, 19 silvers and 27 bronzes.

This relatively new sport in SP has gained a strong following. The Tchoukball Women’s team took the crown while the Men’s team came in second.

SP Bowlers struck bronze at POL-ITE Games, a combined team effort from the SP Bowlers Women’s Team which finished second in the Women’s category and the Men’s team which finished fourth in the Men’s category. The best showing came from Kimberly Ooi and Deserae Sim Pei Ling who came in second in the Women’s Doubles category, while Soong Yi Xuan, Alvin Wong, Jonathan Yeo and Alden Ang also took second place in the Men’s Doubles category.

The SP canoe hunks paddled hard and fast to cross the finishing line first! The Women’s team did not falter either and completed the race in second position.

The SP Team concluded the finals of touch football, a variant of American rugby, with a second place win, up two spots from 2012. In this sport, the person carrying the ball must avoid being touched by a member of the opposite team and has to cross into the scoring zone to score.

For the first time, the all-fired-up SP Dragonboat (Women) powered their way to victory in this closely-watched game. The Men’s team came in second this time but rest assured, they will train harder to take back their trophy in the future. The boys and girls proved that they were unbeatable together by winning the Mixed Team race.

The women shuttlers from SP took the number two position after a tough fight. The men’s team managed to get fourth position but rest assured, their spirit is not beaten and they will train harder to improve their ranking.

The rain did not daunt them again. With deep breath and concentrated focus, the boys and girls from SP Archery took aim and clinched the third position.

For the second year running, the Women’s Rowing team won the team title in the competition, while the men improved on last year’s performance and finished team third. For individual medals, a silver and bronze went to the rowers, while a bronze went to the men’s team.

The best performance for the SP Tchoukball team came from Jiang Rui Zhe who also took gold in the 100m backstroke event.
SENSEI OF ANIMATION

As the birthplace of anime and almost half the world’s popular gaming culture, Japan is a dream destination for otakus and game enthusiasts. Starting next year, students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) will get the chance to learn new skills and get inspired in this pop culture mecca, as DMIT is collaborating with Digital Hollywood University (DHU), a prestigious animation and computer graphics (CG) school in the heart of Tokyo’s Akihabara district.

The recent signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between SP and DHU acted as a starting point for both staff and students to develop future opportunities for academic and cultural exchanges in the areas of animation, CG and film. For a start, in 2014, students from the Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA) will get a chance to attend an intensive anime production course at DHU, as well as go on field trips to top Tokyo animation studios.

HACKIDEMIC PURSUITS

Are you intrigued by technology and IT wizardry? Or toying with the idea of making your own personal robot from simple parts and electronics? If so, look out for Makerspace at the Main Library, Level 2A. This is a new space where students from any diploma can experiment with or learn how to use simple IT or electronics starter kits with guidance from experienced staff or students.

Recently, students tinkered away at HackIDemia, Makerspace’s first make event. There, they “printed” out 3D objects from scratch using SP’s very own 3D printers, a new form of technology which can build a 3D object layer by layer, according to dimensions specified in a digital 3D design file. They also learned how to programme and control simple technologies from a central microcontroller board using Arduino, an open-source electronics prototyping platform. If you want to make your own robot, 3D printed object or even your first Android app, google “Makerspace@SP” to learn about more upcoming Makerspace activities and workshops.

WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?

To encourage appreciation of the rich and diverse cultures in Singapore, SP International Students’ Club organised International Friendship Day, an event filled with games, photography, and even a karaoke session and a fashion festival for ethnic costumes. This annual celebration of cultural differences and community togetherness also included several gorgeous booth displays of clothing and objects unique to the cultures of countries like Myanmar, Korea and India.

ORANGE BUSINESS

The adrenaline was thick with orange juice on a bright and sunny day in October 2013. Close to 2,000 students and staff from the SP Business School (SB) thronged the sports field to enter a record in the Singapore Book of Records as the biggest smiley face put together by humans.

Called SB Orange Day, the event was organised for the first time and will be an annual iconic event for the School. Mr Reginald Wei, the Director of SP Business School, said the objective was to foster a strong sense of Team SB amongst all staff and students from SB’s eight diploma courses. “Orange Day was not just a one-day event but also a reminder of how we should continue to share, network and find meaning throughout the years we spend in SP.” Indeed, the business students have been asking for events that would help them make more friends from other courses and have a common activity where everyone could take part, such as a carnival. Thus, SB Orange Day was co-created with the students to realise this. The pioneer batch of students from the Polytechnic Foundation Programme as well as students taking the Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEE) also joined in the fun.

The spirit to serve, the value that SP wants to imbue in all students, was not forgotten. About $6,000 was raised through sales of T-shirts and proceeds went to the SB Needy Fund.
PUT THE FUN IN THE RUN

A circle game of healthy fun played by SP students, staff, lecturers and alumni. This can perhaps best describe Poly 50, the annual SP event that has its history dated back all the way to the school’s Prince Edward Road campus days. SP newsletter brings you the best photos from the event.

RUNNING MEN IN PENANG

Congratulations to national and first-year Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) student Timothy Lee! Together with his twin brother Mark, who studies at Republic Poly, he won a SEA Games silver in the men’s 3m springboard (synchronized) and a bronze in the men’s 10m springboard (synchronized) categories.

GOAL SETTING MISSION

SP bears the name of our country, but did you also know that many of our students represent Singapore as well? Studying in SP are national youth bowlers, divers, sailors and many other sportsmen and women who’ve earned glory for Singapore on both regional and international stages. The school even has a strong presence in soccer. Out of the 22 members of the Singapore National Football Academy Under-18 (Singapore NFA U-18) team, seven are SP students! Together, they’ve gone to stadiums in France, Thailand and Indonesia to play in competitions such as the AFF U-19 Youth Championship and the AFC U-19 Championship, beating teams from the Philippines and Brunei. And in the Singapore Prime League, three of them accounted for 55% of the goals scored by their team in the whole season! Hazim Faiz’s 27 goals, Illyas Lee’s 6 goals and Amirul Adli’s 2 goals boosted the team to third place in the league.

“Nothing makes me happier than putting in hours on the pitch and playing hard, and especially after winning, that feeling gets even better,” says Illyas. Here’s wishing these passionate and enthusiastic SP footballers great careers ahead!
For its outstanding contribution to training professionals in the maritime industry, the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) at SP received the Training Award for the Lloyd's List Awards 2013. The award recognised the best players in the world maritime industry in various categories.

SMA was awarded the Training Award, beating five other international organisations from Asia. SMA stood out for its contribution towards improving training standards across the maritime industry as a whole. The award is a great recognition of the quality of the training and education that SMA provides. It is a great boost for SMA's reputation as a course provider and also for its full-time students who can rest assured that the education they are receiving is benchmarked to international industry standards.

The last Lloyd’s List Asia Award that SMA received was in 2008 in the same category. This latest award is also the third industry honour that SMA received in 2013, after clinching the International Maritime Awards (IMA) for Excellence in Training Development and the Seatrade Asia Awards for the Education (IMA) for Excellence in Training Development and Education Award category.

### Promising Innovations from SP to Help Rehabilitate the Elderly and Disabled

Promising new innovations from SP to help rehabilitate the elderly and disabled have been unveiled. In collaboration with Temasek Foundation (TCF) and the Agency for Integrated Care, SP lecturers developed four prototypes of technology-assisted rehabilitation equipment with about $700,000 in funding from TCF. These projects were created under the Temasek Cares -Technology-assisted Rehabilitation in the Community programme.

One of the devices is the Bilateral Limb Manipulator, which has robotic functional arms that are attached to the patient. Through the movement of the arms, the support and exercise movements of a therapist are replicated to rehabilitate a patient's weak or injured limbs. Another device is the Computer-based Cognitive Training which can support cognitive therapy for multiple patients at once through electronic touchscreen puzzle and memory games. Together, these projects are expected to boost efforts in therapy through increasing manpower productivity, enabling tracking of a patient's progress through monitoring systems, and making the therapy process engaging and entertaining through games and attractive audio-visual elements.

These devices are now being tested at the Asian Women’s Welfare Association READYCARE Centre and St Andrew’s Community Hospital’s Day Rehabilitation Centre. Feedback and results gathered from use of the equipment will be used to make further refinements to them before they are introduced to more centres in the near future.

### SP Helps Fight Crime

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Waseda University (WU), a top private university in Japan, to develop mutual advances in areas such as robotics, food technology, advanced materials and sports technologies. This MoU also marks the first time that WU is collaborating with a local academic institution in the area of biomedical science, a sector that has seen tremendous growth in Singapore’s economy in the last few years.

Collaborative projects to come include plans to house a segment of the Waseda Bioscience Research Institute in a joint laboratory within SP. There are also plans for SP’s Centre for Biomedical and Life Sciences to integrate advanced WU technology into its prototype Fluorescence Live Imaging Microscopy (FLIM) system, in order to create the world’s first tissue scanning process that can produce high-resolution tissue test results. If successful, this new FLIM system will provide enhanced accuracy for tests and improve the efficiency and productivity of pathologists. The laboratory also plans to research a new soil and water contaminant screening system that can detect multiple contaminants through a single test.

Polytechnic students had a field day playing roles as delegates from ASEAN countries at the Youth Model ASEAN Conference (YMACE) 2013. The annual event, which started last year, was spearheaded by the five polys and organised by a team from the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme and student leaders from the other polys.

About 160 participants from the five polys congregated at SP over three days to debate on topics and formulate viable resolutions for issues such as alleviating poverty and promoting cultural and arts industries. To get a real understanding of the issues at hand, the participants visited modest folks and also distributed food to them, and cleaned up a part of East Coast beach.

On the final day, their resolutions were presented to Senior Minister of State for Education Mr Indranee Rajah, at the event’s closing ceremony.
For its outstanding efforts in harnessing the potential of youths and inculcating good values and a spirit of voluntarism into them, SP received the Ten Accomplished Youth Organisations in ASEAN (TAYO ASEAN) Award. This honour is bestowed upon youth organisations in ASEAN member countries that have implemented sustainable programmes and projects that positively impact youths or society at large.

SP has a strong and proud tradition of inspiring staff and students to serve communities, both local and overseas. Since 1994, it has raised more than $3 million for various charities such as the President’s Challenge. SP’s students also take part in community service programmes in Singapore, as well as countries like Vietnam, China, India and Nepal. This is done under the SP Go Serve programme, which encourages students to be socially responsible and get meaningfully involved in the lives of others. Another way that SP enables students to contribute to society is the SP Centre for Applications in Rehabilitation Engineering (SP CARE) where students and staff work together on engineering projects that play key roles in rehabilitation for the elderly or the disabled. Thus far, SP CARE has developed over 200 customised technology solutions for over 30 organisations and individuals including the National Heart Centre and the Spastic Children’s Association of Singapore.

Mr Lee Ee Tat, staff member of SP, received the award at the 19th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting Awards Ceremony in Vietnam on behalf of the poly.

For its close partnership and support of Singapore Civil Defence Force’s (SCDF) community outreach and emergency preparedness programmes, SP was conferred the Strategic Partners Award 2013 during this year’s SCDF Day. The photo shows SP’s Principal and Chief Executive Officer Mr Tan Choon Shian receiving the award from SCDF Commissioner Mr Eric Yap.

For years, the School of Architecture and the Built Environment and the SP Lionhearter Club (the first to be formed in a poly) have been actively supporting and getting involved in various SCDF community outreach activities. One of their major contributions includes the joint development of the Tremorlator, a mobile unit that simulates tremors during an earthquake.

SP launched the first and only Cyber Security Academy among institutes of higher learning in Singapore. The academy will allow corporate and government organisations to test the strength of their IT systems against cyber-attacks with a comprehensive suite of cyber-defence assessment services. It will also provide continuing education courses to working professionals to help them adapt to changes in technology or embark on new careers in infosec security.

The academy will also help in addressing the shortage of IT security professionals in the infosec industry. Its establishment is in line with the National Cybersecurity Masterplan 2018 by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, which aims to address the threat posed by rising numbers of sophisticated cyber-attacks. Housed in SP’s Cyber Wargame Centre, the academy was conceived through a partnership with Ixia, a network and data centre testing and optimisation firm. Armed with Ixia’s flagship BreakingPoint security test solutions, the academy can simulate realistic large-scale cyber-attacks on an IT system. Mr Naveen Bhat, Vice-President and General Manager of Ixia Asia-Pacific said, “The launch of this new facility will offer students and IT security professionals the most realistic environment to train and prepare for the increasing number of cyber-attacks we are seeing in Singapore and ASEAN.”

The new Cyber Security Academy boasts a wide range of powerful infosec security capabilities and features.

A clump of buildings does not a polytechnic make. A campus needs the passion, energy and crazy antics of its students for it to truly come alive! This year’s Instagram entries for SP+EYE, a social media initiative, captured snapshots of many of the lives and personal stories of our students. Check out what they are up to in SP, their home away from home:
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