

SP RIT

VOL 1 2015

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

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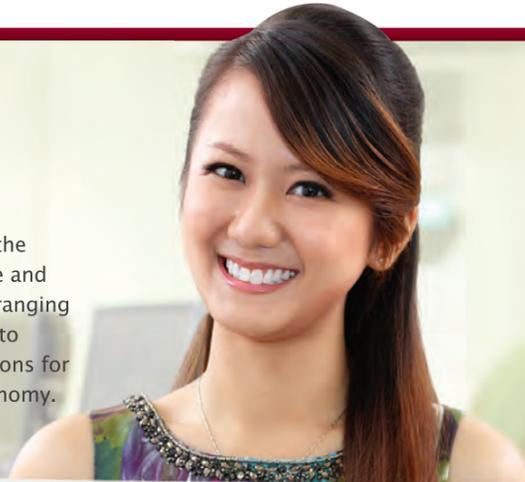
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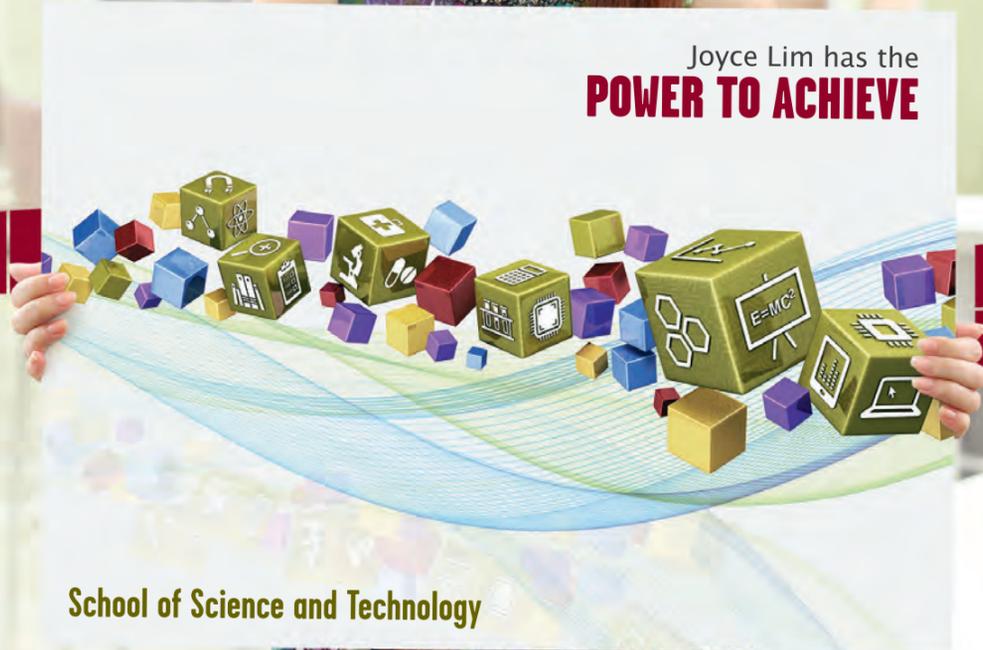
**ALEXANDER
TAN**
HE AIMS
FOR THE SKY!

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One Smart Alex

If there's a search for an all-rounded SP student, easily Alexander Tan would be one of the finalists. Besides excelling in his studies in the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE), he is the President of SP Krav Maga Club and Vice President of the SP Cyclist Club. In between managing studies and CCAs, he squeezed in time to perform community service in China and obtain his Private Pilot's License. Doesn't this SP Scholar sleep, you wonder! If so, SPiRiT finds out from the engineering enthusiast himself.

Perhaps it was destined that he endears himself to the acronym "SP". It represents not just the poly he is with now, but also his alma mater, St Patrick's School which is also often called SP in short. "We have this 'I ♥ SP' tee in St Pats and when I wore it, I already knew my next stop after the 'O's would be another SP," laughs Alex, who is in the final year of his DARE course.

Seriously though, Alex says he chose SP because it is without any doubt that "SP is always the best poly." He justifies: "I could tell the difference when I spoke to some SP scholars during the Open House who answered all my queries. They really impressed me, and even my dad, who was proJc, was impressed by how well they speak and carry themselves. They seem to possess a deep understanding and passion for what they're doing."

Fast forward 30 months, the passion he saw in the eyes of those SP students is now burning inside Alex himself. Proudly tagged with the SP Scholarship and A*STAR Science Award, he never



Alex suited up in Krav Maga gear.

lets a day go by without learning something new about engineering.

As one of the most competitive courses in SP, the DARE students are all eager to excel. "We are a very driven bunch and I'm glad to be in an environment with so many like-minded people. Yes, we do chase after grades but that itself becomes a push for us to do better each time," says Alex who joined SP with an aggregate of 16 points (L1R5) for his 'O' levels.

He is a living testimony of the tagline "With SP, it's So Possible". SP, he readily admits, has given him opportunities to achieve his goals. "There were things that I set out to do which became possible only because of SP. For examples, getting funding for my projects and

my Private Pilot's License," says Alex.

He received his private wings from the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC) when he was in second year. The DARE course has given him knowledge that he found useful in his lessons with SYFC. Likewise, what he picked up from SYFC made it possible to skip some chapters in his DARE modules.

Let's set straight the misconception that SP's top scorers don't have a life. Alex certainly knows how to maximise the best he could get from SP. Besides serving as the President of the SP Krav Maga Club which he joined as a pioneer member, he is also Vice-President of the SP Cyclists. The group organised a night cycling event this year to raise funds for Club Rainbow, a charity that looks after children suffering from chronic and life-threatening illnesses.



Unarmed knife defence technique.



Choke defence with an elbow counter-strike.



Strike defence with a counter kick to an opponent's groin.



Baton defence take down and a kick to an opponent's head.



SP Krav Maga enthusiasts (from left) John Patrick (incoming President), Alex Tan (current President) and Haris Bin Ahmad (founding President).

"Krav Maga is a very different form of self-defence martial arts. We utilise the most effective techniques from different martial arts, especially defence against weapons. I love to run and cycle too, so joining the SP Cyclists was the natural thing to do since I can also get more cycling-kaki," says Alex, who also indulges in comics such as Astrix and Marvel.



SP siblings: Alex and his sister Victoria.

If his course mates find him weird, it may not be far from the truth. While most teens are digging into the music of Taylor Swift and One Direction, Alex's playlist consists of mostly serious jazz and classical tunes by artistes such as Johann Pachelbel and Sarah Brightman. The nearest mainstream pop that he listens to comes from his father's writings on Confucius and Zheng He!

As if these are not enough to occupy him. Alex is holding the Presidency of the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) SP Student Chapter. This student body represents the interests of SP engineering students and it won the Best Student Chapter of the year in 2014.

If you are beginning to think Alex is not typical judging from his interests, relax! He also likes eating from the mixed rice stall as well as the yong tau fu stall in Foodcourt 4. If he has time to spare in the evenings, he chills out with his buddies over prata and bandung in the East Coast area where he stays.

Three overseas trips make his SP journey complete. He went to Sichuan, China for a community service trip, landed in Harvard University in the United States for the Harvard Model United Nations Conference, and attended a leadership camp in Telunas, Indonesia.

If you spot a cute girl hanging by Alex's side or arriving at school together with him, don't jump to



They have the license to fly. Final-year DARE students (from left) Samuel Do, Alex Tan and Aloysius Wee have earned their wings from the Singapore Youth Flying Club.

conclusions. She's Victoria, his younger sister who is now a freshie studying Architecture here. He swears he did not do any hard-selling because he would rather "the truth speak for itself how good SP is". And Victoria is more than having a ball of a time here, clinching the SP Scholarship like her brother, and having already went to Bali and Tokyo for overseas exposure during her first year.



Alex also co-leads the SP Cyclists Club as Vice President.

But if we push for Alex to hard sell SP Engineering, here's what he has to say: "If you have a passion for engineering, then SP would develop your passion further. The lecturers here come across to me as some of the sharpest who know what's going on in the world. With the new Aero Hub coming up, I could see that we are leapfrogging ahead of the rest to give the students the best engineering education they could get."

Well said. And certainly one very smart Alex!

He's Been To More Than Half The World

Most of us can rattle off the names of countries we have visited when asked. But not Alex Fung, a graduate from the Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) (Class of 2012). Instead of trying to list the countries, he would rather say, "I've been to every major port north of the Equator." That would have covered ports in East Asia (China, Korea, Japan), Europe and the United States. **SPiRT** caught up with him via email when he was in the middle of the Mediterranean seas.

YOU APPLIED FOR THE DIPLOMA IN NAUTICAL STUDIES (DNS) AS YOUR FIRST CHOICE AFTER YOUR 'O' LEVELS. WHY THIS DIPLOMA?

Like many others, I was stuck between choosing a poly or JC. All I knew was that I wanted an exclusive career that could take me places. So

DNS appealed to me. Unlike the other poly diplomas, DNS can only be applied under the Direct Admission Exercise (DAE). It can be quite tedious as we have to go through a few rounds of interviews before being accepted. But I knew then that this was what I wanted to study and was really happy to get selected.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SP JOURNEY AT THE SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY (SMA)?

Just one word – "extraordinary"! I totally enjoyed it despite how it was a short two years in campus due to the one-year internship at sea. Our cool lecturers were always sharing with us their inspiring stories at sea. Most of my lecturers are qualified captains. That's how much industry-relevant knowledge I was getting!

The course intake is small, about 50. So we are a tightly-knitted group. Many of us embarked on our sailing journey as officers at the same time, so we will share our experiences. SMA has its own Poly Marina which we use for our practical lessons out at sea. Due to the one-year internship requirement, most of us were sponsored by shipping companies during our first year. I was sponsored by APL Co. Ltd and served my one-year cadetship with the company on board two container ships.

I also had a fun time with the exchange programme with Oshima Maritime Academy in Japan.

DID YOU HAVE ANY CCAS WHILE AT SP?

I was a SP Ambassador and that was where I met friends from all over the campus and had the opportunity to interact with people from all levels. This helped to improve my communication skills.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE ABOUT SP?

Nothing beats the convenience of coming to SP as there's a MRT station at the doorstep. The food was good, and I especially liked the *yong tau foo* in Food Court 1. I spent a lot of time in the library, because I studied very hard. *(Editor's note: We believe you Alex, after all getting 3.9 GPA is no mean feat!)*

WHERE DID YOU SAIL TO WHILE AT SP? WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST FROM THOSE TRIPS?

I sailed to ports in the Middle East, China and United States. This would cover cities like Dubai, Shanghai, Guangzhou and New York. By now I've covered a big part of the globe and am still extending my footprints on the world!

Cadet days could be quite challenging due to the long absence away from home. We still had to study while on board via online correspondence. Then there were issues related

to different cultures and behaviours from all over the world. Putting all of these aside, the 12-month cadetship gave me a lot of insights about the industry while strengthening my independence.

HOW HAS DNS HELPED YOU IN YOUR NATIONAL SERVICE? YOU WENT THROUGH OFFICER CADET SCHOOL (OCS) RIGHT?

The one-year cadetship has accelerated my maturity. With that, I'm more focused and could deliver well on what was required of me. I actually found basic military training



Alex usually spends his shore leave searching for authentic local food and sightseeing.

easier than my time as a cadet on board! Being in DNS made me a tougher person. On many occasions where we were put into very difficult situations, I would always remember my DNS days where we live with the slogan "TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST, TOUGH MEN DO"!

WHERE ARE YOU WORKING NOW AND WHAT'S YOUR JOB SCOPE LIKE?

I continued my career with my sponsoring company APL Co. Ltd after getting my Certificate of Competency (CoC) Class 3 license. I'm now serving as a Third Officer on board a container ship. As a marine deck officer, I'm in charge of my own navigation watch and port operations. The job also includes maintaining the standards of firefighting and lifesaving equipment on board.

WHERE HAS THIS JOB TAKEN YOU TO? ARE THERE ANY COUNTRIES YOU WISH TO SAIL TO BUT HAVE NOT?

It may be easier to mention those countries I haven't visited, haha! I've been to major ports above the equator. I hope to have the chance to sail down to Australia, New Zealand and South America one day.

WHEN YOU ARE ON SHORE LEAVE OVERSEAS, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU DO?

The first thing I normally do is to find local food. Usually, we will have planned our itineraries and listed out places to go due to the limited time

ashore. Before heading back to the ship, we always make it a point to visit the supermarkets to stock up on stuff that we need.

WHAT'S THE CAREER PROGRESSION FOR YOUR JOB? DO YOU INTEND TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN A FEW YEARS' TIME?

Currently, my career progression would take me to the level of ship captain within the next seven to eight years. With our operational experience at sea, there would be no issue with finding a job ashore as a maritime professional. I could jump right into Nanyang Technological University to take the Masters in Maritime Studies when I've gotten my CoC Class 1 license with relevant experience, without going through the basic degree phase.

WHAT'S A MISCONCEPTION PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT A SEAFARING CAREER? NO LIFE ON BOARD?

I'm replying to this question while in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, checking my emails. Internet surfing speed could be at times frustrating, but usually good enough to stay connected with family and friends. Accommodation and catering is free, so we could save a lot of money. Despite the long periods of six months away from home for each trip, we are still entitled to a non-disruptive two months of paid leave upon completion of every contract. I guess this may be the only job that doesn't require me to bring my work home.



Smartly-fitted Third Officer Alex Fung on board APL Sentosa container ship.

She's A Nice Engineering Gurl

When Nice Celine Morales said she would be choosing to study engineering, she got looks of surprise, doubt and even shock from family and friends. Through it all, Celine remained nice, because... that's just who she is.

But despite friendly or nasty advice from people around her, Celine remained adamant on her engineering choice after her 'O' levels. During secondary four, Celine debated the matter with her dad. "It was actually my dad who first got me interested in engineering," she shares, "because he's a civil engineer and I felt the things he did were very interesting and different from the norm. But he felt that I wouldn't be able to do well as he thought girls 'weren't suited to engineering'."

She knew her dad only had her interests at heart and was anxious for her to excel. "But it also made me kind of mad that he thought that way, haha," she says. "It just made me want to prove him wrong."

Celine, who describes herself as straightforward, kept going back to him about the issue. "We talked about it a lot (and even argued, sometimes!)," she reveals. "But I'm glad we did. I realise in the end it helped me to really focus on finding out exactly what I wanted to do, as well as gain his support."

Now a first-year **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** student, Celine is doing well in SP, having so far scored an impressive GPA of 3.73 out of 4.00. Her conversations with her father have since changed. She rants about troubles or challenges she faces in class, and he encourages her and tutors her in maths every once in a while, convinced now that she is able to handle the field.

Her DASE course teaches her about the electronics inside an airplane, such as instruments and controls in a plane's cockpit. Just as a simple aircraft actually hides many complex electronic components, appearances are deceiving too in the case of Celine, who is excelling in her classes despite how some friends think she seems too "soft" for what is, in their mind, a "tough person's" or "guy's" course. "I've realised I'm more of a hands-on learner who enjoys working on actual projects, as opposed to imagining them in theory," she explains. "For example, working on a complete circuit to make a small airplane move during class allows me to visualise the types of principles that I've learned. The hands-on experiences, which we get a lot, have helped me better understand how things actually work."

Many people have already made lame puns on Nice Celine's name. But that's probably not going to stop you from trying.



Celine (in white SP t-shirt) with her classmates during a visit to Paya Lebar Air Base, where they learnt more about how aircraft are maintained.

When asked what she would say to girls who may be interested in engineering but need reassurance, Celine replies: "Nobody in my secondary school actually thought I would do engineering. They all thought I looked like someone who would study business or events. But I think that if you're really interested in a course, don't be scared and just chase after your own goals! Sometimes I meet my old secondary school teachers who hear what I'm doing and they still ask, 'Are you sure?' I simply reply, 'Yes, I'm sure' and smile. Haha."

As for the fact that her course is stereotypically seen as "male-dominated" (her class has 16 guys and three girls), she says: "There are both good and bad points about having so many guys. On one hand, I know how to get along with them because I have brothers at home. On the other hand, there are some guys who like to hang out amongst themselves and just do 'guy things', so it gets cliquish at times. But I guess having some cliques is normal wherever you go."

More important to Celine than any boy-girl ratio is her future goal: "I hope to become a senior aircraft engineer. The job comes with opportunities to travel to different countries for training and work! It's also an important job because the lives of everyone on board an aircraft actually depend on you. If you have the

passion for the field, it's a great service you can provide to others through what you do." Celine is Nice, no doubt, but there's definitely more to her than a sweet smile and pleasant demeanour. Keep an eye out for this young engineering hopeful in the years ahead!

MORE NICE RESPONSES

What's your favourite part about SP life? That there are many opportunities to de-stress from studies and get to know new people in CCAs. I get to meet friends through SP Red Cross and ACERS, a student ambassador group that reaches out to secondary school students.

If you could change one thing about SP, what would it be?

The lunch hours. We have so many food courts and fast food outlets like McDonald's, Subway and KFC, but the queues seem endless because

everyone's lunch breaks are around the same time.

If you could have the budget to invent anything, what would you create?

A food-making machine. I love food so much! You wouldn't have to go out of your house to get whatever you want. It would just be there, haha... Sorry I just love food =)

Do you have a favourite quote or motto?

Always be kind, even if it's just for a few seconds when you're interacting with someone.

SP Makes It Possible For Him

He didn't know it at first, but the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) had a huge surprise in store. Upon joining the course, Pavan Singh Gill found that the dyslexia that disadvantaged him as a kid was now working to his benefit.

He shares how this and the new environment in SP brings out the best in him and inspires him toward his goal of being a technopreneur.



Pavan visited Angkor Wat temple during an SP overseas community service trip to Cambodia.

In secondary school, Pavan was, in his own words, "an average, distracted student who enjoyed playing games most of the time." It didn't help either that he needed to re-learn the fundamentals of his English at one point, as dyslexia hampered his ability to read and spell, which compounded into other learning problems that he had to take extra classes to solve.

Upon joining DEEE in SP, he felt tickled by some of the perks of the course. "I realised I could now use spell check for all my assignments," Pavan recounts, smiling. The reduced emphasis on language in engineering eased a long-time burden on his shoulders.

He was surprised then, when he discovered an additional bonus. "During 3D computer modelling classes, my classmates struggled, but things felt natural to me. Dyslexics tend to think in pictures, so the 3D aspect of the class was to my advantage. This helped me to see my dyslexia as a gift for the first time, something that I could be proud of," he reveals. Pavan believes that the different thinking approach of dyslexics could be an advantage in other areas as well.

Besides this, a new learning environment also helped change his self-image. "My classmates and I have lecturers who are very passionate about their subjects and challenge us to be better. When we solve their questions, we



Pavan hopes to one day run his own technopreneurship business.

just feel, 'Hey, looks like we're pretty smart!' (laughs)." His desire to learn more was also piqued when he heard about some of SP's engineering capabilities, such as its equipment for creating solar panels and its multi-million dollar nanotechnology lab.

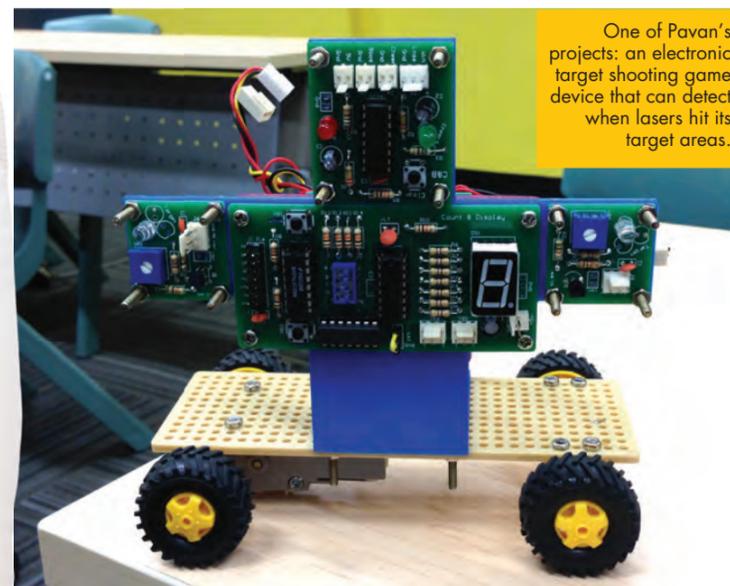
Today, as a second-year student, Pavan is completely in his element. The studious-looking young man has a perfect Grade Point Average score. He's also an SP Engineering Scholar and the recipient of the ST Kinetics Award for excellent academic performance.

With more energy freed up from dealing with past problems, Pavan is now pursuing his dream to be a technology business owner. On top of his engineering studies, he takes up the optional Diploma-Plus programme where he learns about business and economics. He's also involved in business activities through CCAs. In the SP Students'

Union, he's a Corporate Coordinator liaising with external companies to get sponsorships for SP events. With the SP Student Entrepreneurs club, he coordinates a project to teach a crash course on entrepreneurship to SP students. These activities give him the business experience that he will need for the future. With what spare time he has left, he takes part in overseas trips, such as leadership training camps in Malaysia and a community service trip to Cambodia to teach kids English and help with construction of basic facilities. "I'm no longer so distracted now," Pavan shares. "I know what I want in life, I have a focus and I feel ready to do what it takes to achieve my goal."

Pavan encourages new students not to take it easy even after they've gotten their preferred course in SP. Instead, the first year should be a time to establish oneself and build confidence

and strong foundations. "Go at full speed for studies once you enter school, because it's easier for you to do well in the first year. I'm not saying you should ignore having a life, but make sure you know your work so you can pursue CCAs with your mind at ease. If you don't understand something, there are plenty of solutions. You can ask lecturers, seniors, classmates, or even Google for help. Poly life is full of opportunities and chances for growth. We should be ready to grab them."



One of Pavan's projects: an electronic target shooting game device that can detect when lasers hit its target areas.



Pavan with his fellow committee members in the SP Students' Union.

PAVAN'S PEEVES, PHILOSOPHIES, PASTIMES

What's your favourite invention?

The game console. When I was younger and didn't have a laptop, I had to negotiate with my parents to use the computer for games. But it was a losing battle. Haha. When I got my first console, I could play games whenever I wanted!

If you had enough money to create anything, what would you make?

I would use the cash for energy research, for example finding ways to make uranium more

stable, because energy consumption will only increase as populations grow.

If you could change one thing about SP, what would it be?

Allow students to create their own timetables! Sometimes my friends have classes with very long breaks in between, or just one module in a day so they only come to school for one hour. More packed schedules means there could be more days off from school.

Do you have a favourite quote?

"If I were to ask my customers what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse." This quote came from Henry Ford, the man who made cars affordable to average Americans with his revolutionary manufacturing innovations. I love how he thought ahead of the times and understood people's needs deeply.

MY WORLD, MY SP

Biomedical universities in South Korea, the headquarters of world-famous gaming company, Valve, in USA, and the Great Wall of China – SP students have been there, done that through their participation in different overseas programmes open to all students.

However, these trips are more than just sightseeing fun. When overseas, students learn new skills during internships, get inspired by cutting-edge industry practices, or help a village in need during a community service effort. Each experience grows their mind and widens their horizons. **SPiRiT** checks out some of the recent trips.

SEOUL AND DAJEON, SOUTH KOREA

WHAT THEY DID:

When 17 **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** students landed in South Korea for a 12-day overseas study trip, they were naturally buzzing with excitement. After all, they were in the homeland of Girls Generation, Super Junior and Kim Soo-hyun. Star-chasing was however not on the agenda; visiting biomedical research facilities in universities and companies, as well as



Pavittar Kaur, final-year DBS student, says:
“The trip gave us first-hand views of the many sectors we can work in after graduation. Besides research institutes, we can also work in pharmaceutical companies and hospitals if we choose to further our studies in the relevant areas.”

immersing themselves in Korean culture, was.

Daejeon is known as “Asia’s Silicon Valley”, and is home to 18 universities and a variety of research institutes and technology businesses. During the trip, the group toured research labs, university hospitals and even a vaccine manufacturing company to observe Korean biomedical practices. Jillian Low found the trip to a university hospital to be especially eye-opening: “Blood samples in the hospital are delivered to labs by a special conveyor belt instead of manually, and for the hospital patients, there are touchscreen stations where they can spend free time learning about their illnesses or booking appointments with doctors. It seemed like a very interactive and engaging arrangement.”

Course manager Dr Tan Tuan Lin, who led the tour, said, “We want to show our students good biomedical research and manufacturing practices beyond Singapore, as well as teach them about different cultures. We hope to have even more trips to other research centres in Asia in future.” In Seoul, the SP students took part in a kimchi

making course and hanbok-wearing session (hanbok is the Korean traditional costume). They also visited Changdeok Palace, filming site of K-Drama, *Jewel in the Palace*, learning about different herbs and their treatment uses from a local medical doctor.

Jillian Low, final-year DBS student says:

“I liked the palace visit best. When you’re there it’s like you’re in the dramas you love watching! We entered the courtyard and climbed upstairs to the emperor’s seat, which overlooks the area. It was really majestic.”



Learn from the world’s best universities

Besides study trips, School of Chemical and Life Sciences students also get opportunities to go on research attachments to top universities such as Harvard (US), Yale (US), Imperial College and Oxford University (UK). There, they take part in scientific research led by researchers and scientists there. The photo shows **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** graduate Xenia Lim Lin, who underwent a three-month attachment at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA, where she worked on DNA nanotechnology to create cellular mediums for containing medical drugs during her time as a student in SP.





SEATTLE, USA AND LONDON, UK

Gamers and game developers out there will understand why this is such a big deal. Valve is one of the most well-known companies in the video game industry. Its presence is ubiquitous in gaming communities all over the world. It created Steam, a game platform that distributes thousands of games to more than 100 million players worldwide. As for DigiPen, it is the very first university dedicated to computer and video game development. It offers game design, digital arts and animation, music and sound design, and many other computer-related courses.

This trip was the first time any of us had lived independently, and the experience taught us a lot. We picked up housekeeping skills and learned to take full responsibility for ourselves. While doing so, I realised that my parents had to do a lot to maintain the comfortable home I had back in Singapore. There were many things I did not realise had to be done until I actually had to do them myself.

We were warmly welcomed into the DigiPen community. Our mentor, Professor Benjamin Ellinger briefed us on developing games using DigiPen's proprietary Zero Engine. We were pretty excited when he mentioned that there were no constraints and we could make any type of game we wanted. I teamed up with three other Singaporeans from other schools to work on a 2D game. It was an enriching experience as I got to work with people from different disciplines. We had two programmers (including myself) and two artists.

The Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics classes I took in DigiPen were enriching experiences, as I got an insight into what

Evan Tay, final-year Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) (Game Development Option) student, says:
“Visiting Valve HQ, attending classes at DigiPen Institute of Technology, and staying in Seattle, USA for three months – these are things I never thought I would have the chance to do, but have done through DIT's Overseas Internship Programme.”



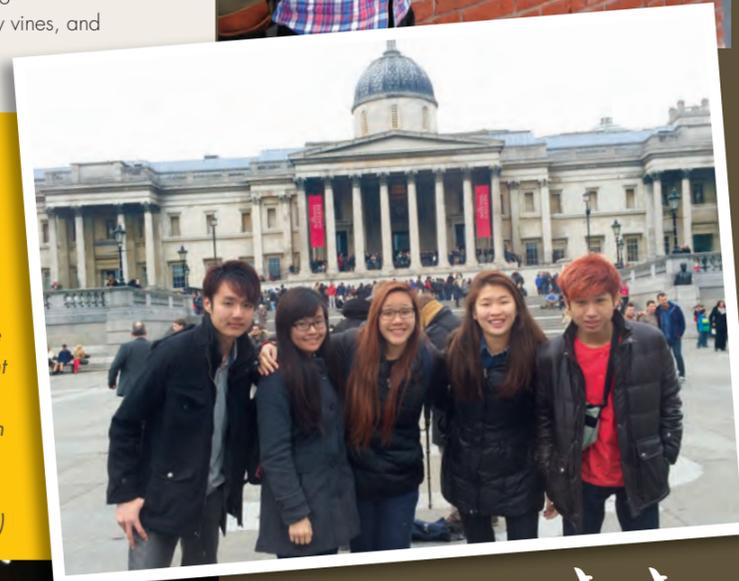
(Editor's note: Ryan is an Integrated Infocomm Scholarship recipient. His two course mates on the trip, Malody Hoe and Eugene Foo, are in the Infocomm Development Authority's Enhanced Learning in Information Technology (ELITE) programme, a talent development initiative.)



“The overseas internship at DigiPen was truly an unforgettable, life-changing experience. I have returned from it not just a better programmer and game designer, but also a more independent and mature young adult.”

I would learn should I further my studies there. I also attended 3D Game Design classes where I learned about level design elements such as towers and valleys, and how they invoke emotions and affect gameplay.

Our visit to Valve was another unforgettable experience. When we first arrived at the lobby, I could not believe that I was really standing in Valve HQ. It felt surreal. The lobby was full of interesting displays of Valve games. We were shown not only the working studios such as the motion capture studio, but also the pantry, and a few other work areas. Back at DigiPen, we managed to create a prototype of our game, YGGY, after three months of hard work. It is a two-dimensional puzzle-platformer game where you control a little green bean called YGGY on his journey to resurrect the forest which is he the guardian of. The main game mechanic is the sunflower beam mechanic where the bean powers up sunflowers to produce light beams to heal corrupted trees or thorny vines, and destroy hostile Venus flytraps.”



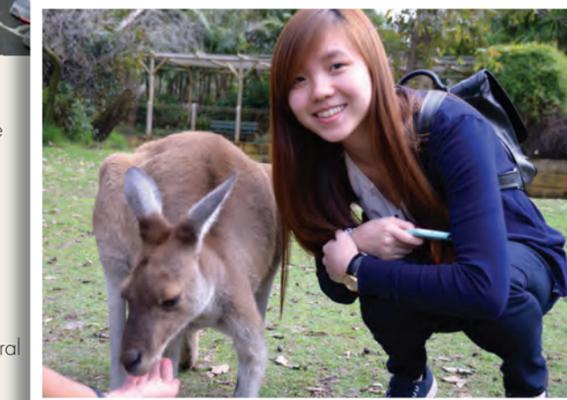
GLOBAL DIGITAL EDUCATION



Some other places that School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology students have gone to deepen their knowledge are London, UK, where **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** students attended university lectures and worked on a market research project for a Microsoft product at University College London, one of the world's top-ranked universities; and San Francisco and Los Angeles, USA, where **Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** and **Diploma in Interactive Media** students attended classes on visual storytelling at Cornerstone Academy and visited top tech and media companies such as Adobe, Lucasfilm, Apple and Electronic Arts (a.k.a. EA Games).

PERTH,
AUSTRALIA
AND
TIANJIN,
CHINA

Jonah Ling, second-year Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) student, says:
 “Singapore is a small country. We have always been taught that we have to adapt to the global environment in order to survive, yet before this trip, I had always felt like a frog in a well not knowing what’s out there in the rest of the world. This China trip provided me with the opportunity to find out more about the fastest-growing economy in the world right now and how it is taking the world by storm.”



WHAT THEY DID:

Studies in finance don't have to be confined to laptops or towering stacks of accounting records. There's plenty to be learnt overseas as well (and you can pet a kangaroo or two, along the way). Twenty-one SP Business School (SB) students embarked on a six-day study trip to Australia, where they had classes in business report writing and presentation skills at the University of Western Australia. They also conducted a financial analysis case study on telecommunications companies SingTel and Telstra. When not in the university, the group made visits to accounting and financial services firms KPMG and CPA Australia. They

also visited Caversham Wildlife Park and the beaches, markets and city suburbs of Perth.

Another group of 40 SB students went to China for three weeks. They visited Dalian, Yingkou, Tianjin and Beijing to learn more about the Chinese business environment in terms of economic, social, political and cultural aspects, through university lectures at Dalian Polytechnic University and Nankai University, as well as industry visits to places and companies such as Yingkou Shengshi Food Co. and the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city project. They also worked on a project to create proposals that would benefit Tianjin Eco-city's operations,

and made a presentation to the management team in Mandarin! In their free time, they visited iconic China landmarks such as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China.

Anthony Wee, final-year DID student, says:

“Weaving is a skill that has been around since ancient times. As a craft, the amount of hard work and determination that goes into it is truly painstaking but rewarding. Now, every time I chance upon a weaved piece of furniture, I no longer treat it as a “simple object”, but see the amount of detail and work put into it. Learning more about it, and the properties of the material of rattan, allows us to broaden our thinking further to discover new ways to implement the art of weaving into designs.”

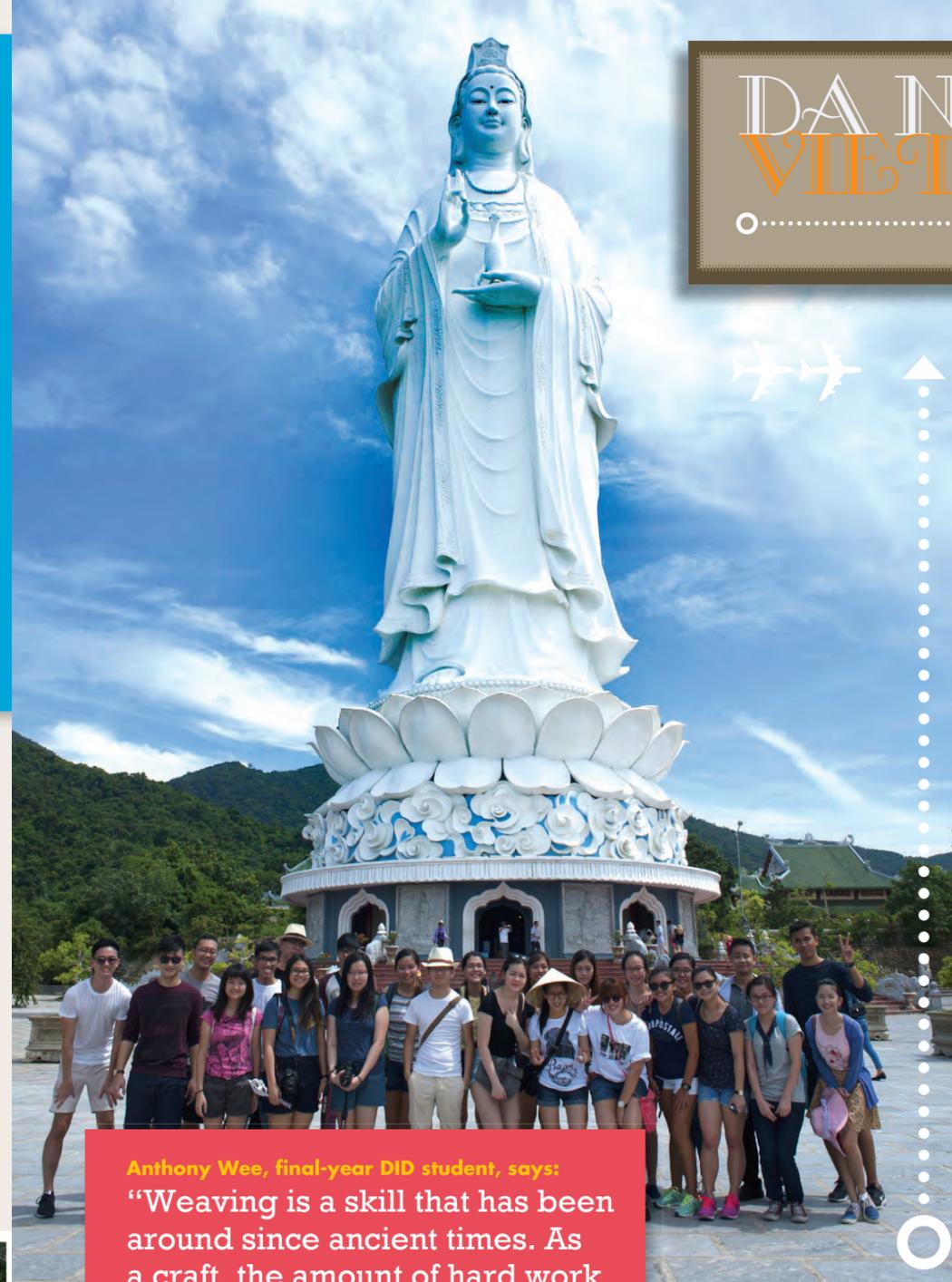
DANANG,
VIETNAM

WHAT THEY DID:

While in Vietnam, a group of design students added the traditional art of weaving to their arsenal of design knowledge.

The group of twenty-one **Diploma in Experience and Product Design (DXPD)** and **Interior Design (DID)** students went for a three-week trip to Da Nang. Hosted by Duy Tan University, the students worked with artisans at Dong Huy Rattan Factory to learn weaving techniques. They practiced their weaving on a 40cm by 40cm frame, working with both treated and natural untreated rattan and PVC strips to learn the properties of the various materials as well as the weaving process for future use in their designs.

The immersion extended to documenting the local culture and behaviour related to weaved products, as well as a study of the city. Students spent two weeks learning the techniques from local artisans and gained invaluable experience and insight into the livelihood of the locals as they explored the city's streets. At the end of the trip the students also made a visit to Angkor Wat. Upon their return to Singapore, they started applying the concepts they learnt to create designs for an upcoming exhibition in March 2015.



OOSHIMA, JAPAN



WHAT THEY DID:

A golden glow spread across the sky and the water in the sea glistened invitingly as eight first-year Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) students stepped on board Oshima Maru, a research vessel sailing under the flag of Japan. SP's maritime students immersed themselves in the life of a Japanese sailor as they slept, cleaned, and navigated aboard the vessel on Japanese waters.

The experience was an exposure for SMA students on life aboard a ship, manoeuvring the seas. This exchange programme with Japan's National Institute of Technology, Oshima College, has been held annually since 2008. Benevolent lecturers and cadets from Oshima College taught and trained the students on the rudiments of seamanship to mould them into adept cadets. And despite the fact that they

Lau Xin Wei, first-year Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) student, says:

"It has always been a childhood dream of mine to steer a ship. I was astonished when I found out that I would be given an opportunity to steer Oshima Maru. I remember feeling butterflies in my stomach. The experience has let me achieve one of my dreams, so I'm really thankful to have gone on this trip."

had trouble communicating with their Japanese counterparts, the students did not allow the language barrier to stop them from forging valuable friendships.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The museum is dedicated to documenting the advent of the nuclear bombing at Hiroshima in

1945. It was a poignant visit for the students as they observed artefacts which embodied the suffering, agony and anger of the bomb's victims. It ingrained in them that war is a tragedy.

What an invigorating experience. The students returned to Singapore inspired and ready to sail the world. Ahoy Captains!



KAMPONG THOM, CAMBODIA

WHAT THEY DID:

Students in SP don't just go overseas for their own development. Sometimes, they lend a helping hand to others as well. A team of 23 School of Architecture and the Built Environment students was in Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia, for a two-week community service trip. They built agricultural structures for two villages, taught lessons on personal hygiene in a primary school and helped to construct and decorate a garbage incinerator.

Jeremy Seah, second-year Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) student, says:

"We helped to build a garbage incinerator, and my team came up with the idea to let the local kids paint it with their handprints. We thought that they would feel more attached to the incinerator if they helped to make it. The result was that the kids were so excited that they couldn't stop running around while waiting to start the painting. When we saw that we'd made a piece of work that people were happy to use, as the 'artists' responsible, we felt good."



Alvin Tan, second-year Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB) student, says:

"In Kampong Thom, basic hygiene practices used to be very uncommon amongst the villagers. They would defecate in open areas, and children could be seen drinking from puddles on the road. Over the years, Mercy Relief has been educating them in hygiene practices. In line with these efforts, our team taught the children proper hand washing and tooth brushing techniques. Luckily for us, engaging them was much easier than expected. They had a strong curiosity towards us, and were also really cooperative during class. I hope that our efforts have impacted their lives and that they will pass the things we taught them on to others."



This trip was part of the SP Go Serve programme, which encourages students to be socially responsible and involved in the lives of other communities. Students can take part in community service locally or overseas. Visit goserve.sg for more info.

You should be asking your doctor for medicine, not a song! However, if your doctor is Shea Ng, your wish may possibly be granted. Meet the fresh Singapore Polytechnic (SP) graduate who will put on his white robe next year to commence his medical degree at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Doc, Sing Me A Song!

If a song can heal illnesses, Shea Ng could possibly be the most qualified doctor-to-be, in a few years' time. The fresh **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** graduate has gained a spot in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at NUS, becoming one of 12 SP graduates to gain admission into medical schools here.

Boyishly charming, especially when he has a guitar strapped on, Shea took on a path less travelled right after his 'O' levels at Anglo Chinese School (Independent) [ACS(I)]. While the majority of his classmates went straight to junior colleges (JC), he picked SP because of his strong interest in Biology and belief that the biomedical science course would give him a strong foundation and perhaps open an alternative pathway for him to read medicine in future. After all, he had read that SP graduates had made it to medical schools here. A visit to SP during its annual open house gave him a sneak peek of the impressive facilities there and helped seal his decision.

There wasn't even a need to consult his parents about his choice. "Interestingly, my mum encouraged me to take up the SP course. She went through the JC route herself and felt that the poly's hands-on learning style was more suitable for me," says Shea. Considering that both poly and JC were but a means to an end, he reckoned the former would be more beneficial for him as the curriculum is more extensive and experiential.

"What I really enjoyed about the SP learning experience was that whatever content we were taught was always complemented with a relevant practical session so that we could understand the subject matter better," says Shea on the learning experience at Singapore's first polytechnic. He gives an example: "For example, in clinical chemistry,

the lectures would explain to us the aetiology of hyperglycaemia, while the practical lessons would show us how to test for its presence."

He gives full marks to his lecturers: "I was very fortunate to have very caring and patient lecturers who, while careful not to spoon-feed us, were always there to guide us and clear any doubts we students had. They don't simply teach but also mentor us in other areas, such as recommending suitable future professions, or courses we should consider in the future."

Shea didn't allow book and lab sessions to dominate his three years in SP, though. With his good 'O' level results, he was bestowed the SP Scholarship. This allowed him to participate in the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme where he attended specially-tailored programmes such as a leadership camp in Indonesia, in addition to other activities such as communications and portfolio workshops.

The difference between secondary school and poly is remarkably huge, says Shea. For starters, besides not having to wear uniforms, polys have huge campuses. "At SP, there are

so many food choices. The wide variety means I never got bored with eating in school, which was exceptionally important during the long pre-exam periods!" he says, counting the Thai food in Food Court 4 as his favourite.

Shea also maxed out his extra time to join the SP Guitarists club. "Having a CCA is not a requirement for poly students but it makes life so much more fun and less mundane," he shares. "The times making music with my close friends there were easily one of the highlights of my SP journey."

He initially joined the club hoping to be given opportunities to perform. These were not lacking and even led to performing in larger-scale events within SP and outside campus. He had his first solo gig at the Esplanade Concourse for Yfest 2012, and thereafter performed at several paid and unpaid gigs for projects like Youth for Causes and Yellow Ribbon. Hey guys, this chap is serious with music too! Check out his videos on his own channels on YouTube and Soundcloud (search "Sheamisen").

The club also allowed him to try his hand at teaching, which he did after graduating in May this year. He went back to ACS(I) to relief-teach music for two months. "The guitar club allowed me to teach a class of about 30 juniors, and it was gratifying to be able to share my knowledge with others, in an area I am passionate about," says Shea who also enjoys reading, movies and online games.

Shea also counts having forged deep friendships during the three year-long journey as a significant part of his poly life. "The friendships that I've made in SP are most definitely ones that will last me a lifetime. And although it became somewhat of a ritual near the end of every semester to remind ourselves of how much we hated school, looking back now I would not have traded those three years for the world."

A much emphasised ethos to SP students is "having a heart to serve". Shea was also involved in community service projects like the Health Mapping Exercise organised by the School of Chemical and Life Sciences. "It was an eye-opening experience as I got to see a side of Singapore that I never saw before. Seeing the elderly and handicapped living in single-room HDB flats gave me insights on the existence and severity of poverty even in first-world countries like ours.

"Many of the flat occupants would complain that the health screenings we did for them were

a waste of time, as they did not even have the money required to pay for the treatment of whatever conditions we detected in them, for example hypertension. We felt so helpless hearing this because as students, we were unable to help them. I believe and hope that more subsidies and outreach programmes should be made available for those who have fallen through the cracks."

Did it ever occur to him to be a musician instead? "Haha... actually it still does," he admits. "At this point, music has already become an integral part of my life, and I still plan on continuing what I do for many years to come. I know my schedule in medical school will be incredibly hectic but I don't plan on giving up on my musical pursuits totally, though I'm sure there will be a significant decrease in the amount of time spent on it."

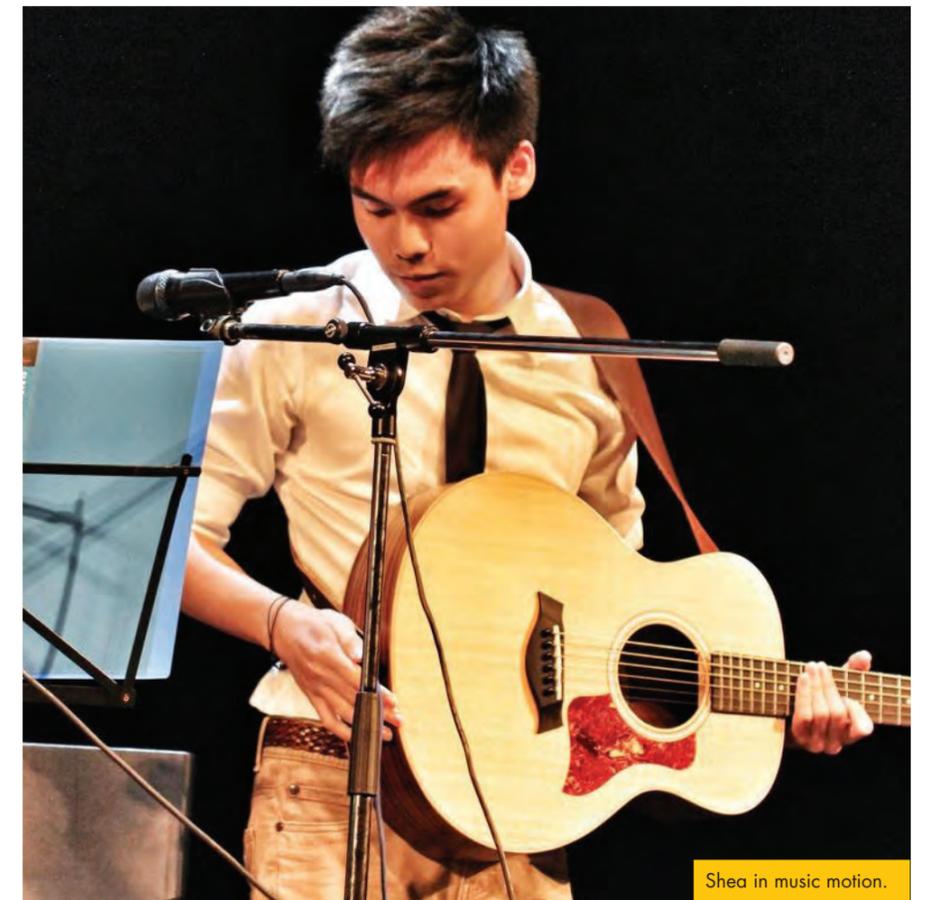
On a serious note, he adds: "I believe that mastery in both arts and sciences makes me a well-rounded person. My interest in the sciences, and the desire to learn more, runs in tandem with my passion for music. The arts and sciences are not separate entities—rather, the existence of one is required to fully appreciate the other. The two seemingly contrasting pursuits are not as different as they seem - medicine heals the body while music heals the mind. I hope one day I can use both to help people, both physically and emotionally."

At one point in his poly journey, he was considering a scientific research career after he did a research internship at Griffith University in Australia. "While doing research can be fulfilling, I think I'm not suited towards that life. The lack of interpersonal interaction was not for me. I am more inclined towards a healthcare profession, one with human interaction," he explains.

He recalls an instance that strengthened his resolve to pursue medicine: "Last year, my grandpa was hospitalised for a ruptured artery which he survived miraculously, despite his chances being very slim. The weeks he spent in the ICU made me feel so helpless. I realised from that day on that, if I could pursue medicine, I would never have to feel helpless to save a life again, hopefully!"

He hopes to specialise in geriatrics (healthcare of elderly people). "I enjoy talking to people of my parents' generation, and I think (and hope) they enjoy my company too! By the time I graduate from medical school and start to specialise, this group of people will fall into the category that I can attend to, if I don't change my mind that is!" he laughs.

Old folks or children, with Dr Shea around in future, you can be healed and entertained!



Shea in music motion.

Play And Get Paid

Ubisoft certainly needs no introduction. Gamers worldwide already know about its famous releases, most notably the Assassin's Creed series. But what is it like working inside one of gaming's big names? Three Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) (Game Development Option) graduates working in Ubisoft Singapore share their experiences working for the world's third-largest independent game publisher.

Darren Quek (Class of 2009) joined Ubisoft as a Quality Tester immediately after national service; he got promoted and is currently working as a Senior QA (Quality Assurance). Lin Junjie (Class of 2007) completed a degree in Multimedia & Game Development at SIM University; he began as a Level Integrator at Ubisoft and has recently been promoted to Level Designer. Cheung Wai Tung (Class of 2014) is working as a Test Coordinator.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB AT UBISOFT INVOLVE?

Darren: As a Senior QA, I work on Quality Assurance which involves testing games in many different ways, both from a technical and quality standpoint. I also oversee the management of interns and current testers in Singapore.

Junjie: I create and refine game level layouts as a Level Designer, and work closely with the artists and development testers both locally and overseas to solve level design issues.

Wai Tung: I'm a Playtest Coordinator. I organise and observe playtests for Ubisoft's games, interview the testers, and present reports to the development team on feedback.

WHAT GAMES HAVE YOU WORKED ON?

Darren: Ghost Recon Phantoms, a third-person tactical shooter game.

Junjie: I've worked on three triple A titles: Assassin's Creed III, Assassin's Creed IV Black Flag and Assassin's Creed Rogue. *(Editor's note: Triple A games refer to games with the highest development budgets and levels of promotion.)*

Wai Tung: I was involved in testing Assassin's Creed Rogue.

IF YOU COULD WORK ON OR CREATE ANY GAME YOU WANTED, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Junjie: Assassin's Creed China. It would combine the Assassin's Creed core gameplay with China's historical backstory and kung fu fighting.

Wai Tung: I would love to make a massive player versus player game on a huge open field map where it requires skills to be at the top!

WHAT IS THE WORKING CULTURE LIKE AT UBISOFT?

Darren: It has been an amazing experience these past three years in Ubisoft Singapore.

Everyone is really talented and cool here. We all share a similar passion for games and really believe in the things that we do.

Junjie: There's a lot of collaboration with teams from other countries, and everyone is very passionate about their work. There are also many internal events, funny contests and training courses to liven things up.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Darren: Whenever we hear good things from people about the games that we work on. The feeling of someone appreciating the hard work you have put into a game is the best.

Junjie: Crystallising an idea, improving and polishing it to eventually make it a unique gaming experience world-wide.

Wai Tung: It's being part of the development



From left: DIT alumni Darren Quek, Lin Junjie and Cheung Wai Tung.

team, and part of a triple A game to be played by millions of Assassin's Creed fans.

AND THE TOUGHEST PART?

Darren: Deciding whether to eat out or bring in food to the office to play games at lunch time. We all love games that much!

Junjie: Proving a new idea or game design. New things are normally considered as high production risk and hence have a high chance to be cut out. You need to spend additional time and effort to polish these elements and gain production team support.

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU FOUND OUT UPON WORKING IN UBISOFT THAT YOU NEVER EXPECTED?

Darren: The amount of people whom I have met and learnt from is never-ending! Triple A game projects are huge with hundreds

of people in design, programming, art, marketing, etc. I always meet new people over international calls or when I travel to another overseas studio.

Junjie: Ubisoft's working culture is better than I expected. Even though it's a big development studio, individuals can still find opportunities to do things that they love.

Wai Tung: Simply put, the working culture in the office is AWESOME (laughs)!

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED TO JOIN DIT (GAME DEVELOPMENT OPTION) AFTER YOUR 'O LEVELS'?

Darren: My passion for gaming started when I was really young. I played games so much during my school days that my parents thought I might not do well in school. I told them that I really wanted to chase my dreams of working in the game industry one day

and show them that game creation was a valid career path for students. When I told them about SP and the DIT course, they really supported me in chasing my passion and I got here today because of them.

Wai Tung: Back in secondary school, I was already a gamer. I actually never thought of being part of the industry until I got enrolled into SP's DIT course, which I entered because of my interest in all IT-related things. After that, the course inspired me and working in gaming became my goal!

DO YOU FEEL THAT DIT PREPARED YOU FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION?

Darren: Definitely. I worked with different teams on school projects during my time in DIT rather than being in a classroom. Working with different people regularly helped me cope

in an environment very similar to being in a huge project.

Junjie: Yes, I learn a lot about game industry history in DIT, as well as key programming skills. My lecturers were also very helpful and provided me advice that helped me make decisions for major life choices.

OF ALL THE THINGS HAPPENING IN THE GAMING WORLD RIGHT NOW, WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST?

Darren: Virtual reality and wearable technology (e.g. Google Glass). With new technology, there are always many unexplored avenues of innovation that await us to bring something to the masses.

Wai Tung: Being able to play more and more new next-generation games! ☺

From SP, he went to the Berklee College of Music, and then performances around the world in cities like Osaka and Los Angeles. Quincy Jones, producer for Michael Jackson's albums, says "his creativity and uniqueness are astounding".

But few people know that finger-style guitarist, two-time Boston Music Award nominee and Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) alumnus Shun Ng has dealt with problems like dyslexia, creative mental blocks and complexities of the music business while pursuing his art. Recently, he returned to share his amazing experiences with his DMAT juniors.

SP|RIT catches up with him.

Hitting The High Notes Of Success



Shun and renowned producer Quincy Jones at Quincy's home in Los Angeles.



Shun performing for his juniors at a DMAT workshop.

A young artist, Shun may be, but he's already racking up one achievement after another.

He's been nominated twice for International Artist of The Year at the Boston Music Awards (2013 and 2014). He's also performed at international guitar festivals like the Montreal Guitar Show and the Osaka Guitar Show, and met and worked with the famed Quincy Jones.

The gifted guitarist and vocalist is known for his unique and virtuosic style of guitar playing

which infuses elements of soul, funk, blues and jazz. And he has a boundless energy that keeps him in high spirits despite a packed schedule of performances and releases of his album and new singles (*writer's note: His single, Get On With It, is particularly electrifying for its display of precision guitar skills*). He shares more on the journey so far:

SHUN, HOW DO YOU KEEP FINDING INSPIRATION AS A PERFORMER AND COMPOSER?

I think sometimes we can't really control how we get inspired. It just has to come. For me, a lot of times it's just through listening to good music, getting excited by it and wanting to do something different. And meeting new people and just living life. I think a lot of my inspiration comes because there're so many bad things in the world and issues I feel strongly about; it makes me want to use music to share more about things like loving your family, or remembering the people in your life.

DO YOU EVER GET STUCK WHEN COMPOSING?

Yeah, I mean – all the time! Heh. It's the creative stuff you tend to get stuck at. And I've come to realise you can't really force it, you know? I mean, you can. You can rush it and try to work at it and spend hours pushing yourself, but if nothing's there, you'll get really frustrated. I've learned that sometimes, it just has to come when it comes. Don't force it, don't try to control the inspiration or the music. Just let it flow and not try to own it. Let it sort of own you.

HOW MANY HOURS A DAY DO YOU PRACTICE?

In some ways, it's never practice to me because it's always fun. If you love something, you just do it. If you love your girlfriend, you don't count, "I

spent seven hours with you today." (laughs). But as for how much I play... Maybe five, six hours a day?

HOW IMPORTANT ARE MENTORS IN MUSIC?

It's easy to get obsessed with the technical side of things and forget what music is really about. After a while, you can get hooked to a selfish concept of music: "It's all about me, my talent and the amount of effort I pay". In reality, we don't own the music. We're just anointed. We receive it; in some ways we discover something given to us, rather than create it. Those things can be very hard to get by yourself, and that's why I feel very blessed to learn from great mentors throughout my life.

To those seeking a mentor: Go out there and ask. Be active. Singaporeans can be shy, and it's difficult to approach someone you idolise, but I've learned that many of these veterans are more willing to help than we'd think. They know how hard the journey is. So basically, you can do two things: something, or nothing. That's all, right? So do something.

IS THAT WHY YOU CAME BACK TO SP FOR A WORKSHOP WITH YOUR JUNIORS?

Today, there's no more map. You can't just

sign with a label, make CDs and sit back for success. But having some sort of blueprint of the different paths you can take to get your music known, helps. And even with that blueprint, it doesn't mean you can do it. Basically, what you need to do at the start is make a lot of people like you. I didn't know that at first, and I wish I did. These are some things I shared with them.

DO YOU FEEL YOUR TIME AT DMAT WAS INSTRUMENTAL TO YOUR GROWTH?

Firstly, it was one of my best decisions. And I feel very lucky to have been allowed into DMAT because I actually missed the cut-off by six points.

There's so much to learn from the course. There's music theory, composition, and arrangement. There's music for moving images. There are mic-ing techniques, live sound mixing, performance skills and recording techniques. All of these are just so important to the modern musician, and that all-roundedness gave me an edge over others during my studies at Berklee.

Me and my friends were passionate about the course. A lot of times, we would just sit at night with our guitars and talk, make music, or debate and argue. And it could get so tense, you know? We would just stand up and go, "You're

wrong, shut up!" "No, you shut up!" (laughs). We would always fight over opinions about life and music. But all of it just inflamed our minds. Our meetings were a place for us to really discuss things and grow as musicians.

COULD YOU SHARE ABOUT YOUR STRUGGLES DURING YOUR EARLIER YEARS?

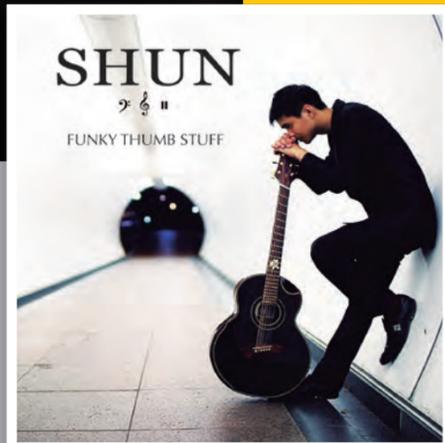
In SP, I had an amazing lecturer, Mr Leon Lim. He was the first person to really believe in me as a musician and tell me the truth about who I was. Because I was opinionated, you see. Outspoken and sure of what was good and bad music. And this could give people wrong impressions at times. Some would want to kill that kind of opinionated-ness. But Leon encouraged me. "It's good to be opinionated," he said. He helped me to refine my sense of music – because I did use to say some really stupid things (laughs) – and he taught me to be myself, and use that in my work.

Life before music was a constant struggle. My dyslexia made secondary school difficult; more than that, I knew I was different in some way I couldn't pinpoint. Before music, I had no interest in bettering myself in any way; I just didn't know how. But after finding it, it's shaped every part of my life. ☺

Photo credit:
Olivia Sari-Goerlach



CD cover art for Shun's album, *Funky Thumb Stuff*.



Shun at The Center for Arts in Natick, Massachusetts, USA.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR YOU, TO SAY THE LEAST. WE'VE HEARD THAT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RENOWNED PRODUCER QUINCY JONES, WHO ONCE PRODUCED FOR MICHAEL JACKSON! COULD YOU TELL US HOW YOU MET HIM?

In 2013, my friend, mentor and Singaporean jazz maestro, Jeremy Monteiro, told me he'd sent a video of my song, *Get On With It*, to Quincy. I didn't think much of it at the time... the next thing I knew I received an email from Jeremy saying that Quincy was blown away and that he loved the song. Jeremy asked if I could send more songs to him.

I did. And after some time I was at the doorstep of Quincy's home in Los Angeles. I remember I was extremely nervous, and thinking just how crazy it was to be there, you know? Quincy is my personal hero and it was a great honour. The first thing he said to me was: "Man, you can really play." After that I performed for him; I played my heart out like I was playing to 50,000 people. His response was, "Wow, you are so special." What do you do when Quincy Jones says that to you?

HOW DID IT FEEL, PLAYING AT THE SOLD-OUT SHOW IN SANTA MONICA THAT QUINCY PRODUCED FOR YOU?

Amazing, definitely. Just the honour and privilege of doing that show was more than enough, in some ways more than I feel I deserved, but to have it be sold out was extra special.

My manager and I still stay in touch with him and his team, and we send him updates, songs or videos from time to time.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR MUSIC JOURNEY FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?

That's such a tough question to answer. Often, you have your own vision, but I think it was John Lennon who said, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."

I used to have a plan. Like when I left for Berklee, I had a plan. But as I look back, it was the willingness to take chances and know that "you're not in control" that mattered most. My plans never work out the way I want them to; they're just the illusion of control. Sometimes

they take a turn for the worst but other times, they lead to something unimaginably better. What guides me through it all is this: Trust your talent, but more importantly, trust your hard work. Talent is overrated.

When I first moved to Boston, I wouldn't have dreamed that in just a year I'd be discovered by Ralph Jaccodine and eventually sign with him, or that I'd get endorsements with companies I grew up admiring or be nominated for a Boston Music Award. I don't know where I see myself in five years specifically. Who knows what could happen, or how lucky or unlucky I'll get... But one thing I know is I'll be here, working hard, loving, living, and giving.

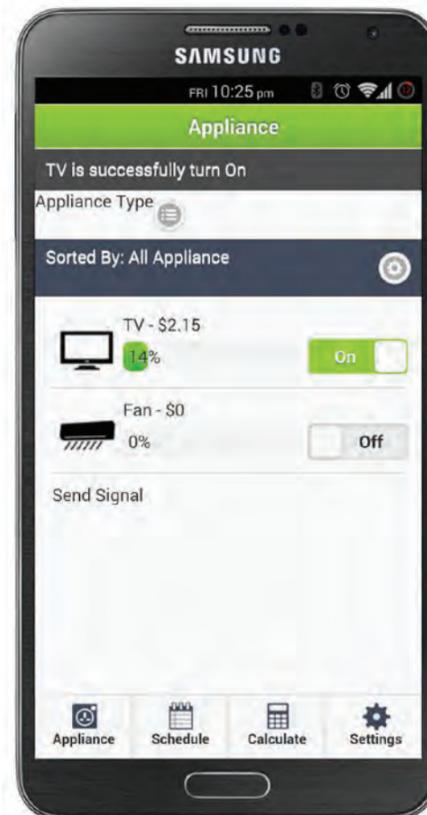
Find out more about Shun and hear his music at www.shunng.com.

How much would a person save if he turned his air-con off three hours earlier each day of the year? The answer is 1 kilowatt (kW) x 3 hours (h) x \$0.23 per kWh x 365 days = \$255.14. The savings would be even greater if the rest of his family did likewise. SP students recently developed a software that can do all this and more automatically. Their smart idea for smart homes won them USD\$10,000 and first place at the Red Hat Challenge 2014.



From left: Team supporter Daryl Chan (DISM), team member Preshant Dayan Achuthan (DISM), lecturer Mr Low Jin Jiat, and team members Lindon Ng (DISM) and Tan Zai Wei (DIT).

A Red Hat Worth USD\$10,000



Besides controlling appliances, the SmartHomie app is also capable of monitoring energy consumption and spending.

With a new software and hardware package developed by **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** and **Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** students, it's possible to wirelessly schedule and control the turning on and off of home appliances. Their system, SmartHomie, is part of a growing wave of home automation technology being developed around the globe.

The package consists of a website and mobile app where users can monitor their energy consumption and control their appliances. Commands are sent from these portals to an online database, which relays the signal back to the user's phone. The phone, which is SmartHomie's central communication point, sends Bluetooth signals to a specially designed SmartHomie power socket extension which can activate or turn off appliances wirelessly. With the website, users can, for instance, schedule their air-cons to turn off at 4am, followed by their fans turning on at 5am and light bulbs at 6am. This auto-management of appliances can effortlessly generate huge savings depending on household size.

Says DIT team member Tan Zai Wei: "I feel that this software is definitely going to impact

peoples' lifestyles. Especially those who have trouble forgetting to switch off appliances, or those concerned about their impact on the environment through energy usage. It will add to the list of tasks that people are now able to accomplish on-the-go using information technology."

The quality and effectiveness of the team's project earned them first place at the Red Hat Challenge late last year. Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source IT solutions, and its international event saw 109 entries from institutions such as The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; and Temasek Polytechnic.

Part of the substantial prize money of USD\$10,000 will be set aside for development of refined versions of SmartHomie. The rest will be split among the team members. Preshant believes that the next five years will see home automation tech becoming a common topic. He says: "With the Singapore government pushing Singapore to become a Smart Nation, we are definitely going to see more of such technologies emerging and once again re-inventing the way we live our lives."

So Possible

SP+U

OPENHOUSE
8.9,10 JAN 2015
With SP, it's So Possible



Power puff(ing) boy trying to lift tyre with help from SP Strongman Club.

SP+U
OPENHOUSE
2015
Wish SP is So Possible
I CAN UNLEASH MY POTENTIAL WITH SP



Reaching for the skies and getting into the seas!

SP+U
OPENHOUSE
2015
Wish SP is So Possible
I CAN EXPLORE NEW SPACES WITH SP



Take a bow, girls! You deserve an A* for making SPOH memorable for the visitors.



Casting their influence at SP Open House were Symone Oei (second from left in left photo) and Night Owl Cinematics (photo below).



The meaning of SP Open House: helping students choose the right diploma course.



Krav Maga (above) and Silat (below) – just two out of more than 120 CCAs in SP.



Waaahh.... SP so big one.....



Record breaking and game changing! This adequately sums up the Singapore Polytechnic Open House this year which was held from 8th to 10th of January. The event saw the biggest turnout of visitors ever for SP, comprising mainly those who took their 'O' level exams last year, as well as their parents.

For the first time as well, facilities in all nine academic schools were open to visitors. So whether it's navigating a ship in the Integrated Simulation Centre at the Singapore Maritime Academy or steering the plane in the Aeronautical Lab at the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, visitors were given a real taste of the learning environment SP offers.

Social media hit the roof too for SP! We climbed to No. 1 in Instagram followers among the polys. #WhySP trended at the top spot during the Open House duration. Our YouTube videos recorded more than 200,000 views. Adding to all the social media fun were visits by popular stars and influencers like Symone Oei, Janice Chiang (a.k.a. Foxy) from Tree Potatoes and Night Owl Cinematics.

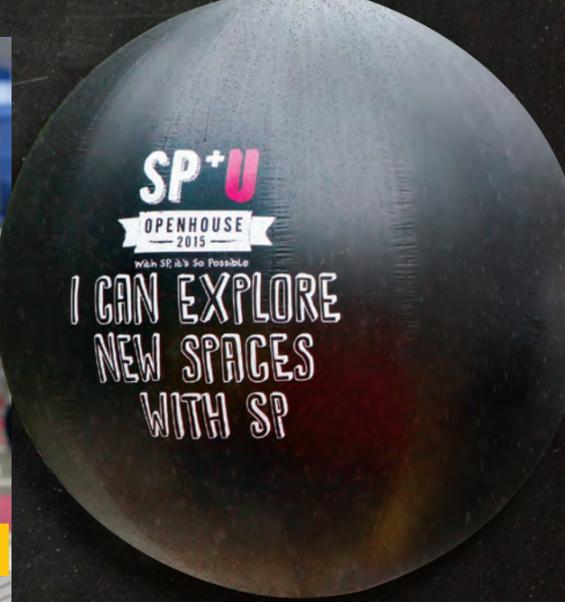
Missed out on all the action? Here's a photo catch-up! For more photos, visit fb.com/singaporepolytechnic.



The mini-Ninja Warriors course made its debut.



See you folks at Open House 2016!



It's not that easy to join SP Cyclists!



And the power beat goes on from SP Taiko Club.



The most tweeted thing about SP Open House – the full-of-awesomeness goodie bag!



What visual effects students can really do to scare you.



"Trust me, this is the right choice!"



One of several eyeball-popping scare actresses at the Dark Tales 3 event created by SP students.

Scary Times

When you take up a course such as event management, what can be more exciting than having the chance to create and implement event ideas in real-life? Students from the Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) got to experience just that by planning two horrifying but entertaining Halloween events.



Lee Wen Qi and Deng Chia Ling (front row, second and fourth from left) with scare actors at Dark Tales 3. Teammates Amos Tan, Annabelle Woo and Iris Wong not in photo.

If you think creating and managing events is a piece of cake, think again. Whether it's putting up a pop concert, a new year sale or product launch, these are just some aspects you have to look into: logistics set-up, budgeting, recruitment of staff, marketing and promotion. Details such as the kind of sound systems to use and appropriate props and decorations are not to be taken lightly because they will impact the success of each event.

These were some of the tasks that two teams of second-year students from the DEPM course had to deal with for their real-life events, as part of their Integrated Project module. They spent several months preparing for two events – Doors to 'Hell'oween and Dark Tales 3 Halloween events held by Downtown East and the National Library Board, respectively.

Both events had a healthy turnout of couples, families and school mates coming to them excitedly for a good scare. Dark Tales 3 in particular, had an estimated 600 to 700 visitors throughout its four-hour

run. Team leaders Wong Jun Yuan and Annabelle Woo share the highlights of their experience:

WHAT HAVE BEEN USEFUL LESSONS FROM ORGANISING THESE EVENTS?

Jun Yuan: I was the one liaising with the scare actors and our client, Downtown East, so I feel my people and communication skills have improved. I had to deal with unexpected problems, such as an actor forgetting to bring their costume. In such situations, I had to maintain discipline while still treating the person respectfully. Such exposure is very useful in the events industry, which requires a lot of experience in dealing with diverse situations.

Annabelle: For props, we had a tight budget and could not afford to purchase all the ready-made items. So we started thinking out of the box. We thought of how to make our own props, for instance, using a pail as a base for a witch's cauldron. We ended up creating a whole range of voodoo dolls, tombstones and scarecrows as well! This taught us to use our creativity to fill in for any gaps in a project.



The Doors to 'Hell'oween team. From left, in blue t-shirts: Wong Jun Yuan, Noratikah Farhanah Bte Razali, Karise Tan, Noor Aishah Bte Hamzah, Nur Asyiqin Binti Mohd Maarof, Zenna Yeo.

WHAT WAS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT YOUR PROJECT?

Jun Yuan: Just before the event started, I was told to walk one round inside the maze to inform our talents that the first batch of visitors was coming in. It was really a great experience to see all the talents we had supported standing ready in their make-up and signalling to me with a thumbs-up that they were good to go.

Annabelle: Besides getting to know more people from the industry, we learned about the different processes in organising an event through first-hand experience. From sourcing for contractors to auditioning scare actors for the event, we planned everything from scratch. Even though we faced many challenges during those few months, we were able to overcome them eventually. These challenges that we faced brought us closer as a team.



Unfortunate victims scarred by the DVEMG team: (from left) Zheng Yuting, Teng I-Ling, Bryan Lee and Lim Yue Qun.



Four teams of SP students from the **Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB)** showed off their high productivity standards by sweeping all four top prizes at the Productivity Race 2014 organised by the Building and Construction Authority. The event required them to compete in games related to construction and the built environment sector, while teaching them about technological advancements in these fields. The four teams won cash prizes of between \$500 to \$2,000:

First prize – Friendly Opponent: Yeo Chee Cong, Brian Ang, Teo Yong Chian, Roger Koh.

Second prize – Chill-in: Jayden Lim, Chiang Jia Jun, So Yeong Siang, Terence Thng, Koh Chun Wei.

Third prize – Team Rocket: Chok Man Ming, Nur Shafiqyah Binte Suhaimi, Oei Yuan Fang, Nicole Eloise Luza Vale, Lim Jia Qi.

Fourth prize – DCEB: Yulianti, Wong Xin En, Brandon Tan, Sherwyn Ng.





Young Library Architects

From left: SP graduates Hazel Ong, Derrick Chua, Martyn Chan, Yam Wei Jian and Au Man Fung with one of the concepts they created: the Cocoon, an enclosed space for readers which acts as a private hideaway from the world.

“Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.” By this, the late Apple founder Steve Jobs meant that good design for a product or place isn’t just about appearances. It’s also about making sure that it functions to provide a unique, satisfying experience to a user. A combination of beauty and function was what Singapore Polytechnic (SP) architecture graduates had in mind when they worked on their biggest real-life project while they were still students in SP: designing library@orchard, Singapore’s newly-opened public library at Orchard Gateway.

Singapore’s newest library is sleek, sophisticated and leaves an impression. Its curving bookshelves and walls give it a maze-like feel. It has cone-shaped personal seating areas that are spots of tranquillity peppered throughout the various sections. These eye-catching furnishings add little touches of privacy and mystery to the atmosphere. Altogether, this library located in Orchard Gateway shopping mall holds a collection of about 100,000 books.

Most of these – the furniture, library layout and even book capacity – were ideas from a team of 23 **Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)** recent graduates. Two years ago, when they were still students in SP, they collaborated

with the National Library Board as well as six **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** and **Media and Communication (DMC)** schoolmates to design the library’s interior spaces.

Relying on a thinking process taught in SP called Design Thinking, which emphasises creating solutions that focus strongly on understanding human needs and behaviour, the DARCH team developed the key concepts behind the library’s interior. They conducted in-depth surveys with young library users. Ideas resulting from the survey were later developed into prototypes and members of the public were asked to give their views on them before they were refined

by professional architects near the end of the design process. With the library’s opening, all these design works have been brought to life.

DARCH graduate Hazel Ong explains the purpose of the library’s white, curvilinear bookshelves: “Our concept for the shelves had more of a fluid look. Traditional straight shelves can seem rigid and a little fierce; curving shelves appear more welcoming and intriguing.” When the project started two years ago, Hazel was one of the most enthusiastic students to apply for a role on the team. As a frequent library-goer herself, she felt confident she could use the opportunity to design a setting that readers would feel comfortable in. Now, after her graduation in 2014, she’s working as an assistant designer in multi-national architecture firm, Ong & Ong.

Hazel and her course mates worked on the Book Tree, a pillar-shaped display for similarly-themed books (different Book Trees have different topics). Installed in the pillar is a digital panel where readers can add in recommendations for good books on the



The brown forum seating space on the left is based on a concept by the SP team for a communal area for groups of friends.

Members of the library@orchard design team from DARCH. Front row, from left: Chew Zi Yuan, Yam Wei Jian, Derrick Chua, Jawara Earl Santos Alba, Pan Bin. Back Row, from left: Evangelina Ong, Ruth Ng, Xaerl Goh, Hazel Ong, Martyn Chan, Au Man Fung, Yong Chao Qin, Ng Shao Liang.



Another concept by the SP team is the Book Tree, which contains books of a certain theme (e.g. technology) as well as a digital panel where readers can add book recommendations to a list.

relevant theme. “The Book Tree is meant as a landmark to draw together people with similar tastes,” Hazel says. “Through sharing recommendations, library@orchard-goers gain a new way to interact with one another.” Another key design element in the library is the Cocoon, an enclosed seating space which creates a private hideaway for readers who wish to escape the noise of daily life. Each of these features addresses the core needs of a particular type of library-goer.

DARCH graduate Au Man Fung, who is currently serving national service and will study architecture in University of New South Wales, Australia thereafter, said: “The experience of designing this library has built up my portfolio in such a big way that I’m sure it must’ve helped in my university application. The chance to work on such a large-scale, real-life project was just a rare and exclusive opportunity. Getting to experience our designs physically simply feels unreal in the best way possible.”

To know more about this DARCH collaboration, search “Library@Orchard Design - Behind the Scenes” on YouTube or scan this QR code to watch a video created by SP’s own Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG) students.



SP^{ELL}



From left: DBA students Chua Jia Qi, Rachel Chia and Jiang Wen Wen are part of the team that manages and runs SPELL at Changi Airport Terminal 3, Basement 2.



A group of beautiful strangers gathering for a photo outside the store. Just kidding! It's the SPELL team of DBA and DBIT students overjoyed by the re-launch. Look out for the store when you're on the way to your next overseas destination!

Casting a SPELL on Airport Shoppers

Running a business is a lot like magic: Their dazzling end products, be they goods, services or beguiling tricks, capture all attention and we forget the mountains of preparatory work behind them. People have, after all, slaved to bring us our latest dresses in the fields of marketing, inventory, business operations and more. But though it's hard work, the magic of business still entices many. **SPRIT asks SP Business School students Chua Jia Qi and Rachel Chia why they love business, and whether they're enjoying their work at the newly re-launched SPELL, SP's very own fashion retail store and lab at Changi Airport.**

The Singapore Polytechnic Entrepreneurship Living Lab (SPELL) is back in style, after a one-month renovation and facelift. First opened in 2011, SPELL is a collaboration between SP and Changi Airport, created to give SP Business School students an authentic learning experience in running a retail business.

Since then, it has reached many milestones such as creating its own clothes collection with local fashion designer Michelle Wong, and running several fashion runway shows. Every step of the way, its operations have been managed by SP students, who work in the areas of Merchandising and Product Sourcing, Sales, Public Relations, Inventory Management,

Manpower Scheduling, Business Operations and Technology, Integrated Marketing Communications, Customer Relationship Management, Service Quality and Web and Social Media Management. It is the first and only off-campus retail store fully run by poly students.

Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) final-year student Chua Jia Qi feels that SPELL has opened her eyes to the challenges of managing a business. "Before coming to SP, I never realised that there was so much hard work involved in a business," she says. "After joining SPELL, I learned that even a 'simple' end-season sale needs much thought. For instance, besides

just deciding what kinds of discounts will entice customers, we also have to decide what items we will choose to put on sale." Jia Qi is head of the Public Relations department for SPELL and handles publicity for the store.

SPELL's re-opening in December last year showed off new features implemented based on results of surveys with the public conducted by DBA and **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** students. For instance, respondents mentioned that most people probably would not know that SPELL was fully run by students, and that knowing this fact would actually make SPELL much more intriguing to them. Thus, new interactive elements like a message wall, digital interactive stations and stories on students' learning journeys were added to let visitors know about this. Other new additions include an advanced cloud computing software for manpower scheduling, and live cameras that allow for real-time remote teaching and guidance by lecturers between the store at the airport and the classrooms in Dover campus.

Changes to the décor were also made, with more neutral colours and mirrors added to the store. This improvement in particular is welcomed by DBA final-year student Rachel Chia, who heads the Merchandising department in charge of the décor of the store, choosing the best pieces for display, and coming up with clothing themes for different seasons. "My dad is an interior designer who always encourages me to work on my passion," she says. "Like him, I find designing fun. I also enjoy the marketing aspect of business because I've had chances to design images for social media posts and posters." Working in SPELL has helped Rachel develop her talents in design, an area which she is now considering exploring for further studies.

Both Jia Qi and Rachel feel SPELL has benefitted them greatly. "SPELL has been around for three years now, so it has many structures and systems in place. In essence, working for SPELL is like working for a small-medium enterprise," says Jia Qi. The experience gained is particularly

precious for her career plans. "I was attracted to DBA because it teaches about entrepreneurship and business management. My parents are foodies and they have a dream to start a little café of their own. I chose DBA in order to learn the basics of how to run a business, so that one day, after furthering my studies and working for a few years, I can use those skills to start something new and help them pursue their dream."



Jiang Wen Wen during a fashion show showcasing SPELL's Verve Avenue label clothes at the Style & Chic Party at Singapore Polytechnic Graduates' Guild. The SPELL team organises various events and publicity strategies to promote the store.



The re-launch sees SPELL carrying new and exclusive product offerings such as the SPLASH perfume that was specially created by Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science students for SP's 60th anniversary.

Besides running SPELL, both of them are involved in yet another business venture: Trufelt, a laptop sleeve and backpack business. As students taking the Entrepreneurship Option, they are required to start and manage their own business model in their final year. When asked if they had any tips or tricks to share on business ownership, Jia Qi said, "Do plenty of research online. There are people who review wholesalers and overseas suppliers, so if you search carefully, you can figure out how to get the best wholesale deal." Rachel said, "Persevere. The planning stages were quite stressful, and we overlooked many things because of inexperience. But if you keep persevering, you'll find your footing eventually."

Visit spellverve.com to check out SPELL's catalogue of clothes. You can also visit trufelt.com to look at Jia Qi and Rachel's bag offerings.

If someday, you were put in charge of sales for a worldwide product, would you be able to handle the role? Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) students proved that they could do just that at the Mott's Snapple International Marketing Plan Competition, where they presented strategies for promoting the Snapple juice drink. **SPiRiT shares more about how they impressed the key judge for the event, Jeremy Ng, an alumnus from the DBA course and also Regional Sales Manager, Southeast Asia of Mott's Snapple International.**



From left: Jeremy Ng, Regional Sales Manager, Southeast Asia of Mott's Snapple International, with champion team Snap It All members Aaron Tan, Annabel Toh, Low Hsiang Ling and Sheron Quack.

Snappy Marketers

Preparations for the competition began at the start of the semester for these final-year DBA students who chose the Marketing Management specialisation (Editor's note: DBA students can specialise in areas such as marketing, entrepreneurship and accounting in their final year). Their class modules used Mott's Snapple International as a case study, and required students to work in teams to come up with effective marketing business plans to promote Snapple among youth and young working adults. At the semester's end, the best teams were picked to present their ideas to a panel of Snapple's judges.

Advertising slogans, product distribution and pricing strategies and promotional ideas were put forward by the teams who had a proposal budget of \$200,000 for their marketing plans. Judges saw the competition as intense and neck-to-neck. Said the key judge Jeremy Ng: "It was very close and we had a difficult time trying to choose a winner. Overall, the judges were very impressed. We were pleasantly surprised by the effort the teams have put in. Ultimately, the winning team was the one who was able to marry Snapple and the consumers in the market in all the activities that were planned."

The champion team picked by the judges was Snap It All, which won the top prize of \$1,000 cash. In total, \$2,500 in cash prizes was generously sponsored by Mott's Snapple International, which also sponsored \$2,500 in scholarships for DBA students and \$600 in prizes for graduating students.

Snap It All team member Sheron Quack shares her highlights of the experience:

WHAT IDEAS DID YOU PRESENT TO THE MARKETING PANEL?

We showed the judges our research on

Snapple's competitors and their target audiences. We also presented our marketing plan, which involved things such as seasonal promotion advertising, proposals for mobile Snapple vans that would offer discounted price Snapple bottles or free samples, and Snapple poster designs. One of our more eye-catching ideas was an interactive Valentine's Day Snapple display with an in-built camera. Couples could use it to get a free photo of themselves as well as one-for-one Snapple promotion vouchers.

WHAT'S ONE INTERESTING THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT SNAPPLE?

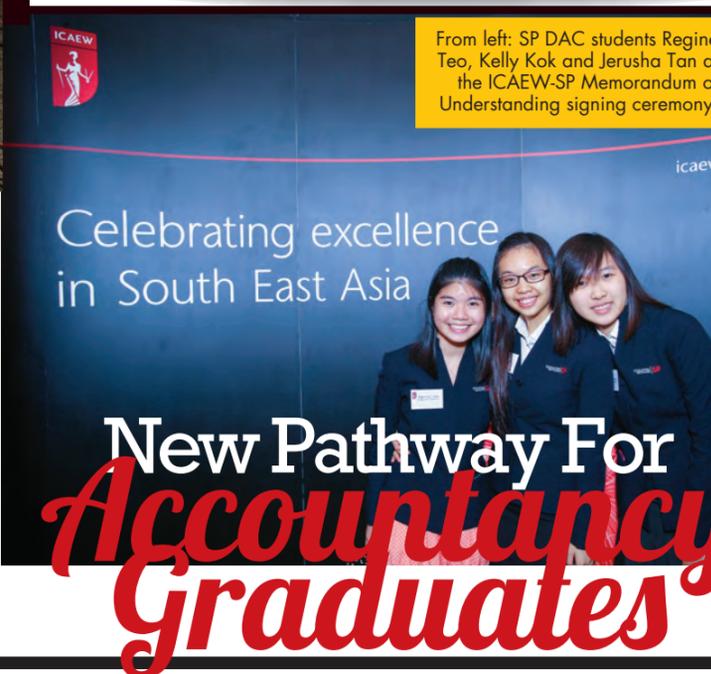
While we did study the characteristics of the company, I think what surprised us most was that the Regional Manager was also from SP and even from the same course as us! He told us that though it was a tough decision to choose the winners, he and the judges felt our industry and marketing analyses for Snapple were done well and that our ideas really addressed the problems we identified. It really felt great hearing that from him.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE MARKETING MANAGEMENT OPTION IN DBA?

Marketing is actually my favourite part of business as it interests me to think of ideas for a company to promote its products or services. I like the creativity involved in thinking about what a company needs, and coming up with solutions to meet its goals. I would probably want to pursue further studies and a career in this field after I graduate.



The Snap It All team's designs for Snapple's pop-up store vans.



From left: SP DAC students Regine Teo, Kelly Kok and Jerusha Tan at the ICAEW-SP Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony.

Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) students will soon be able to work towards getting a key professional certification even while they are pursuing their studies.

SP has worked with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) to develop a programme that will help prepare students for tests required for the Professional level of ICAEW's Associate Chartered Accountant qualification. The Professional level is the second of three levels required for a person to become a full-fledged ICAEW Chartered Accountant. ICAEW is a well-recognised accounting body with over 142,000 members.

This initiative is primarily targeted at accountancy students who prefer to enter the workforce immediately after graduation. SP is looking at a pilot run of about 20 to 25 students from the new intake of SP DAC students next year. These students will get a head start on their peers who choose the more conventional route of pursuing a degree, because they will have secured ICAEW Chartered Accountant status in the time it takes their peers to earn a degree.

From left: DVMD final-year students Liu Junqian, Izzul Islam and Francesca Fernandez. Teammates Marcus Lim and Kelly Tan not in photo.



Diploma in Digital Animation recent graduates Afiq Danial Sham (in photo), Keng Chia Jin, Tan Mei Qi, Syafiqah Bte Jusman, Serene Lee, Muhd Khairulrizam, Yee Si Jie and Wong Kin Key won the Silver Award in Animation, Bronze Award in Cinematography, and Finalist in Art Direction and Best Sound Track for their short film, *Afterline*. Another group of digital animation graduates Yap Wen Hui, Ridhwan Rahman, Daniel Tan, Zhang Han and Chan Xin Yu received the Bronze Award in Editing and Finalist in Art Direction award for their film, *Dispher*.



From left: Diploma in Media and Communication students and advertising challenge second-place winners Marilyn Yeo, Lydia Kwon, Clara Lim, Siti Nadirah Bte Maswan and Michelle Lim. Their campaign focused on changing people's perceptions of Stomp from being a "shaming" platform to a sharing platform. It proposed adding more youth-oriented content to the site such as café-hopping reviews, as well as focusing more on sharing stories about people's good deeds, written in a light-hearted and fun manner. They also created the hashtag #TIOSTOMP for the campaign.

Creative Prize *For Being Sorry*

For 24 hours, two teams of SP students cooped themselves up in a room, thinking of game-changing ideas for the Crowbar 24-Hour Advertising Challenge. Night turned to day and then night again, but in the end the two groups had their moment in the sun, emerging victorious with the two top spots. **SPiRiT shares more about their success as well as those of other SP teams at this year's international Crowbar Awards 2014 competition.**

CROWBAR AWARDS 2014

The Crowbar Awards is an international competition for emerging young creatives to showcase their works in advertising, design, photography, interactive media and film. This year, SP students and graduates claimed the top two positions in the advertising challenge, and five bronzes and one silver in other categories in this event organised by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents Singapore (4As).

WE'RE SORRY

When faced with a challenge to make citizen journalism website Stomp more relatable to youth, one team of SP students opted to solve the problem by offering on Stomp's behalf an in-your-face, "non-apology" apology.

We're Sorry was the advertising strategy offered by a team of **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** students for the 24-hour challenge, which required marketing strategies to promote Stomp, a site already famous (or infamous) for providing news and photos that often reveal the uglier side of Singaporeans.

Instead of downplaying this expose nature of the site, which has sometimes been accused of fuelling needless negativity by focusing heavily on bad behavior of Singaporeans, the team was instead inspired by it. We're Sorry consists of ads and messages that promote the merits of Stomp as a media outlet that is uncensored and "real" (with taglines such as "We are sorry we're real.").

The judges were won over by the idea's boldness, and awarded the championship trophy and \$500 cash to the team. One of the judges, Foreign Policy Design Group's art director Liew Li Quan said the honest and memorable message of their campaign set them apart from the other teams.



For her brand identity project for a tourist hostel, DVMD recent graduate Serene Khor received a Bronze Award in Design. Serene is now studying for a degree in Communication Design at the Glasgow School of Art - Singapore Institute of Technology. Another DVMD grad, Kyle Ngo, won two bronze awards for design and photography.

"That is why we thought the immediacy and audacity of Stomp's journalism should be emphasised instead of downplayed or changed."

The team beat groups from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, LASALLE College of the Arts and the other polys. For those who might be wondering what design students have to do with advertising, team member Izzul Islam explains. "The DVMD course taught us design and writing for advertising campaigns, which helped us to strategise our ideas for this competition," he says.

Izzul feels that his group's ideas were well-suited to teens because it appealed to their need for transparency in the news: "Youths these days want the uncensored truth and hate cover ups."

Perhaps the only thing more impressive than their win was the team's confidence to change ideas mid-way through the competition. "We stayed up through the night and initially came up with a first idea, but at 2am in the morning, three hours after the competition started, we thought it wasn't good enough. So we made a 180-degree turn to see how we could do things differently," says Izzul.

"We felt we really had a chance to win. So after coming up with a new concept, we compared the two and simply picked the idea we personally felt was worthy to bring us through the competition."

Kicking Off Their Internships

One is a national football player. The other, a media enthusiast with her own freelance marketing business. Jeffrey Lightfoot and Jovy Sim are final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) students interning at global public relations firms The Hoffman Agency and Golin respectively. They share how their time at these prestigious companies is sharpening their skills in the media field.

MEDIA PRACTITIONER AND BUSINESS OWNER

Ask Jovy Sim how she feels about her internship and she'll easily tell you she's excited. The upbeat and positive young lady is working at Golin, one of the four big public relations (PR) companies in the world. The firm has about 700 employees in 34 offices worldwide, and a list of clients that include brand giants Unilever, McDonald's and Toyota Motor.

At Golin, Jovy assists in servicing several client accounts, the most prominent of which is McDonald's. "I send out media invites and press releases for important news or events held by my clients on a regular basis," she shares. "I'm also taught other functions such as media monitoring, event planning and how to do crisis management for a company."

Even though her SP internship only needed to be four months long, Jovy was so thrilled by the prospect of working in the firm that she applied to start work several weeks earlier. She joined the company during her school holidays instead of during the beginning of the semester. This means that by the time her internship ends, she will have gained five-and-a-half months of experience. "I've been given many opportunities at Golin to get a lot of exposure to different facets of the communications industry," says Jovy. "And as I keep working here, I've started to see how everything I've learnt in school makes sense and how I can put those lessons to use in real life."

Besides the internship, SP has also provided several other opportunities for Jovy to explore and develop her talents. She has represented the school in competitions as part of the SP Handball club, deejayed at SPACE Radio, SP's campus radio station, and even gone on a business exchange trip to Japan.

The DMC course has also built up a passion in her that few teenagers could even dream of. Using what she's learnt, Jovy is currently running a freelance marketing business called Glow (www.glowmarketing.com.sg) with a senior from SP Business School. She says, "Currently we're helping three local startups to do marketing. We promote these companies through digital media, and assist them in public relations as well as media buying (the purchasing of various spaces in media such as newspapers or social networks for advertising)." After she graduates from DMC, Jovy plans to further her studies in communications or business, and embark on a career in either marketing or journalism.

Jovy Sim loves all things media and has even started her own freelance marketing business.



PLAYING FOOTBALL, MARKETING FOOTBALL

The act of balancing between football training and marketing a football mobile app, as well as managing one's time in general, is what Jeffrey Lightfoot has learnt to master.

His life these days is particularly hectic. Nights are spent training as a defender in the Singapore Cubs, a team playing in Singapore's Prime League. In the day, he interns at The Hoffman Agency, a firm with more than 130 employees and nine offices around the globe that focuses on public relations for technology companies such as 3M, Acer, Google, PayPal and Fujitsu. *(Writer's note: Jeffrey also plays in the SP Soccer club, which has several national youth players and has done well in competitions such as the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic Games 2013, where they won second place.)*

As he carries out his daily work of monitoring the media for news of the company and its clients, as well as doing research for PR campaign proposals, Jeffrey finds he is learning about two key aspects of working life: "I've found out just how important it is to manage time effectively. As a student, I don't usually read many of my emails, so in the first two weeks of my internship, I was caught off-guard by the flood of messages I received from clients. I had to quickly learn to reply to them while working on my assignments at the same time. My manager and colleagues would remind me that clients always want to feel treasured, so replying promptly to them shows them that they're valued and that you're handling things well."

"The second thing I've learned is to always be proactive. Ask when you can't figure out the answer to a problem. This way you cut down on unnecessary time spent solving an issue or hesitating," he says.

Jeffrey admits that his packed schedule pushes him to his limits. On most days, after work and training, he showers, eats and goes straight to bed as he knows he'll need rest for the next day. However, the hard work hasn't been without benefits. One of his recent assignments was to coordinate media coverage for the launch of a mobile app game for predicting soccer match results, *Football Hero*. "The people at my company are very friendly and open, and they encourage us to ask questions, give ideas and even sit in on meetings. Because I'm really passionate about football, I'm able to share ideas based on my experiences with it." He also feels that the modules taught in his DMC course on public relations, mass media research and advertising have been helping him to contribute effectively during meetings.

Jeffrey is thinking of starting a career in either media or soccer once he graduates. But whatever he and Jovy choose, they've already kicked off to a great start with what they've learnt at their respective companies!

Juggling between his passions for sports and media helps Jeffrey Lightfoot grow in many aspects of his life.





From left: Clara, Nabilah and Salwaa with Mr Ian Batey, advertising icon and founder of renowned advertising agency, Batey.

Meeting The Creator Of *The Singapore Girl*

Clara Lim, Masayoe Nabilah and Salwaa Jumar Bte Md Tahir Jumat had the rare pleasure of a personal session with Ian Batey, creator of Singapore Airlines' (SIA) trademark tagline, "A Great Way To Fly", and the iconic ad campaign of the Singapore Girl flight attendant. The three Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) students and Batey scholars talk about their time spent with the advertising icon.

Second-year DMC student Salwaa shares what she researched about Ian Batey before meeting with him. "I know he created the "A Great Way To Fly" tagline, and that he's the person responsible for helping to develop brands like SIA, Tiger Beer and Raffles Hotel into international names," she says.

She had the privilege to meet Ian as a recipient of the Batey Scholar Award. Besides helping to cover school fees, the award includes chances for DMC students to meet and be mentored by the advertising guru.

Salwaa's summary about Ian offers a highlight reel of the founder of advertising agency Batey, but naturally cannot illustrate the depth or breadth of the man whose ad campaigns helped define the very identity of SIA and solidify its marketing position as a premium brand from the 1970s onwards. No, doing that would probably require a biography. Maybe two. Nonetheless, as a communications student, Salwaa was clear about his significance. "He's contributed a lot to Singapore's advertising industry. I knew talking to him would be a great opportunity, and especially rare for just a student



Second-year DMC student Yang Sheng Xiong is the newest Batey Scholar Award recipient. Besides doing well in his studies at SP, he also serves as the programme director for SPACE, the campus radio station, and creates his own films as a hobby on his YouTube channel, thePAPERPLANEproductions.

like me," she adds.

When they finally met, Salwaa, together with Clara and Nabilah, chatted for an entire afternoon with Ian, hearing stories from him

about the advertising industry and his own work. Clara, a final-year student currently interning at one of the world's top-ranked advertising agencies, TBWA, and Nabilah, who graduated recently and is now a sociology student in Nanyang Technological University under the Nanyang Scholarship, remember vividly some of the sage advice he shared. They recount some of the key things they learned:

WHAT WAS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HEARD FROM IAN THAT DAY?

Clara: The importance of teamwork. I remember vividly how he showed us a really impressive marketing brochure, explaining that such good material was almost never a solo effort. The brochure was a collective work by an extremely talented but introverted art director and an excellent copywriter. His stories communicated just how important it was to not fly solo but depend on others in the media world.

Nabilah: "Go where your heart tells you to." I was sharing with him about how I had the intention to visit Nepal one day for a home stay experience, to put myself in the shoes of the locals. And he told us that we should follow what our hearts tell us, and not be afraid of obstacles and hiccups along the way.

DID THE TALK GIVE YOU ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO IN FUTURE?

Clara: During our chat, he kept motivating us to not limit ourselves in our thinking and to never stop questioning current situations or

approaches. It didn't change my goal, but instead encouraged it. I'm very much clear on the fact that I want to do design, either as an art director in an advertising agency or in a design studio. I'm in love with the idea of being able to improve another person's life subtly through well-designed messages or works.

Nabilah: It didn't influence my direction per se, but it was encouraging. Currently, I'm still searching for my true calling in life. While I have a strong passion for journalism and would consider pursuing it as a career, I decided to study sociology instead, to pick up skills that complement the writing abilities I gained in DMC. The critical thinking skills and exposure to social issues I've picked up in sociology so far have opened my horizons to different styles of writing and issues that I could explore in future.

WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF HIM?

Nabilah: I found him to be a man full of wisdom, one who commands the respect of people he encounters, due to his quiet confidence.

Clara: That he was as excited as ever about things that he loves, in this case, advertising. He was extremely friendly and wasn't as intimidating as I expected... I want to be as excited about my own work and craft in the same way that he has dedicated his life to doing.



THE BATEY SCHOLAR AWARD

Together with a matching grant from the Ministry of Education, Ian Batey has started a \$250,000 scholarship fund for **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** students. Second-year student recipients get a one-time stipend of \$4,000. The scholarship can be renewed or received in the third-year with a one-time stipend of \$5,000. Batey scholars can look forward to meetings and mentorship by Ian and his ex-colleagues at the Batey company. Current recipients can look forward to another meeting with Ian when he comes to Singapore in early 2015.

Ian Batey launched his advertising agency, Batey Ads (now known as Batey), in Singapore in 1972. Under his leadership, Batey Ads became Southeast Asia's largest independent advertising group, responsible for the development of many iconic Asian brands including Singapore Airlines and Raffles Hotel. Mr. Batey has been widely recognised for his contribution to the advertising industry and to the wider community, culminating in 1999 with the first Lifetime Achievement Award to be bestowed by the Institute of Advertising Singapore.

Great Debates!

Our Current Affairs & Debating Club team faced off against teams from other polytechnics in the Inter-Polytechnic Debate Championship and went undefeated, eventually beating the team from Temasek Poly to earn a unanimous victory (as decided by all five judges) and the championship trophy!

Congratulations to Samantha Goh (**Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media - DTVM**), Teo Kai Xiang (**DTVM**) and Jose Yip (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**) on clinching for SP another debates championship since the last one in 2009!



From left: Jose, Kai Xiang and Samantha.

Creating stories that connect



Behave Yourself! You're On Social Media

DMC students (from left) Tan Ke Xin, Eliza Lim, Clement Cheng, Nurfaizah Faizuwan, and Galen Tan presented their findings to journalists at the Mass Media Research Press Conference. Lecturer Ms Clarice Sim (extreme right) supervises the team for the survey.

More guys than girls use posts about their positive qualities and achievements as a tool to manage their online image. More girls than guys edit, remove or untag unflattering photos or status updates about themselves. Instagram has registered a meteoric rise in users since two years ago. Do you agree? These were some findings in a survey of 820 people aged between 15 and 35 by 110 second-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) students. **SPiRiT brings you results of the survey.**

This survey, conducted through face-to-face interviews with all the respondents, aimed to develop a clear picture of social media behaviour by youths and young adults, and how they manage people's impressions of them through social media. Some of the key findings of the survey are:

GENDER DIFFERENCES – Men are more likely to post about their positive qualities or achievements on Facebook (59.4 per cent of respondents said they had done so) and Instagram (54.9 per cent) than women (46.2 per cent on Facebook, 46.8 per cent on Instagram).

Women are more likely to remove or untag unflattering photos, info or status updates about themselves on Facebook (51.9 per cent) than men (38.2 per cent). Women are also more likely to edit their photos to appear more physically attractive on Instagram (52.3 per cent) than men (40.3 per cent).

THE RISE OF INSTAGRAM – In 2012, the percentage of respondents using the various social media platforms on a daily basis was: Facebook, 65.4 per cent; Twitter, 36.1 per cent; Instagram, 6.5 per cent. In 2014, it was: Facebook, 60.4 per cent; Twitter, 28.0 per cent; Instagram, 50.9 per cent. Instagram usage has skyrocketed, while Facebook and Twitter saw minor declines.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE'S SOCIAL MEDIA IMAGE – 83.3 per cent of respondents agreed that maintaining a positive online image is important. 82.0 per cent said they would think twice about others' perceptions before posting content on social media. 94.1 per cent said they would exercise caution when posting on social media.

HONESTY, THE BEST POLICY – 89.1 per cent of the respondents stated that they would not post false or inaccurate information in order to portray themselves in a positive light.

Reflecting on the findings, Nurfaizah Faizuwan, one of the students who presented the results, said: "As a youth myself who is active on social media, I agree that most of us want to appear our best online, but there's no need to be dishonest. Also, I will think twice when posting anything online as I do not want to attract unwanted attention."

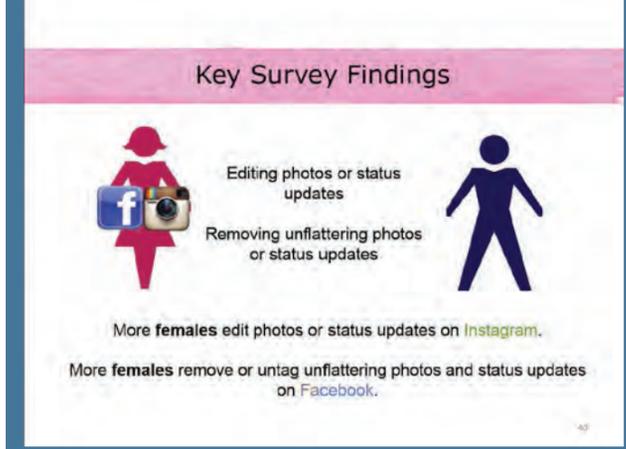
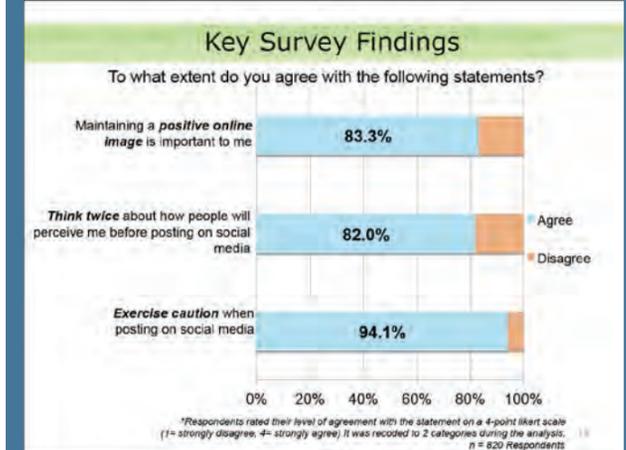
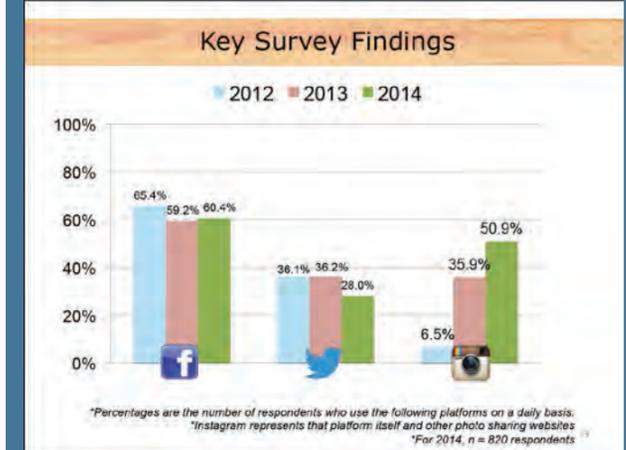
Team mate Galen Tan added on about the significance of the survey: "In the light of news about poor social media impressions managers such as Adelyn Hosenbo, who became infamous for posting about how she slapped her mother, we felt it would be useful to study how the youth today find ways to manage their impressions positively. This survey could also act to support or corroborate future research as well."

This annual media presentation of youth habits and behaviours was broadly reported by key local media like The Straits Times, Lianhe



Galen being interviewed by a local TV reporter. The team was interviewed by various print and broadcast media.

Zaobao and Channel NewsAsia, and will certainly be a meaningful addition to the resumes of the DMC team when they join the media industry in a few years' time.



Scientists Can Be Journalists Too!

An unusual portfolio – this is what many would think of the career and study experiences of Phua Yong Chuan, who works as a writer for Chinese newspapers and magazines, while doing a part-time degree in Biomedical Engineering at SIM University. However, Yong Chuan has a clear goal to combine these two paths for his future career. **SPiRiT** learns more about this SP graduate's unique approach to realising his dreams.

Phua Yong Chuan graduated from SP's Diploma in Chemical Process Technology in 2009 as his course's gold medallist, with a Grade Point Average of 3.94 out of 4.00. This is already impressive in itself, but making his resume even more colourful is how, during his time at SP, he joined the Lianhe Zaobao newspaper on his own initiative as a student journalist. Writing published stories in Chinese became Yong Chuan's hobby, whereas most poly students would just have joined a CCA instead.

After completing his national service, he joined the paper's parent company, Singapore Press Holdings, as a freelance reporter and copywriter with the Chinese Newspaper Division. To date, he has contributed more than 800 articles, and some of his stories include coverage on the 2011 Bangkok floods, and a 65-year-old man bravely enduring his kidney dialysis treatments and other physical ailments.

With his impressive grades, he could have applied successfully for full-time degree courses in universities locally or abroad. However, he chose to continue with his part-time work at SPH and study part-time for a degree at SIM University instead.

Yong Chuan admits that his career and education path would look "rather complicated" to observers. "I believe people would be surprised at this unique combination," he admits. "A while back, I saw a TV show about the need for more locally-raised Singaporean engineers. A professor on the show mentioned that an engineering graduate can do pure engineering, but also venture into other fields like business. However, a business student cannot delve into the engineering world in the same way.

"This is the kind of idea which I feel applies to me. I can make use of biomedical and chemistry knowledge I have learned to help me produce more accurate and in-depth stories on science and healthcare. For instance, the type of systematic analysis required in science can certainly aid in journalistic writing as well. I'm now reading a book called *The New Precision Journalism* by Philip Meyer. It talks about using systematic analysis and statistics in generating credible leads in a report. This, I truly believe, is going to be the next big thing in today's ever-changing dynamics of journalism."

Another thing that makes people like Yong Chuan an uncommon sight is his fluency in Mandarin. Compared to many youth his age who have issues even with spoken Mandarin, Yong Chuan found the language a breeze to handle mainly because his parents speak mainly Mandarin and dialects at home, which stimulated his interest to learn Chinese vocabulary and proverbs as a kid. "Watching TV news and reading the papers and magazines probably helped me do better too," he says.

Both SP and SIM University, he feels, have given him enriching learning experiences. Yong Chuan is thankful that he made SP his first choice after the 'O' levels. The SP journey, he feels, has given him many opportunities to experience practical and laboratory sessions which made learning interesting. "The quality of education in both theoretical and practical areas, as well as the facilities and environment made studying in SP very conducive and worthwhile," he says.

"Studying at SIM University has taught me the crucial need for independent learning at the tertiary level. Doing well here requires a lot of self-studying and reading, as well as being resourceful in seeking help and feedback from others. Because of this, I now have more

Yong Chuan wrote this article on the 2011 floods in Bangkok, interviewing philanthropists who were involved in flood rescue work.

水灾后的泰国



泰国去年的洪水摧毁不少人的家园，经济也受影响。洪水过后，有两名外国人参与救灾，协助灾民重建家园。

文◎潘勇全

泰国去年7月的洪水令人措手不及，摧毁了不少人的家园，也掠夺他们的经济。泰国旅游局在上月底推出「愿您在此」(Wish You Were Here)的宣传运动，鼓励游客重返受灾重创后的泰国。

除了吸引外来游客，泰国人民也发挥出守望相助的精神，自发地成立多个小型民间救灾组织，填补官方救援的不足。

以扶窗服务罹灾

笔者去年12月走访曼谷，向当地人了解灾情。受访的当地人都表示，曼谷的市中心始终未出现积水，靠近南河的地区只受轻微的波及。

如今洪水已完全消退，笔者访问两名居住在曼谷的外国人，他们各自发挥所长，通过不同方式参与救灾工作。他们也表示，除了帮忙重建家园，也必须让他们了解长期应对水灾的措施。



车子排队涉水而过。(潘勇全摄)

水将她的一块西瓜农地和总价值数千元的盆栽全部摧毁。这样的例子很多。Daniel以为长远下来应该教导人民应对水灾的措施，传达如何维护安全，确保有足够的粮食及干净的食物，避免水质污染和疾病传播等讯息。

“一个人”的救灾

奥地利交流学生Dominik(24岁)，去年8月份来到泰国国立政法大学上课，碰上水灾。Dominik和一群来自各国的交流学生，设立

“Thailand Flood”筹款网站，通过一般的网络购物付款方式，向世界的爱心人士募款。Dominik说，大家原本为了学业来到泰国，但水灾发生后，大伙儿转移重心，投入这项活动。

Dominik是目前唯一还在曼谷继续这项活动的学生。他解释：“设立网站的一周后，洪水已经入侵我们居住的地段，其他学生眼见灾情降临，纷纷撤离到普吉岛，只剩下我一人。”

Thailand Flood筹集的款项全交由“Thailand Direct Flood Relief”志愿组织收买。Dominik在停学的一个月里孤军作战，随向该组织到灾区分发救济品。参与几场救灾活动后，Dominik觉得，大家能够不分国籍地共同帮忙，让他非常感动。泰国灾民乐天达观的性格，积极正面的态度，令他非常敬佩。他形容：“就算在清理屋子也满是笑容！”

Dominik希望再接再厉，为Thailand Direct Flood Relief筹集更多善款。他打算另外设立网站，出售网页空间，供商家刊登广告。

从曼谷回来，笔者觉得，有时候事情并没有想象中糟，只要肯亲身去走，才知道真实面貌。

someone to study and work concurrently, good time management is crucial. Without a strict and organised timetable, one would not likely be able to cope with what comes their way."

To those wishing to pursue their studies while holding a job, Yong Chuan gives this advice: "Have the thirst for knowledge and learning. Commit to self-learning and aim to truly earn the degree in the fullest sense, not just pursue it. Put studies on the same priority level as your work, rather than making it second to it.

"Having said that, studies should not be everything. Work hard and play hard, but don't forget that spending time with your family and potential life partner is also equally important," says Yong Chuan, who enjoys singing, working out and travelling in his free time.

To learn more about SIM University's programmes, visit unisim.edu.sg or visit their Open House on 28 February 2015. Pre-register for the Open House at unisim.edu.sg/OH.

“The quality of education in both theoretical and practical areas, as well as the facilities and environment made studying in SP very conducive and worthwhile.”

confidence when I communicate with medical professionals for my stories. The things I've learnt at SIM University have given me a stronger grasp of medical terminology and knowledge. Besides that, SIM University is dedicated to adult learners. Teaming up with working adults not only taught me academic knowledge but also useful corporate skills that will assist me in the working world." After getting his degree, he plans to pursue a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration.

Looking at his pathway thus far, the advantage of Yong Chuan's choices becomes clearer. By starting early in journalism at SP and continuing to work while studying at SIM University, he

now has close to five years of journalistic work experience and networking under his belt, as opposed to some fresh graduates who might have none.

Having to manage both part-time work and studies, how does he achieve a good work-life balance? "I feel that studying is a commitment to myself and my family, while working involves a responsibility towards my colleagues and the public. Neither takes priority over the other in my life. Rather, I work hard on timelines. If I have an assignment due by 1pm and a class test at 7pm, I make sure I deal with the former first. As for the test, I make sure I've prepared myself and studied a few days in advance. For

The unsaid but practised word in the life of an undergraduate at SUTD is "Occupy". Yes, as in occupying a part of the school and calling it your place! Think Occupy Admiralty in Hong Kong recently but minus the politics, pepper spray and democratic slogans. You see, life in the fairly new university, set up in collaboration with the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Zhejiang University, is spent holed up in one classroom. And don't think of it as a bad thing – the students love it.

"It has become our second home. We learn there, we eat there, and we even sleep there," says Terry who is pursuing his honours degree in Engineering Product Development – one of the four pillars in SUTD. He hopes that when he moves to the spanking new campus in Changi (near Singapore Expo), this learning space concept will be kept.

Not someone who clearly wanted to be an engineer back in his Ngee Ann Secondary days, Terry only knew he had no qualms with doing engineering at SP, his first choice. He took the **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** and did very well with a final GPA of 3.94 to qualify for engineering degree programmes in NTU, NUS and SUTD.

"I wasn't that into aeroplanes at all when I started on the DARE course. I just thought that it was a good course since the cut-off point

Terry and his SUTD mates made a trip to the famed Huangshan in China when he went to Zhejiang University for an immersion programme.



Engineering The SUTD Way

If you think Singapore is going to be run only by those who come from elite schools and underwent the Gifted Education Programme, talk to Terry Ching. The former SP alumnus and current second-year engineering student at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) says he was from the bottom rung of class when he was in upper secondary. But what's more important is what he is now, and how he has become a better person with the unique learning experience in SUTD.

was quite low. The lecturers played a big part in developing our interest for engineering, and not just the aeronautical aspect. Also, I interned at Pratt & Whitney in Beijing and the experience gave me an in-depth understanding of engineering on the ground," says Terry.

The clincher to join SUTD was a tea session that all students offered admission were invited to at the Mandarin Hotel. He recalls: "It was attended by several big shots, both from the university and the industry. There were CEOs and scientists, and they took turns to talk about

what the industry needs and what the new university will offer. I was totally convinced by their approach."

Prior to the tea session, all applicants had to attend an admission interview. Terry did all he



Terry (in red tee) with fellow SUTD mates at Zhejiang University campus.

“I’m grateful to SP for giving me the very strong foundation in engineering which I could apply in my studies in SUTD.”

could to muster his engineering knowledge but ended up saying little about that. "It was more of a chat session. Even the Provost was there! They asked me about army life and my passion for engineering. They were quite interested in my final-year project at SP, which was something like a Batmobile that can transform a land vehicle to an aerial one," says Terry, who recalls vividly the 15-minute session.

Now into his second-year, Terry's favourite place is the classroom which is open 24/7. "We have 45 to 50 people in a classroom which we 'own' for a year. Everyone in the class is close to each other, including the professors. We have our lessons there, do our projects there and have our fun moments like watching YouTube videos on our laptops that we project on the big screen. We even have a message group that we use to update each other on where to get free food (leftovers from SUTD events)," reveals Terry with laughter.

He lets on more on the SUTD culture: "The professors want us to call them by their first name and not Prof So-and-so. They are all very approachable and are even in our Whatsapp group chat too. We have had profs who stayed up with us till 11 pm when we were

working on projects!"

Earlier this year, Terry went on a three-month fully-paid immersion programme in Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, a leading university known for its innovation and entrepreneurship, under the Asian Leadership Programme. He spent a month attending classes on industrial design, and another two on an internship with an external company. In between lessons and presentations that were conducted in Mandarin, he had to complete design drawing assignments.

To him, the best part of the trip was learning more of Chinese culture, travelling around the Zhejiang Province (which includes cities like Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou) and mingling with the Chinese there. A group of them even made the trip to Huangshan in Anhui Province, known for its picturesque peak.

"I came back with a different perspective of China. The university invited very good speakers to give lectures. I was impressed by this 70-year-old man who is said to be the founder of industrial design in China. They shared with us their views on technology and engineering. There were also lectures on tea

culture, gardens and landscape," says Terry who is also a recipient of the Asian Leadership Programme Scholarship.

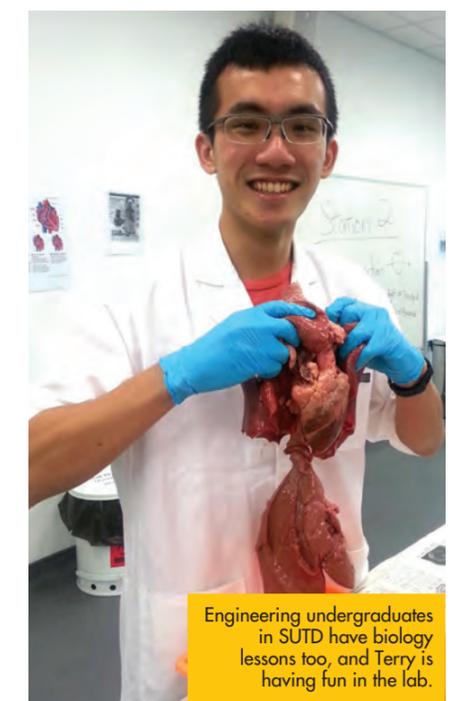
It was during the attachment to the company while in China that he discovered a new passion for health care engineering. The company manufactures surgical tools and he worked on re-designing some of the tools.

"It opened my eyes to a new area of healthcare engineering design that could save lives," says Terry. "The grander vision is to contribute to the developing countries. I've been to Thailand and Vietnam and saw the need in this area. Hopefully, if I go into this field, I could pay it forward in third world countries which are in need of advanced medical tools."

Next year, Terry will embark on another trip – this time to MIT in Boston, United States to take on some classes under the Independent Activity Period – a time set aside every January dedicated to students' own endeavours and interests. He could also choose to go for another internship, local or overseas.

"I'm grateful to SP for giving me the very strong foundation in engineering which I could apply in my studies in SUTD," says Terry, who is all ready to promote the institutions when called upon.

Yes Terry, we certainly will. 😊



Engineering undergraduates in SUTD have biology lessons too, and Terry is having fun in the lab.

Driving Himself Up The Wall

Life in SP is more than just absorbing class lessons into your head, or frantically trying to finish off projects before the deadlines. For Andy Ong, there is still some time to make pocket money as a student brand ambassador for an energy drink, and applying what he has learnt in SP into his role. That's not all, he can still indulge in his favourite sport, rock climbing.

Ask Andy Ong what's his favourite drink and without any hesitation, he will pop: "Red Bull". Not without a good reason though. He's been a student brand ambassador for this energy drink since October 2013 and has a duty to spread the goodness of this brand to his peers.

In case you think he will try to sell you Red Bull cans the next time you bump into him, you can put aside your worries. "No hard selling. As student ambassadors, our main responsibility is simply bringing Red Bull events into the campus to boost awareness for the brand," explains Andy on his role.

His job is made easier with the business fundamentals he learns from his **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** course. Modules like New Venture Planning, Personal Selling and Marketing Intelligence give him ideas on how he can promote the brand effectively. If you have seen the Red Bull logo at SP events like CCA Fiesta, Open House and Poly50, this is all co-ordinated by Andy.

Besides promoting the brand in SP, Andy also gets additional perks as the student ambassador. Red Bull has had a team on the F1 circuit since 2005 and star driver Sebastian Vettel is on the team.

In the 2014 edition of F1 Singapore, Andy got lucky! He was put in charge of showing VIPs around some of the key areas of the race such as the garage and the drivers' rest area, and even managed to meet Sebastian himself!

Naturally though, when it was time for internship, Andy decided to stick to Red Bull instead of choosing to go overseas. "The opportunities they are giving me are really hard to come by. I enjoy organising all the activities we have such as the Finger Breaking dance competition and Red Bull Smash Zone." Just last month, he was involved in ZoukOut, Singapore's biggest outdoor party, as Red Bull is one of the event's partners.

The finger-sized shoes are props in the Finger Breaking dance competition organised by Andy.



The extra cash he brings in as a Red Bull ambassador comes in handy for his other passion – rockclimbing. In fact, one of the reasons he picked SP, other than the school having unbeatable accessibility and a strong legacy, is that SP has a Rock Climbers Club! He joined the club from year one and is currently its Vice President. Alas, the rock wall in the old SP sports hall was taken down a while back, but only because it is making way for a new 28-metre high rock wall in the upcoming SP Sports Hub, the tallest in Singapore!

The facility upgrading didn't stop Andy from climbing upwards. He and fellow SP rock climbers now train at a climbing gym in Mountbatten. Andy has helped to organise Rockmaster, an annual rock climbing competition for the polys and ITE. Over the years, he has also taken part in competitions such as Boulderactive organised by the National University of Singapore, and Pumpfest by Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The SP team picked up third overall placing at Rockmaster last year.

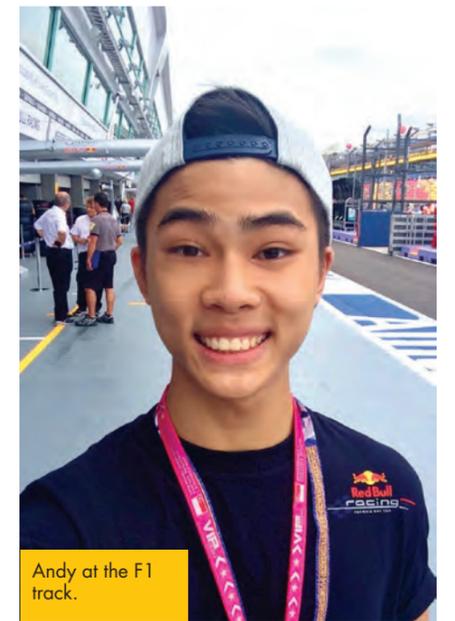
Rockclimbing aside, Andy picked the DEB course because he wanted a business course that still contains some physics and engineering. His love for the course is proven by the strong GPA grade he has maintained since year one, despite having to fulfil his role as Red Bull ambassador and co-lead a CCA club.

"Through my role as a brand ambassador for a real product, I can better understand how a brand is managed in the real world. Through the experience, all the business fundamentals that I've learnt in class have become more meaningful," says Andy, whose favourite haunts in campus include the ayam penyet stall in Foodcourt 6 and the Main Library.

"I didn't want to just get through poly education with good grades and waste all the other opportunities to develop myself in other areas. Time management is very important if we have to juggle a few things at the same time. In critical periods, for example when I had to organise Finger Breaking just before the exam week, I made sure that every single hour during that period was not wasted," he adds.

He reveals that he spends a lot of time in SP: "There're so many places to study, relax and chill in SP. I'm always hanging around at places like the Moberly, Starbucks the Skate Park and my club room. My group sometimes plays Xbox at the Main Library. It's not uncommon for SP students to spend something like 10 hours in campus. I'm one of them... haha."

The future is of course another upward climb for Andy. After his national service, he plans to take up a business course at NTU. Or if Red Bull offers him a permanent position, he may just grab it. "I've had so much fun with the company, and learned a lot from them. I love their culture and the things they do. So if I have the chance, why not? University can always come a little later," says the cool-looking dude!



Andy at the F1 track.



Joshua Chen did not listen to his heart when he was choosing which diploma course to take after his 'O' levels at Hougang Secondary School. He listened to his parents and enrolled in a poly to study information technology, only to drop out after a few months.

"I don't mean to say that we shouldn't listen to our parents. They want the best for us anyway. My dad thought there's a bright future in IT and it would be a good choice," explains Joshua. He did not do well for the course and thought to himself, "If I'm not going to do well, then my future is not going to be bright." What he really enjoyed was writing, so he re-applied to join SP under the Direct Admissions Exercise and got into the course he had a passion for – the **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)**.

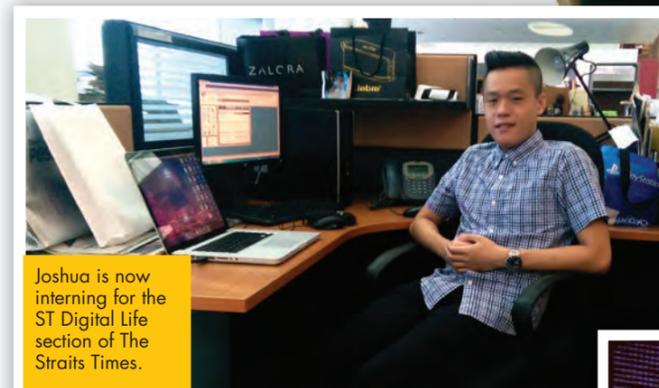
Wordsmith And Spinner

From nerd to hipster. That's the transformation that Joshua Chen went through during his three years here in SP. The final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) student tells SPIRIT why he went through the metamorphosis and how music played a big part in the transformation.

Joshua Chen – labelled a nerd, hipster and party boy at different times in his life.

He's definitely a happier chap now at SP. From day one, he knew DMC was the right fit, because the course entailed a lot of writing. While many kids struggle to hand up a 500-word essay, Joshua could easily churn out an 800-word story on any topic assigned to him. *(Editor's note: Read Joshua's contribution on "social media no-nos" on page 56).*

Nevertheless, Joshua confesses that his first two years here could have been better. "I was looked upon as a strange guy with terrible hair and clothes. I wore almost the same clothes every day. I had an off-beat sense of humour. Some people even found me creepy. Most of the time I would pigeon-hole myself in a corner of the classroom," he reveals, laughing back at those bad old days.



Joshua is now interning for the ST Digital Life section of The Straits Times.

He admitted he didn't feel good about his image. So during his third year, the introverted Joshua made a deliberate transformation from head to toe, literally! He had a trendy haircut, a wardrobe change and he started cracking cold and silly jokes without fear. He found himself more personable to others, who are now forthcoming in striking up conversations with him. He was even once labelled a "stereotypical hipster" and he takes that as a compliment.

A major reason for this push was due to his CCA – the SP Dee Jays club (SPDJ) where students master the art of spinning club music. "My friends in SPDJ kept my spirits up during the time when I didn't have many friends outside. Also, if not for my CCA, I may not have changed that much. To be a known DJ, we need to know people well in the club scene, so we can secure gigs. You need to have a bigger and likeable personality," reveals Joshua, who chose to join this club because he thinks it's cool to hang out with like-minded people. True enough, most of his SP buddies are from the club.

While other boys his age were listening to mainstream pop, he digs into UK-centric underground music, especially drum and bass, deep house



Clockwise, from top: Joshua with SPDJ club seniors Timothy Lin (Diploma in Experience and Product Design), Patrick Lewis Sim (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering) and Ruven Guna (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering).

and a genre called grime. He got a big boost when he won second place at the Live Mix Maestro DJ Competition, which was held at the Velvet Underground, a sister club of the to-be-seen-in Zouk.

But don't get the impression that Joshua has become a party boy.



Joshua spinning at the Live Mix Maestro DJ Competition.

He checks out the club scene mainly to find out what the music rave is right now, avoiding the other trappings of clubbing. Don't believe it? How else do you think he still manages a respectable Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5?

"It's all about passion," he explains. "If you like the modules you are studying, it won't be so pressurising studying them."

Now an intern journalist with Digital Life, a weekly supplement that comes with the Wednesday edition of The Straits Times, he gets to attend launch events of the latest IT gadgets and gets the latest updates on the digital sphere.

But there's a deeper side to Joshua's journalistic knack, which he says stems from his self-deprecating and satirical sense of humour. He hopes to become a satirical writer one day, making people laugh at themselves with his pieces. He may just become a copywriter too, given his weird sense of humour.

A Well-Played POL-ITE Season



With renewed zest, our swimmers have finally broken the drought in this very competitive sport. The girls took the Gold while the boys clinched the Bronze.



At the SP-organised Rockmaster (rock climbing) event, the Women's Team clinched the 2nd overall position and snatched an individual Gold, while the Men's Team came in 3rd overall.

The SP Canoe Sprint teams came in 1st place for the Women's category, and 2nd for the Men's.



The girls netted a Silver at the Netball games.



SP boys and girls squashed their opponents with 1st position for both teams in Squash.



In the Pattern (Form Display) and Sparring (Kyorugi) categories of Taekwondo, Team SP garnered a beautiful basket of four Golds, four Silvers and six Bronzes and an overall 3rd position.



The SP Water Polo boys secured a Silver.



A 3rd placing for our cool hunks from the Rugby Team.



The SP Women Team took home the Silver medal in Touch Football.

On the pitch, up the wall or in the water – SP boys and girls showed their mettle in the latest season of POL-ITE Games, an annual sports meet for all polys and ITE. Team SP scored several 1st to 3rd placings with their fearless team spirit. Congrats to all you sporting peeps!

OTHER POL-ITE WINS
Team SP has done equally well in other sports too:

- Aquathlon: Bronze
- Archery: Silver (Men), Bronze (Women)
- Basketball: Silver (Women)
- Bowling: Gold (Women), Bronze (Men)
- Dragonboat: Gold (Men, Women and Mixed)
- Roadrace: Silver (Women)
- Table Tennis: Silver (Men), Bronze (Women)
- Tchoukball: Gold (Women), Silver (Men)
- Tennis: Silver (Women)
- Volleyball: Bronze (Men)

Story contributed by final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) student, Nur Ifah Sakinah Bte Mohd Khalid.

Youth Is *The Time For Achievement*

Thirty-four students and recent graduates from SP were bestowed the National Youth Achievement Gold Award (NYAA) from the President of Singapore, Tony Tan, keeping SP as the school with the most number of recipients among the educational institutions for many years running. To achieve this highest accolade, they had to complete five components of the programme within 18 months – Service, Adventurous Journey, Skills, Physical Recreation and Residential Project, which are designed to develop their social, physical and mental skills. Nurridzuan Bin Supardi and Kodi Goh recall their NYAA journeys and how they used their spare time to achieve incredible things.



KODI GOH JIA LING, DIPLOMA IN OPTOMETRY (DOPT), CLASS OF 2013 ALUMNA

Kodi's NYAA experiences included trekking and staying overnight in a jungle during an SP leadership camp, learning how to play the piano, and planning a community service trip to Cambodia to conduct eye examinations for the locals. Now an SP graduate, she's working as an optometrist.



WHAT WAS YOUR MOST UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE?

While I was in Cambodia, I had to travel to rural places to conduct eye examinations for the locals there. Some of them can hardly afford to travel out of their villages, let alone pay to get their eyes checked. Our eyes are our windows to the world, so having good eyesight is extremely vital as it affects the way in which we perceive the world. It was heart breaking when I found out that some of the locals were having their eyes examined for the first time, despite having impaired vision for a prolonged period. One of the eye check-ups was carried out in a floating village and the number of villagers who rowed in with their boats, determined to get a free check-up, was astonishing. It dawned on me how fortunate I was to have accessible healthcare in Singapore. It was an enriching and fulfilling experience as I knew I had made a difference in the lives of many people there just by providing them with a simple eye check-up procedure. When I conduct eye examinations now, I wish for people to have good eyesight instead of just getting them through a routine.



NURRIDZUAN BIN SUPARDI, DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS (DASE), SECOND-YEAR

To earn his Gold Award, Nurridzuan challenged himself to excel in several tasks, including learning how to decorate and ice cakes, picking up touch rugby as a new sport, and helping out at a local home for the elderly.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE?

Definitely the visit to the old folks' home. It was extremely heart breaking to learn that most of the senior citizens there were abandoned by their children. Despite having a shelter to live under, most of them still craved for their children's attention. I remember vividly the tears shed by them when they reminisced about their children. I tried my best to cheer them up after lending a listening ear. It was gratifying when I saw the wide grins on their faces. This came as a surprise to me but I felt happier when I made the effort to help others out.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT FROM YOUR NYAA JOURNEY?

NYAA has taught me determination. It was not an easy task to complete five sections in a short period of time as I had to manage between my commitments in school and the programme. But if you have the power to persist, it's not impossible.



The participants of the Youth Model ASEAN conference came to SP from across the region to learn from each other and think of solutions to regional challenges.



Shane facilitated questions and dialogue between the participants and Guest of Honour, Minister for Community, Culture and Youth, Mr Lawrence Wong.



Shane Kho (Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology) (far left) and Glen (far right) with participants from Ngee Ann Poly taking part in the Education debate.

We Were The ASEAN Government (For 4 Days)

In the world's top 10 Google searches of 2014, comedian Robin Williams and the World Cup come in at first and second place, above Ebola (third) and Malaysia Airlines (fourth). Flappy Bird comes in at sixth, above ISIS at eighth. Some might say that the world, and especially its youth, tends to place its entertainment above serious world issues as a priority. Can youth make more room in their day for caring about global matters? Organising committee members of the recent Youth Model ASEAN Conference (YMAC) Glen Chua and Shane Soh feel that there're plenty of good reasons for them to start.

The Youth Model ASEAN Conference (YMAC), inaugurated three years ago, aims to strengthen international relations and promote regional cooperation through the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) youth community.

This is the first time that YMAC sees participation from all 10 ASEAN countries. Throughout the four-day conference, close to 200 youths assumed the roles of diplomats, exploring ideas on how ASEAN nations could

deal with economic, environmental, security, social and cultural issues together. YMAC is jointly organised by the five polytechnics, with SP taking the lead and hosting the event. Shane was the conference's Secretary General who facilitated the conference proceedings and dialogue sessions. Glen was the Committee Chairperson for Education whose role included chairing debate sessions on the issue of ASEAN education for the poor:

IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE KEY ASEAN DEVELOPMENT OR PROBLEM THAT YOU COULD TELL OTHERS ABOUT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

SHANE: The setting up of an ASEAN

Economic Community by 2015. It is interesting to see how the economies in the region will come together and integrate. The development will see an increased flow of goods and services between the nations, as well as strengthened cooperation. Such a development not only impacts big businesses; it also has the potential to better an individual person's life with new opportunities.

GLEN: The socio-economic inequalities facing the entire region. In many ASEAN countries, the poor are very poor and the rich are very rich, either in financial terms or other factors like educational opportunities. According to the Human Development Report 2014, out of the 10 ASEAN countries, five of them are either on par, or below the regional average of 7.24 years of education per person, one of the lowest being approximately four years (Myanmar). Also, according to the report, four out of the 10 countries have primary school dropout rates higher than that of the calculated average of 14.8 per cent in the region.

WHAT WAS THE MOST INTERESTING THING YOU LEARNT ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES?

SHANE: I learnt that some of the delegates worked very hard for the opportunity to be part of this conference. Some had to go through rounds of interviews, competitions even, to represent their country at YMAC. It showed me that a lot of them had the passion and grit to fight for opportunities to learn and excel.
GLEN: Their confidence. Some of the delegates really strike me as very confident, in terms of delivery of their speeches and their knowledge about the issues. Yet, behind that confidence is humility. They are still willing to learn even more about the issues and the region, beyond what they already know.

SHANE, WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART ABOUT ORGANISING YMAC?

SHANE: Putting all our many ideas and plans

together to make the event memorable for all. With almost 200 participants from all 10 ASEAN countries, the scale (and difficulty) of this year's YMAC is bigger than ever. Being part of the team taught me to think on my feet, and have initiative in seeking out and fixing problems. That being said, the majority of credit goes to our student organising committee and lecturer advisors who have worked tirelessly for this conference.

GLEN, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BE A PART OF YMAC NEXT YEAR?

GLEN: YMAC is a platform to understand regional issues and learn from people in different countries. It's also a chance to make new friends with our neighbours. It's changed my life and I'm sure it will change yours too!

WHAT IS YOUR STRONGEST MEMORY OF YMAC, LOOKING BACK?

SHANE: The bonds that we forged with the delegates over the four days. I remember that we were all very emotional as we sent them off from their accommodation. But as one delegate aptly said: "It's not goodbye, but see you again."
GLEN: Almost every Saturday since the end of June, all the Committee Chairpersons would come back to campus for our trainings and meetings. We've gotten to know each other on a personal level and supported each other through many challenges. These experiences, I will hold on to for a long, long time!

Glen and Shane are second and final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) students, respectively.

Story by Joshua Chen, final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) student. Illustrations by Lynette Neo, second-year DMC student.

Where Are Your Social Media Manners?

We all love wearing our hearts on our sleeves – we share everything we eat, drink, wear, and think with our friends on the Internet. Here's how not to tick them all off. Alternatively, if you are lucky enough to have very tolerant friends, here's how to avoid having things about yourself to cringe at 10 years in the future.

Control yourself(ies)

Quit playin' games (with my notification feed)



Yes, you look good, and it's perfectly fine to be proud of that.

Everyone loves some good eye candy, but we're going to get "eye-betes" if you go on flooding our feeds with your self-portraits. Take it down a notch, yeah? It would be nasty to have an image of your face burnt into our retinas.

PFFT. Sometimes I wish we were still stuck with film cameras.

No, your friends don't want to play Pirate Kings. They probably don't want to help you with your Candy Crush energy problem either – if they did, you probably wouldn't need to send these crummy invites out in the first place.

I'm not sure about you, but I experience a deep, sinking feeling whenever I open Facebook and see a huge bunch of notifications, before discovering that they're ALL invitations to play games I don't care about.

STOP PLAYING GAMES. WELL, NOT WITH MY FEED, AT LEAST.

There probably are dedicated game groups on Facebook who can help you – look for them instead!



YOU'VE HAD IT COME A LONG TIME YOU TOTALLY DESERVE IT YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE

Gee, nobody knows. Did your fourth cousin offend you? Who did?! Did I? Does it matter?! Probably not...

Got a problem with someone? Here's a great

idea: take it up with them, instead of going all passive-aggressive on us! Or, at least, keep the grumbling within your inner circle. Nobody wins when you make nasty posts directed at that unfortunate "someone" who "should know who they are".

Doing this is a surefire way to set tongues wagging, and you might just end up coming across as being either a jerk or mentally ill.



#i #think #we've #got #enough #hashtags #rant #legibility #terrible #dont

#yes, #hashtagsarefashionable, #and #they #probablyhelp #you #look #like #you're #part #of #somethingbigger, #but #toomany #of #these #things #hurtoureyes. #you're #a #humanbeing, #notaninternetbillboard. #we're #notrobots #either. #we can't #automatical-lyprocess #allofthisstuff.

Don't be a slacktivist

We are more socially conscious these days, thanks to the Internet – it would be very hard, in fact, to find someone our age who doesn't care about issues that affect us all.

Sure, it's great that we all want to make the world a better place, but poverty, animal abuse, child abuse, war, Joseph Kony, Ebola, AIDS, cancer and sexism aren't going to disappear just because you've changed your Facebook display picture!



CONSIDER A DISCONNECT

Using social media is clearly great in a lot of ways, but let's be honest. After the first 10 to 40 minutes of productive reading there's a decent chance you'll derail into some frivolous activity. Maybe we shouldn't let a hand phone stop us from facing life's challenges and accomplishing bigger and better things.

So why not trade in your self-portrait and pick up painting on a canvas (even if you end up drawing yourself, it's still an accomplishment =/). Or stop writing that anger-filled Facebook status and go get some perspective from a friend and then work it out with the party who you feel wronged you. Finally, if you want to work for a cause, skip the tweeting and go straight into getting your hands dirty. (You could start by trying out an SP Go Serve trip. #justsayin' #shamelesspromo #goserve.)

Story contributed by Nur Ifah Sakinah, final-year Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) student. Illustrations by Lynette Neo, second-year DMC student.



To Keep Or To Ditch?

Chinese New Year (CNY) falls on the first day of the first lunar month and it is celebrated with pomp and splendour until the fifteenth day of the month. It is a festival blazed with colours and aggrandised with sheer ebullience. But do youth today consider its many traditions timeless, or musty and caked with dust, ready to be swept away? Students from the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) give their views.



AVOIDING SHOWERS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

It is considered inauspicious to have a shower on the eve of CNY as it will wash away all the good luck that has been bestowed upon a person. Gym junkies building up powerful volumes of "sweat-and-sour" aroma after a workout would be challenged by this. Just a heads-up, avoid activities that will make you perspire excessively as you do not want to be ostracised on this joyous occasion. "This is one tradition I'll make a pass on," says final-year student Chrystal Hooi. "It's just too hot in Singapore, so I'd keep showering daily for hygiene purposes, of course."

SPRING CLEANING

Cleaning the entire home is always a top priority to usher in the Chinese New Year in a prosperous way. This sprucing up of the home is done because of the belief that it will sweep away any bad luck that has piled-up over the past year. Every nook and cranny of the house has to be spotless and this requires the effort of every family member in the household. There is no way to turn a deaf ear to mom's plea to make the bed and empty the trash bag like what you might do on every other day. However, sweeping the floor on the first three days of the festival is usually avoided for fear that good fortunes will be "swept away". "As much as I dread the spring cleaning, it really is essential as it makes you go through all the things you have piled on and stored for the past year and lets you re-evaluate what your priorities are and start afresh for the new year," says final-year student Dion Chan.



FORTUNE
FORTUNE
FORTUNE

ADORNING ANYTHING RED

Legend has it that the liberal use of the colour red would scare away Nian (it's pronounced "Nyan", like Nyan Cat). Nian is a ferocious beast who had the head of a lion and the body of a bull and once dwelled on a mountain long ago. On the first day of every year, he would awaken and descend upon the village, eating all the crops, livestock and even children. Villagers lived in extreme fear but they finally found a way to ward off the beast— the colour red! The beast ran for its life when it stumbled across the colour, which frightened it. The tradition of wearing red has since been kept alive to frighten the lurking Nian. Besides, the colour red symbolises good fortune and happiness. It is always such a pleasing sight to see families donned in red on the bright morning of CNY. "I would try to wear red on the first day of the New Year but even when I am not, I would carry oranges in red bags with embroidery on top so that I would always have the colour red with me," says final-year student Pearlín Teow.



THIRD DAY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR

The third day of the festival is considered ominous as it is believed to be the day of the God of Blazing Wrath. Many avoid visiting families and friends on this day as they believe a heated argument might ensue. Instead, it is an ideal day to visit the temple to get their fortune read. It's also a great day to find out from the gods what GPA you would be graduating with.

REUNION DINNER

The dinner on the eve of CNY (commonly known as "reunion dinner") is a lavish feast that gathers family members together to renew family ties. Sumptuous meals are prepared in abundance. Many of the dishes are indispensable as they signify auspicious meanings. "I always happily anticipate the reunion dinner as it is a great opportunity to catch up with extended family members while having a nice meal together. My personal favourite is whatever fish dish is served. It is ubiquitous on every dining table as the word fish sounds like 'abundance' in Chinese and having the dish means you would have abundance in the years to come. It is really interesting to know that each dish has a significant meaning," Dion adds.



SP Got Talent



Timeless by SP Magicians at the SP Auditorium.

Anna – The Truth Unfolds (Waves 19) by Strictly Dance Zone at the Kallang Theatre.



Hourglass by SP Theatre Compass at the SP Auditorium.



Back To The Future (A Capella Night III) by SP Vocal Talents at the SP Auditorium.



Face Painting Workshop at SP Main Library.

Time quietly moulds us with a soft touch every day, carving the finest of wrinkles on our faces. Lose track of it, or live too quiet a life, and time carries you away against your will. Be bold, sing out loud and dare to dance once in a while, and you can not only seize time by the arm, but also create a timeless moment for all to enjoy.

"Timeless" was the theme of this year's Arts Fiesta, where SP students worked hard to put on a month-long arts extravaganza. Using their (already considerable) talents honed by months of practice, they mystified and enthralled audiences with music

performances, plays, dance concerts and magic shows. The performances paid tribute to past traditions, featured timeless music classics, or told stories involving journeys back in time. There were also beatboxing, dance and face painting workshops as well to introduce participants to art forms that have lasted through the ages.

With a total of 13 performances, of which five were sold-out, this year is the Arts Fiesta's biggest showing to date and a proven point that SP indeed has talent, and loads of it. SPirot brings you photos of the timeless and joyous celebrations of art.



Classical Renaissance XV by SP String Ensemble at the School of the Arts Concert Hall.



Sarmapanam 2014: Vidai – The Search For An Answer by SP Indian Cultural Society at the SP Convention Centre.



From Screens To Dreams II by SP Chinese Orchestra at the School of the Arts Concert Hall.



Dance Workshop at Moberly Block.



Carpe Diem (Viva La Guitar 2) by SP Guitarists at the SP Auditorium.

Happy 60th Birthday!



my SPECIAL SP PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

As clichéd as it may sound, beauty indeed lies in the eyes of the beholder. To the lens men behind these photos, these are the moments of beauty in the place that they work and study. Among the submissions to the My SPecial SP Photography Contest, these are the winning photos, five each from the student and staff categories respectively.

What are your SP memories? Share your story with photos at My SP Memories Portal (myspmemories.sp.edu.sg).



Nur Humaira Bte Johari, Technical Support Officer, Dept for Technology, Innovation and Enterprise

TITLE: Dance Along Corridor
Beautiful twirl by a beautiful friend of mine, Amirah. I miss her and everyone else whom I spent my SP years as a student with.

Colin Huang Ruobin, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media

TITLE: The best expression
One single image to capture the fun we were having!



Shahrul Kamal Bin Shahni, Technical Support Officer, School of Architecture & the Built Environment

TITLE: Jump of Success
Diploma in Environmental Management & Water Technology students hand-in-hand, studying and working together as a team to achieve a common goal - success in academics and in life through a pioneer tertiary institution that has established itself for the past 60 years.

Benedict Cho, Senior Lecturer, SP Business School (SB)

TITLE: We made it @ SB!
As part of a bonding activity, SB staff and students joined hands to successfully set the Singapore Book of Records for the Largest Human Formation of an Orange Circle. We made it @ SB! - SP Business School Orange Day on 23 Oct 2013



Neelesh Bhatia, Senior Lecturer, School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology

TITLE: The Red Bridge
This unique bridge has been known as both a 'love' bridge and a 'haunted' bridge.



Phua Kia Yi, Diploma in Banking & Finance

TITLE: Gaia Terrace Jump
This SPecial place is behind the Hilltop Library, a quiet and yet undeniably the best place to hang out and to just let it all go! It's a gift from Nature that not many are aware of - Gaia Terrace. The plants, the wildlife that burrow under the soil of this terrace and the company of friends - this is the beauty of SP.



Elijah Xu Qi En, Diploma in Maritime Business

TITLE: Snow
Team SMA at Vivaldi Ski Resort in South Korea, firing snowballs at our dearest photographer Elijah. This was a really significant moment as, for almost all of us on this team, it was our first time touching snow. Therefore, our SPecial food in this case ... SNOW. Yes, it was tasteless and it was freezing; and it was all over the place, fresh from the sky! - Angelia Ong Shu Hui (Photo taken during the educational visit to Chung-Ang University, South Korea in Dec 2013).



Atika Alisa Bte Mahat, Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design

TITLE: Euphoria
This photo of my course mate, Rance Ho, reminds me of the great times I spent together with my Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design course friends during this bonding trip to Tioman Island in Malaysia.



Ng Chee Teng, Lecturer, School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences

TITLE: Pitching a Good Concept
Taken during Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media's Final Year Project Pitch to industry producers; a group of final-year students are enjoying themselves watching another team present their TV concept to the panel.



Jonathan Alex Ng Jian Wei, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

TITLE: Moberly
It is my favourite place in SP as it was the very first place I hung out with my Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) group seniors on the first orientation day and with my DPA group mates afterwards!



SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL EDITION!

DOWNLOAD NOW FROM ITUNES STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY STORE (SEARCH "SP SPIRIT" FOR TABLETS AND MOBILE PHONES).



SPIRIT
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