

# SPiRiT

VOL 2 2014

## STAR PERFORMERS

Celebrating

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC | SP

Celebrating



WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE

Est. 1954



### TOP GRADS FROM THE CLASS OF 2014

#### MODEL STUDENTS AND THEIR SUCCESS STORIES

★ Edward Ho ★ Alexis Ku ★ Andre Neo ★ Goh Jin Qiang ★ Jovan Tan

**GRAD SHOWS:** Render 2014 and Edition14.8

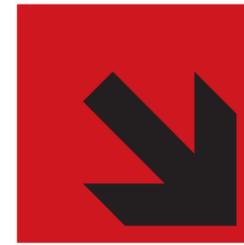
**WHAT WILL THE WORLD BE WHEN I'M 60:** Hear From Our Students

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**The SPiRT Team**

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# STAR PERFORMERS

They worked hard, they played hard. For them, the three-year SP journey is not a mere absorption of knowledge or perfecting the skills they have acquired. More importantly, they have developed themselves holistically with extensive involvement in co-curricular activities within or outside SP. Together, they have lived up to the new SP vision – a caring community of inspired learners committed to serve with mastery. **SPiRiT** introduces the top eight graduates for Graduation 2014.

STYLING: JEROME AWASTHI MAKEUP: LOLENT LEE HAIR: ASH LOI MEN WARDROBE: G2000, MINDBRIDGE, THE CLASS, BASIC HOUSE, ROBINSONS, MARKS & SPENCER LADIES WARDROBE: STRADIVARIUS, MARKS & SPENCER



# LAM YUNG SHENG

## DIPLOMA IN FINANCIAL INFORMATICS

Alumnus from Kent Ridge Secondary School

### Who Am I

A naughty (and obese!) kid in secondary school who would make teachers very angry. But my tuition teacher woke me up one day with the question: "Do you have a purpose in life?" I started to work hard from then on, which includes losing weight!

### What I Did

I went to Laos for a community service project where we taught English to a class of primary four village kids and painted a mural for a school hall. After a self-inflicted punishing schedule, I managed to get a gold for the National Physical Fitness Award.

### My Next Step

Thanks to the versatility of my diploma course, I've been accepted into the newly launched dual degree programme offered by Singapore University of Technology and Design and Singapore Management University. And with a scholarship too!

### My Wishes for SP@60

Happy 60th Anniversary SP! This place is endearing for many of us. It's almost like a second home, a place where we were given the opportunity to try, fail, learn, and grow while oozing copious amounts of blood, sweat, and tears. But every step of this journey was worth the while. My wish for SP is to continue to provide excellent opportunities for students to excel while maintaining its world-class learning environment.

# DIVESH S/O SINGARAJU

## DIPLOMA IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Alumnus from Commonwealth Secondary School

### Who Am I

I'm a fighter. If I can successfully fight cancer twice, there's nothing else that can stop me. I'm really happy to be able to live an active lifestyle now and pursue my interests such as hiking and long-distance kayaking. I had my wish granted under the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which was to step onboard an aircraft cockpit. I'm now an official Wish Granter and look forward to making the wish of another cancer patient come true.

### What I Did

I'm a co-founder of Youth Comm, a support group for cancer-stricken youths to help them strengthen their resolve in life as they battle their illnesses. I had the chance to do a community service project in Cambodia and also an overseas internship in China.

### My Next Step

I've been offered the Global Merit Scholarship at the National University of Singapore to pursue my engineering degree. At the same time, I'm also offered a place in Imperial College. Hopefully, I will make the right choice for my university education.

### My Wishes for SP@60

You're 60 now! Your wisdom is what drives SPians to be the best in the country!





# INDRA FARIDZUAN BIN RUNZI

## DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Alumnus from Clementi Town Secondary School

### Who Am I

I love the outdoors and all the flora and fauna. Back in secondary school, the only subject I liked was elective art. That explains why I chose to do landscape architecture.

### What I Did

In just three years, I've been to Australia, China, Taiwan, Indonesia and Malaysia for various overseas programmes and every trip has been very enriching. A memorable one would be in Yunnan, China, where we built toilets for the villagers while battling the cold winds. I was also a SP compere and have lent my voice to many events.

### My Next Step

My internship company and award-winning firm, Tierra Design(s), invited me back to work with them after graduation. I plan to continue working for a few years after my national service while saving up to further my studies overseas. In 10 years' time, I hope to be a landscape architect, channelling my expertise to build sustainable environments for less fortunate communities!

### My Wishes for SP@60

Congratulations SP for turning 60 this year! The past three years have been the best times of my life and definitely form a large part of my memory. Thank you for providing us with a nurturing environment and the best and most dedicated lecturers.



# BETH YAP PENG

## DIPLOMA IN MUSIC AND AUDIO TECHNOLOGY

Alumna from Tanjong Katong Girls' School

### Who Am I

I love music and would pursue it no matter at what cost. I'm immensely grateful that SP has the course that I wanted to do. Having a passion for the course is already half the battle won.

### What I Did

I have performed my original compositions at many events, including the launch of our own music label, SPEAR, at the Coliseum at Hard Rock Café in Sentosa. I also helped to organise SP's Improvise Concert series and performed at the Esplanade thrice with the SP Jazz Band. I went to San Francisco to attend a three-week game and audio workshop. The best part of the trip was recording a song that I wrote at Fantasy Studios – the very same studio where Green Day and U2 recorded their songs!

### My Next Step

Ten years down the road, I hope to continue performing while composing and arranging songs for films and games. And yes, I hope to further my studies in a music-related programme with institutions such as the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in NUS, the Berklee College of Music in the US or the Sibelius Academy at the University of the Arts Helsinki.

### My Wishes for SP@60

We've got our feet planted on the ground  
But we're reaching for the sky  
We'll make a joyful sound  
'Cause the future looks so bright

Happy 60th birthday SP! Wishing you limitless success in the years to come!

# PISIGAN CARLO ADRIAN RECTRA

**DIPLOMA IN CLEAN ENERGY**  
Alumnus from Yishun Town Secondary School

### Who Am I

I almost got electrocuted when I was young. That got me interested in electricity and later on, energy issues. I used to be a clueless person but joining SP was a big turning point for me. I would jump at every opportunity that would better myself.

### What I Did

I achieved so much at SP. I was in Australia for the World Solar Challenge 2013 where the solar car we built raced with those from other universities. I gave a presentation at an international conference in Hong Kong. Together with Indonesian and Japanese students, we developed solutions for villages in Indonesia using Design Thinking.

### My Next Step

I have been offered places at both Nanyang Technological University and the National University of Singapore to study Electrical Engineering. I've also been offered the NUS Undergraduate Scholarship. Whatever I choose, I'll be working towards my goal of being a researcher in the field of clean and renewable energy!

### My Wishes for SP@60

SP has provided me many great opportunities and gave me valuable lessons. I wish for SP to keep up the excellent work and continue to nurture excellent graduates. **SP ALL THE WAY!**



# NERISSA TIONG WEI WEN

**DIPLOMA IN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**  
Alumna from CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School

### Who Am I

From primary school, I was already involved in media clubs, so naturally I chose to study media and communication after my 'O' levels. I sustained a bad injury during my first year and skipped school for a term. But I never let the pain and misery take over my life. In fact, I became even more determined to succeed in my studies and CCAs. I want to say a big thank you to those out there, my course mates, who helped me a great deal when I was down and out.

### What I Did

Publishing a report on how social media affects youth happiness with my course mates was a major achievement. We had to present our findings to major media like The Straits Times and Channel NewsAsia. I felt like I was already in the media industry! Interning at Starcom MediaVest Group, a major player in the world advertising industry, has further reaffirmed my love for the media.

### My Next Step

I will be pursuing my degree at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University under the Nanyang Scholarship.

### My Wishes for SP@60

Our heartiest congratulations on SP's 60th Anniversary! Thank you for the many opportunities and support you have provided us with, coupled with great memories. May SP continue to nurture students of the future.



# MUHAMMAD NUR HIDAYAT BIN RASITI

## DIPLOMA IN MARINE ENGINEERING

Alumnus from Tanjong Katong  
Secondary School

### Who Am I

My interest in the maritime industry was inspired by my seafaring grandfather. Don't underestimate my small frame. I'm very into rock climbing and even won a team gold medal at a competition!

### What I Did

I was a key member in the SP Malay Language Society and helped raise funds for a village and orphanage in Malaysia. I had the chance to sail on the Pallada, the fastest sailing ship in the world! It was really fun on board with the cadets from Russia.

### My Next Step

I will soon be attached to Pacific International Lines as a sea cadet. After sailing for some years, I would like to pursue the degree in Naval Architecture offered by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne at the Singapore Institute of Technology after sailing for some years. In 10 years' time, I hope to become the Chief Engineer of a vessel.

### My Wishes for SP@60

Sixty years of excellence with many more years to come! As a graduand, I would like to wish SP, my second home, a happy 60th anniversary. May SP produce many more excellent graduates who will make remarkable breakthroughs in the future.

# ANG BOON KIAT

## DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Alumnus from Greenview  
Secondary School and Institute  
of Technical Education

### Who Am I

I actually had no intention to study further after getting my Higher Nitec Certificate from ITE. But after working for 10 months, I realised that poly grads are earning more than ITE grads even if we do the same job. So I decided to give myself a chance to improve myself by taking up an engineering course in SP.

### What I Did

I never failed to respond when there was a call for blood donation. My parents are also unwell so I know how important it is to help others when we can. I got my motivation to study hard from my seniors from ITE. They graduated with Diploma with Merit and I wanted to be like them. I always tell myself, if they can do it, so can I! And yes, I got it!

### My Next Step

I've gotten direct entry into the second year in Nanyang Technological University to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering. My wish is to become a professional engineer in the power or manufacturing sectors.

### My Wishes for SP@60

Happy 60th anniversary to SP. SP is like a second home to me with great facilities for students to study and enjoy their three years in SP. Examples are the gym, study areas, library and many more. I would like to thank SP for giving me such an enjoyable learning experience and shaping me into who I am today. I wish for SP to have an even greater 60 years ahead! Cheers.

# SP CONGRATULATES THE STAR PERFORMERS OF 2014

SP SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING



**Divesh s/o Singaraju**  
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering  
Commonwealth Secondary School



**Sint Thida Bo**  
Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics  
No. 1 Basic Education High School (Dagon, Myanmar)



**Muhd Khairul Anwar Bin Jamil**  
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering  
Victoria School

When I joined SP, I saw this huge board with photos of all the course medallists – so awesome! Each time I passed by, I would look at it to motivate myself to work hard and become one of them.



**Teo Zhi Ting**  
Diploma in Biocengineering  
Foon Yew High School (Malaysia)

When I entered SP, I had already set myself to do well in my studies this time round to make my family proud as well as to secure a better future for them.



**Terence Teo Boon Chiat**  
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
Guangyang Secondary School

SP SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

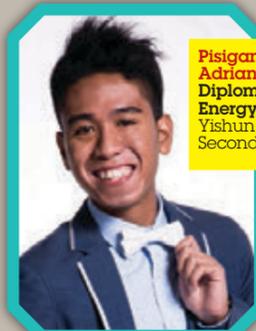


**Yip Joo Yee**  
Diploma in Engineering with Business  
Henderson Secondary School

SP lecturers don't only teach students but also go the extra mile to groom us into better people, and also prepare us to be ready for the world.



**Lai Qing Hui**  
Diploma in Computer Engineering  
Jurong Secondary School



**Pisigan Carlo Adrian Rectra**  
Diploma in Clean Energy  
Yishun Town Secondary School



**Ang Liang Sheng**  
Diploma in Aerospace Electronics  
Unity Secondary School



**Ngo Young Kit**  
Diploma in Info-Communication Engineering & Design  
Hai Sing Catholic School

A memorable moment for me was representing SP at the Penang International Bridge Marathon. Donning the SP Marathon's Club singlet in this breathtaking race gave me a great sense of pride.



**Marcus Ng Wei Liang**  
Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science  
Tampines Secondary School

Happy Birthday SP!!! I will always remember SP as the FIRST, BIGGEST and BEST poly in Singapore.



**Marcus Seah Yong Jie**  
Diploma in Biomedical Science  
Tanjong Katong Secondary School



**Teo Woon Kiat**  
Diploma in Biotechnology  
Fuhua Secondary School

My family has provided me with the best possible emotional support at times when I felt like giving up my goal of maintaining my results. Without them, I may not have come so far.



**Wee Hui Wen**  
Diploma in Materials Science  
Foon Yew High School (Malaysia)

The internship opportunities are one of the best things about SP. I was really fortunate to get two excellent internships – one at the Tokyo University of Technology and the other at Johnson & Johnson.



**Teresa Purnomo**  
Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science  
Anglican High School

My project mates and I cooked eggs in the lab when we were not supposed to. The eggs were burnt because we didn't use oil and the entire lab smelled so bad. The lecturer scolded us. But it was a fun and memorable moment!



**Su Yu Ping**  
Diploma in Chemical Engineering  
Jurongville Secondary School



**Tan Wen Xin**  
Diploma in Food Science & Technology  
Jurong Secondary School

SMA SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC



**Muhammad Nur Hidayat Bin Rasiti**  
Diploma in Marine Engineering  
Tanjong Katong Secondary School



**Chong Hui Ting**  
Diploma in Maritime Business  
Hua Yi Secondary School

I felt lost and lonely when I first stepped into SP. But I met my first SP friend and till this day, she is still my closest friend. So my first day in SP was also the most memorable.



**Neo Tio Kheong**  
Diploma in Nautical Studies  
Holy Innocents' High School

## SP BUSINESS SCHOOL



**Lam Ying Sheng**  
Diploma in Financial Informatics  
Kent Ridge Secondary School



**Edward Ho Sheng Thai**  
Diploma in Banking & Financial Services  
Queensway Secondary School



**Jolene Lee Yi Hiang**  
Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management  
Bowen Secondary School

The best thing about SP's learning environment is the participative learning styles. As a business student, it is crucial to be immersed in projects and real-life cases to understand the subject matter better.



**Andre Neo An Jie**  
Diploma in Accountancy  
Catholic High School

I enjoy writing. To me, writing is a form of release, it's liberation on paper. When I get a piece of poetry right, when I truly write for myself, the feeling is nothing short of ecstasy.



**Rafikah Binte Mohamed Halim**  
Diploma in Business Administration  
Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School

Our lecturers never dictate or micro-manage. They just point the way and let us make our own choices, yet are there to guide us when we make mistakes.



**Vivien Ng Hui Min**  
Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology  
CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent



**Noor Loic Bin Satar**  
Diploma in International Business  
Maryflower Secondary School

What I like about SP is the hands-on learning experience. This includes working with different softwares, with different teams and tackling different project briefs.

Loving what I do plays a big part in helping me to perform well, as well as having awesome course mates who are as dedicated to their work as me.

I feel that the best thing about SP is the fact that we are treated like adults and given the freedom to manage our own time and work.



**Tan Jia Lin**  
Diploma in Digital Media  
Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School

Despite my serious attitude towards work, I'm actually a couch potato! I enjoy watching endless hours of TV series while snacking on junk food :P (Don't judge!).

Congratulations SP! 60 years of good work and it will be so for many more years. SP for the win!

## SP DESIGN SCHOOL



**Chan Yik Wai**  
Diploma in Games Design & Development  
Jurongville Secondary School



**Huang Minxian**  
Diploma in Experience & Product Design  
Fairfield Methodist Secondary School



**Lin Lei**  
Diploma in Interior Design  
Nan Chiau High School



**Serene Khor**  
Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design  
Xinmin Secondary School

SP gives us a conducive and safe environment to work on projects. It's like a second home for us students in Design School.

## SP SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



**Lim Zhao-Yi**  
Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media  
CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School



**Nerissa Tiong Wei Wen**  
Diploma in Media & Communication  
CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School



**Yaw Wen Ping**  
Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology  
Dunearn Secondary School

## SP SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



**Olivia Teng**  
Diploma in Architecture  
New Town Secondary School

The fear of failure was a very strong motivating factor for me to do well, besides supportive family and friends.



**Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi**  
Diploma in Landscape Architecture  
Clementi Town Secondary School

## SP SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY



**Chan Yan Min**  
Diploma in Digital Animation  
Anglican High School



**Iyaad Bin Salleh**  
Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics  
Chai Chee Secondary School



**Beth Yap Peng**  
Diploma in Music & Audio Technology  
Tamjong Katong Girls' School



**Hendra**  
Diploma in Business Information Technology  
Westwood Secondary School



**Bryan Koh Wei Xian**  
Diploma in Infocomm Security Management  
Maryflower Secondary School



**How Si Hui**  
Diploma in Information Technology  
SMJK Ave Maria Convent (Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia)



**Chew Junling**  
Diploma in Environmental Management & Water Technology  
Deyi Secondary School



**Chong Kok Soon**  
Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business  
Chong Hwa High School (Kluang, Malaysia)

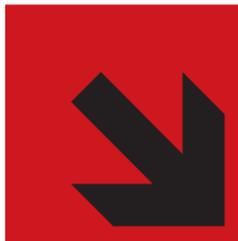


**Sabrina Heng Sze Hui**  
Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management  
Singapore Sports School



**Hong Fengmei**  
Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management  
Woodgrove Secondary School

So Possible



# graduation 2014

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

In 1967, British pop star Lulu released her hit song "To Sir With Love". The song may be 47 years old now, but the lyrics will remain relevant to the generation of today. Especially so when they graduate from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and prepare themselves for a new journey.

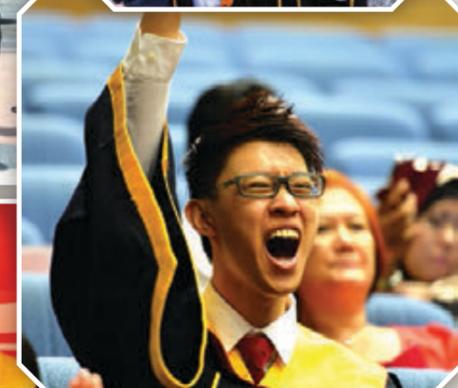
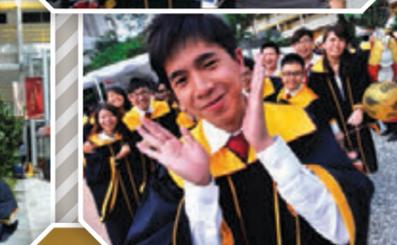
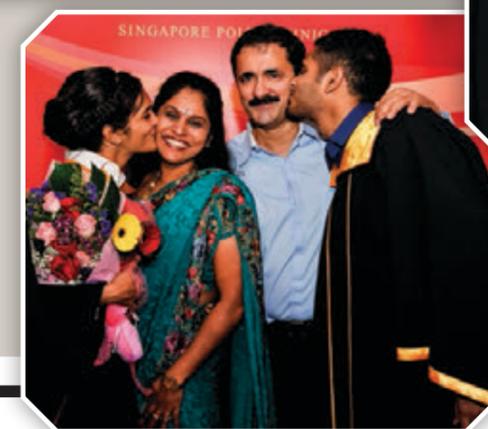
"And as I leave, I know that I am leaving my best friend, a friend who taught me right from wrong, and weak from strong, that's a lot to learn. What, what can I give you in return?"

And what can our graduates give in return? The answer can be found in the new SP vision that was unveiled at the 54th Graduation Ceremony: A caring community of inspired learners committed to serve with mastery.

Indeed, it is our hope that SP graduates will continue to be inspired by their learning journey, master their skills and knowledge well and serve with a caring heart.

**SPiRiT** captures the highlights and excitement of the 54th Graduation Ceremony. You can also watch the valedictorian speeches in the online edition of SPiRiT available from mid-July, as well as other videos clips of the event.

Our graduates,  
our pride



# So Possible

This was going to be that one moment for all of them. And many decided to be as creative as they possibly could. After all, their lecturers have always told them to think out-of-the-box. Surely indeed, they took that seriously. **SPiRiT** brings to you the light-hearted moments that mark SP Graduation Ceremony 2014.



A little magic.



A kiss for one and all



Must really look good



A gentlemen's salute



Confetti celebration



I love you all



Crowning glory



You don't know who I am



"Luke... I am your father!"



The right way to do it!



World's biggest grin



Wait, I'm taking this call



"Expecto Patronum!"



A wizard's hat



How! you all doing!



Me Iuv rubber ducky



My handsfree go-pro cam



Some handstand warm up



Like the flower?



No hair



Golden hair



Stage dance



Sir, thank you sooooo much!



A swirl



A lot of hair



A hot item now



Gangnam style



Safe bet with V sign



Let's do a selfie



Message for my ma





EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2014

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2014



Reach For The Stars & Realise Your Potential

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2014



# Performance Par Excellence

Siti Roliah Bte Muhd Ridhuan was just one of three girls in her **Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR)** course, but that did not stop her from leading the Singapore Maritime Academy Club. Loo Jian Kai led the SP Aikido Club as its President, gave free maths tuition to students from his secondary school and helped out at his father's food stall on Sundays. Kristalynn Yue's exceptional leadership and enthusiasm eventually saw her leading the SP Daiko Drummers and participating in a humanitarian trip in Vietnam.

Despite their heavy CCA commitment, all three still excelled in their studies. For their spectacular performance during their three-year SP journey, they were crowned Model Students, together with 17 others, at the annual SP Excellence Awards. The ceremony, which was held earlier in March, gave out awards for the following:

- ▼ Model Student Awards
- ▼ Outstanding Class Leader Awards
- ▼ Sports Awards (Honours)
- ▼ Sports Team / Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year
- ▼ Outstanding Contribution Individual Awards
- ▼ Outstanding Contribution Group Awards

Turn the page for the full list of recipients.

Model Student Award 2014 winners (front row from left): Kristalynn Yue, Siti Roliah Bte Muhd Ridhuan, Pisigan Carlo Adrian Rectra, Gwendolyn Yeo, Lin Sihan, SP Principal and CEO Mr Tan Choon Shian, Alexandra Larissa, Teo Zhi Ting, Wee Hui Wen, Kong Xiao Wei, Loo Jian Kai, Benny Tan; (back row from left): Goh Jin Qiang, Andre Neo, Edward Ho, Divesh s/o Singaraju, Beatrice Cho, Muhd Khairul Anwar Bin Jamil, Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi, Alexis Ku, Lim Yu Jie.



# And the winners are.....

### OUTSTANDING CLASS LEADER AWARDS

#### SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Mariah Bte Abdul Ghani
- Seet Kiang Yeow
- Tan Wei Keong



#### SP BUSINESS SCHOOL

- Jason Siah Yi Rong
- Shronn Tay Yi Ping
- Wan Aaron Shah Bin Wan Azlan Shah



- Ann Sim (Rhythmic Gymnastics)



#### SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Daryl Ho Ruijie



#### SP DESIGN SCHOOL

- Lin Sihian



#### SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & LIFE SCIENCES

- Goh Qing Sheng
- Low Li Quan

#### SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY

- Daniele Tan Yu Ting



#### SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY

- Cheryl Leong Jiamei
- Devin Tan Wei Jie
- Sin Koon Nink



#### (HONOURS)

- Nicholas Chng Wei Jie (Windsurfing)



#### SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

- A Manoj Kumar
- Long Long He
- John Ong Rongxing



- Danial Norman Tan (Sailing)

- Joshua Matthew Lim (Sailing)

- Khairi Bin Abdul Rashid (Tchoukball)

- Lim Zi Ting (Tchoukball)

- Low Ee Tuck (Tchoukball)



- Lucas Stanton Yong (Judo)



#### SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

- Chou Po-Yang
- Gwee Teck Wah
- Muhd Khairul Anwar Bin Jamil



- Nico Quek (Tchoukball)
- See Xin Xiu (Tchoukball)

- Muhd Hazim Faiz Bin Hassan (Soccer)

- Naresh s/o Kunasegaran (Rugby)

- R Sathish (Floorball)

- Denis Seow (Taekwondo / Lifesaving)



### SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR

- Table Tennis

### SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

- Audrey Yong (Windsurfing)

### SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

- Timothy Lee (Diving)



### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Ang Hui Min (SP Students' Union)



- Trixia Tan (SP Students' Union)



- Ang Wan Ling (SP Aviation Club)

- Cassidy Lee (SP Magicians)

- Chan Kah Chun (SP Ambassadors)

- Lavinn Balan (SP Ambassadors)

- Dhanusha Thiagarajah (SP Ambassadors)



- Chua Wen Xiang (SP Piano Ensemble)

- Timothy Ho (Digital Media & Infocomm Technology Club)

- Joselyn Woo (SP Gusto - Cheerleading)

- Cheryl Lee (Community Service & Cultural Club)

- Tan Fong Xin (Community Service & Cultural Club)

- Tan Wei Chiang (Community Service & Cultural Club)

- Lee Xin Li (SP Student Sports Club)

- Rury Nurziana Bte Omar (SP Student Sports Club)

- Mochamad Ilham Ibrahim (SP Student Sports Club)

- Leow Chia Ee (SP Strictly Dance Zone)

- Lin Xunjian (Community Service)

- Loo Yan Qi (SP Vocal Talents)

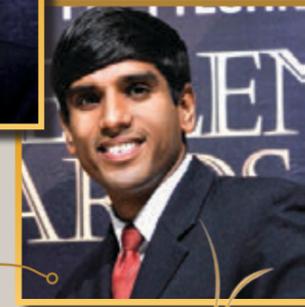
- Mahendran s/o Anbalagan (SP Floorball)

- Ng Jing Ping (SP Swimming)

- Tang Jing Guang (SP Swimming)

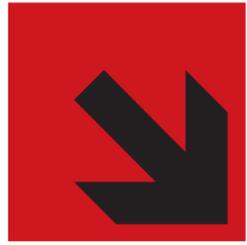
- Paulson Yap (SP Infocomm Club)

- Siow Yong Ren (SP Photography Club)



### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION GROUP AWARDS

- Community Service & Cultural Club
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering Club
- SP Archery
- SP Aviation Club
- SP BP Mentoring Club
- SP Daiko Drummers
- SP Floorball
- SP Infocomm Club
- SP International Students Club
- SP Photography Club
- SP Red Cross
- SP Stage Management Club
- SP Strictly Dance Zone
- SP Students' Union
- SP Taekwondo
- SP Tchoukball



# IT Got Him To *New York*

**If any IT gadget lands on Goh Jin Qiang, chances are he will dismantle it, study all the parts and then put them all back together. Just like a surgeon operating on a patient. That's the intensity level in IT matters for Jin Qiang who by now can assemble a brand new PC all by himself. **SPiRiT** speaks with this IT enthusiast and fresh graduate.**

While his classmates were still pondering over what their future careers would be, Goh Jin Qiang already knew what he wanted to do. Recognising that he would never do well in science subjects, he opted to study Information Technology in ITE after leaving Yishun Town Secondary School. With sheer passion for the subject, he scored a perfect GPA and joined SP. He only had one choice in mind - and what else but the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)**.

"At ITE, we learned the more technical aspect of IT. We dismantled computers and put them back together. Here at SP, we had theory lessons that gave me a better understanding of how the different parts in a computer work. So the technical skills and theoretical knowledge I had from both places complemented each other very well," said Jin Qiang.

From learning how to make ethernet cables and creating websites at ITE, Jin Qiang progressed to more hard core areas such as computer programming for digital applications and developing mobile applications. He upsized his curriculum further by taking part in numerous competitions.

When asked how SP has nurtured him, he replied: "Just one word - chance. I was given so many opportunities to participate in local and international competitions. My lecturers believed in me and thought I could excel in these competitions."

Imagine Cup, World Skills, National Climate Competition, SiTF Awards, SPLASH Awards and some hackathons like the National Environment Agency Clean and Green competition- these were but some of the events that he took part in. He won some and lost some; but the experiences made him bolder and hungrier. Even after his last semester exams, he was invited by the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology to develop a project for an IT competition organised by the Infocomm Development Authority.

The big break came when he was selected for the NUS-MDA Singapore Hollywood Attachment Programme which gives poly and university students the chance to network with top interactive and digital media institutions in the United States and facilitates placement for them to do research and development internships with these institutions. To be selected, he had to go through an interview round with NUS professors before meeting his potential internship company via Skype. He was placed

with the New York branch of Young & Rubicam, a world-renowned marketing and communications agency.

The five-month attachment had him and a fellow course mate building from scratch a mobile app for the agency. They had to integrate the agency's various microsites into the app so that staff worldwide could share each other's creative works. "It didn't feel like an internship," Jin Qiang shared. "Besides working in a real office, they trusted us to the extent that we would conduct conferences via Skype to London and other countries to discuss the content for the app. I think it's rare to get such experience during internship."

He embarked on a second overseas trip while in SP - this time to Vietnam for a community service project called MELT2 where he and fellow SP students taught IT and photography skills to kids in remote schools. "It was a bit of a regret that they didn't have basic IT knowledge, otherwise we could have taught them more. They were very willing to absorb what we taught. If given more time, they could learn more and use the skills to make a living," said Jin Qiang.

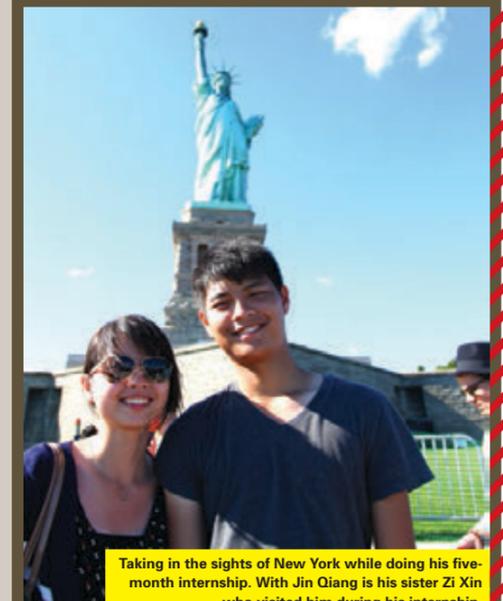
Jin Qiang graduates with a GPA score of 3.918, scooping up 15 distinctions during his three-year SP journey. He hopes to get a scholarship to further his studies in a leading university in the United Kingdom that has key strengths in IT fields, such as Middlesex University. In the distant future, after gaining enough working experience, the SP Model Student Award 2014 winner sees himself going back to either ITE or SP to teach.

"To me, the key to do well is to have a passion for what you are studying. If you are interested, you will naturally listen in class and will ask a lot of questions."

"I played computer games like Maple Story and DOTA since sec one. Friends would complain about lagging but for me, I was curious to know why this happened. I played but didn't overplay. I was prepared to go to ITE to learn IT, so no need to study so hard."

"Mr Martin Leong from ITE played an important role in my life. He asked me if I was interested in web technology and shared with me his experience as a former ITE and SP student. He told me that SP sent him to Middlesex University for internship and how he furthered his studies there after getting his diploma. I was very motivated by him."

"My dream? I hope to work for Ferrari as their software engineer!"



Taking in the sights of New York while doing his five-month internship. With Jin Qiang is his sister Zi Xin who visited him during his internship.



Can't seem to wake up on time for class? Or achieve the perfect body you've been dreaming of? Well, we've all felt lost and unmotivated in our lives at some point. If you want to escape this rut, read on about these graduating girls with secrets to juggling both sports and studies. They understand that sometimes, you have to be fit to succeed.

Tough and smart girls-next-door: fresh graduates (from left) Beatrice Cho, Gwendolyn Yeo and Kong Xiao Wei. All three are also recipients of the SP Model Student Award.

## GWENDOLYN YEO DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS (DASE), SP Dragonboat

Gwen maintained a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.87 while training with the SP Dragonboat (Women) team to win first place in the POL-ITE Games 2013, as well as a bronze in the Open Mixed (500m) category at the Taiwan International Dragon Boat Championship.

### What got you interested in dragonboat, Gwen?

I like sports in general, but before dragonboat I'd never been in a team sport. And at the time, dragonboat was all about, you know, "train and get fit" (laughs). I knew I could get tan and fit, so I thought, "Why not?"

### What do you love most about the sport?

I enjoy training, because we go through tough times together. Our trainings are so frequent that we actually see each other almost every day, four days a week normally and six days a week during competition season. So compared to some other clubs, I'd say the bond and friendship we have is much stronger.

**Dragonboat has made me \_\_\_\_\_.** Physically and mentally stronger, taking whatever comes with courage.

### What's your best tip for a well-rounded sports and study life?

Sometimes, there're breaks in between classes or training and I use those breaks to study. If I have too much free time to study, I won't do it because I know I have time on my hands. But because dragonboat training is very time-consuming, I will take every other opportunity to study since I know I'm short on time. Starting your day early



with exercise (our Monday training is at 6.30am!) also helps; you'll never be late for class! Spending time wisely is the key to success. I think being in dragonboat forced me to use my time more wisely.

### What got you interested in aerospace three years ago?

I think aeroplanes are cool, and it was my secondary school teacher who suggested I could become a pilot someday because I've got perfect eyesight!



## BEATRICE CHO DIPLOMA IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DESIGN (DVMD), SP Mixed Martial Arts

Gym enthusiast and martial arts lover Beatrice Cho juggled her commitment as club secretary while maintaining a 3.63 GPA. She also won awards such as first place in the 2012 Singapore National Games Mascot Competition (for design) and the SP 2013 Best Art Directed Campaign Annual Advertising Communication Award.

### Were you a sporty person before coming to SP?

Back in secondary school, I would go early before class and run 10 rounds on the track. My classmates used to say I was crazy (laughs)! Looking back, I still believe it was fine and very sane (laughs) but I'm just more into gym now. So yeah, I'd say I was.

### What's your favourite part of being in SP Mixed Martial Arts?

Helping it to become an official club. It meant a lot to us, and getting it recognised also got us our own clubroom. On top of that, coaching the juniors was a whole new experience because we got to teach and spar with them; we built up their passion and a relationship with them as well.

But maybe I just like fighting in general (laughs). I like boxing, the art of it. Silat is also a very beautiful sport. Brazilian jiu-jitsu as well. Judo is also really fun.

### What are some challenges you faced in juggling both sports and studies?

I see sports as more of a reward. After a stressful day in school, going for training or gym helps me de-stress. I look forward to it and try to complete all my work before that. I don't think time management is a problem; I think it's more of building habits and routines. Bad time management is just an excuse, I think. When you've found something you're passionate about, it makes things less of a challenge.

### What do you most hope to do in future?

Ideally, I hope to study design overseas. Many many years later, I hope to come back to SP to become a design lecturer. I've also had thoughts about being a professional gym instructor. I'm also starting on the idea of opening a design house with a few of my close friends. No idea how it'll turn out, but we're working on it. If it happens then great, and if not, then oh well, we'll just move on and do something else (laughs).

## KONG XIAO WEI DIPLOMA IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (DCHE), SP Taekwondo

Leader, fighter, keen student. Xiao Wei wore all three hats as the president of SP Taekwondo. The fresh graduate with a 3.86 GPA also clinched several medals at competitions such as the Gold medal at the National Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, and a combined total of one silver and three bronzes from the 2012 and 2013 POL-ITE Games.

### Xiao Wei, why did Taekwondo interest you?

I wanted to learn self-defence at first so I joined, but as it turned out taekwondo is more of a sport than a self-defence skill. But I stayed on because I liked how it paid attention to safety and helped me keep fit. I also had a group of friends who endured tough trainings with me; their friendship kept me going.

### What's your favourite part of the sport?

When we started out, our seniors could do many things that we couldn't. They could kick higher, and had way more stamina than us. And some of the stuff our instructor told us to do was quite depressing because we couldn't do it at first. But we would always train and cheer each other on, and when we finally performed our moves well we'd get the feeling of "achievement unlocked"! (laughs).

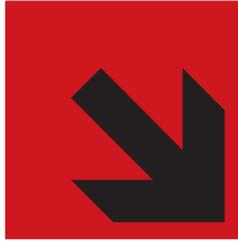
### What challenges did you face in balancing both sports and studies?

Time management. In Year 2, I was trying many new activities for fun and it really affected my studies. I also had to sacrifice time to plan events for the taekwondo team. It was hard at first as I couldn't find a good balance, so I quit a lot of other activities and focused on just studies and taekwondo. After all, as students, our most important task is taking care of our studies.

### My time in Taekwondo and SP has \_\_\_\_\_.

Made me more confident in myself and independent. I've become a stronger, more outspoken and sociable person.





# From Gamer to Model Student

**With eyes firmly gazed on the computer screen, he controlled the movement of XiaoShadow, a character from Maple Story, once-upon-a-time the most-played online game. Edward Ho hasn't changed much. Now he's still gazing at a computer screen, but with a different purpose, as SPIRIT finds out.**

At the UOB-Kay Hian Dealing Room in SP Business School, Edward Ho would be monitoring major world indices and foreign exchange rates in real time on a specially set-up computer screen and conduct trading with his course mates from the **Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF)**.

The 20-year-old would not have imagined himself doing this when he was a Normal (Academic) student at

Queensway Secondary School. Not only that, but he is now graduating with a near perfect GPA of 3.983 and sat on the Director's Honours Roll in 2012/2013. The good-looker was also one of the faces for SP's Open House publicity campaign this year.

In 2005, Edward received his PSLE results with a score of 184. That was the punishment for spending countless hours playing Maple Story and DOTA.



Things did not change for the better when he went to secondary school. He continued playing computer games, skipped school and mixed with bad company. He witnessed other youth smoking and fighting but fortunately, he only watched and never joined them.

The turnaround came in secondary three. A teacher cautioned Edward that spending an extra year in secondary school could mean a lot of difference in future. That made some sense to him and when he was posted to an N(A) class that offered A Maths for the first time, he saw it as a recognition that he could do well.

"During secondary four, my aim was to do well and join SP. I was among the top students in the N(A) cohort. I had a very good teacher, Mr Leong Wei Yuan, who kept motivating me. I would stay back for remedial classes and started mixing more with my classmates instead of friends outside," said Edward.

He worked hard, improved his grades in secondary four, and eventually joined SP with an aggregate of 10 points for his 'O' levels. Knowing he was strong in maths, he decided on a business course that dealt with numbers and Banking and Finance became his logical and top choice. "Actually I also wanted to know why bankers and stockbrokers can make so much money," he joked.

Edward scored consistently well throughout his three years here. "I joined SP with the mentality that it wasn't easy to get here, so I'd better not take things for granted. I'm not here to prove anything to anyone but myself," he shared.

His recipe for good results? "I do things in bite size and don't leave study for the last minute. It's also important to attend every lesson so I don't miss out anything," said Edward, who was awarded the UOB Kay Hian Scholarship for two consecutive years for his academic excellence.

At the presentation for his final-year project, his team impressed the judges so much that one of them, a senior banking executive from a renowned financial institution, offered to give them internship places right away. Elated he was with the offer but he had to turn it down because he had already accepted an internship with HSBC bank.

Outside of his curriculum, he was active in events organised by SP Business School such as the Accounting Challenge, and took part in competitions like the Stock Exchange and Financial Futures Game where his team took the second prize. For his all-rounded achievement, he received the Model Student Award this year.

Moving nearer to a banking or stockbroking career couldn't possibly be a joke now. With his excellent grades, Edward hopes to secure a banking scholarship to pursue his degree in university. He has received offers to read business at both Nanyang Technological University and National University of Singapore. Wherever he chooses to go, the going will only get better.



Edward went on a holiday to Taiwan after completing his internship.



# I Did It *My Way*

**We don't usually hear of students dropping out from an elite junior college to join SP. But Andre Neo did just that, with no regrets. SPIRIT finds out why.**

In 2011, Andre Neo made a decision that would break many a parent's heart. He decided to quit his studies

at Raffles Junior College after one month to join SP. The former Catholic High School student, who spectacularly

scored 9 A1s for his 'O' level exams, went into JC because he thought he would enjoy science subjects since he did well in them. But he lost interest pretty soon.

In all coolness, he told his parents. There were no frowns from them. Not

surprising because in the first place, they had wanted him to join a poly instead of a JC despite his outstanding 'O's results. "They thought that the poly route would be less stressful and would offer a more all-rounded education," reveals Andre. Father knows best because he himself is an SP engineering alumnus.

Andre chose the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** after a close friend talked to him about how money works and got him interested in the role of accountancy in every business. He reckoned that with accounting expertise, there are more pathways to explore, be it up the corporate ladder or starting his own business. "Accountancy is a very specialised field and it provides a very strong foundation for anyone if he wants to understand how a company operates," he explains.

It wasn't hard for Andre to integrate into his new environment. "The culture here is very different from JC. The curriculum is very focused, timings for classes are irregular and my course mates came from all over Singapore," says Andre who swears that he has made very good friends here.

Amassing 23 distinctions and 5 As, and graduating with a perfect GPA score of 4.0, Andre's solution to scoring well is simple: "When I study something new, I don't just absorb everything in my mind. I try to get an understanding of the subject instead of memorising it. In my free time, I will read up on what I've learnt in the past week and get a recap. This way, my mind is refreshed and the subject will stay longer in my head."

With initial success during his first year, he did feel a bit pressured to continue doing well. "But as I moved along, I realised I just needed to continue doing what I was doing. There was no pressure to keep up the grades. If it works, it works," he says philosophically.

And if you think students who get perfect GPAs don't have a life, Andre is ready to prove you wrong. He completed the National Youth Achievement Award journey and took the gold for his National Physical Fitness Award and also ran the StanChart Marathon. He also keeps up with gaming – his first game console was an Xbox in primary school, before he progressed to a PS3. Now, he enjoys a good gaming session on his PS4

every once in a while.

Andre, also a SP Scholar, was actively involved in the SP Business School Year Book, and became its Chief Editor during his second year. He also devoted his time to community service, volunteering his time with charities like Willing Hearts and Kampong Kapur Family Service Centre and giving free tuition in a church. He went overseas twice: Perth for an overseas learning programme and Batam for a leadership camp. For his internship, he joined Ernst and Young, one of the biggest auditing firms in the world. In March, he received the SP Model Student Award.

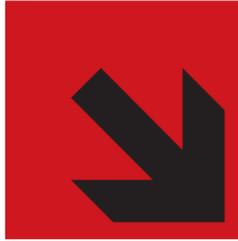
If you tend to believe that teachers favour only good students, Andre has this to say: "Our lecturers are very approachable. If you just show a certain level of maturity in your attitude, they will tend to treat you more as friends. Then the interaction becomes easier."

Even before he dons the graduation gown, Andre has already clinched the prestigious Nanyang Scholarship from the Nanyang Technological University where he will read accountancy after his national service.

The three years in SP have been for Andre what he wanted them to be. His parting advice for current students: "If this is what you really want to do, just believe in yourself that you can do it. Above all, pursue excellence, and the results will follow."



## Star Performer



# Farmer, Healer, *Engineer*

Inspired by inventions that help the less fortunate, Alexis Ku joined engineering at SP. But somewhere along the way, that motivation died out and she lost direction in her course. Three years on though, she's happily working as a farmer, healer and engineer. **SPiRiT** finds out how.

The point of working hard to get a diploma varies among youth. To some, it's a prerequisite to earning enough money to support a desired lifestyle. To others, it's about creating something new, beautiful and inspiring. For Alexis Ku, **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)** fresh graduate, the direction has almost always been clear: a diploma gives her the skills needed to touch the lives of people around her.

Currently, she is working two jobs, the first as a full-time employee at Comcrop, an aquaponics vegetable farm built on a rooftop. The second is a part-time position as a product designer at a company called Essential Works. At Comcrop, she uses her engineering knowledge to manage the farm's water systems. At Essential Works, a company specialising in medical products, she uses 3D computer modelling skills she learned in school to design new tools and equipment.

This combination gives Alexis the rare claim to the title, "Farmer, Healer and Engineer". All three are jobs which make sense to the gentle but serious young lady, who has always believed that "corny as it may sound, a life well-lived is one where you can make others smile and enjoy their day better."

Her direction in life was not always this clear, however.

During her days in Singapore Sports School, Alexis was initially considering the path of becoming a national table tennis player. It was reading a chance article online that changed the flow of her interests and life dramatically. "I remember reading about an invention called the Lifestraw," she shares. "It was a straw that could purify polluted water for drinking the moment that someone sucked through it. It deeply impressed upon me the power of human invention to help people." In spite of the initial pull her love for table tennis had on her, this, and other inventions for helping the needy, hooked her to the idea of creating technology. She subsequently joined SP, studied hard and received both the SP Engineering Scholarship and the Model Student Award.

In her second year however, that momentum and drive dipped drastically. "That year," Alexis shares, "there

were huge stacks of theory to study, and barely any hands-on projects. I couldn't see where it was all leading to, and my interest dropped suddenly." Though she never considered changing course, she did wonder if she had signed up for a future life without excitement or possibility.

Fortunately, she regained her momentum in her final year. During her internship at SIMTech (Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology), Alexis got fresh opportunities to design, experiment, and play around with



Alexis tending to crops at Comcrop, an aquaponics rooftop farm which she had a role in setting up together with other engineering students from SP Enactus.



During a school community service trip to Sri Lanka, Alexis (bottom right) helped provide computers and teach Microsoft software skills to the locals.

new working tools and prototypes. In experiencing this, she regained her sense of purpose. "Experiencing real-life projects helped me to see once again that my course really did have the power to impact others," she shares. "I also saw how the theory I'd learnt previously all came together to become useful."

For those with doubts about their chosen path, Alexis has this to say: "In some cases, it's good to make preparations for a change instead of staying somewhere that one might hate. But if you can, keep pushing on through that tough project or period; your feelings might simply be due to a lack of morale at that point!"

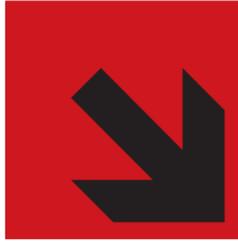
Besides engineering, Alexis also explored other ways to achieve her aim of helping others. One way was organising a community service trip to Sri Lanka, where she and her friends set up computers

for children there. She and her team even went the extra mile of getting Microsoft to sponsor 50 license keys for Microsoft Office for the kids! She was also an active committee member of SP Enactus, a student club that develops sustainable social enterprise ventures to support communities in third-world countries. Comcrop, mentioned earlier, was actually one of SP Enactus's projects. Though it was a private business not related to SP, the club worked together with it because of its environmentally friendly approach. SP Enactus's members, led by Alexis, helped in the design of the rooftop facility and even the business plan for the farm.

Don't take Alexis for a boring old

do-gooder though. In her spare time in school, she enjoyed skateboarding as part of the SP Skate club! She also joined fun events like the Red Bull Flugtag competition, where participants had to create makeshift airplanes and jump off a platform with them into the sea!

Now, as she works to provide clean vegetables and useful medical products to people, she is considering her university offers for engineering courses – among them Nanyang Technological University, Singapore University of Technology and Design, the University of Manchester, and Sheffield Hallam University. Whatever she chooses though, the direction remains the same. "The more people impacted, the more well-lived my life is. That's my goal =)"



# Full-time job *full-time* Student

The typical three-year SP journey is usually a busy one filled with course modules, projects, presentations and CCAs. Some others also take part in community service programmes and competitions. Is there still room to hold down a full-time job? Well, Jovan Tan tells **SPiRiT** that it is possible.



When Jovan Tan said that he had no life as a poly student, he really meant it, or at least half of it. Movies outings were rare and there was no free time to chill out. But the graduating student from the **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** was not complaining because, after all, he got compensated for not doing stuff that his course mates were doing (besides studying of course).

From year one, Jovan was already a full-time student and a full-time employee at Asus Global Pte Ltd, a leading computer brand. Prior to joining SP, he was already working part-time as he liked the feeling of earning his own money and being financially independent. He first started working at IT fairs for brands like Asus and with his innate gift of the gab, he often raked in the highest sales. Asus was impressed with his performance and offered him a full-time job as a channel representative after his 'O' levels, and it was a job he held right through his three years in SP.

"Since my first day in poly, I paid for everything by myself, including my laptop," says Jovan. His monthly

income as a channel representative at Asus comprised both basic salary and a commission, which added up to a four-figure sum.

From his part-time sales job, Jovan developed a deep interest in the sales and marketing aspect of a business. He was firm on taking up a business diploma course but alas, with an aggregate score of 15 points for his 'O' levels, he could not get into any business courses in SP. But he spotted an engineering course that contained the word "business" – so never mind – he told himself – it was still a partial business course anyway.

As a channel representative, he assisted in the sales and marketing for the brand which included functions like gathering staff and customer feedback and ensuring that promotions were properly executed. His working hours were flexible, which explained how he could still continue with his full-time studies. On weekends, he would clock in eight to 10 hours a day.

### SURE WIN WITH ATTITUDE AND PASSION

The Asus work culture embraces an open communication system where anyone can voice their ideas. Mr Alvin Huang, the Country Manager for Asus Singapore, interacted directly with Jovan and discovered his very positive attitude and deep passion.

"Any employee who possesses these two traits is valuable to the company. Jovan, even when he was just a sales staff, would share on what he saw was lacking in the company and give his suggestions. Even when I was away on business trips, he would call me on my mobile to give ideas," said Mr Huang, who hopes Jovan will continue with Asus after his national service.

He is grateful that SP is willing to accommodate and let Jovan work full-time. His trust in the young employee is shown from how he allows Jovan access to the company's budget and work plan which

Curious how he performed after six semesters? "I don't have an impressive Grade Point Average (GPA), just 3.15. But to me, this is already a perfect GPA. What is more important to me is the real working experience rather than just perfect scores," he rationalises.

As his course had modules in two distinct disciplines, the street-smart Jovan knew he would not score well for the engineering ones. He worked hard on the business modules and impressed his lecturers with his presentation skills. "My stronger modules would offset the weaker ones and that would give me a good average GPA," says Jovan. During his first semester in his final year, Asus was looking for a product manager. He negotiated with the company to let him fill the position as his internship posting which he needed to fulfil. Having proven his capabilities for two years, they accepted his proposal and made him the Assistant Product Manager and

he got involved with the commercial aspect of Asus business operations. He was involved in the full spectrum of product management - planning, marketing, business and partner development, supply chain, sales etc. Upon completing his internship, he continued to hold the position on a full-time basis and would do so until his national service.

He did not regret making these three years in his life revolve just around SP and Asus. "In SP, what I gained was business knowledge. The working experience at Asus translates the knowledge into reality for me. So in that sense, I get a full perspective of how a business is run, and not just through imagination," says Jovan.

Jovan plans to continue with his career after national service, garner enough work experience and then further his studies. Also in the pipeline is a plan to start his own business and he has already started laying the groundwork to incorporate two companies with two other SP fresh graduates.

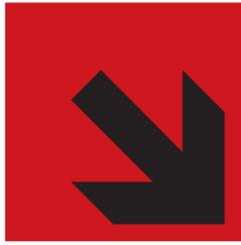
are confidential information. "He can show me what I sometimes can't see. Every industry will need someone like him," he added.

He feels that a valuable employee is one who, besides being knowledgeable in his area of speciality, such as research

and development, also understands other aspects of business such as human resource and finance. He should be able to digest financial reports, analyse cash flow and handle presentations. Jovan, he felt, had demonstrated talent beyond his area and could value-add to the company.



Jovan with his boss Mr Alvin Huang, Country Manager, Asus Global Pte Ltd.



# Engineering a Macaron Business

We hear many stories of bankers and lawyers ditching well-paid jobs to sweat away in the kitchens of their cafes and restaurants. All in the name of passion – for food, to be precise. Over here among the graduating cohort we have Tay Kuan Yu, who also prefers reading baking recipes than engineering or business books. **SPiRiT** speaks with the young aspiring baker who has started an online macaron business.

When he got his 'O' level results, Tay Kuan Yu realised that his choices of poly diploma courses were limited, as he had scored a D7 in English. His elder brother helped him to narrow down the options available before he nailed down **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** in SP as his first choice.

The decision had made an impact for the former North Vista Secondary School student. The course, which has business modules such as Principles of Marketing, Financial Management and New Venture Planning, gave him ideas to start a business of his own. Not only that, he also took a liking for

the engineering modules too. This May, he graduates with an impressive GPA of 3.905 out of 4 and has secured places with the local universities.

The decision to start his business came about after his internship where he realised that even if he gets a good job, it's still just a regular income, just like everyone else in the company. But if he runs his own business, he can at least try to make sure that his

business can grow and grow, and so will his income.

With his love for baking since his secondary school days, why not turn it into a business? Moreover, he has a relative who owns a café where he could use the ovens there. Rather than churning out cakes and cupcakes like every other bakery store, Kuan Yu decided to focus on macarons. His reasoning, something he refined

from his business modules, was that macaron is the most difficult pastry to make, which in turn meant there would be less competition.

"But to compete with the others, I have to offer the best. That is why I use only expensive ingredients such as almond powder and Hershey's chocolates," says Kuan Yu.

Jadore Macaron (meaning "I Love

Macaron" in French), an online macaron business, was born in July last year. He took orders on Facebook and Instagram. Today, his business is already turning in nice profits. "I've made close to \$10K in net profit so far. Most of the orders came from Facebook friends as well as my poly friends. The best sales came from my Valentine's Day promotion," he proudly declares. He could sometimes sell 200 macarons in a single day,



which would rake in about \$240 in revenue.

During SP Open House this year, he took up a store and sold his macarons for \$2 a piece. They were all sold out!

National service duties will knock him out of action for a while but he is determined to continue growing this business. "My dad and brother will help me oversee the business while I would work as much as possible on weekends," he says.

An average student in secondary school and now a successful poly grad going onto university: where did the motivation come from?

"When I joined SP, I told myself that if I'm not going to help myself, no one else will help me. I've learnt to be self-reliant. I've also made many good friends who helped me in my course. Luckily, I'm strong in maths so the engineering modules were not difficult for me, although I preferred the business ones more," says Kuan Yu, who has accepted Nanyang Technological University's offer to study business.

"I think there will be a lot of opportunities to showcase my macarons in university through their events. There are some people who want to fund my business after tasting my macarons but I'll take it one step at a time," he adds.

He has already made that one big step while in SP. Thanks Kuan Yu for living up to the statement, "With SP, it's So Possible!"

# Stunning Project



Good designs are the foundations for exquisite, more inspired new buildings, products, living spaces and even games in our lives. Their influence ranges from the advertising campaigns displayed at storefronts, to even the crafted chair at your desk. At Edition 14.8, the annual graduation show for design and architecture, SP's new graduates displayed concepts and ideas for things which would bring about better editions of life.

# EDITION *Better Editions* Of Life

Landscape re-design proposals of the Little India, Bugis and Rochor regions by DLA grads Cheong Ying and Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi. Their designs aim to create a landscape that connects these different areas together with a similar style, and which can maximise land usage while remaining attractive to visitors. Cheong Ying introduces new facilities such as specialised street vendor stall spaces that will complement existing buildings in the area. Indra uses connecting bridges and platforms between buildings to increase connectivity and give visitors a birds-eye view of the land.



Held at the National Design Centre and attended by professionals from architecture, advertising and design firms, the exhibition presented the best final-year projects of the graduating batch. These creations and concepts showcased the full set of skills, knowledge and creative approaches they had acquired in their three years at SP. **Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)** and **Landscape Architecture (DLA)** graduates unveiled a series of concepts for new iconic Singapore buildings and the re-designing of landscapes for areas like Bugis and Little India. **Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD)** grads exhibited a range of strategy, action-adventure and puzzle games. **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** grads revealed a series of company brand identity and brand promotion concepts and advertising campaigns for real companies. **Diploma in Interior Design (DID)** grads exhibited their explorations of ideas for subterranean living spaces, futuristic buildings, re-imaginings of hawker centre structures, and unique furniture made using materials such as Chinese calligraphy paper and rattan. **Diploma in Experience and Product Design (DXPD)** grads shared several of their strikingly unique products and engagement experiences crafted to improve, or



Fruit Play is DXPD grad Rachel Lau's inspired idea for promoting family bonding. It is an adorable and cute fruit preparation set that is safe enough for children to use to help prepare meals together with their parents. Each bird in the set is a usable cutting or fruit preparation tool.



From left: DARCH graduates Zachariah Quek, Olivia Teng, Lee Jie Loon and Aslam Bin Salim. They each created A Museum of Everyday Objects, a building that celebrates things uniquely Singaporean. Their designs comprise a series of intriguing room interior and building structure designs for a multi-storeyed museum.



From left: DGDD teammates Yong Lai Heng, Chan Yik Wai and Chua Kok Tung (teammates Chuah Wen Da and Aw Ming Xuan not in picture) with their turn-based strategy game, Toy Skirmish, which focuses on an all-out confrontation between two factions: soft cuddly toys, and hard wooden toys.



DVMD grad Serene Khor produced a "funked up" brand identity for a colourful tourist hostel, The InnCrowd Backpackers' Hostel. It contains a new website design, business cards, T-shirts and a book filled with quirky facts about Singapore life.



DID grads Teo Shu Xian (left) and Lim Jun Ze with their Thai culture-inspired chairs. Shu Xian's chair allows a person to sit in a traditional Thai posture. Jun Ze's three-seater rattan chair provides a space underneath for storage. Jun Ze and his course mates worked with international interior design firm Hirsch Bedner Associates for their internship.



DVMD grads Hadi Muhsin Bin Mohd and Nathan Chew developed a promotional campaign called Home of the Good Veg for organic produce farm, Bollywood Veggies. They also conceptualised a do-it-yourself organic vegetables growing kit to promote the farm's mission. The campaign includes advertisements, business cards and other items for branding.

promote life in the areas of family bonding, travel and tourism, and hawker food culture. For more info on their projects, do visit [www.edition.sg](http://www.edition.sg).

DGDD grad Chan Yik Wai, who received an Integrated Infocomm Scholarship from the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore during his studies in SP, hopes to become a game developer after he completes his degree programme at Digipen. When asked about his best takeaway from the course, he said: "In my course, you have to work as a team. You can't be a game artist and a programmer at the same time, and your ideas can often benefit from the input, support or even disagreement of others. I became a little more humbled when I realised that you can't do everything alone, and that you need help from other people. I'm glad that I'm graduating with like-minded friends and teammates whom I've learned to be more open with, and willing to learn from over these past three years."

# Making Apps, Movies, Music...



(Clockwise, from top left) Esta Chew, Serene Teo, Pietrek Chan and Pan Zai'En performed electrifying renditions of their own pop rock, mandopop and dance music during the DMAT performance night.

... games and programmes: This has been the life of students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) for the past three years. Whether it's filming a war movie, animating fantasy characters to life, or aiming to make the next Angry Birds, Flappy Bird, or big-time app, all of them have been sharpening their skills, and chasing their dreams. This year, at Render 2014, DMIT's annual graduation exhibition, they showed off the most innovative and riveting creations they had to offer.

All works displayed were the students' final-year projects, which allowed them to exhibit the very best of what they had learned in their three years at DMIT. Students from the **Diploma in Digital Animation (DDA)** and **Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** displayed heartfelt 2D and 3D animated stories, as well as a variety of thrilling sci-fi, war, and horror short films. **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)**, **Diploma in**

**Business Information Technology (DBIT)** and **Diploma in Digital Media (DDM)** students showed off a range of social media, business, and utility apps and programmes, some of which were created in collaboration with real clients or companies. **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** students created a host of anti-hacking and website and operating system protection software. Last but not least, sound engineers and musicians from

the **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)** put on show-stopping performances, singing and rapping to the lyrics of their own original music in a special concert played to a full-house audience.

All their eye-opening concepts, ideas and performances were viewed by industry professionals looking to hire skilled fresh graduates. DDM graduate Jess Tan received one job



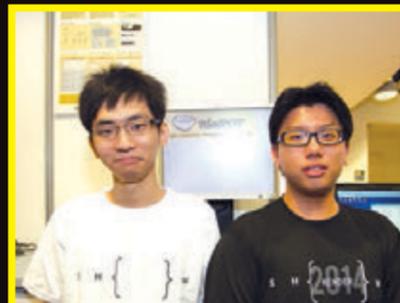
*A Thousand Cranes* by DDA students (clockwise, from top left) Jazreel Cheo, Lin Jia Xian, Mark Tan and Clare Tan is a touching 2D animation that tells the story of a Singaporean girl and a Japanese boy who become friends during the World War Two period.



*Buddy* by DVEMG students (from left) Muhd Nurhidayat Bin Mohd Noor, Aliff Aqid Bin Sazali, Seh Pei Yi and Haikal Bin Mohd Ali (teammate Melanie Lin not in photo) is a film about war, friendship and family. Its combat scenes were shot deep in the jungles near MacRitchie Reservoir, and air battle scenes were created using visual effects magic.



*DOT.DOT* by DBIT students (from left) Liu Jiang Hao, Ang Hui Min and Lim Sin Ee (teammates Loh Hui Min and Eng Zhao Wei not in photo) is a mobile app developed in collaboration with the National Population And Talent Division. It is an interactive dictionary of Singaporean terms and slang filled with special features to help long-term visitors and permanent residents integrate into the country.



*RicePOT* by DISM students Dixon Soo (left) and Ong Guan Wei (teammates Wong Jun Xiang and Joleen Chan not in photo) is a programme that can track and analyse attacks by hackers on Content Management Systems such as WordPress and MediaWiki (which powers Wikipedia). It was created in collaboration with AppFence, a web application security company.



*Chavades* by DDM students (from left) Jess Tan, Goh Tian Ning and Sean Wee (team mate Liu Zheng Qi not in photo) is a social media app with a big twist: it allows you to play charades online with your friends using short video clips and gameplay features. And if you ever get bored of that, you can still stalk your friends a la Facebook style.

interview opportunity with IT company HCL Technologies right at the event itself, interview invitations from ASUS and Nike after the exhibition, and a job offer from TradeGecko for the role of user interface or user experience designer. "I was extremely thrilled at the fact that these companies approached me," said Jess. "And it made me feel a real sense of achievement as they are big companies, while I'm just a fresh graduate... I believe my course's curriculum taught me a solid combination of skills that have made me confident to contribute significantly to any company I might join, and while leaving my amazing lecturers and friends is a bittersweet affair, graduating signifies a new beginning in



*Super Bunny* was born from a special collaboration between DMIT students from different courses. It is both an animated story about a courageous young bunny out to save his girlfriend from an evil villain by DDA students (photo above, from left) Lydia Lim, Enrica Ong, Desmond Lim, and Johnsen Hartono Teja Sukardi; and a game by DIT (Game Development Option) students (photo below, from left) Cheung Wai Tung, Wong Zheng Yang, Muhd Nur Randy Bin Kamsani and Marcus Ho who borrowed character designs and story elements from the DDA team. Music from the game was provided by DMAT students.

life, and I'm excited about what the future has in store!"

These imaginative, resourceful new graduates will soon break into the digital media and infocomm world. To view some of their eye-opening creations displayed at Render 2014, or for more info on their work, go to [www.render.sg](http://www.render.sg).



# Special Project



If you've ever spent an entire day exploring ancient castles in the world of *Skyrim*, or conquered every level in the *Halo* series, you, my friend, are most likely an avid gamer (who is in need of a little exercise and sunlight, just saying ☺). At SP, fantastic new game worlds develop even as we speak. **SPiRiT** reviews three digital games developed by fresh graduates from the **Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD)** and the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) (Game Development Option)**.



## New World Creation

Wander through immense, untamed forests in *The Adventures of Slingshot*.

### The Adventures of Slingshot (TAoS)

This 3D action-adventure game is the brainchild of five DGDD fresh grads. TAoS has a daredevil, goggles-sporting kangaroo as its hero. Named Slingshot, this furry adventurer defies death, leaping off branches and treetops high above the forest floor, hooking onto enemies in the environment with a magical string and charging towards them with a rocketing uppercut.

TAoS's eight main character models, five huge levels, fighting mechanics and animations were completed in a mere eight months by the team. The core fighting mechanic, where Slingshot fires his magic string hook at enemies and slingshots towards them, is dynamic, kinetic, and fun. The idea of hooking onto enemies in sequence and dashing from one to the next makes you feel like you're blink-teleporting across the battle at high

speed, like anime characters from *Naruto* or *Bleach*.

More importantly however, is the way the team has created a signature feel in the game: as you navigate the dense, branching paths at the treetop canopy, you will quickly get absorbed into this beautifully forested landscape that feels mysterious, deep, and infinite.

Ryan Johnson, the team's lead game designer, says, "We focused on creating a fast-paced action game that blends movement and action into one, and has a cinematic flow to it. We also wanted to see how immersive we could make the forest setting." Lead artist Jasmin Tan says, "The part I love about working on TAoS is that we all came together. All five of us added our own special thing into the game, be it through programming or animation... Making TAoS was like building an airplane from a hundred

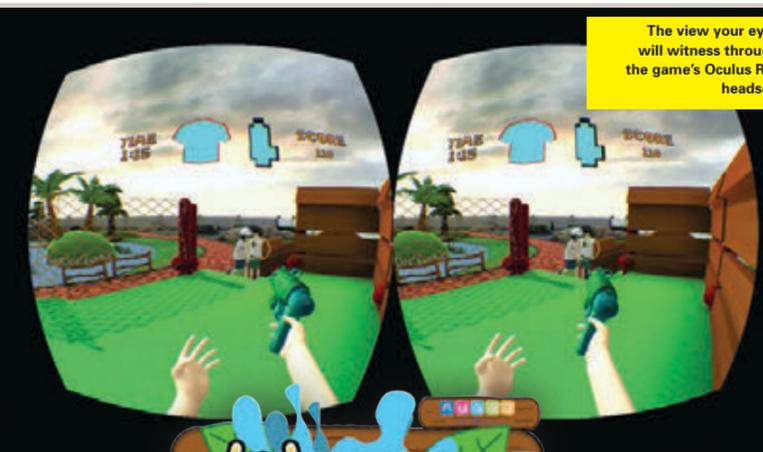


From left: teammates Haziq Hamsyari Bin Khairullah, Ryan Johnson, Mohd Shahiran Bin Samsol, Jasmin Tan and James Chew.

different parts and wondering if it would take off. And it did."

Ryan and Jasmin, whose favourite games include *Assassin's Creed* and *Ratchet and Clank*, joined DGDD out of passion for the medium. "Why gaming? It's fun," says Jasmin. "Really really fun. And you get to see how people react to the stuff you've created." Ryan says, "As a kid, when you play games you get blown away and immersed into a new world. I wanted to create experiences that would transport people to different worlds and make them feel like they're in a different time and place." Now that they've graduated, they hope to further their studies at DigiPen Institute of Technology Singapore in game design and fine art, respectively.

**DGDD teaches you the whole spectrum of skills needed to make a game. In Year 3 of the course, you will choose one of three specialisations: game art, game design or game programming.**



The view your eyes will witness through the game's Oculus Rift headset.



### Funan Water Arena (FWA)

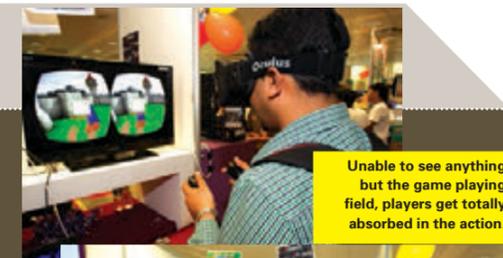
Virtual Reality Gaming (VR). Few people have had the chance to see it, but at SP, an entire game has already been made using it. FWA was created by DIT recent graduates who took the Game Development Option. It is a first-person shooter that makes use of the Oculus Rift (a VR gaming headset) and Razer Hydra motion-sensing game controllers. This final-year project was done in collaboration with Funan The

IT Mall, which was looking for a family-friendly exhibit to entertain shoppers and show off new technology. Thus, FWA takes the theme of a water gun battle between

kids in a park. Your hands control your movement and the aim of your gun, and with the headset, simply turning your head allows you to look around inside the game.

The gameplay is completely absorbing. Unable to see anything but the game world because of the headset, you'll immediately be hooked into the action of FWA, feeling like you're actually inside the park itself. You'll get carried away outmanoeuvring your opponents, firing off shots while scrambling for power-ups such as a water shotgun or rifle.

The game's creators were certainly satisfied with their creation. Says level designer Edgar Wong, "The entire



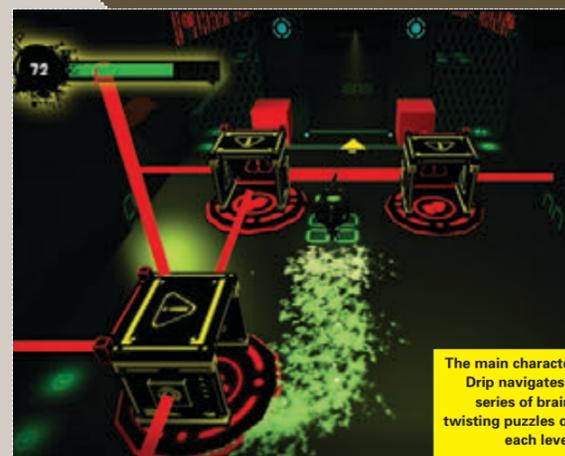
Unable to see anything but the game playing field, players get totally absorbed in the action.



From left: teammates Edgar Wong, Chee Zhong Xian, Leslie Lau, Wayne Koo and Lim Ta Eu.

project felt like we were in our own mini-game company. It was really incredible working together, and I think the result that came out looks awesome." Team programmer Lim Ta Eu agrees: "I like games as well as programming a lot; it was very satisfying to watch FWA come to life, and to see people enjoying it."

**The Game Development Option in SP's DIT teaches you the fundamentals for creating an entire game, with a heavier focus on the technical and game programming aspects of the development process.**



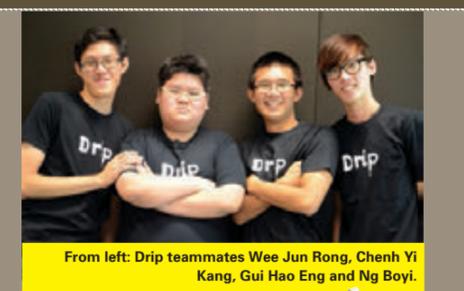
The main character Drip navigates a series of brain-twisting puzzles on each level.

### Drip

Puzzle-adventure game *Drip* can immediately be labelled a success because it satisfies the one true requirement of any good brain-twister:

the ability to make you severely ticked off by its cryptic, challenging, complex and convoluted puzzles.

This game is developed by a four-student team from DGDD. It follows the journey of Drip, a creature constructed in a lab who has entered a mysterious labyrinth to rescue his friend, Brick. In order to progress through the maze, Drip must use movable objects, environmental tools and his own wits to get past laser walls, stacked crates and other obstacles. *Drip* also has a unique ability to secrete oil from his body, which he uses to overcome additional challenges. Says game programmer Gui Hao Eng: "Progress was slow at first, but we finally came up with puzzles that were hard enough for a mid-to-hardcore



From left: Drip teammates Wee Jun Rong, Chenh Yi Kang, Gui Hao Eng and Ng Boyi.

player to enjoy. We hope our game challenges players to think more and stretch their imagination."

This cute, challenging puzzler was also a finalist in the *Viopie Game Development World Championship 2013*, which gets entries from hundreds of teams around the world yearly.



# Shooting Precision



National shooter Abel Lim holding his SEA Games 2013 Bronze medal (50m Prone Men event) next to his coach, Mr Gu Yong Qin (left in main photo).

**Don't push Abel Lim around. If you ever find yourself in his crosshairs, you'll get sniped down faster than you can breathe a prayer. This national sportsman is a deft hand with a rifle, a dedicated perfectionist, and the winner of a bronze medal in shooting at the 2013 SEA Games. **SPiRiT** speaks (respectfully) to this national shooter and Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (**DARE**) alumnus:**

an external party or even an activity that you did the day before. Having said that though, let me quote Jimmy Connors, an American tennis player: "The more I train, the luckier I get."

**SP has recently set up the SP Shooting Club. If you could give one piece of advice to your junior budding athletes, what would it be?**

Train hard and train right.

**Earlier you quoted Jimmy Connors. Is there any professional sportsperson that you admire most?**

I actually admire this fellow shooter from China. His name is Zhu Qinan, and he started out at 17 or 18. The thing about him is he's disgustingly, amazingly consistent – he keeps winning competition after competition. It's amazing because shooting is such a mental sport. Personally, I think that once you win a big competition or make a major achievement, your thinking will be affected and it will be difficult to continue being consistent. In 2012, I actually set the new national record for 50m Prone Men (rifle), and after that I received a lot of praise and stuff so my mindset was affected, and it was very difficult for me to get back on the right track.

**Did it affect your performance?**

When I broke the national record, it was a lot higher than what I usually shot... and for a few months after that, my standard dropped below my usual pre-record average. Basically, it took several months and a lot of hard work to get back into form. And I needed not just quantity training, but quality training. Shooting is very repetitive, but if you want to do well, repetitive training is what you must avoid. You have to put in all your heart and effort, and observe your routine and how you can improve it. Quality training involves you constantly looking at what you can do better.

**How was it like being a national sportsman and a student in SP at the same time?**

The school awarded me the SP Sports Scholarship during my three years in SP and the SP Sports Award – Honours, three years in a row, and I was definitely honoured by that. It was very encouraging to have been recognised and to top that off, be awarded a sum of money that went a long way to furthering myself in shooting. SP was definitely very supportive of my endeavour to pursue excellence in shooting, granting me days off to participate in competitions as well.

**How about schooling life, Abel? Did you enjoy your course?**

Definitely! I've always wanted to be able to understand how things around us work and why certain things are the way they are. Having taken up an engineering diploma has definitely answered a lot of my questions and given me the ability to better understand the world around me.

Also, in DARE, it's all about aero engineering, so there were actually some things I could apply to shooting as well. In flight there's air pressure, and in shooting there's also air (the air that interferes between the gun and the target). During one of my lectures, I was struck by the thought: "Wow, all this is super relevant to my shooting!" Shooting is very practical, and engineering is too. When I studied in SP about basic materials, I started thinking of the materials in guns, and this helped me accept whatever I learned in engineering, better.

*Abel is currently in national service, and has been accepted into Nanyang Technological University to study a degree in Aerospace Engineering.*

# Gun slinger



**Could you share more about what got you into shooting, and what's kept you going year after year?**

I think it's almost every boy's dream to be a gun-wielding hero. So when I was younger, I took up the sport thinking it was just really cool. But once I entered shooting, something else caught hold of me. It was the pursuit of perfection in the sport that made me really passionate about it. I started shooting in 2006 as a CCA in my secondary school, and subsequently moved on to the national youth team, the Asian Youth Games training squad and the national training team, in that order.

Shooting is not simply about picking up a gun, pulling the trigger and hoping to hit a target. It is a sport that requires great discipline, concentration and a high level of self-control. In a big competition where the stakes are high and the pressure is on, a world-class shooter must be able to stick to his routine, practised form and training.

**What were your expectations heading into your first SEA Games?**

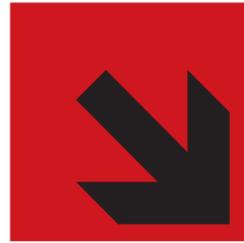
I was highly confident in getting the gold. I had trained hard and proven myself a few months before at the Thailand Open Shooting Championships, where I won a gold by quite a large margin. Though I couldn't do so this year, I will be working hard to do well in future games. I am currently training for the Commonwealth Games in Scotland this year.

**Representing the country in the Olympics seems to be the highest accomplishment for most athletes. Is this event on your radar as well?**

I hope to be able to take part in the Olympics in 2020 but for shooting, it's something that requires a great deal of "luck". Sports shooting is something that requires a lot of mental control and a good understanding of your body. Any one of these two variables can change overnight due to a comment made by



Abel with his trusty Anschutz .22 rim fire small bore rifle.



Natalie with popular local celebrity Pierre Png.

# I Met Pierre Png!

Natalie Wong from the **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)** was one of eight students from her course picked to be Entertainment Journalists for MediaCorp's Celebrate TV50 event. Their articles were published on blogs and school platforms at MediaCorp's request. Here are two short excerpts from her account of the star-studded night and some journalistic advice from **SPIRIT**.

## Yay, Pierre Png!

I met Pierre Png at a mosh pit inside the event, and immediately wanted to take photos with him. I called him, but he did not reply so I actually tapped on his arms! Oh my gosh! I must be crazy! I did it lightly though. He was most gentlemanly and kind. I asked if I could take a photo with him, and he said, "Sure."

I wanted to take a selfie, but then I realised I was using a long lens, so I had to ask a crew member nearby to help us take a photo. He just smiled while I was in a blur. I came back to him and he held my shoulder for the photo.

But I guess "good shots don't come by easily". My camera was taking very long to focus. I was so nervous that I did not even fix my camera properly before passing it to the crew member and I just waited for her to figure it out by herself. I only went forward to fix it when Pierre suggested that I do so. "I think you'd better go fix it," he told me.

He waited for me! As I tried to fix my camera, I walked into an area that was out-of-bounds and the crew member and a few others immediately blocked me. It was quite embarrassing, but I was just

feeling too lost in my head, star-struck.

Pierre warmly held my shoulder again for the photo! He was so friendly. He would smile so I did not feel too intimidated. I told him that I was a student of my lecturer, Ms Stella Wee. He was really honest and told me he did not know who that was, but when I said she was a writer of *Phua Chu Kang*, he remembered! "What a coincidence!" he said. And that's all I remembered. I have no recollection of how that conversation ended, except that he was really nice!



PHOTO CREDIT: NATALIE WONG.

The energetic superstar Wang Lee Hom captivated the audience. Says Natalie, "I spammed different shot sizes and angles, taking about 800 photos within his one-hour performance. He was so close to me at some points, but I did not turn into a screaming fan girl. I just got possessed by the photographer in me when I held on to the camera."

**SPIRIT**: Always get your equipment ready. The best camera moments are usually unexpected and they don't wait for your camera to be ready.

PHOTO CREDIT: RISHIKANTHAN S/O VIJAYAKUMAR (DTVM).



MediaCorp celebrities (from left) Tracy Lee, Sora Ma, Yuan Shuai and Jerry Yeo.

## THEY TALKED TO ME!

My first interview that night was with Channel 8 celebrity Yuan Shuai. I felt a little shaken from the excitement of talking with him. But soon after he left, I knew I wanted to try again. After all, if I wanted interviews, why not let it be now? Here's my compilation of the precious quotes from the celebrities I talked to that night:

**XIANG YUN**: "Because of new media, there are a lot more choices available now. However, MediaCorp still works really hard on its TV shows, so I hope that audiences will continue to support local shows".

**YUAN SHUAI**: "For 2013, my wish is for my debut movie, *re:solve*, to do well at the box office."

**GURMIT SINGH**: "I'm still nervous (with hosting the show) even after 19 years in show business. It's a big crowd, a big event. Hopefully everything goes smoothly."

**TERENCE CAO**: "My role in *The Journey: A Voyage* was more cunning compared to my other works. I hope to get more refreshing roles in the future."

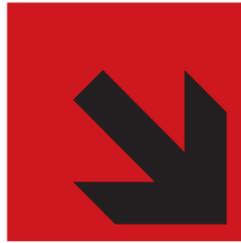
**SPIRIT**: At big events with many celebrities present at the same time, journalists have very little time for in-depth interviews. Prepare your most pressing questions in advance and shoot them at your subjects the moment you catch them. To read more about the event, visit [www.sp.edu.sg/schools/cass](http://www.sp.edu.sg/schools/cass).

## RED CARPET GRADUATION

Like a night out at the Oscars, the **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) Awards 2014** (DTVM Awards 2014, in short) ceremony was marked by glamorously dressed people and celebrations of exceptional creative works. The graduating batch of DTVM students put on their most elegant evening gowns, dresses and suits to enjoy the end of three great years together, as well as honour the best TV concepts, documentaries, new media projects and stories written and produced by their cohort. Graduate Colin Huang walked away a big winner that night, receiving four awards (Best E-Portfolio; Best Documentary, *Love Lane*; Best TV Concept, *The Girl Who Grants Wishes*; Best TV News, *Preservation Look and Feel*). "I've had a great time in DTVM, met friends who influenced the way I tell stories, and had lecturers who taught me not just how to be a better storyteller but also how to find the best direction for me to head down in life," says Colin. "I wish my classmates all the best, be it in national service, university or their careers. Have fun in life guys!" Says fellow grad Mahirah Law to incoming DTVM students, "Keep an open mind, be prepared to be pleasantly surprised by the course, your friends and even yourself =)"



DTVM fresh grads Colin Huang and Mahirah Law at the DTVM Awards 2014 night.



# Daring Business (ad) Ventures

Sweet, creamy gelato in 25 mouth-watering flavours, and jewelled charms and bracelets gleaming under the sunlight – these were some crowd favourites at the SP Entrepreneurship Bazaar 2014, where both SP and secondary school students showed off their new business ventures.

The bazaar showcased businesses of both secondary students and SP fresh graduates (still students at the time of the event) who were taught entrepreneurship by the SP Business School (SB). SP's **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** and **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** fresh grads learned through the Entrepreneurship Option available in their courses, which teaches skills and knowledge for running a business. Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) and Outram Secondary participants at the bazaar are taking the 'O' level subject, "Introduction to Enterprise Development" taught by SB lecturers.

Together, they made up 40 different ventures selling items such as fashion accessories, clothes, food and household goods. Funding for their products and other start-up costs came from the students themselves. By pooling their own money together, each group risked at least \$400 of personal savings to create their own fully-running business. However, because they provided funding themselves, all profits earned were theirs to keep as well! Here are some of the many eye-catching stores seen at the bazaar:



Seen in photo are Monday Blues co-owners (from left) Roy Tan (DBA), Zack Ong (DBIT) and Ho Xueqi (DBA). Teammate Chua Wei Liang (DBIT) is not in picture.

Gelato business **MONDAY BLUES** brought 25 flavours of frozen treats to the bazaar. Customers passing by their store enjoyed rum and raisin, salted caramel and mandarin orange gelatos. What those dessert lovers may not have recognised so quickly though were the months of marketing, branding, supplier-sourcing and account-keeping behind their business. The Entrepreneurship Option taught the students every aspect of managing and starting a company.

Said DBA fresh graduate Roy Tan, "Watching all our plans for Monday Blues coming to life was ultimately a very fulfilling experience. The name cards, stickers and even the designs were all created by us, so it's like our baby." Fellow course graduate Ho Xueqi said, "Personally, I've learnt a lot of life skills through this, such as how to work well with others in a team. I've also learned technical skills such as logistics planning and marketing to a targeted audience. These lessons will help me wherever I go in future." Monday Blues was also one of three businesses selected to receive \$2,000 in funding from the SB Student Entrepreneurs Scholarship. The business made back its initial \$2,500 investment in its first two months of operation.



The minds behind this social entrepreneurship venture are (from left): Luo Haonan (DBIT), Ng Wei En and Teo Ying Ying (both from DBA).

**CRAFTI** is a handcraft business owned by three SP fresh grads with a social enterprise spin. They sold accessories hand-made by Thai villagers. During an overseas community service trip, the trio went to Thailand to teach the villagers how to use their traditional weaving arts to create modern items like pencil cases or laptop sleeves for extra income. However, they soon realised this idea could be taken even further. They made arrangements with the villagers, who agreed to supply them with weaved accessories for a business. Crafti co-owner and DBA fresh grad Teo Ying Ying said, "Through Crafti, we're able to help the villagers find international channels to sell their goods." Besides weaved accessories, Crafti also sells other fashion items, with 20 per cent of their proceeds going to the Red Cross.



Nostalgia sells. **BITESIZE** is a venture that hooks you in with local childhood munchies such as fancy gems and *xiao man tou* (mini buns).

Team members are (from left) Cyrus Foong and Anthony Tan (both from DBIT). Teammates Angeline Ong and Lin Jiayan from DBA are not in picture.



Fairfield Methodist (left photo) and Outram Secondary students set up several cute and eye-catching food and accessory businesses. In the photos are: (Fairfield; from left) Glenn Wong, Dylan Tan, Dorothy Yip and Alethea Quek; (Outram; from left) Quek Jon Kit, Ng Jia Wen, Ashwini D/O Muruganandam and Sheila Lim.

Regarding his entrepreneurship studies, Fairfield student Dylan Tan said: "It's a whole new subject that's quite different from what we learn in school, so I find it quite interesting. We learn things like planning of our company products and how those products will meet the needs of potential customers."

**CRAFTI** is a handcraft business owned by three SP fresh grads with a social enterprise spin. They sold accessories hand-made by Thai villagers. During an overseas community service trip, the trio went to Thailand to teach the villagers how to use their traditional weaving arts to create modern items like pencil cases or laptop sleeves for extra

**PurheARTs** sells costume jewellery targeted at teens with a quirky sense of humour and colourful style. Some of their proceeds also go to local needy handcraft makers.



From left: teammates Jason Soh (DBIT) and Wong Wei Foong (DBA). Team members Candy Chan (DBIT) and Hussain Farid (DBA) not in photo.

## FUNDING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

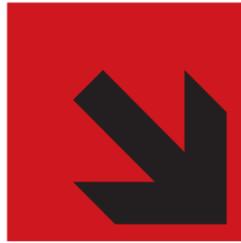
To support student-run businesses, the SP Business School (SB) Entrepreneurship Seed Fund awards deserving students yearly with the Student Entrepreneurs Scholarship to help them with start-up costs. The scholarship is open to **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** and **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** students taking the Entrepreneurship

Option. Three groups received the scholarship, each worth \$2,000, based on the strengths of their venture proposals. Their generous sponsor was Mr Michael Then of Then Marketing. The receiving groups are: Angmore Café [team



From left: Mr Michael Then; scholarship winners and Angmore Café owners Lim Si Ying (DBA), Tan Hui Juan (DBIT), Doralynn Lim (DBIT), Rita Pandey (DBIT); and Director of SP Business School Mr Reginald Wee.

members: (DBA) Lim Si Ying; (DBIT) Tan Hui Juan, Doralynn Lim, Rita Pandey], Monday Blues [(DBA) Roy Tan and Ho Xueqi; (DBIT) Zack Ong and Chua Weiliang], and The Bag Factory [(DBA) Wong Yon Ling, Goh Yun Tian, Alison Cheong; (DBIT) Koh En Jia].



So Professional

# This Is About You

DIPLOMA IN  
**Media and  
Communication**

Creating stories  
that connect



From left to right: Clarice Sim (lecturer in charge of the research and who guided the students), Bella Tan Jiale and Jovy Sim who also presented the findings to the media.

The top three aspirations of Singaporean youth today are financial stability, strong family relationships and work-life balance. Agree? Well, this was the finding in a survey conducted by over 100 students from the **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)**. Altogether, 825 face-to-face interviews were conducted with participants aged between 15 and 35 years old over a three-week period last year. **SPiRiT** gives you the details of the survey.

### Key Findings

Almost all the youth surveyed expressed financial stability, strong family relationships and work-life balance as their top three aspirations. They also believe that determination, passion and self-discipline are the most important qualities that can help to realise their dreams. This runs contrary to popular beliefs that Singaporean teenagers are only concerned with material wealth.

At the top of their concerns, in the same survey, were happiness, peace of mind and friendship. They also hope to see Singapore - in five years' time - as an affordable place to live in, a society that defines success beyond academic and material achievements and a society that places emphasis on work-life balance.

The survey findings interestingly revealed

two distinct groups: one firmly rooted in Singapore and the other keen to pursue their dreams overseas. A total of 61.5 per cent of those surveyed have considered looking beyond Singapore, or have actually done so to achieve their aspirations. This group tends to be more individualistic and have a greater desire for freedom to make choices, as compared to youth who see their

aspirations in Singapore. For those who are rooted in Singapore, they have a greater aspiration to get married and start a family here.

Reflecting on the findings, Sophia Tan, a final-year DMC student who was a member of the survey team, said: "This survey was such a real learning experience and it revealed so much about the hearts and minds of us, the Singapore youth. It makes sense really. Young people today do not see themselves bound by geography. The world is a global village and we have opportunities out there for education, leisure and work."

Fellow team member and DMC student Fiona Lai added: "Overseas exposure is part and parcel of school for us, so it's no surprise that many of our peers see opportunities all over the world. I'm looking forward to representing Singapore and SP in an ASEAN-Korea programme, and my other course-mates will go to Australia on a study trip later this year."

A key difference stood out between the two groups. Those who locate their aspirations here tend to be more family-oriented and prefer traditional media over social media and the internet. Those whose aspirations lay overseas tend to value the freedom to make their own decisions and to pursue a passion not directly related to their job or studies. This group is also more internet and social media-savvy and goes online for about five hours and 30 minutes daily.

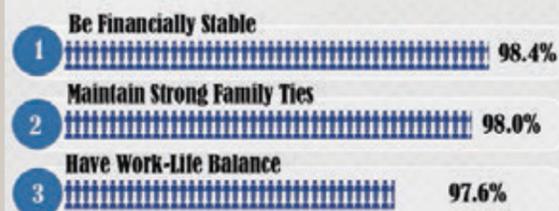
This annual media presentation of youth habits and behaviours was broadly reported by key local and foreign media like Channel NewsAsia, The Straits Times, Lianhe Zaobao and CNBC. For the DMC team involved in this project, here's another authentic learning experience that they can proudly include in their resumes when they search for jobs in the media industry.



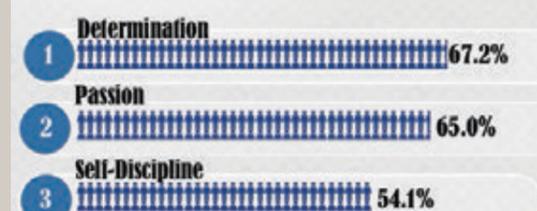
**61.5% of Singapore Youth have considered looking beyond Singapore to achieve their aspirations.**

This number reflects that the majority of youth have a global outlook.

### TOP 3 ASPIRATIONS



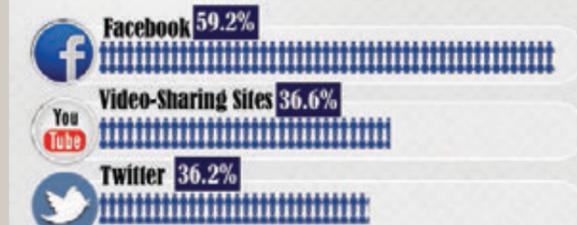
### TOP 3 QUALITIES



### TOP 3 CONCERNS



### TOP 3 SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS 2013



So Playful

# Healthy Clubbing!

Human pyramid builders (and cheerleaders), SP Gusto!



Want to become extremely pretty (or ugly)? Join the Makeup Artiste Club and take your pick.



Yin-Yang Ultimate Heavenly Kick is one of many moves you will learn in SP Sanda Wushu.



Strictly Dance Zone is SP's go-to club for hip hop, modern dance and breakdance.



Girl plants boy on floor – a classic move among partners in SP Judo.



Do SP Dragonboat guys win trophies with their muscles, or get muscles from lifting all their trophies?



Enjoy eloquent and stirring music with the SP Chinese Orchestra.

When you come to SP, you have over 120 CCA clubs to choose from. Want to climb a mountain, sail the seas, study five different martial arts or pepper your friend with paintballs? Just think of it, and you'd probably have seen it at this year's CCA Carnival! **SPIRIT** brings you some of the highlights.

For more information and updates on SP's CCA Clubs, visit [life.sp.edu.sg](http://life.sp.edu.sg).



Girls in SP Mixed Martial Arts pack a whole new level of punch.

So Promising

# 60 Years of Excellence!

This year, Singapore's first poly celebrates 60 years of education in excellence. Since 1954, SP has groomed more than 178,000 youths who have since charted their own successful career paths. Whether it's the lecturers that left in them an indelible mark, or just the cheap yet delicious meals at the food courts, every SP student and graduate has a story to tell. You can share your SP memory at [myspmemories.sp.edu.sg](http://myspmemories.sp.edu.sg). And of course we will have an eventful 60th year. Check out these events!

### Poly 60 Run

From Poly 50 to Poly 60. The iconic race called the Poly 50 will now involve 60 rounds around the campus. Want to sweat it out? Sign up for the Student (12 people per team), Alumni (12 people), and Staff (15 people) categories today at [life.sp.edu.sg](http://life.sp.edu.sg) or look out for an email that will be sent to all students and staff.

**Event Date:** 30 July 2014, 2pm to 7pm;  
**Venue:** T11 Square

### Go Serve Day

Meet SP students who'll share about their life-changing community service encounters with the less fortunate. Go Serve Day celebrates the efforts of students who've gone overseas to help build water tanks and classrooms in Nepal, done infrastructure works and educational programmes in ASEAN countries, supported physically and mentally disabled communities in China and helped local communities in Singapore. View exhibits, listen to first-hand accounts of engaging other cultures, and get inspired to go out and serve others!

**Event Date:** 6 August 2014, 3pm to 6pm;  
**Venue:** Auditorium

### Heritage Trail 2014

Do you know who was SP's first-ever Principal? Where have SP campuses been set up in the past? And who even coined the name Singapore Polytechnic in the first place? Join the Heritage Trail 2014 to revisit our past campus sites and delve into interesting facts about our heritage. Participants will also get a goodie bag with a T-Shirt and a sample of the new SPlash perfume produced for the school's 60th anniversary! Sign up at [myspmemories.sp.edu.sg/sp60-heritage-trail-2014](http://myspmemories.sp.edu.sg/sp60-heritage-trail-2014). Deadline is 4 July 2014.

**Event Date:** 2 August 2014, 8am to 2pm  
**Venue:** Participants can start the tour at different locations. Visit the link to learn more.

### SP Memory Portal

If you want insider details on some of your favourite lecturers' lives, or are just hooked on collecting trivia such as who SP's first student to read Dentistry at the National University of Singapore was, visit the newly launched SP Memory Portal at [myspmemories.sp.edu.sg](http://myspmemories.sp.edu.sg), which houses a wide spread of stories telling the rich history of SP. You can also view photo albums ranging from group shots taken in the 1980s to last year's Escapade Gig party!

which houses a wide spread of stories telling the rich history of SP. You can also view photo albums ranging from group shots taken in the 1980s to last year's Escapade Gig party!

### Treats from McDonald's

Last but not least, did you know the first poly to have a McDonald's outlet is SP? That was way back in 1993. The No. 1 fast food outlet is giving you two special treats for SP's anniversary. Simply cut out the coupons below and redeem them at the SP outlet.



EXCLUSIVE at McDonald's® Singapore Polytechnic Outlet

**Now \$5.00**  
U.P. \$6.85  
**Double McSpicy™ with regular Coke**

TERMS & CONDITIONS  
1. Valid till 15 August 2014  
2. Only at McDonald's® Singapore Polytechnic after breakfast hours  
3. Only one redemption per coupon, while stocks last  
4. Not available for McDelivery® and other offers

i'm lovin' it

EXCLUSIVE at McDonald's® Singapore Polytechnic Outlet

**1 for 1 on Vanilla Cone every Tuesday**

TERMS & CONDITIONS  
1. Valid till 15 August 2014  
2. Only at McDonald's® Singapore Polytechnic after breakfast hours  
3. Only one redemption per coupon, while stocks last  
4. Not available for McDelivery® and other offers

i'm lovin' it

# Superior Position



Close to 140 students were admitted into SP this year under the Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) exercise. They start their journey two months earlier in a specially tailored Polytechnic Preparatory Programme (PPP). **SPiRiT** finds out from some of them why they chose to take this admission route.

**Guo Huiping, Coral Secondary School**  
**Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)**



**What made you choose DPA?**

I felt I already knew what I wanted to do so I thought why not apply through DPA instead of waiting for the 'O' levels to be over and competing with the rest? I was also told that in Year 3, we can actually study one module less because of our modules completed during PPP. The programme gives us a good head start.

**Why DVMD, Huiping?**

In secondary school, I was really interested in art. My seniors in Coral Secondary went to art-related courses in poly, so I got to know what they were studying and how interesting it was. I thought I could further my studies here in SP and pursue my passion for art.

**And why SP?**

My brother graduated from SP from the Diploma in Architecture (DARCH), and he told me a lot of nice things about the school. I also have friends here in SP, and I just feel that the people here are very welcoming in general! I feel comfortable here =)



**Tu Li Chuan, Queenstown Secondary School**  
**Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)**

**Hi Li Chuan, why'd you apply for DPA?**

I was from the Normal Academic stream. During secondary five, I felt that the 'O' levels were difficult for me as I struggled with some subjects like English. DPA could guarantee a place in SP for me. This helped me build confidence to work harder for my 'O's.

**What got you interested in DASE?**

Since young, I've had a strong passion

for flying and aircraft. I would watch National Geographic shows about aircraft malfunctions and accidents, and the causes behind them. My elder brother also collected a lot of airplane models, which further fuelled my passion for them. Also, I visited SP before and the environment seemed really conducive to me in terms of studies. SP also has a good reputation for its engineering courses.

**What do you hope to do in future?**

An aircraft engineer working on maintaining planes and understanding the electronic systems within them. I think I would enjoy working in Changi Airport, haha. Passengers may not always know the huge amount of work behind every plane taking off, but if you're an engineer, you're the one who ensures that they stay safe during their travels.

**Shammaine Chong, Holy Innocents' High School**  
**Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)**



**What encouraged you to choose DPA?**

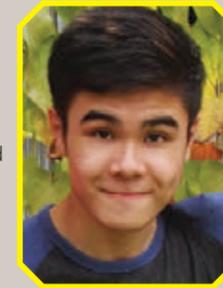
For me, it's because I felt more secure knowing that I have a confirmed place in SP. You never really know what score you'll get for your 'O's, so this helped me to be at peace when I took my exams, haha!

**Why SP of all polys?**

First, it's pretty near my house. And I've heard a lot of people talk about how the lecturers here are quite friendly.

**And why DBA, Shammaine?**

I chose business because it's more generalised. It's not niche or over-specialised, so when I graduate I can branch out and consider many different career options. I also like it because business has a strong component of language, which I enjoy. I'll probably aim to do something more related to public



relations or marketing in my future career.

**Rumchawanwong Lee Jiasheng, Evergreen Secondary School**  
**Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)**

**Hey Charles. Can you share what you knew about SP before coming here?**

It's the first poly in Singapore! I like the facilities, food, friends and the teachers here who are very nice. My brother studied here too and he encouraged me to trust my decision and not worry too much.

**Why did you join DMAT?**

I have a passion for music, and SP is the only poly offering a course like this, so I thought I might as well join under DPA to get a place earlier. When I graduate, I hope to be a sound engineer or music producer for a big company such as MediaCorp.



**Hareshh s/o Gunasegaran, Yuan Ching Secondary School**  
**Diploma in Maritime Business (DMB)**

**What was the DPA programme like for you?**

It was very good, very engaging. Through DPA, I managed to make many friends from different courses and I think this will help me in my three years here. It also gave me extra time to think about the future. I'm interested to get a degree in maritime law, and before even starting my course officially, I could talk to seniors and lecturers to learn more about what is ahead in the future for me.

**And why DMB?**

My dad told me many stories about maritime life, and he said maritime professionals often get to explore the

world. I wanted the chance to travel after hearing this, and it became my dream to be a naval officer and take on maritime law. Eventually, this course was the only thing on my mind after 'O' levels.

**Chong Wen Xuan, Canberra Secondary School**  
**Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM)**



**Why DPA, Wen Xuan?**

I really wanted to secure a spot in SP, and to me starting school earlier through DPA was better than wasting time relaxing after 'O' levels. My teacher also encouraged me to try for DPA admission because my results were good.

**What drew you to DTRM?**

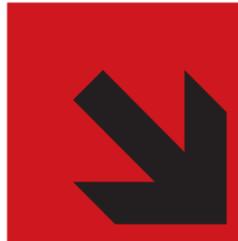
My brother graduated from this course three years ago, and I could see he really liked how interesting and different it was from other courses. Also, I personally love to travel, so I believe this course will be both fun and challenging to me. When I graduate, I hope to follow in my brother's footsteps to work in the tourism industry.

## ABOUT DPA

The Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) exercise allows 'O' level students who have the interest and aptitude to join a polytechnic to apply and secure a place before sitting for the 'O' levels. They will join a poly ahead of others in February and go through a Polytechnic Preparatory Programme (PPP).

It is open to all final-year secondary school students in Express and N(A). Eligible students will be selected based on their abilities, talents and interests related to the course they are applying for. They must prove their passion for their course at an interview session where they can share their personal works or achievements related to the course, if any. Academic results are also considered and you must still meet the minimum entry requirements of your course for your 'O' levels.

For more information, visit [www.sp.edu.sg/dpa](http://www.sp.edu.sg/dpa).



# Student Perceptions

All around SP campus, you see banners shouting "SP is 60"! Yes, the first poly in Singapore is celebrating its 60th birthday this year. For all you students out there, we wonder if you ever picture yourself when you are 60 years old? In conjunction with SP's grand birthday, we are going on flights of fancy to imagine what the world will be like in the future, with scenarios (both whacky and serious) contributed by you, about what the world will look like when you turn 60. Will there be flying vehicles zooming to and fro between floating megalopolises, or will the world simply become just a kinder and safer place instead? Let's start "looking" at the future right now! (By **SPRIT** writer Tse Man Ka.)

# When I'm 60, The World Will Be...



"I see bricks, no green; screens, no paper; water, no land. I will also probably start talking to myself, since everyone interacts with gadgets more than they do with humans. It definitely sounds crazy now, but I'm sure this will be the norm in the future. So, in other words, craziness will be the new normal."

– Maryanne Lee, Year 3,  
Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology (DADP).



"(Looking awfully serious...) The world will have many beautiful green/zero-energy buildings which can sustain our resources. Scientists may find a way to cure cancer. (Non-serious answer) THERE MIGHT BE ZOMBIE ATTACK 😱"

– Lee Xue Ting, recent graduate,  
Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM).



"The world will hopefully be filled with much peace and love. In Singapore, citizens will all be well-connected to each other and living in contentment and harmony."

– Sharmila Khan, recent graduate,  
Diploma in Accountancy (DAC).



"Society will be more generous and productive as a whole, making everyone happy instead of seeing only Presidents smiling on dollar bills. I'd also love to see more people coming forth to help and care for the needy and disadvantaged. Hopefully, by then cancer, AIDS, and all sorts of illnesses can be cured."

– Lavinn Balan, recent graduate,  
Diploma in Maritime Business (DMB).



"When I turn 60, I hope that things will be more affordable; places will also be connected and easily accessible! Since technology will be really advanced, I hope for things that I want to be just a mouse click away! And also for train tracks to run above expressways, or some underground transport running through an aquarium, I think that's really cool!"



Turning 60, I hope people will learn to be thankful, and not ask for more than what they need. Technology-wise, it will probably be... simply mind-blowing. Everyone will know and understand how to use any gadget provided. At 60, I'll also probably be enjoying my life away and having a happy family. Life shouldn't be so stressful by then; laws and policies, as well as healthcare for the old should be reviewed more and programmes should be specially catered to us since most will be bilingual and in touch with the news. Being better educated at 60 doesn't mean that we should work longer. Work-life balance has to be good by then because family time now is slowly being taken away by an expanding workload. I will definitely want my children to spend quality time with me! Finally, even when I'm 60, I hope that the young will always have a heart to learn and the old will have a heart which is young!"

– Low Ee Tuck, Year 3,  
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE).



"When I am 60, I think the world will be a technologically advanced place where people have robots around them. Children own levitating skateboards, buildings and transportation are powered by environmentally-friendly methods, cures for terminal disease are common, and people no longer look aged. Probably by that time, my current mobile phone will also be up for auction as an antique! At the same time, I hope the technology that we have invented will not be abused in our future world. It will be a sad day when strangers no longer strike up random conversations on trains and stations, and the only common pastime that people have revolves around the devices in their hands. After all, technology is meant to improve relationships, not engineer social rifts."

– Alika Koh, Year 2,  
Diploma in Clean Energy (DCEG).



"By the time I reach 60, I hope the word "GPA" will not exist in tertiary education. Then people will not be stressed out by the fact that they are unable to obtain a GPA high enough to get into the universities or jobs they desire, so they can really study to gain knowledge instead of just good grades. When I'm 60 the standard of living in Singapore will be much higher as compared to now. Also, unless you are the cream of the crop, it will be harder to climb high in society and lead a comfortable life. Grades and degrees will be of even more importance by then, but even if you possess a degree it would also mean less when the whole street is filled with degree holders."

– Brendon Lim, Year 3,  
Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE).



After reading all of the above, what is YOUR take on the world when you are 60 years old?

## POSTER GIRL

Final-year **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** student Chen Fang entered the SCANTEAK Poster Design Competition, and beat entries from all other local arts and design schools to win the \$1,000 top prize!

Describing herself as a "passionate design student studying in SP", Chen Fang joined the competition together with course mates Joy Oh and Koh Wan Xin (who also made it to the top 12 finalists). The competition called for creative family-oriented posters that would appeal to mid to high income earners for display in SCANTEAK's furniture showrooms.

"For me, I think home is the most beautiful and warm place," Chen Fang said. "The beautifully designed and lasting SCANTEAK furniture makes people feel at home, and not just them, but perhaps animals too. My concept was built on combining the furniture with animal houses. The teak furniture is so warm and comfortable that they can feel naturally at home there and even believe it's their house. Through this, I was actually emphasising the beauty of SCANTEAK furniture and creating a feeling of natural and beautiful life."

She also shared about her DVMD course: "I'm really enjoying my course and playing around with design software like Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. I enjoy working on hands-on projects a lot, such as creating 3D models or sculptures." Chen Fang also spends time on projects in Wednesday Shockwave Cannon (WSC), an SP



student-run design agency. "At WSC, we work on projects with real clients. To me, these are very authentic experiences that give me more confidence in my designs."

## BANKING ON UOB KAY HIAN



Toh Xi En received her scholarship from Mr Esmond Choo, Senior Executive Director, UOB Kay Hian.

A partnership between SP and regional broking and corporate finance services firm UOB Kay Hian Holdings allowed 15 **Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF)** students to receive the UOB Kay Hian Scholarship. This bond-free, year-long award worth \$2,000 provides opportunities for students to work on projects, attend investment talks and take on internships with UOB Kay Hian. SP is the exclusive recipient of this scholarship. Another area of collaboration between SP and UOB Kay Hian is the UOB Kay Hian-SP Dealing Centre, a training facility which provides real-time market rates, news and price charts to simulate a realistic financial trading environment for students. The 15 recipients are:

**Year 2:** Emilie Low, Isabel Lum, Mark Koh, Rebekah Tay, Toh Xi En; **Year 3:** Queenie Chia, Alain Chen, Jermaine Natalie Lok, Lee Shao Xuan, Lim Jun Yong, Su Myat Thazin, Wu Yu Chen; **Recent graduates:** Aloysius Lee, Edward Ho, Hon Chee Yen.

## SCHOLARSHIP WITH POWER



Pioneer recipients of the Singapore Power Nithiah Nandan Polytechnic Scholarship.

SP students and graduates clinched seven out of the 13 Singapore Power Nithiah Nandan Polytechnic Engineering Scholarships. They are (from left in photo): Ng Kim Yi (third-year, **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**); Ahamad Fareed Bin Noorul Ameen (fresh graduate, DEEE); Kwek Jia Chen (third-year, Diploma in Clean Energy); Alvin Koh Kai Kiat (fresh graduate, DEEE); and Goh Wei Qi (second-year, Diploma in Clean Energy). Not in photo are: Javier Ong (fresh graduate, Diploma in Clean Energy) and Lek Ju Ying, who will take up the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering after his national service.

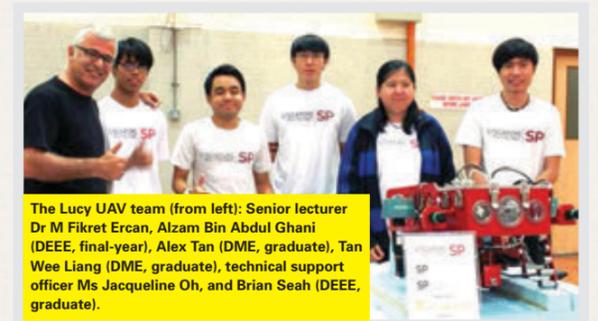
These scholars can look forward to Singapore Power's support in their continuing pursuit of higher qualifications from diploma to degree. Each scholarship is valued at \$24,000, and the recipients will pursue a career with Singapore Power upon their completion of studies, under a two-year bond.

The scholarship was named after the late Mr Nithiah Nandan, a former unionist who had contributed much to Singapore's power sector.

## BUSINESS IN MINNESOTA

A 10-day fully sponsored trip to Minnesota, USA, was the reward for four **Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID)** students who performed well in their project-based school modules. Their project, a study on the needs and problems faced by caregivers for the elderly, was conducted for INNO4, a real-life client and information technology firm which funded the trip.

While in Minnesota, they attended a conference organised by the prestigious Mayo Clinic which gathered some of the best and brightest in the healthcare industry. The students not only learnt about key healthcare trends, but were also invited to present the findings from their research project. Said final-year DBID student Samuel Lim, "Usually my mind would be occupied with games and studies, but this conference really opened my eyes to world issues like healthcare. One thing that really caught my attention was the novel idea of using comics, which everyone loves, to convey important information about health." In their spare time, the students also explored the city of Rochester to take in the sights of this mid-western city in the USA. These four students belong to the pioneer batch of DBID students in SP.



The Lucy UAV team (from left): Senior lecturer Dr M Fikret Ercan, Alzam Bin Abdul Ghani (DEEE, final-year), Alex Tan (DME, graduate), Tan Wee Liang (DME, graduate), technical support officer Ms Jacqueline Oh, and Brian Seah (DEEE, graduate).

## COME MEET LUCY

Come to school, clear some homework, build an underwater, auto-navigating robot with underwater sound and depth detection systems: all in a day's work for fresh graduates and students from the **Diplomas in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** and **Mechanical Engineering (DME)**. At the Singapore Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Challenge 2014, they earned second place and \$2,000 cash, beating several university robot-building teams from countries such as India, Turkey and Russia.

Their creation, born from a combination of mechanical and electrical engineering prowess, is the Lucy AUV, a robot with underwater sound, depth, and camera sensors that allow it to make sense of its environment and navigate simple paths and obstacles. Its operating system programming allows it to make use of sensory info received to independently determine an effective course of action. As the only polytechnic entry in the competition, Lucy AUV is definitely one of the proud front-runners among SP's many award-winning engineering innovations.



From left: DBID students Leong Su Shan, Yi Lu, Tan Zhi Rong and Samuel Lim.

# CONQUERING SPACE



From left: Recent graduates Ridhwan Lye, Salanne Lee, Satyakala D/O Raj Kapoor and Lim Yu Jie.

Four **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** recent graduates won second place and \$1,000 cash at the Singapore Space Challenge (SSC) 2013. The SSC is a nation-wide design competition that challenges students to develop proposals for realistic space-related projects.

Their team, OsteoBLAST, dealt with the challenge of osteoporosis, a disease characterised by decreased bone mass and density leading to increased risk of fracture. On earth, the human body is affected by stress caused by gravitational forces, which causes it to react by strengthening the bone structure within it. However, with reduced gravity in space, this reactive process wanes, leaving cosmonauts with osteoporosis-like symptoms. Using knowledge of human physiology gained in their courses, the team created two novel proposals. The first was the invention of a suit with micro-vibration plates that would encourage bone formation. The second was a synthesised drug that would stimulate the body to make use of vitamins A, D and K, which aid in the restructuring of bone matter. The two ideas won the team second place not just because of their creativity, but also because of their potential to create long-term benefits for the healthcare industry in the eyes of the judges.

# HACKLING PRIZES FOR GREEN IDEAS

Students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) clinched a trio of prizes at the Clean & Green Hackathon. The two-day National Environment Agency (NEA) event challenged participants to create the best information technology solutions for problems in areas like recycling, public cleanliness and air quality. Our students' entries made up three of the seven winning teams. They are:

**Bin Cleaner:** This team won the runner-up prize and \$500 cash in the NEA Clean & Green Hackathon for developing an app that allows users to notify cleaning agencies when trash bins are filled, through the use of electronic tags on the bins which can receive signals from phones. Team members: Ong De Xing, Hee Ming Shan, Goh Puay Hiang, Moh Moh San, Gabriel Chuan and Samuel Seah, all from the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)**.

**Re-Use-Cycle:** This team topped the OneMap Challenge category and won \$500 cash for developing a mobile app that facilitates the exchange of electronic items by making use of geo-location technology to match people with suitable items for exchange.



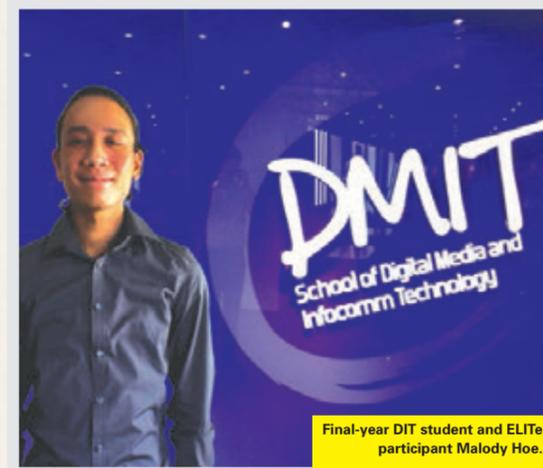
From left: Team Bin Cleaner members and DMIT students Goh Puay Hiang, Gabriel Chuan, Moh Moh San, Samuel Seah, Hee Ming Shan and Ong De Xing.

SP student Winson Ee (**Diploma in Business Information Technology - DBIT**) partnered other Hackathon participants.

**EcoNiko:** This team won the consolation prize in the StarHub Challenge category, and a grant of up

to \$5,000 in seed money to develop a new app. Their entry was a web-based system that encourages residents to recycle food waste with a recycling machine that can weigh the amount of waste placed inside it and reward points to the recyclers to recognise

their efforts. Team members: Wong Kin Hou (DBIT) and Puah Zheng Yi (DBIT), together with four other Hackathon participants.



Final-year DIT student and ELITE participant Malody Hoe.

# INFOCOMM ELITES

Twelve students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) have been selected for the Enhanced Learning in Information Technology (ELITE) programme, a talent development initiative of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore. Besides providing opportunities for industry attachments with leading companies such as Fujitsu, IBM, M1 and Standard Chartered, this prestigious programme also gives its participants a one-time laptop allowance, funding support for course and exam fees for technical courses and certifications, and overseas exchange programme allowances as well. The 12 DMIT students are:

**Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT):** Tabitha Tan, Ashley Chua, Ng Yao Wei

**Diploma in Financial Informatics (DFI):** Nurul Hidayah Johana Bte Johari, Amanda Chong

**Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM):** Daniel Tan, Koh Zheng Wei, Edwin Liauw

**Diploma in Information Technology (DIT):** Eugene Foo, Malody Hoe

**Diploma in Interactive Media (DIXM):** Wayne Ong

**Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT):** Wong Wai Huin



PSRP 2014 Best Project team members: DEWT fresh graduates (from left) Ainul Mardhiyyah Bte Anwar, Siow Wei Xuan, Huo Meixi and Kevin Kum with their supervising lecturer Dr Handojo Djati Utomo (third from left).

# BEST POLY RESEARCH PROJECT

Under the guidance of lecturer Dr Handojo Djati Utomo, a team of graduating students from the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)** won the Best Project Award at the annual Polytechnic Student Research Programme. The event serves as a platform to fuel the passion for research and development in an interdisciplinary environment amongst poly students. Selected students will carry out their final-year projects at universities and research institutes in the hopes that the programme will encourage them to pursue a career in R&D.

The project by the SP team entailed using chitosan, which is obtained from the hard outer skeleton of shellfish such as crabs and shrimps, to remove arsenic in ground water. After being pre-treated chemically the chitosan (in the form of beads) will be effective especially in third world countries where cost can be an issue in treating raw water.

# WINNING IDEAS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



(From right) Khu Giem Teck and Terence Lam with Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth.

**Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** students Khu Giem Teck, Terence Lam, Loh Fuxing, Koh Xiao Wei and Tan Kuo Chye took home \$1,000 and a trophy for winning the Merit Award in the Green Wave Environmental Care Competition organised by Sembawang Shipyard

to promote awareness on the conservation and protection of our environment. Their project titled Simple Idea Simple Flyer focused on reducing the use of paper to distribute flyers as excessive use of paper flyers directly impacts the environment. Instead of paper, users can consider using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology in flyer distribution to engage their targeted audience and yet spread their messages with speed. Such interactive flyers can also be connected with social media platforms such as Facebook to create more hype.

A second team of students comprising Sandy Loh, Koh Yong Xiang, Bee Zhi Chye and Ananthan Sivakumar from the **Diploma in Environmental Management and**

**Water Technology (DEWT)** took the Commendation Prize of \$500 and a trophy for their project, Filter Brighten up Lives - Vietter. Their idea was to use Vietter, a cheap and yet simple water treatment method, to improve the condition of drinking water in a Vietnamese village.



Sandy Loh and Bee Zhi Chye from the project team, Filter Brighten up Lives - Vietter.

# SP CARE REFRESHED!

The SP Centre for Applications in Rehabilitation Engineering (SP CARE) is a technology centre dedicated to researching healthcare solutions. Recently, it handed over a new set of completed rehabilitation and assistive technologies to healthcare institutions to help injured and disabled patients. This year, 11 different projects created by SP students and staff were received by organisations such as the Singapore National Eye Centre and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, who collaborate with SP CARE to explore new possibilities in healthcare.

One such project, the Motivational Companion (MoCo), is a therapeutic robot dog that can respond to a person's movements and voice with its own movements and barking. It is made to be a source of fun and interaction for the elderly in nursing homes that don't allow real pets inside. MoCo aims to provide psychological and emotional engagement to them to help alleviate potential problems of depression and dementia partly caused by lack of interaction with others.

After 20 years, SP CARE has been recently revamped and renamed New SP Care. It will now be a one-stop centre that will also develop innovative solutions in the areas of health and nutrition, optometry and vision science, diagnostic and medical devices, besides assistive and rehabilitative technologies.



Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering fresh graduates Park So Yeon (left in photo) and Naw Thablay Thaw Ray were part of the team that made the Motivational Companion (MoCo).

Final-year students Natalie Yeong and Lam Kwang Yang from the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** completed a three-month overseas internship at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI), Royal Children's Hospital, Australia. They helped run regular immunology experiments to test the effectiveness of various vaccines, as well as their effects on young infants. They also studied immune cell patterns in people with allergies. One of their supervisors, Dr Paul Licciardi, Senior Research Officer of the Pneumococcal Research Group, said: "We were very impressed with Natalie and Kwang Yang during their time at MCRI. We found that they were enthusiastic and diligent, possessed excellent laboratory skills and fitted in to the lab culture extremely well. We would be more than happy to accept future students from the biotechnology diploma at SP."

Here's a tip from Natalie for her juniors going on research attachments: "During my internship, I learnt that organisation and time management are very important skills, as some experiments are very time-sensitive and can have compromised results if left unmanaged for even a minute too long. These skills also help when multiple experiments have to be run at the same time. For instance, you can make other preparations while some experiment samples incubate for a few hours."

# IMMUNOLOGY INTERNSHIP



From left: Natalie Yeong, MCRI supervisors Dr Edwin Hoe and Dr Paul Licciardi, and Lam Kwang Yang.

# SKY-HIGH COLLABORATIONS



Final-year DARE students (from left) Choo Juan Qing, Ng Li Ting, Jarred Yeo and Glenn Chua posing with a Bombardier aircraft at the Singapore Airshow 2014.

Bombardier Aerospace, the world's third largest commercial aircraft manufacturer, inked its first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a local educational institution. The five-year partnership with SP, formalised at the recent Singapore Airshow 2014, will advance real-world training of SP students in aeronautical engineering. This will help realise their potential and enable them to be well-placed in the growing aerospace industry.

Several new and exciting programmes will be developed to give a holistic training and development experience for both organisations. The student attachment programme, for example, will take on a fresh spin where final-year students from the **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** and **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** will embark on an 18-week industrial project internship at Bombardier Aerospace's new, full-fledged business aircraft service facility located at Seletar Airport. The students will work on a spectrum of projects related to aircraft research and design, maintenance and VIP interior design of business aircraft.

The MoU is timely as the worldwide aerospace market is projected to experience speedy growth over the next two decades with 24,000 deliveries valued at US\$650 billion.

SP is the first polytechnic to launch aeronautical-related diploma courses, with the DARE and DASE courses launched in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

The School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering has also inked an MoU with Singapore JAMCO which is in the business of manufacturing

# INTO THE BLUE SKIES

and maintenance of narrow-bodied aircraft cabin equipment, and airport operations services. Both parties will, among other collaborations, co-operate on final-year projects relevant to JAMCO. DARE students will also be placed on semester-long attachments to JAMCO whose worldwide network spans as far away as Europe and the Americas.



Winson Ng (left) and Jarred Yeo are the first batch of DARE students taking the 30-week flight training programme conducted by the SYFC.

will jointly develop and conduct a Flight Training Programme with the curriculum of the diploma course. This means DARE students can attain a Private Pilot License (PPL) within six months compared to spending about one-and-a-half years if they take it on a part-time basis.

The 30-week training will be conducted at Seletar Airbase where SYFC is based. "I've always had this ambition to become a pilot and this programme is the perfect opportunity for me to truly experience how to fly a plane," said Jarred Yeo, a final-year DARE student.

Alexander Tan, a final-year DARE student who has attained his PPL, commented that this programme is certainly beneficial as it is more intensive and condensed. "What I like most when I took the programme was that we had a group of like-minded people in the group and that made the learning interesting as we all shared the same passion," said Alexander.



Final-year DARE students (from left) Samuel Do, Alexander Tan and Aloysius Darren Wee have attained their Private Pilot License from the SYFC on a part-time basis.

The School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC) to provide more opportunities for **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** students to undergo flight training. Under this MoU, both parties

# GOOD FIGHT!

After a bountiful harvest at the POL-ITE Games where plenty of gold, silver and bronze medals were reaped, SP teams continued with their sporting excellence at the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic Games (IVP).

On the battlefield at Jalan Besar Stadium, SP Soccer boys fought hard against a combined team from the ITEs at the IVP soccer finals, which is also known as the S R Nathan Challenge Trophy. It was in 2005 that the SP team last got a place in the finals. Led by team captain Illyas Lee (**Diploma in Aerospace Electronics - DASE**) the boys put up a very commendable fight but eventually lost by one goal to the reigning champion.

The guys from the Table Tennis and Volleyball teams also scored the silver medals at the IVP Games. The Table Tennis team, which won a gold at the POL-ITE Games, came in second after a gruelling match with the Nanyang Technological University team. The Volleyball team succumbed to second position after a hard fight with the team from the Singapore Institute of Management.

The SP athletes ran for their lives to snatch four medals in Track and Field. Awyong Liang Qi (**DASE**) took the gold in the 110 Hurdles (Men), followed closely by compatriot Ryan Kalmani Bin Sukir (**Diploma in Maritime Business - DMB**) who came in second. Lynette Tung (**Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness - DNHW**) and Chew Jee Keng (**Specialist Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness**) took the bronze for the 3,000m (Women) and 5,000m (Men) respectively.



SP Soccer Team



SP Volleyball (Men)



SP Table Tennis Team (Men)



Clockwise from above: Awyong Liang Qi, Ryan Kalmani, Chew Jee Keng and Lynette Tung.

PHOTOS BY ALAN LEE (DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT).



Burning calories and building friendships in the name of charity.

# WHITE WALKERS

More than 400 students from SP Business School (SB) took part in the inaugural Friendship Run 2014, a community event organised by SB students to raise funds for charity. Through a combination of ticket sales and donations from corporate sponsors, \$10,000 was raised and given to the Straits Times Pocket Money Fund! In total, our students, all dressed in white, ran (or walked) five kilometres, spanning the SP campus to Ghim Moh Park Connector and back.

# WORLD ARCHITECTURE JOURNEY

Standing before the world's great pillars, structures and forests is one of the most fun ways to learn. Students and recent graduates from the **Diplomas in Landscape Architecture (DLA)** and **Architecture (DARCH)** would certainly agree. Fourteen of them from DLA went to Melbourne, Australia for six days, while 30 from DARCH visited various cities in Italy for 15 days. Both trips aimed to inculcate a global mind set in students and expose them to a wider range of cultures and architectural approaches.

The DLA trip to Australia brought the graduates to Melbourne and Burnley Universities, where they toured gorgeous campus facilities and attended seminars on issues such as design for more liveable and culturally-flourishing cities. They also visited the countryside and the city centre, observing and admiring landmark locations such as the



From left: DLA recent grads Nadia Tan, Benjamin Soh and Indra Faridzuan near the city centre of Melbourne, Australia.



From left: Chong Li Xian, Jessica Xie, Esther Lee and Juthaporn Foo at the Castello Sforzesco castle in Milan, Italy.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Cape Patton, and the Twelve Apostles limestone rock formation.

The DARCH trip let the group experience first-hand great cities like Milan, Venice, Rome and Florence. Some of the great architecture that the students visited included the Duomo di Milano Cathedral, the Colosseum, the Pantheon and Piazza di San Marco. The main purpose of the trip was to take part in a competition organised by Politecnico di Milano, the largest technical university in Italy. Together with students from Japan and Italy, they competed to create the best design for a cultural and community hub promoting science and culture, on the pre-existing site of former shipyards in Coloane Village in Macau, China.

# AWARD WINNING DESIGN

**Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** alumnus Darius Ou (Class of 2013) won a silver award at the Crowbar Awards 2013, an international competition for emerging young creatives. His entry, under the Corporate Identity category, is a re-branding project based on the corporate identity of Qian Hu Corporation Ltd, an ornamental fish service provider that exports to over 80 countries, founded by Kenny Yap, also an SP alumnus. The photos here show the logo and some of the collaterals he designed. Qian Hu gave him permission to base his work on its company profile (writer's note: This is a non-commissioned project that is based on, but is not used by, Qian Hu).

The Crowbar isn't Darius's only creative victory. He also received an award at the ADC Switzerland (Art Directors Club) Awards 2014 as well as several features and reviews in online sites (check out Darius's own website, [dhesign.sg](http://dhesign.sg)). When asked

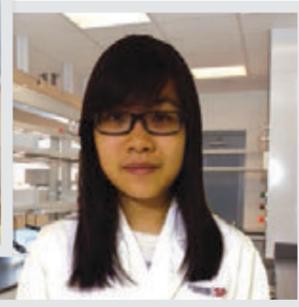


what his greatest challenge while in SP was, Darius said: "In SP, a lot of work is done outside of school hours. So a lot of times, we need plenty of motivation to start doing work and keep to our schedules. This requires discipline and good time management.

"How I dealt with it is the same as how I deal with all my other difficulties outside school: staying true to oneself and knowing what you want to achieve. When you know what you want clearly (and why it is important to you), you will know what you need to do. Also, it's always good to have a role model to strive towards, or better, a mentor to guide you."



Alumni from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences (from left) Fong Weijie, Ho Keen Hoe and Adeline Wong.



# FIRST IN PHARMACY

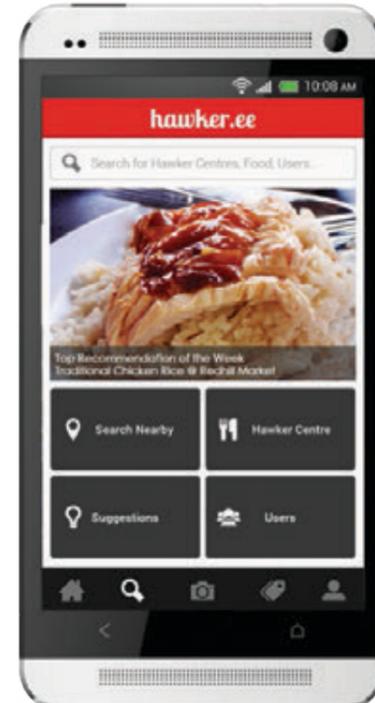
**Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science (DACP)** alumnus Fong Weijie (Class of 2013) is the first graduate from the course accepted to read Pharmacy at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He joins a long list of School of Chemical and Life Sciences (CLS) graduates who have gone on to

pursue science degree programmes in NUS, including medicine and dentistry.

Besides studying while in SP, Weijie also made sure to grab every opportunity he could to explore the world and his passion for science. In Germany, he interned at the prestigious Max Planck Institute, taking part in research on anti-cancer drugs. He also helped organise the first-ever Youth Model ASEAN Conference back in Singapore, and was a regular performer with the SP

Symphonic Band. When asked why he chose pharmacy, he said, "I would most like to become a researcher leading my own team and starting my own projects, because there are so many things we can achieve with science that haven't been done yet. As a side note, my secret ambition is to receive the Nobel Prize before I die, haha."

Two other Class of 2013 graduates have achieved milestones of their own. **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** graduate Adeline Wong and Diploma in Materials Science [now known as the **Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Materials Science (DACM)**] graduate Ho Keen Hoe have both received the NUS Kent Ridge Undergraduate Scholarship, which covers tuition fees, is bond-free, and provides opportunities to attend university-funded scholar development programmes. Adeline is in her first year at NUS pursuing a degree in Chemistry, while Keen Hoe will pursue a degree in Materials Science & Engineering after completing his national service.



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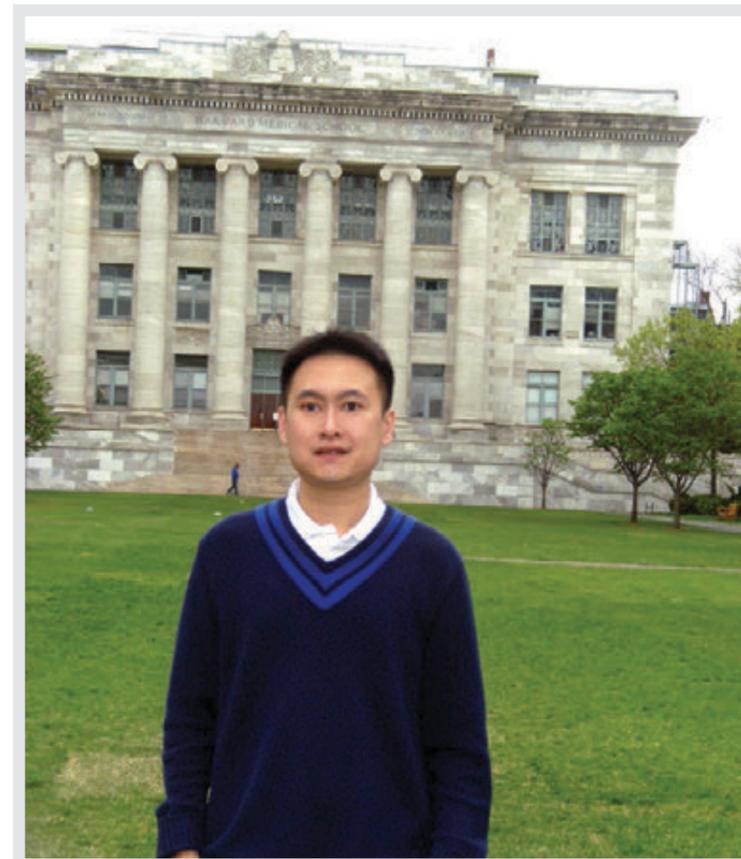
# HAWKEREE: NEW FOOD APP IN TOWN

**Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** graduates have once again crafted an applause-worthy app. Kugan Kobalakrisna and Chua Si Hao's (both Class of 2012) app, Hawker.ee, was a top 12 finalist in the government-organised Apps4SG competition. Their creation, featured on Channel NewsAsia and Today online, allows users to post details and photos of their favourite hawker centre meals. Its interface provides recommendations from others and even detailed info on specific dishes at a particular centre. This app, which captures a core element of Singapore culture, is one of several award-winning apps created by SP alumni and students. Another app of Kugan's, Lifeline, created with four other DIT graduates, earned the SiTF Gold Award (Tertiary category) at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation Awards in 2012.

Kugan and Si Hao, who are currently furthering their studies at the Singapore Institute of Management and the National University of Singapore respectively, hope to launch the app this year. They have also started a company called The White Concept that focuses on web development, app design, film production, and meeting other technology and media needs. When asked what advice he had for his juniors, Kugan said: "Keep dreaming big and work hard. Don't be afraid of failing; the more you fail the more proficient you'll get over time. Failure is a stepping stone to success."



Si Hao (left) with Kugan.



# BREAK-THROUGH RESEARCH BY BIOTECH ALUMNUS

Award-winning A\*STAR scientist and **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)** alumnus Dr Jonathan Loh has scored yet another major feat with his research on creating human stem cells with just a drop of blood pricked from a finger. The cells collected from the blood are reprogrammed into stem cells which can be used for research to test new drugs and for cell therapy.

A patent has been filed for this method of stem cell reproduction. The breakthrough was also publicised in Stem Cells Translational Medicine, a scientific journal. Dr Loh's team of researchers also included Dr Tan Eng Lee, Centre Director for SP's Centre for Biomedical and Life Sciences and recent DBT graduates Tan Tze Kai (recipient of the A\*STAR National Science Scholarship) and Delon Toh (currently a PhD student).

# SOLVING REAL PROBLEMS

When facing a real-life problem, all the theory lessons taught in poly have the potential to become real solutions. That was what eight students found during a trip to Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Using knowledge from their **Diploma in Engineering Systems (DES)** and **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** courses, they spent two weeks brainstorming ways to help an Indonesian village promote itself as a tourist attraction.

The team worked on the project with students from Japanese and Indonesian universities. They observed the village's main industry - bamboo fan production - and designed new ideas to make the production more efficient for the villagers, as well as make use of excess bamboo. The engineering students designed a new machine to automate part of the fan-making process, while the entire team thought of tourist souvenirs that could be made from excess bamboo materials. Said Amirul Husni Bin Sidek, second-year DES student, "The villagers got really excited over the ideas, even saying they would implement some of them immediately. I realise that before the trip, I didn't really see the connection of my course to real life. But when I started dealing with real people and real problems, I became more confident about using my knowledge in a practical way." The trip was part of the



The Learning Express team visited Borobudur temple in their free time. Front row (second, third, fourth, sixth from left): DES students Amirul Husni Bin Sidek, Muhd Hassanul Ihsan Bin Safarudin, Sai Avinash s/o Bavan and Syaiful Fahmi Bin Mohamad Saad. With them are students from Japanese and Indonesian universities.

Learning Express, a programme run by SP, the University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta and the University of Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta which gets students of different nationalities to work together on complex, real-life problems in developing countries.

# FINDING HOME

Eighteen students received HOME Merit and Study Awards (Poly) from the Ministry of Home Affairs. For those who applied with their 'O' Levels, Nitec, or Higher Nitec results before entering poly, the awards provide payment for tuition and compulsory fees, an annual allowance of \$12,000 (Merit) or \$7,800 (Study), and other grants and bonuses. Current poly students who applied successfully also received similar benefits, but under a different payment scheme. Both awards come with a bond period of four years. The recipients are:  
**SP Business School:** Wang Fan (Merit Award), Bryan Lim Ghim Song  
**School of Chemical and Life Sciences:** Abdul Mannan Bin Abu Bakar (Merit Award), Ng Rui Qiang, Amirul Harith Bin Abd Majid  
**School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology:** Lim Jun Ming, Dionis Soh  
**School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering:** Muhammad Fareez Bin Arifullah (Merit Award), Yeung Chi Seng, Shonn Chiang, Jacob Koh, Kamalaveni D/O Chandran  
**School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering:** Yip Wei Li (Merit Award), Lim Jian Ping (Merit Award), See Suay Kee, Alif Faiqal Bin Mohamed Haneeff, Reno Erwinshah Bin Julaimi, Muhammad Raymie Rahmat Bin Suod

## HOME Awards Presentation Ceremony



Second-year Diploma in Mechanical Engineering student Reno Erwinshah Bin Julaimi was one of 18 SP students who received the award from Mr S Iswaran, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry.

# WATERY ENJOYMENT

More than 900 students from SP and secondary schools descended at Marina Barrage on a sunny day in June for the Singapore International Water Festival 2014. Organised by SP and the Public Utilities Board, the event served to educate youth on the importance of water conservation. With dragonboat races, carnival games and even ruthless pirates occupying the waters near the Marina Barrage, the crowd had wet and wild fun under the hot sun. SPirit brings you a glimpse of that bright, beaming day:



Minister of Environment and Water Resources Mr Vivian Balakrishnan flagging off the dragon boat race.



This is how you can walk on water.



The power rowers - SP Dragonboat Team.



We hear you girls: Save the seas!



Ferrying a giraffe to the other side.



Pirates of the Barrage.

Celebrating



**SEKO AIKO**

Year 2, Diploma in Nutrition,  
Health and Wellness, School  
of Chemical and Life Sciences

**TEN WEI TECK**

Year 2, Diploma in Interior  
Design, SP Design School

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