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
HOW FAR
WOULD YOU GO
TO PROTECT OUR HOME?

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Meet the top grads from the Class of 2014.

Fit To Succeed
How these SP girls score As for both studies and CCAs.

Full Time Twice Over
Jovan Tan explains why he works and studies full-time.

Love My Macarons?
How an engineering student invents his macarons.

Urban Farm Girl
Engineering gal Alexis wants to work in a farm.

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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. 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 YING 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!
**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! Having turned 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.

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**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!
**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!
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 polygrads 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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

I felt lost and lonely when I first stepped into SP. But I made a lot of friends and till this day, she is still one of my closest friends. So my first day in SP was also the most memorable.

Wee Hui Wen Diploma in Materials Science Foon Yew High School

My project mate 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!

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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.

SF 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.
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. So IT brings to you the light-hearted moments that mark SP Graduation Ceremony 2014.
Spectacular Performance

Performance Par Excellence

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2014
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

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.
And the winners are.......
From learning how to make ethernet cables and creating websites at ITE, Jin Qiang progressed to more hardcore 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 3.818, 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.
Juggling both sports and studies?

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

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

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 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 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.

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So Possible

From Gamer to Model Student

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.

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 So Possible finds out.

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.
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. So Possible 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 A’s 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 Kapor 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.”

So Possible
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. Star Performer 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 specialising in medical devices. “This combination gives Alexis the rare opportunity to use 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 chance to apply her diploma.

In the 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 all was 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 new opportunities to design, experiment, and play around with 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, an aquaponics vegetable farm built on a rooftop, was also an active committee member 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.

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. Whichever 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

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 us 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.

From his part-time sales job, Jovan got involved with the commercial aspect of Asus business operations. He learned a great deal about 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.

SURE WIN WITH ATTITUDE

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.

“As 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 are confidential information. “He can show me what I sometimes can’t see. Every industry will need someone like him,” added Mr Huang.

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 resources 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.
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. He 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 3.806 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!”
**Better Editions Of Life**

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.

**Editions Of Life**

Stunning

Landscapes, re-design proposals for the little India, Bugis and Rochor regions by DLA grads Cheong Ying and Inoks Ferdinand Bin Randel. Their designs aim to create a landscape that connects these different areas together with a similar style, and which can increase land usage while remaining attention to details. Cheong Ying introduced new facilities such as a terrace and roof gardens, which not only complement existing building in the area, but also connect buildings and structures between buildings to increase connectivity and give visitors a whole new view of the land.

From left: DARCH graduates Zachariah Quek, Olivia Teng, Lee Jie Loon and Aslam Bin Zachariah Quek, Olivia Teng, Lee Jie Loon and Aslam Bin Zachariah Quek. Their designs comprise 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 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.

DGD 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 humble when I realised 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.”

**Photography**

PHOTO COURTESY OF TUM ASIA.
Making Apps, Movies, Music...

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.

Business Information Technology (DBIT) Diploma in 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.

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 tool 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 interview opportunity with IT company HCL Technologies right at the event itself, interview invitations from 4555 and Nite after the exhibition, and a job offer from TradeBecker 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 my 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.
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. SP 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).

The Adventures of Slingshot (TAoS)
This 3D action-adventure game is the brainchild of five DGDD fresh grads. TAoS has a dapper, goggle-sporting kangaroo as its hero. Named Slingshot, this furry adventurer defies death, leaping off branches and treetops high above the environment with a magical string and a kangaroo as its hero. Named Slingshot, this furry adventurer defies death, leaping off branches and treetops high above the environment with a magical string and charging towards them with a rocketing uppercut.

Ryan Johnson, the team’s lead game designer, 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 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.”

D spared you from getting too bored by 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.

Jasmin Tan, the team’s lead artist, 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.”

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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 specializations: game art, game design or game programming.

The game’s creators were certainly satisfied with their creation. Says level designer Edgar Wong, “The entire 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 Tei Eng agrees. “It’s 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.

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-hardcore 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 Yioce Game Development World Championship 2013, which gets entries from hundreds of teams around the world yearly.
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. RTF speaks (respectfully) to this national shooter and Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) alumnus:

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.

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 an external party or even an activity that you did the day before. Having said that, 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 will be difficult to continue. It’s 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 think that, 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 aerodynamics, 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 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.

How 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.

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The more I train, the luckier I get.
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 DTVM.

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 arm! 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 and he said, “Sure.” He warmly held my shoulder again for the photo! He was so friendly. He would smile so I did not feel too intimidated.

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.

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:

Pierre Png: “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.”

Jerry Yeo: “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.”

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.”

PHOTO CREDIT: NATALIE WONG.

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

THEY TALKED TO ME!

My first interview that night was with Channel 8 celebrity Yuan Shuai. I felt a little shushed 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:

Yuan Shuai: “For 2013, my wish is for my debut movie, review, to do well at the box office.”

CURRENT STATUS: “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.”

“With a new role, I learned to be more cunning compared to my other works. I hope to get more refreshing roles in the future.”

PHOTO CREDIT: RISHIKANTHAN S/O VIJAYAHKUMAR (DTVM).
Sweat, 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 showcased 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 Entrepreneurship School (SB). SB’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.

Funding for their businesses are taking the ‘O’ level exam. These lessons will help me wherever I go in future.” Monday Blue 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 whenever 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.

CRAFT is a handicraft business owned by three SP fresh grads with a social enterprise spin. They sell accessories handmade 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 woven accessories for a business. Craft co-owner and DBA fresh grad Tea Ying Ying said, “Through Craft, we’re able to help the villagers find international channels to sell their goods.” Besides woven accessories, Craft also sells other fashion items, with 20 per cent of their proceeds going to the Red Cross.

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.”

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 scholarships, 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: Anymore Cafe (team 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 Choa Weiliang), and The Bag Factory (DBA) Weng Yun Lang, Goh Yun Tian, Alison Cheong (DBIT) Koh En Jia].

From left: Mr Michael Then of Then Marketing, the generous sponsor and scholarship winners and their advisors (DBA) Lim Si Ying (DBIT) Tan Hui Juan, Doralynn Lim, Rita Pandey (DBIT), (Entrepreneur, Lim Si Ying (DBIT), Rita Pandey (DBIT), and Director of SB Entrepreneurship School Mr Reginald Wee (top right).
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.

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:
“Such was the feeling and experience of the majority of the young people today. 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.
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 you SP memory at myspmemories.sp.edu.sg. And of course we will have an eventful 60th year. Check out these events!

Poly 60 Run
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 and helped local communities in Singapore. View exhibits, listen to first-hand accounts and get inspired.

Venue: Auditorium
Event Date: 6 August 2014, 3pm to 8pm

Heritage Trail 2014
Do you know who was SP’s first-ever Principal? Where have SP campuses been set up 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 free bag with a T-Shirt and a sample of the new SPath perfume produced for the school’s 60th anniversary! Sign up at 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 to collecting trivia such as who SP’s first student to read Dentistry was, or who was the SP principal? Where have SP campuses been set up 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 free bag with a T-Shirt and a sample of the new SPath perfume produced for the school’s 60th anniversary! Sign up at myspmemories.sp.edu.sg/sp60-heritage-trail-2014. Deadline is 4 July 2014.

Event Date: 6 August 2014, 3pm to 8pm
Venue: Auditorium

So Playful

Healthy Clubbing!

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! SP Now brings you some of the highlights.

For more information and updates on SP’s CCA Clubs, visit life.sp.edu.sg.
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). PPP finds out from some of them why they chose to take this admission route.


What made you choose DPA?
I felt I already knew what I wanted to do so I thought I would apply through DPA. Instead of wasting the ‘O’ levels to be over and competing with the rest, I was 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, Huiling?
In secondary school, I was really interested in art. My seniors in Coral Secondary went on 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. He told me a lot of nice things about the modules completed in SP. In SP, I have friends here. 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 (DAE)

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’ levels.

What got you interested in DAE?
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 at Changi Airport, hahaha. 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, hahaha.

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. Also, I like 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.

Rumchawananwong Lee Jia Sheng, Evergreen Secondary School Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)

Hey Charles. Can you share what you know about SP before coming here? It’s the first poly in Singapore! I like the facilities, food, and 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.

Haressh S/e Gunasegaran, Yuan Ching Secondary School Diploma in Maritime Business (DMBB)

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 DMBB?
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 work 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.
When I'm 60, The World Will Be...

"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 travel to run above expressways, or some underground transport running through an aquarium, I think that's really cool!"

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

"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 specifically 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!"

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

"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).

"When I'm 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 monstrous 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).

"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 monstrous 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."

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

"Society will be more generous and productive as a whole, making everyone happy instead of seeing only Presidents smiling on dollar bills. I'll 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."

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

"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).

"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 that 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).

"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."

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

"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 Clean Energy (DCEG).

"When I'm 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 monstrous 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."

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– Alka Koh, Year 2, Diploma in Clean Energy (DCEG).
**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 art 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 Wen 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 animals too. My concept was built on combining the furniture with animal houses. The teak furniture is so warm and comfortable that animals can feel naturally at home there and even believe it’s their house. Through this, I was actually emphasizing 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**

A partnership between SP and regional banking 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:** Ermita Loh, Irfah Lami, Mark Koh, Rohullah Tay, Toh Xi En, Year 3: Qeemus Chia, Alamin Chen, Jermaine Natalie Lok, Lee Shao Xuan, Lim Jun Yong, So Miye Than, Wu Ya Chen. Recent graduates: Alycayas Lee, Edward Ho, Hon Choo Yen.

**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 Department in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) and Mechanical Engineering (DME) at the Singapore Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Challenge 2014. The students’ creation, born from a combination of mechanical and electrical engineering prowess, is the Lucy AUV, a robot which uses 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 information 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.

**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.

**SCHOLARSHIP WITH POWER**

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)), Ahmad Faizal Bin Norzal Amran (fresh graduate, DEEE), Boon Ju Chan (third-year, Diploma in Clean Energy), Alvin Koh Kai Ruiz (fresh graduate, DEEE), and Goh Wei Qi (second-year, Diploma in Clean Energy). Not in photo are Jover Ong (fresh graduate, Diploma in Clean Energy) and Lok Jia 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 continuous 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.
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 Best Information Technology Solutions for Problems in Areas like Recycling category. They are: Deadline: April 12, 2013

**Bin Cleaner:** This team developed an app that facilitates the exchange of electronic items by making use of geo-location technology to match people with suitable items for exchange. SP student Wing See Ee (Diploma in Business Information Technology – DBIT) partnered other Hackathon participants. EcoNiKo: This team won the consolation prize in the StarShell 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 recognize their efforts. Team members: Wong Kin Hoo (DBIT) and PuaZheng Yi (DBIT), together with four other Hackathon participants.

**Conquering Space:** This team clinched a prize in the Best Information Technology Solutions for Problems in Areas like Recycling category. They are: Deadline: April 12, 2013

**Conquering Space:** This team was one of the Best Information Technology Solutions for Problems in Areas like Recycling teams at the Clean & Green Hackathon. They are: Deadline: April 12, 2013

**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 courses and exam fees for technical courses and certifications, and oversees 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 Cheong
- Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM): Daniel Tan, Koh Zheng Wei, Edwin Looi
- Diploma in Information Technology (DIT): Eugene Foo, Malody Hoe
- Diploma in Interactive Media (DIMA): Wayne Ong
- Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT): Wong Wai Hoon

**BEST POLY RESEARCH PROJECT**

Under the guidance of lecturer Dr Brandon Djayi Utomo, a team of graduates 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 institutions in the hope that the programme will encourage them to pursue a career in R&D.

The project by the SP team entitled 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.

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- **WINNING IDEAS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

- **CONQUERING SPACE**

- **HACKLING PRIZES FOR GREEN IDEAS**

- **INFOCOMM ELITES**

- **BEST POLY RESEARCH PROJECT**

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- **INFOCOMM ELITES**

- **BEST POLY RESEARCH PROJECT**
SKY-HIGH COLLABORATIONS

Final-year students Natalie Yeong and Lam Kwang Yang from the Diploma in Biotechnology (DTB) 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 Lcichard, 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 will also come in handy when multiple experiments have to be run at the same time. For instance, you can make other preparations while some have to be run at the same time. For instance, you can make other preparations while some experiments are very time-sensitive and cannot be left unattended for even a minute too long.”

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 CARE 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.

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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 was 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.
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 medal 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.

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 mindset 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 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, Venise, 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.

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.
AWARD WINNING DESIGN

Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) alumnus Darius On (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 provides opportunities to attend university-funded scholar development programmes. Adeline is in her first year at NUS pursuing a degree in Chemistry, and 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. At a side note, my secret ambition is to receive the Nobel Prize before I die, haha.”

First in Pharmacy

Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science (DACP) alumnus Fong Wei Tie (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, Wei Tie 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 Hawker. When asked what his greatest challenges 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 myself 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.”

Breaking 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 and Keo Miko, who have been conducting research on anti-cancer drugs. He Keat Hoo and his research group are investigating the potential of using human stem cells for tissue engineering and drug testing. The results of their studies have been published in several leading scientific journals, including Nature Biotechnology and Stem Cells.

HawkerEE: New Food App in Town

Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) graduates have once again crafted an applause-worthy app. Kugan Kavalakumar and Chau Si Hoo’s (both Class of 2012) app, HawkerEE, 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 NITE Gold Award (Tertiary category) at the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation Awards and a Merit Award at the Asia Pacific ICT 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 creating new 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.”
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 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 Giam Hong

**School of Chemical and Life Sciences:** Abdul Mannan Bin Abn 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 Jun Ping (Merit Award), See Suet Kee, Ali Faqal Bin Mohamed Hameed, Ramos Erdwinflah Bin Juliana, Muhammad Raymie Rahmat Bin Ismail

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. Organized by SP and the Public Utilities Board, the event served to educate youths 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 not and wild fun under the hot sun. SPert brings you a glimpse of that bright, boating day:
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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