

THE GRADUATION ISSUE

SPRIT

VOL 2 2015

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

CLASS OF 2015 STAR PERFORMERS



YOU HAVE TO THINK LIKE A HACKER TO OUTSMART A HACKER

I didn't learn it in school.
I learnt it at MDIS.



Nazifi Norzlan
MDIS Student (2015)

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content highlights

02: Cover Story

Meet the top grads from the Class of 2015.



20: IT Guy, IT Girl

How a love for IT changed these SP students' lives for the better.



28/36/46: Global Footprints

SP students trek, study and ride camels in various parts of the globe.



30/40/42: Talented Exhibitionists

The best from shows of engineering, design, architecture and IT graduation projects.



52: Dominant Dragons

Read why it's no mean feat to be the best Dragon Boat team among the polys.

68: The Sweetest Thing

Touching acts of love and friendship by SP besties.

70: Dream Job, Or Not?

See if these jobs are either a dream or nightmare for you.

72: Remembering LKY

An SP tribute to our founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The **SPRIT** Team

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THINK SUCCESS. THINK MDIS.
Management Development Institute of Singapore
Reg. No. 201001793H
20 May 2014 to 19 May 2018



"WE CAN,
AND WE DID IT!"

These eight top graduates from Singapore Polytechnic's Class of 2015 have every right to make this exclamation. Their three-year holistic SP journey was no mean feat. Besides having to maintain excellent grades, they made time to help others with the skills that SP has equipped them with, in addition to juggling a busy CCA calendar. As inspired learners ready for work, life and the world, they will continue to carry the SP torch and be inspiring role models for future SP generations. **SPiRiT** introduces the top eight graduates of Graduation 2015, proudly decked in apparel from **SPeLL**, the retail living lab at Changi Airport fully run by SP Business School students.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAY PHOTOGRAPHY. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ANNA EN, MARIE SOH. STYLING BY RAINE KONG AND STUDENT TEAM FROM SP BUSINESS SCHOOL (YON LING W., CLARISSA WEMPLE, BRIAN CHIENG, ALEX TAN, NIAN QIAN, HUIMIN W., LI YI H.). CLOTHES FROM SPELL @ CHANGI AIRPORT TERMINAL 3.

STAR PERFORMERS

AWARDS

- Lee Kuan Yew Award
- Singapore Concrete Institute Gold Medal
- OCBC Prize
- Singapore Structural Steel Society Prize
- The Institution of Engineers Gold Medal Award
- Tiong Seng Contractors Prize

ALUMNUS FROM ZHENGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL

"The first day I stepped into SP was the big turning point in my life. I transformed from an ill-disciplined gamer into a responsible, self-disciplined student. I'm thankful to all the people in SP who have put implicit faith in me and for all the opportunities that made me an all-rounded graduate. Until now, I think my family members and secondary school teachers thought it was unbelievable. I truly believe that with SP, it's so possible!"



JONATHAN PEH ZHIUANG SHENG
DIPLOMA IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH BUSINESS

Wardrobe credit: LUXE M ROGIS PATTERNED SHIRT from SPELL@Changi Airport

Scan this QR code to read more about Jonathan's SP journey:



AWARDS

- Toh Chin Chye Gold Medal
- Singapore Food Manufacturers' Association Gold Medal

ALUMNA FROM HOLY INNOCENTS' HIGH SCHOOL

"My proudest moment in SP would be setting up the Sign Language Club CCA from scratch. Some friends tried to discourage me from doing so as they thought that as a freshee, I couldn't do much. There were times when I would have given up if not for my mum. She encouraged me not to give up my dream of wanting to bridge communication gaps. Today, the club has more than 100 members and is still growing."

AMANDA CHIA SIEW HUI
DIPLOMA IN NUTRITION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Wardrobe credit: LUXE BROOKLYN POUF SKIRT from SPELL@Changi Airport

Scan this QR code to read more about Amanda's SP journey:





AWARDS

- Tan Kay Yong Gold Medal
- Media Development Authority Gold Medal

ALUMNUS FROM INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND BEDOK GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL

"I'm very grateful for the opportunities to travel during my SP days. I went to places such as Norway for the Northern Light Expedition, Indonesia for a Learning Express programme, and Australia to film an SP team in the World Solar Challenge car race. Even my internship was completed with a production studio in the United States.

These trips have broadened my horizons and expanded my network of friends along the way."

CHEW KENG HAO

DIPLOMA IN VISUAL EFFECTS AND MOTION GRAPHICS

Wardrobe credit: LUXE M TRISTAN TRIBAL CARDI from SPELL@Changi Airport



Scan this QR code to read more about Keng Hao's SP journey



AWARDS

- Lee Kuan Yew Award
- All Eights (Singapore) Gold Medal
- Alfred Robert Edis Prize
- Health Sciences Authority Award
- OCBC Prize
- Singapore Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences Award

ALUMNA FROM XINMIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

"My most memorable SP experience was the overseas community service programme in Chengdu, China. The trip was filled with anger, tears, laughter and many more emotions that can't be put in words. Looking back, I think I've changed a lot from the experience. I became more mature, patient, tolerant, considerate and confident. It was this trip that marked the start of my involvement with local community service with like-minded friends."

TAN FONG XIN

DIPLOMA IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Wardrobe credit: EVA HYE PRESTIGE KNITTED PULLOVER, CELIA JUNG NEOPRENE SKIRT, NATALIE KIM PRESTIGE N ADORNMENT from SPELL@Changi Airport



Scan this QR code to read more about Fong Xin's SP journey:

AWARDS

- Chua Chor Teck Gold Medal
- Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore Gold Medal
- Jardine Shipping Services Prize
- Singapore Maritime Employers' Federation Prize
- Singapore Maritime Officers' Union Prize

ALUMNUS FROM GREENRIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

"My six-month internship with an international offshore company gave me valuable insights into the maritime industry. As I had signed up for a leadership camp in Taiwan which clashed with my internship duration, I made a proposal to the company that I would be able to complete my assigned duties upon my return. I kept my promise and was awarded the Best Initiative Award for Intern from the company."



AARON GOH ZHAO RONG
DIPLOMA IN MARITIME BUSINESS

Wardrobe credit: BENJI K MEN STRIPED KNITTED TOP from SPELL@Changi Airport

Scan this QR code to read more about Aaron's SP journey:



AWARDS

- Low Guan Onn Gold Medal
- IDA Gold Medal
- Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Prize
- iSentia Brandtology Award

ALUMNA FROM PASIR RIS CREST SECONDARY SCHOOL

"I already had a blogshop when I was in secondary school. But it was SP that further nurtured the entrepreneur's spirit in me. Through my participation in various IT events that included several hackathon competitions and visiting top IT companies in the UK, I could grasp clearly what is in store for me if I want to become a technopreneur. And of course, my involvement with the SP Student Entrepreneurs Club and the S.E.E.D Student Interest Group further fuelled my passion to start a business in future."



SALLY CHIN SI YING
DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Wardrobe credit: JENN LEE PRESTIGE LACE SLEEVED DRESS, NATALIE KIM PRESTIGE N ADORNMENT from SPELL@Changi Airport

Scan this QR code to read more about Sally's SP journey:



AWARDS

- Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal
- Tecmaven Merit Award

ALUMNUS FROM INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND YISHUN TOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL

"Being an ITE student, maths was a constant challenge for me. I always thought that my grades would suffer greatly due to the maths modules in SP. However, it was Dr Chee Chin Yi who drove me to excel in the subject. His teaching method allowed even the weakest student to understand the most complicated maths equations. He would inject his lessons with humour to make us understand his teachings better. Even after the semester has ended, you could still rely on him to teach you. That, to me, is a true hallmark of a great lecturer."



GOH JIA HUI
DIPLOMA IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Wardrobe credit: LUXE M ROGIS PATTERNED SHIRT from SPELL@Changi Airport

Scan this QR code to read more about Jia Hui's SP journey:



AWARDS

- Lee Kuan Yew Award
- ETLA Gold Medal
- OCBC Prize
- PEC Merit Award
- The Institution of Engineers Gold Medal Award

ALUMNUS FROM PUNGGOL SECONDARY SCHOOL

"SP was my first choice because it is well-known for its engineering courses. Despite knowing it would be a long journey from my home in Tampines, I still followed my heart because I knew it was the right choice. Thankfully we have an MRT station just outside and sheltered walkways throughout the campus. I will always remember those days where I would play pool with my course mates in Moberly just to de-stress."



CHIN GUAN WEI
DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Wardrobe credit: LUXE M ROGIS PATTERNED SHIRT from SPELL@Changi Airport

Scan this QR code to read more about Guan Wei's SP journey:





BOO KWOK YING
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Commonwealth Secondary School



KHOO YI QUAN
Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics
Westwood Secondary School



KATHLEEN KAYE AWAYAN VILLANUEVA
Diploma in Bioengineering
Chestnut Drive Secondary School



CHIN GUAN WEI
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Punggol Secondary School



JERALD LAM KAI JUN
Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science
Montfort Secondary School



DICKSON SOON JIANG YIH
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Tanjong Katong Secondary School



TAN YING JIE
Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science
Woodlands Ring Secondary School



AMANDA CHIA SIEW HUI
Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness
Holy Innocents' High School



HUANG JIEMIN
Diploma in Materials Science
Riverside Secondary School

SP **IRIT** Congratulates The *Star Performers of 2015*



TAY FEN YEE
Diploma in Info-Communication Engineering & Design
SMK Tasek Utara (Malaysia)



LIN TONG SHEN
Diploma in Clean Energy
Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary)



AMELIA TAY SHI NING
Diploma in Optometry
School of the Arts Singapore



HELEN HO SHEN TING
Diploma in Biotechnology
Fuhua Secondary School



PEGGY YEO KAR LAI
Diploma in Food Science & Technology
Jurongville Secondary School



TAN FONG XIN
Diploma in Biomedical Science
Xin Min Secondary School



TAN SZE MENG
Diploma in Engineering with Business
SMK Tinggi Kluang (Malaysia)



LIM KENG ZHI
Diploma in Computer Engineering
Malaysian Secondary School



CHENG HUIMIN
Diploma in Aerospace Electronics
Private 'O' Level Candidate



WIN MYINT AUNG
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Home-schooled



AARON GOH ZHAO RONG
Diploma in Maritime Business
Greenridge Secondary School



SUN BOWEN
Diploma in Marine Engineering
Tanjong Katong Secondary School



SENTHIL KUMARAN S/O ANBALAGAN
Diploma in Nautical Studies
Queensway Secondary School

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL



JONATHAN TAN JIA HUI
Diploma in Business Administration
Montfort Secondary School



YANG ZI HUI
Diploma in Financial Informatics
Jurongville Secondary School

SP SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY



NIKOLAS TAY ZHIHAO
Diploma in Infocomm Security Management
St Joseph's Institution



WONG WAI HUI
Diploma in Music & Audio Technology
Tanjong Katong Secondary School



CHOO E-JING
Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology
Peicai Secondary School



EILEEN KONG EE LIN
Diploma in Accountancy
Gan Eng Seng School



AARON LIM HUI EN
Diploma in Business Innovation & Design
Singapore Sports School



EMMANUEL HO WEI JUN
Diploma in International Business
Bukit View Secondary School



CHERYL LEE LI JUN
Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management
Presbyterian High School



WU YUCHEN
Diploma in Banking & Financial Services
Private 'O' Level Candidate



TAY ZHI XIN
Diploma in Digital Animation
Northland Secondary School



SALLY CHIN SI YING
Diploma in Business Information Technology
Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School



JOEL-DAVID WONG JUN JIE
Diploma in Information Technology
Victoria School



LIM ZHI YANG
Diploma in Interactive Media
SMK Dato Jaafar (Malaysia)



CHEW KENG HAO
Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics
Bedok Green Secondary School / Institute of Technical Education

SP DESIGN SCHOOL



KHOO HUI TING
Diploma in Experience & Product Design
Woodlands Ring Secondary School



NG JIAN ZHI
Diploma in Games Design & Development
Commonwealth Secondary School



TANG LIANG YING
Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design
Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School



YONG MING JIE
Diploma in Interior Design
Woodlands Ring Secondary School

SP SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



JASMINE GOH LI TING
Diploma in Media & Communication
Regent Secondary School

SP SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



JASON LIM
Diploma in Environmental Management & Water Technology
Hougang Secondary School



JENSON SEAH GUO LONG
Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management
Bukit View Secondary School/Institute of Technical Education



JONATHAN PEH ZHUANG SHENG
Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business
Zhenghua Secondary School



SIM XI ZHE
Diploma in Creative Writing for Television & New Media
Presbyterian High School



WONG MING KANG
Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management
Hougang Secondary School



ALEKSANDRA SHEREMETIEVA
Diploma in Landscape Architecture
Yuying Secondary School



GAN CHIEN HUEY
Diploma in Architecture
Compassvale Secondary School



SOFIA BTE MOHD KHANAFIE
Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology
Pioneer Secondary School

Graduating In



It won't be just another Singapore Polytechnic Graduation Ceremony but one that is more memorable as it coincided with the country turning 50. As the years go by, the 5,878 who graduated this year will have no excuse for not remembering the year they graduated!



At the first session of this year's Graduation Ceremony, Guest-of-Honour Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, shared a personal story of how his grandparents and parents worked hard to build their home here. The purpose of his sharing was to allow the graduands to better appreciate what their parents and grandparents had to go through.

Minister Wong said: "We need to know the past to understand where we are today. But we can't build the future on the past. We have to learn from the experiences that we've been through, and find our own way forward in a new world."

One way to do this is to embark on the journey of lifelong learning. He cautioned that this journey will be unpredictable and there will be setbacks along the way. The Minister added that what is important is the right attitude and mindset where we can take setbacks in stride and learn to bounce back from the mistakes and failures that are bound to happen to life.

Principal and CEO of SP, Mr Tan Choon Shian reminded the graduands on the pivotal role our founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew played in education. During his first official visit to SP in 1959, Mr Lee stressed on the importance of expanding polytechnic education if "we are to teach our young

people how to earn a living in the new conditions Singapore finds itself".

Mr Tan added in his speech at the ceremony: "As we celebrate SG50 this year, we will remember the foresight and vision of our first Prime Minister. His words remain relevant to this day, embodied within the framework of the SkillsFuture initiative."

SPRIT congratulates the Class of 2015 as they take the next big step to be life-ready, work-ready and world-ready.



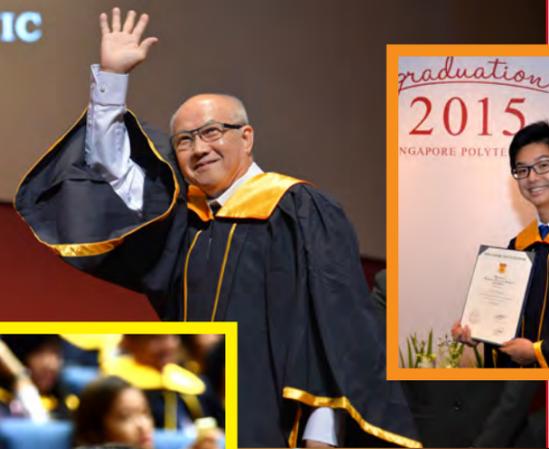
LOVE IS IN THE AIR!



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Celebrating your greatest SP moment and joining the ranks of more than 100,000 alumni.



POLYTECHNIC



YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME!

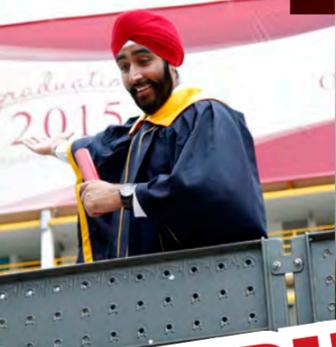


WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!



graduation
2015
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

TOP GRADUATES
Congratulations to the Class of 2015



GRADUATE LO!



GRADUATES
to the Class of 2015



graduation
2015
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

TOP GRADUATES
Congratulations to the Class of 2015



INTO THE DEEP IT SEA

IT was not at the top of Koh Xiao Wei's to-do list during secondary school. Like many of her classmates, she wanted to pursue studies in business. Given her friendly personality that would aid in business networking, this certainly would not have been the wrong choice. But after her 'O' levels, that path closed as her L1R4 score of 18 points was too high to get into any of the business diplomas she wanted.

In the end, Xiao Wei settled for IT during the Joint Admissions Exercise and landed in SP's DIT course, a field she saw as practical, if not a little boring. She was also hoping to do well and potentially transfer to another course in her second year.

Her parents were worried. They knew she had little understanding of the field. Indeed, the first modules in Java and computer networking felt foreign and difficult to her. "I was really worried about how I would cope. In Singapore, time is crucial, so I knew if I wasted three years on something I had no talent in, I would be miles behind my peers in future," Xiao Wei shares. "I felt that joining DIT was actually like jumping into a deep sea. I didn't know what would happen yet."

Today, three years later, Xiao Wei is graduating with an impressive GPA score of 3.77 out of 4.00. During her time in SP, she made it to the Director's Honour Roll for well-performing students. She also joined many IT competitions, scoring a Merit Award in the Greenwave Environmental Care Competition 2013 for an e-flyer mobile and web app (for giving out electronic ad flyers instead of paper ones), and a Distinction Award in the Singapore Geospatial Challenge 2014, in which she and her teammates submitted their final-year project from school, a mobile app promoting heritage areas and modern quirks of Singapore life to tourists.



Xiao Wei's internship at SingTel let her apply her skills to create an improved data management system for business requests.



From left: DIT recent grads Loh Fuxing, Tan Kuo Chye, Xiao Wei and Joel-David Wong with Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indraneel Rajah at the Singapore Geospatial Challenge 2014, where they won the Distinction Award and \$1,380 in cash and vouchers.

She can even set up the internet connection and Wi-Fi routers at home, a simple task for someone well-versed in computer networking, multiple programming languages and other IT skills. But with great power comes many obligations. "Now my brothers and father pester me if anything happens at home," laughs Xiao Wei. "I'm now their 'magician' who has to know how to fix anything that goes wrong."

She is passionate now about IT, and says that blogging, friends, and her lecturer transformed her attitude.

Blogging using basic HTML and CSS languages during her secondary school days meant that programming language classes were more familiar, relatable and practical in Xiao Wei's eyes. This gave her some solid ground while she explored the various paths of IT.

Her friends were also a good influence. "My classmates and I would hang around in school until night time to study. We would make sure we did all our work and understood the day's lessons before heading home," says Xiao Wei. "We have lots of fun together, but we know how to prioritise and put work first. Being with them motivated and challenged me

In her family, Koh Xiao Wei, not her brothers or dad, is the IT whiz-kid. On one hand, this means she's an information technology Swiss army knife, of sorts; on the other, it means she's a magnet for whiny cries of help from the IT un-savvy. "JIIEEE ('sister' in Chinese)! WI-FI STOPPED WORKING AGAIN!" is a plea she can't wait to escape. This sunny and bright IT girl thinks back to when she first entered the Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) course, and had almost zero skills and passion for IT...

Xiao Wei treating herself to ice cream on SP's Red Bridge after three years of hard work.

She Fixes The **Wi-Fi...**

to improve every day."

Xiao Wei gives the most credit to her lecturers for always providing new opportunities to her class. In particular, she's grateful to lecturer Mr Tan Hu-Shien. "Besides preparing us for external competitions and brainstorming events, he also went to the events with us and picked up new IT skills alongside us. To me, that makes him a really inspiring person." She also remembers lecturer Mr Lim De Yang for always giving her advice and encouraging her to stay in DIT despite her worries.

"At the start of poly, I couldn't really foresee what my future would be like. I could only

imagine doing some kind of mundane desk job, coding for eight hours a day. Because my lecturers encouraged me, I joined competitions and got used to learning new things independently. I also met mature IT professionals and entrepreneurs making all kinds of exciting games, apps and software. These situations showed me I was actually lacking in many things that no amount of time in school could teach me. But at the same time, finding out that there was so much more to learn was exciting." Besides going for competitions, Xiao Wei also appreciates the opportunities she had during her five-month internship with SingTel, where she helped develop a more effective IT system for managing business requests. All

DIT students go for internships that typically last around four months.

When not at her computer, Xiao Wei curls up at home with romance books like *Anna and the French Kiss*, or young adult fiction like the *Divergent* series. "I like how fiction books bring me out of this world for a while to a place where everyone thinks and lives differently." Now her adventures aren't limited to the fictional world; she's fully ready to explore the IT arena. Says Xiao Wei: "I hope to pursue a degree in information studies in Singapore Management University, and one day work in an IT start-up or have my own start-up one day."

The one thing you notice when you talk to Glenn Ng about his past is that he's still angry about it. When he discusses his tough scrape through secondary school, and then ITE, you can hear the frustration escaping from his voice, feelings still lingering from hard times. This contrasts with the energy and enthusiasm that this Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) student shows when discussing his IT passions, his hopes of starting a business, and how far he's come since his darker days...

ON THE RIGHT CIRCUIT

At a relative's wedding dinner a few years back, Glenn's father introduced him and his brother to a young man working in a big national investment company.

The two brothers were eager to know this successful young person, but the moment that Glenn introduced himself as being from ITE, he was cut out of the conversation. The man turned to Glenn's brother and only talked to him for the rest of the chat.

This wasn't just an isolated incident. Glenn remembers sitting on the side lines of conversations several times during his days in ITE. "It hit me very hard at the time, getting those sceptical, doubting looks from people, or seeming invisible in their eyes," he shares. Glenn's voice gets more convicted as he speaks. As if he's still slightly gripped by the event.

Secondary and primary school was no fun ride, either. He struggled with English and Chinese, only finding out halfway through primary school that the reason for this was his dyslexia, a cognitive condition that impairs a person's ability to recognise certain letters (mistaking the letter "b" for "d", for instance). His struggle with languages led to him being placed in the EM3 stream in primary school, and later the Normal (Technical) stream in secondary school. More than anything, the social rejection from people around him hurt most. "I was very, very angry. It really showed how worthless I was in others' eyes," he admits. "I couldn't accept that. I knew that whatever I wanted to do, I was capable of doing it."

Although Glenn's educational path was rocky, another part of his life was sailing smoothly. At home, he was constantly absorbing new information about computers, and would read up on things like how to overclock or build a computer. When he was around 14 years old, he built one using parts bought



...He Climbs The IT Ladder

Does Glenn deserve not one, but two whole ice creams for his hard work at school? You bet your life he does!



From left: DIT students Ong De Xing, Ian Soo, Glenn and Goh Puay Hiang at the Microsoft PublishIT hackathon, where they had to create useful mobile applications. The team won second place, a Nokia Lumia phone and a Dell tablet for their teletext app.

with money saved by skipping meals. At school, his computer applications subject was also extremely easy for him. This aptitude for technology led him to choose infocomm technology studies at ITE, where he worked his hardest, knowing that he had no more room for mistakes. "My lecturers at ITE really supported me, and gave me a lot of guidance in my life and study decisions," Glenn recounts. He eventually graduated with a GPA score of 3.80 out of 4.00.

Life looks different for Glenn today, two and a half years later. He is a final-year student in DIT, where he maintains an impressive GPA of 3.91, with 10 distinctions so far. In his first year, he got onto the Director's Honour Roll for well-performing students. In his second year he was admitted into the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore ELTe (Enhanced Learning in Information Technology) programme, a prestigious talent development initiative. Glenn also won prizes at competitions such as the Best Design Award at the National Environment Agency Clean & Green Hackathon 2014, where he and his teammates proposed a machine with an algorithm designed to calculate the most efficient use of plastic bags in supermarkets.

"Once you reach poly, the computer networking, programming, website building and software development you learn are all practical skills that you can apply in life, and better yet,

earn money from," Glenn grins. "You also don't have to keep struggling with subjects you are weak in."

"I'm passionate about the things I'm learning right now, and I think I have better clarity on who I am, and what my capability is."

Glenn also credits lecturer Mr Tan Hu-Shien for much of his success. "I met him after my first semester in SP, and he brought me to a hackathon, a semi-competitive event for brainstorming IT ideas. He showed me a lot of things, helped me reflect on my goals and actions, introduced me to industry professionals and brought me out to see the world." Currently, Glenn is also getting more IT exposure outside SP through the Diploma in Information Technology – Advancement Programme, an optional module for motivated students to take courses outside of the normal curriculum. He recently completed a module on information systems at Singapore

Management University (SMU).

Outside class, Glenn enjoys cycling and taking walks in the park to reflect on things by himself. He also takes part in co-curricular activities such as the Poly Forum held in Malaysia, an event where students from all the polytechnics discuss solutions to social problems in Singapore. Eventually, like Xiao Wei, he hopes to further his studies in business IT in SMU and one day start his own IT company.

Glenn feels that his belief in himself carried him through those difficult years. "No matter what people say to you, or what they think of you, as long as you think you have a goal with long-term value or worth, just go for it." He also has something to say to his juniors in ITE: "Don't give up, even if it looks like it's the end. If you're clueless as to where you are right now, just pick the best option you can see, believe in yourself and go for it."

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

Recipients of the Model Student Awards (from left): Goh Jia Hui, Yoong Jia Hui, Chew Keng Hao, Joell Thng, Chin Guan Wei, Sun Bowen, Eileen Kong, Toh Si Yin, SP Board Member Mr Allan Goh, SP Principal & CEO Mr Tan Choon Shian, SP Board Member Mr Johnny Lim, Yong Ming Jie, Soh Shi Nan, Wee Jia Yi, Jonathan Peh, Lim Keng Zhi, Christopher Lye, Ang Wan Ling, Tan Sze Meng and Amanda Chia.



Excellence

Reaps Awards

Ang Wan Ling shared her story in a speech at the SP Excellence Awards Ceremony 2015. She said: "If you had met me four years ago, you would have seen a totally different person. I was insecure and unsure about life. I often questioned and doubted my abilities. I was never a remarkable student back in my Secondary School days. There was this one time my class sat for a paper - where 80 per cent of the class scored an A, and there was one failure. I was that failure. Being the first few from the last was nothing surprising for me; and I was never good enough for the many unique opportunities offered by my school to the 'top students'."

Today, like a phoenix that rises from the ashes, she is a confident young lady who is all ready to start her career as an aircraft engineer with the Republic of Singapore Air Force. Her SP journey as a **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** student was not a pure academic pursuit, but well-charted with meaningful activities that ranged from attending leadership camps, performing community service in Nepal and Indonesia, and taking up a Diploma Plus in Psychology to completing an internship in China. And she was Vice-

President of the SP Aviation Club too.

Her excellence has reaped a handsome reward. Wan Ling is one of 20 who were bestowed the Model Student Award at the SP Excellence Awards 2015. The annual award ceremony recognised SP students who have excelled academically and in other pursuits such as sports, arts, leadership and community service at the Excellence Awards Ceremony 2015.

National diver Timothy Lee (DARE) and national paddler Audrey Yong Pei Lin (**Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management - DHLFM**) once again clinched the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year Awards respectively. They are certainly not new to

the award. Audrey clinched it for the third time and Timothy got it twice. The Dragonboat Team (Mixed Team) took the Team of the Year Award for their extensive medal haul in 2014, which includes sweeping the gold medals in all three categories (Men, Women and Mixed) in the POL-ITE Games.

Individual SP students were also recognised in the following categories: Outstanding Class Leader Awards, Sports Awards and Outstanding Contribution Individual Awards. The Outstanding Contribution Group Awards went out to CCA Clubs that achieved excellence in the last academic year.



Model Student Award winner Ang Wan Ling.

SPiRiT brings you the full list of award winners.

OUTSTANDING CLASS LEADER AWARDS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Leong Hao Jie Shaun, Lu Junyao and Zhao Yan

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bella Tan Jiale

SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & LIFE SCIENCES

Amanda Chia Siew Hui, Prabasri D/O Veeriah and Jonathan Yeo Jia Hao

SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY

Chia Li Hui, Daniel Tan Jia Wang and Tan Chong Der

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Kevin Low Kai Ming, Stephen Cahyadi and Win Myint Aung

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Chin Zhi Kai, Ronald Loh Yu Jet and Nur Syaza Bte Mohd Tahir

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL

Roshelle Tan Wei Xi

SP DESIGN SCHOOL

Khoo Hui Ting

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY

Vince Han Mingchou

SPORTS AWARDS (HONOURS)

- Goh Li Ting Jasmine (Handball)
- Danial Norman Tan Jee Chuan (Sailing)
- Jevyn Ong Jingrui (Sailing)
- Joshua Matthew Lim Tze Han (Sailing)
- Kimberly Ooi Jingyi (Bowling)
- Illyas Lee Si Qin (Soccer)
- Brendon Lim Wei Zhang (Tchoukball)
- Low Ee Tuck (Tchoukball)
- Muhd Ifan Asyraf Bin Mohd Aziz (Soccer)
- Muhd Nico Bin Mohd Mario Hamid (Dragonboat)

- Naresh S/O Kunasegaran (Rugby)
- Ng Su Rui (Basketball)
- See Xin Xiu (Tchoukball)
- Tan Ding Han (Dragonboat)
- Vincent Tay Yan Chiang (Rockclimbing)
- Vanessa Teng Si Yinn (Rockclimbing)
- Eugene Yap Wanhong (Dragonboat)
- Lucas Stanton Yong Zhen Yuan (Judo)

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Timothy Lee Han Kuan (Diving)

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Audrey Yong Pei Lin (Windsurfing)

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Dragonboat (Mixed Team)

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Alexander Tan Yong Meng (SP Cyclists, SP Krav Maga)
- Benjamin Lee Ho Yin (SP Photography Club)
- Foo Chi Fa (SP Business School Club)
- Kang Ming (SP Astronomers)
- Koh Zheng Wei (SP Canoeists)
- Koko Sia (Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering Club)
- Muhd Farid Marican Bin Abdullah (Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering Club)
- Kwek Jia Chen (SP Dragon Boat)
- Lee Ci Ern Clement (SP NYAA Ambassador Club)
- Lim Jun Yong (SP Ambassadors)
- Lynnette Krystall G Aviado (Digital Media & Infocomm Technology Club)
- Mia Sara Choo (SP Students Sports Club)
- Muhd Shafieq Bin Muhd Nizam (SP Students' Union)
- Ho Wei Zheng Timothy (SP Students' Union)

- Benji Nah Jiawei (Chemical & Life Sciences Club)
- Nur Annisaa' Saihah Bte Abdul Latiff (SP Vocal Talents)
- Nur Marlina Bte Majid (SP Students Sports Club)
- Oh Ling Ting (Community Service and Cultural Club)
- Sandra Ng Mei Wen (Community Service and Cultural Club)
- Ow Wai Kian (SP Videography Club)
- See Xin Xiu (SP Tchoukball)
- Teo Jian Rong (SP Student Entrepreneurs Club)
- Wong Xing Gui (SP Bowling)

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION GROUP AWARDS

Digital Media & Infocomm Technology Club, SP Aviation Club, SP BP Mentoring Club, SP Business School Club, SP Cyclists, SP Environment Club, SP Krav Maga, SP Photography Club, SP Student Entrepreneurs Club, SP Students' Union, SP Tchoukball, SP Videography Club

MODEL STUDENT AWARDS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Jonathan Peh Zhuang Sheng, Lye Mingzhong Christopher

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Goh Li Ting Jasmine, Soh Shi Nan, Wee Jia Yi

SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & LIFE SCIENCES

Amanda Chia Siew Hui, Yeo Zhi Suh Marcus

SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY

Chew Keng Hao



SP Sportsman and Sportswoman 2015: Timothy Lee and Audrey Yong.



Award recipients (from left) Outstanding Contribution Individual Award for SP NYAA Ambassador Club – Clement Lee; Model Student Award and Outstanding Class Leader Award – Amanda Chia; Model Student Award – Christopher Lye.

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Joell Thng Chong Shu
Lim Keng Zhi
Tan Sze Meng
Yoong Jia Hui

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Ang Wan Ling
Chin Guan Wei
Goh Jia Hui
Toh Si Yin

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY

Aaron Goh Zhao Rong
Sun Bowen

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL

Kong Ee Lin Eileen

SP DESIGN SCHOOL

Yong Ming Jie



Outstanding Contribution Individual Award winner Muhd Shafieq Bin Muhd Nizam.



SP Team of the Year: SP Dragonboat (Mixed).



School of Chemical and Life Sciences students with their lecturer Ms Koh Siok Im (far left) outside a restaurant in Kamakura city, Japan.

where students learned about the advancement of sciences in using huge amounts of human motion sensor data to customise products to suit individuals' special needs, such as sport shoes, insoles, tables, car seats, child-safe products and toys.

During their free time, the group visited various Tokyo districts, such as Odaiba, where they saw the famous Gundam statue; Ikeburo, a popular shopping district; Asakusa, where they visited Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and possibly most significant temple; and Akihabara, a district famous for its anime, manga and games merchandise.

"I'm a big fan of Studio Ghibli animation movies," says Ayumi. "Near the area where my homestay family lives, there is a beautiful red bridge. This bridge was actually featured in the Ghibli film, *Arrietty*. I felt really lucky to be living so nearby that I could see it every day in real life." They also visited nearby cities like Kamakura, which is home to Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, a famous Shinto shrine.



A robot in the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology that can carry out simple laboratory functions like pipetting liquids and incubating samples.

This trip is one of several extensive overseas study programmes conducted by the School of Chemical and Life Sciences. Students get opportunities to go on internships and study trips to countries such as South Korea, UK, US and Australia. Some have carried out research attachments at top universities such as Harvard (US), Yale (US), Imperial College London (UK) and Oxford (UK).



The group outside Okuma Auditorium, an iconic landmark in Waseda University.

Amazing Japan

すごい日本

The exchange programme, organised by one of Japan's top universities, Waseda University (WU), allowed 10 **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS), Biotechnology (DBT) and Materials Science (DMLS)** students and recent graduates (still students at the time of the trip) to experience Japanese culture and develop a global mind set toward their courses of study.

The students came up close with Japan's culture during their homestays. Each student was assigned to live with a Japanese family throughout the entire trip (see sidebar story). As for science and technology, the students had lessons together with WU students and were taught basic lessons on quantum physics and mathematical probability by lecturers there, in order to expose them to topics beyond their main expertise. They also made numerous industry and farm visits.

During a two-week study exchange in Tokyo, Japan, students from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences learnt about the cutting-edge of modern manufacturing and research technologies, and were amazed by artificial organs, human motion sensor data technology and more. **SPiRiT shares about their trip.**

One establishment that stood out was the Tokyo Women's Medical University - Waseda University Joint Institution for Advanced Biomedical Sciences (TWIIns). This institute contains the T-factory (Tissue Factory), a biomedical research centre exploring the use of 3D printers and cell cultures to create artificial organs and hearts made of living tissue. "Usually, if the genetic make-up of an organ donor doesn't match the patient, the patient's body will undergo tissue rejection as an immune response," shares DBS final-year student Chan Jun Wei. "However, the T-factory is currently researching 3D printers that can identify and print organs out of living cells that are compatible with a

patient's body. As a DBS student, this naturally amazed me."

Adds DBT final-year student Ayumi Tan, "I was really excited when they showed us a very thin, almost transparent nanosheet material that can be used in operations to dress wounds. For instance, after operating on a heart, you could place this nanosheet over it to reduce bleeding."

Other highlights include a Dowa Hightech recycling plant that extracts precious metals like gold and silver from broken electronics, and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST),



A staff member at Tokyo Women's Medical University - Waseda University Joint Institution for Advanced Biomedical Sciences, showing the students around the institute's labs.



Jun Wei (centre) with the members of his hosts, the Sawaji family.

STAYING WITH THE SAWAJIS

Chan Jun Wei gives a short account of his experience with his homestay family, the Sawajis: "If you live in a Japanese home, you'll find that they are really courteous people. During my stay, the Sawajis were really kind and treated me as family. They would greet me before I went to sleep, or offer to let me use the bath first before them. They would even ask me what I wanted for dinner and go the extra mile

to cook it for me, which is no small deal, because Japanese families tend to cook eight to nine small dishes even if they aren't a big household. They also take a lot of effort to garnish their dishes and present them well.

This exchange was my first ever trip outside Singapore, besides going to Malaysia, and I'm really glad that I was hosted by the Sawaji family and the lecturers and staff at Waseda University. They truly showed me what it means to have a spirit of hospitality."

Engineering Wunderkidz

Cute-looking furry and huggable soft toys. You call that an engineering innovation? Yes, in the world of engineering, nothing is impossible! As a matter of fact, the Huggler, as its creators call it, is a health-assistive gadget designed to help patients with dementia and depression. And it

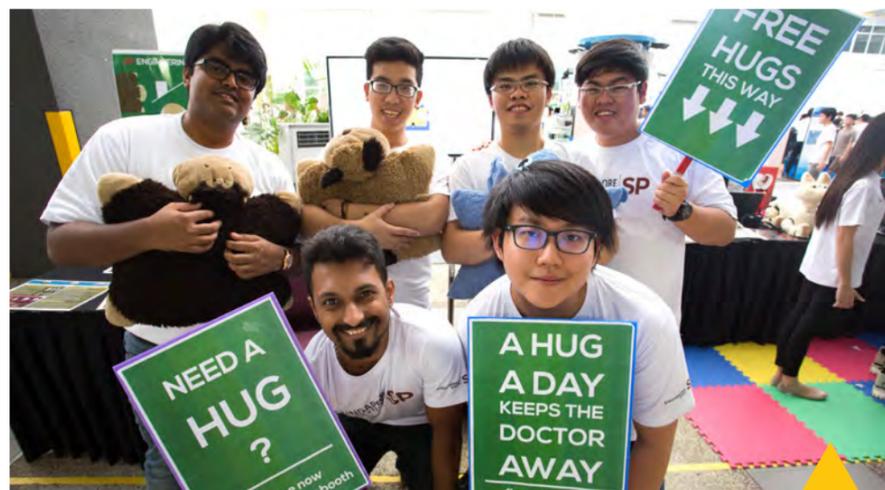
has great potential to be commercialised too! The annual Engineering Show showcased close to 100 innovations by engineering students across various SP schools. From clean energy technology to robotics, healthcare to transport and mobility, these innovations could possibly be the engineering solutions to many of today's problems in all aspects of society.

A special feature of this year's show is the addition of industry-ready ideas developed by SP staff from the various Technology and Innovation Centres as well as the academic schools. This includes Nasi Go, which lets you eat your favourite nasi lemak or chicken rice without any cutlery!

SPiRT brings you some of the highlights of Engineering Show 2015.



To better understand how elderly people really feel, this Silver Suit will enable the wearer to experience the mobility, vision and hearing difficulties of the elderly community. *Team members: Heng Yoke Heng, Diviyanth Jayamaran, Vincent Lee, Tay Woei Jye, Giggs Tan, Tang Yen Hong, Yong Phi Lip, Javier Chan and Ernest Mok.*



Need a hug? SP students worked with A*STAR to create the Huggler, a robotic pet equipped with motion sensors and detectors to help those with dementia or depression.



Rico, whose full name is Rehabilitative Interactive Companion, is a pet robot that can respond to human commands. *Team members for Huggler(above), RICO and the Intellisense Bed (left) comprise: Kathleen Kaye, Vinita Ganesan, Yeo Yong Ming, Li Haiqiang, Leow Jia Xiang, Janson Chang, Ng Pei Jun, Ho Jun Jie, Caleb Foo, Ayub Mohd Rasool, Maung Nyan Lin, Loh Wei Jien, Shambavi, Poysollameyyar Parthiban, Emil Yong, Pheh Jing En, Henry Lau, Lee Choon Siang, Sherman Lim, Aaron Beh, Chia Nang Ying, Ramakrishna Santhiri, Frederick Ching.*



This Intellisense Bed can monitor body temperature and movement. It comes with a temperature-controlled mattress which will activate lighting when a person leaves the bed, reducing the likelihood of falls.



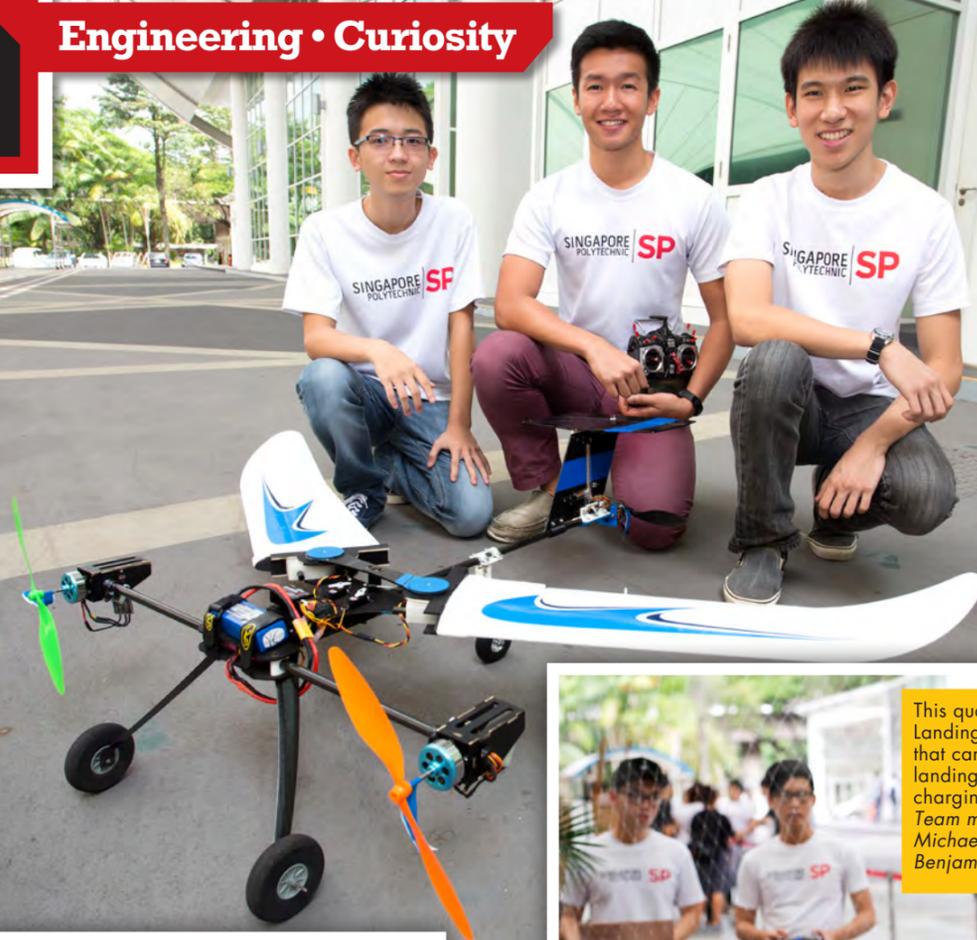
A social robot who can assist in our daily tasks like delivering items and serving customers. *Team members: Sun Weibo, Nelson Siauw, Kam Yit Ling, John Low, Nguyen Anh Vu, Tan Kok How, Darren Tan, Chua Eng Soon, Kim Chester Geraldo Garcia, Sharaveen Subramaniam, Thandayuthabani Maturaveeran, Chiew Zu Peng, Koh Zhi Xiang, Tan Jun Xuan, Mohd Fadhill Bin Mohd Softe, Tan Siang Leng, Tan Boon Hock, Choo Zhen Zong, Muhd Asyraf Bin Azman, Benjamin Yong, Arjun Singh Avtar Singh and Mohd Yunus Amran Bin Mohd Yazid.*



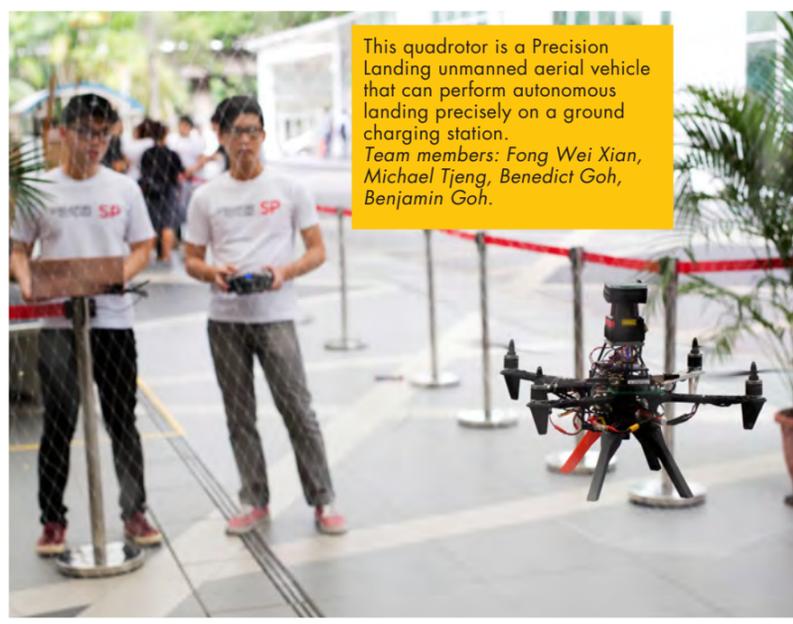
Sunspec4: Witness this 100 per cent solar car in motion when it participates in the World Solar Challenge 2015 in Australia. It aims to complete 3,000 km from Darwin to Adelaide in six days. *Team members: Chian Yit Hoe, Anson Chua, Phua Chun Boon, Lee Yong Wei, Muhd Azhar Bin Abdul Karim, Sean Yap, Tham Shun Cai, Nicholas Tan, Muhd Shahmi Bin Mohd Sabli, Tan Jia Wei, Clement Tang, Soh Sze Min, Joell Thng, Wilson Ng, Grady Choi, Foo Kai Xiang, Roth Voo, Sia Ren You, Chai Yun Lim, Melvin Kang, Seet Ngee Yang, Adriel Teguh Santosa, Lim Jian Ping and Tan Kah Chun.*



An engineering innovation that modifies the way air hockey is played. This first-of-its-kind table design comes with puck shooters and an infrared-activated scoring system. *Team members: Ye Htei, Ng Kim Yi, Min Marn Oo, Ei Thet Khine, Heng Kah In, Muhd Nico Bin Mohd Mario Hamid, Andre Kwan, Neo Ying Qi, Chen Lili and Chen Zhixiang.*



Weighing less than 1.5kg, this upgraded flying machine with a cool name, Switchblade li-2: Jumpjet, is capable of in-flight transitions.
Team members: Chua Yong Chun, Alexander Tan, Joshua Chu, Ryan Tan and Ng Jun Tian.



This quadrotor is a Precision Landing unmanned aerial vehicle that can perform autonomous landing precisely on a ground charging station.
Team members: Fong Wei Xian, Michael Tjeng, Benedict Goh, Benjamin Goh.



This Aircraft Autopilot System is a navigation system that can track and locate the position of an aircraft using motion sensors coupled with a computer programme.
Team members: Joan Ng, Oh Yicong, Daryl Chia, Lim Wei Liang, Kenneth Choo and Lai Joo Qee.



This is aptly called a Unique Exercising System as it combines a rowing machine with a bicycle. The exercising motion can churn out electrical energy that can be used to power up household appliances.
Team members: Paul Scott Lange, Muhd Faiz Bin Jamil and Muhd Sufiyan Bin Abdul Razak.



Don't underestimate this zebrafish. It has the potential to help with the prognosis of cancer patients.
Team members: Kenneth Png, Shaun Tan and Lincoln Seow.



A green battery-run vehicle designed to be operated with one driver with or without passengers. It can carry a laden load of up to 450kg.
Team members: Eugene Gwan, Xerxes Chong, Lim De Quan, Herman Theng.



With solar panels and micro-turbines installed on roof tops, energy can be captured during sunny and rainy days with this Green Solarain System.
Team members: Pang Kai Li, Koh Chun Wei, Lim Zhe Xuan, Teo Jun Hao, Arthur Sam, Terence Thng, Jonathan Peh and Huang Weide.



No battery or electricity needed as this is an ice-cream trishaw powered by solar energy.
Team members: Shwun Lai Win, Shi Guanxiang, Alfian Bin Muhd Amin, Aravin Raj Nalall Tamby.

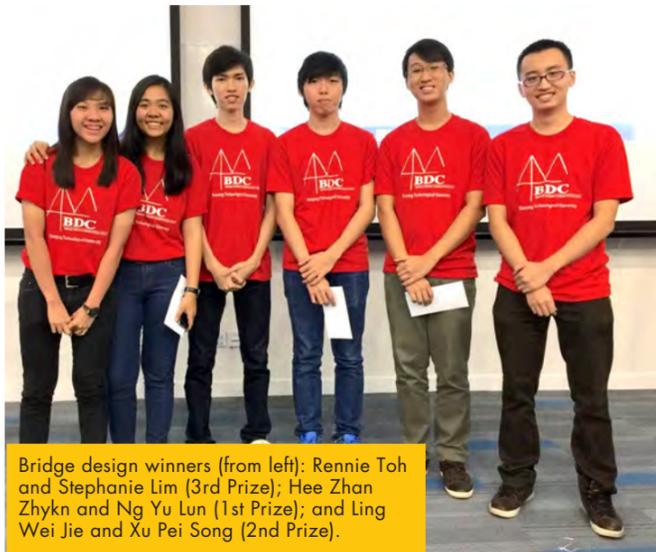


From left: Kendrick Hu, Douglas Wong and Daryl Heng created a new Singapore record with their Ballistic Accelerator Device.

FASTER THAN SOUND

A new Singapore record was broken by three SP fresh graduates from the **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)**: Daryl Heng, Kendrick Hu and Douglas Wong. During their final year, they took on a suggestion from their lecturer Mr Leong Ying Wei to develop a Ballistic Accelerator Device, which eventually became their final-year project. It entailed launching a ping pong ball faster than the speed of sound, with enough force to even punch through a ping pong bat!

It took three months for them to build the device and after two tests, it worked! A second trial was conducted in the presence of the media. Besides getting all excited about having a place in the Singapore Book of Records, they were awed that their project had potential applications such as launching Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at high speeds.



Bridge design winners (from left): Rennie Toh and Stephanie Lim (3rd Prize); Hee Zhan Zhykn and Ng Yu Lun (1st Prize); and Ling Wei Jie and Xu Pei Song (2nd Prize).

CHAMPION BRIDGE DESIGNERS

About 100 tertiary students from Singapore and Malaysia, including those from SP's **Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB)**, pitted their engineering skills to build the strongest and most eye-catching mini-bridges at the NTU Bridge Design Competition 2015.

Organised for the second time by Nanyang Technological University (NTU)'s Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Club and the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), the competition aimed to ignite students' awareness on sustainability and sustainable designs.

Participants, in teams of two people, had to design a mini-bridge structure using balsa wood and adhesives and test the bridge by loading it with increasing weight until it collapsed.

SP teams swept the top three prizes. Final-year students Ng Yu Lun and Hee Zhan Zhykn took the top prize. Second prize went to Ling Wei Jie and Xu Peisong, while Rennie Toh Qian Yu and Stephanie Lim Wei Ling took home the third prize.

INNOVATIVE ART

At the recent Assistive and Rehabilitation Technologies (ART) Student Innovation Challenge (SIC) where Singaporean students develop creative and innovative devices or solutions to improve the quality of living of the elderly and people with disabilities, SP teams swept away four awards.

The Huggler project, developed by a team of fresh SP graduates from the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** (more about this on page 26) took the Silver Award and the Best Prototype Award. The team also received a green lane direct entry to represent Singapore at the World Student Innovation Challenge @ i-CREATE which will be held right here in August.

Commendation Awards went out to the teams that designed and developed the Hand Exoskeleton for Assistance in Self-feeding and Rehabilitation, as well as the Upper Limb Rehabilitation Device.



Team Huggler (from left) Poysollameyyar Parthiban, Ramakrishna Santhira, Janson Chang, Aaron Beh, Pheh Jing En and Caleb Foo receiving their prize from Ms Anne Cheng, a venture capitalist and also one of the judges.

A Bagful of Awards

VERTICAL TAKE-OFF

SP's pole position in aeronautical engineering was proven once again when it scored as the big winner at the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition 2015.

A combined team of graduates and current students from the **Diplomas in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE), Aerospace Electronics (DASE) and Clean Energy (DCEG)** clinched the first prize in the Unconventional Aircraft Category. Calling themselves the Improbable Aeronauts and the Dubious Sub-contractor, they beat 29 other teams, grabbed the Best Free Style Performance Award and took home a Samsung Tab 4 each and a total cash prize of \$4,000! They were also named the Overall Champion!

The team had to design an unconventional aircraft and demonstrate its flight within a confined outdoor area. They took four weeks to conceptualise and create their flying machine which could take off on the spot in confined spaces without a runway, just like a helicopter. Such a capability is valued by the military as



Amazing SP Team (from left): Jonas Hii and Ho Cheng Wei (DARE graduates), Muhd Hazim (final-year DARE student), Bryan Lim (final-year DCEG student) and Gavin Lau (DASE graduate) showing off their championship trophy with staff from the School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (4th and 5th from left) Mr Chua Jiat Loong and Mr Benjamin Koh.

it would allow aircraft to still take off when a runway is damaged or unavailable.

A second SP team called Hunter comprising recent graduates from DARE (Anthony Jhoni, Kaung Ko Ko and Lee Zheng Hao) and Albert Jhoni, a SP freshee from the **Diploma in**

Landscape Architecture (DLA) also competed and took home two top prizes: the Most Creative Award and the Mystery Award. They also clinched the second prize in Free-Style Performance and third in Best Video Award.

GRADUATING AS SG50 WINNERS

Nicole Yang (**Diploma in Digital Animation - DDA**), Aaron Lim (**Diploma in Architecture - DARCH**), Goh Jia Hui (**Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering - DARE**) and Aaron Goh (**Diploma in Maritime Business - DMB**) will fondly remember that they graduated in the same year that Singapore turns 50.

The double celebration is made more memorable because the four of them teamed up to represent SP at the Local Champions, Global Leaders competition organised by SPRING Singapore. The competition aimed to share stories of how local enterprises have grown together with Singapore over the past 50 years.

The competition provided a platform for students from the polytechnics and universities to compete in their various categories through a medium of their choice. The judging criteria

included creativity in booth design and clarity in conveying the message. The team came in third in the category for Polytechnics (Small and Medium Enterprises) and took home a cash prize of \$3,000!

Says Aaron, the project leader: "We took part in this competition not because of the attractive cash prize but because of the opportunity to work and learn with a local company to tell their stories. Having already a picture in mind, I quickly roped in Nicole, Aaron (Lim) and Jia Hui from the other schools. So this was borne out of very different diplomas."

Their working partner was Stamford Media International (SMI). It is largely known as a printing firm but has expanded into media solutions and logistics. It was a challenge for the team as they had to learn about an industry they had heard little of. However, after conducting a couple of meetings and interviews with the company's management, they felt that



From left: Goh Jia Hui, Nicole Yang, Aaron Lim and Aaron Goh posing with their winning project installation.

SMI was a very united and closely knit company that treats their employees like family. This gave them the focus for the project: family values, and they proceeded to the next stage: preparing an exhibition with digital animation.

All in, it was a truly rewarding experience for the four of them. Besides getting a good understanding of local enterprises, the experience also opened up useful industry connections for them.

Uncovering *Pakistan*

A trend among university undergrads is to take a gap year break to travel the world before starting their first-year studies, or go on long trips during semester breaks. In SP, we have Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) student Benjamin Aw, who did just that. But he didn't go to Paris, Portugal, or other popular destinations. He explored the raw, majestic beauty of Pakistan on a two-month trip during school break, and discovered a very different picture of the place than what we usually get from the media.

A REAL PAKISTAN

Few Singaporean feet have kissed the soils of Pakistan, so it tells you something about Benjamin Aw's sense of adventure that he's been to a place often reported in the news to have serious, sometimes dangerous conflicts. A more lighthearted example of his daring, though, would be his experience eating sheep

"We were swarmed by the kids at a village just before Askole where we were trekking into. It was one of our countless warm and genuine encounters with the people of Pakistan," says Benjamin.

testicles there. "It tasted extremely... organic," Ben smirks slightly. "It's like a mild version of smelly tofu with spices. It has this squishiness to it as well."

Of course, Ben didn't spend all his meals chewing on animal gonads. Between Pakistan and Xinjiang, China (which he also visited), for instance, the streets are lined with chops of grilled, spiced and savoury mutton. Ben says it's the best mutton he's ever tasted.

His food review is likely worth its salt. The tanned, tall, lean yet sturdy second-year student is an avid traveller and mountaineer who's been to 30 countries so far. His biggest expeditions

he has encountered across 30 nations. It has beautiful though ominous mountains. Serious conflicts are a part of life there, but his journey was a completely peaceful affair.

"Most of the Karakoram mountains are easily over 6,000 meters, which makes them really impressive. The whole area was also very desolate – it attracts you with its grandeur but repels you at the same time with its emptiness. You love it but you know you don't want to spend too much time in such isolation," says Ben. He adds that he wasn't alone though. "I hired a guide and a cook. Probably one of the best cooks ever. He used a pan and a pot

include a 10-month land journey from Singapore to India, and a six-month trip through China, Mongolia, Russia and Eastern Europe. He started his two-month trip to Pakistan and Xinjiang to trek the region's Karakoram mountain range and experience its local culture.

His conclusion about Pakistan? It has one of the top three most hospitable peoples

to create a makeshift oven and cook pizza. Can you imagine making pizza halfway up a mountain? Well he did... He's a magician," he concludes, laughing. [Editor's note: If you ever want to go on a similar journey, Ben advises hiring helpers through a local trek operator. Wages for cooks and guides are about 15 to 20 USD each (per day), excluding tips at the end.]

He talks about the people as well, about conversations and meals he had on the streets, and the reliability of his trekking companions. His most distinct memories of people, however, were in Xinjiang. During a trip to the Muztagh Ata Mountain, he and a companion were



"You know you are blessed when your cook is a magician and he bakes a pizza 4,700m above sea level without an oven," quips Ben. He hired the cook for his travels in the Karakoram mountain range.



Ben at the campsite of Urdukas Peak in the Karakoram mountain range in Pakistan, with his cook (left) and guide.



Muztagh Ata Peak towering in the distance above the sacred Karakul Lake in Xinjiang, China.



"In Lahore, they have a local dish called *taka tak*. These sheep testicles are called so due to the special sound which comes from the pan in which the organs are fried, a rhythm that goes taka tak, taka tak." Ben recalls. He is currently practicing travel photography, and one of his photos was recently featured by National Geographic Online. Views his works on Instagram at @L3enj4min.

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEN AW

Ben's life seems similar to *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, the Ben Stiller movie about a timid office worker who can't locate an important photo negative for his company, and takes a leap of faith, travelling to Greenland and the Himalayas to track it down. Ben (Aw) has got the travel part down, but not the office life just yet, which he's totally fine with.

"Since young, I've always been playful and energetic, sometimes overly so," he shares. "I was never afraid of trying new things. Even things that were bad for me, such as smoking. And I always loved the outdoors. I joined the mountaineering club, played soccer and even worked as a freelance outdoor instructor. So I can't imagine working in an office, with 14 days of annual leave, with my personality."

He looked to many other ideas for what he terms a "semi-nomadic life", such as working as a diving instructor overseas. Eventually, he realised that a good fit for many of his aspirations would be sailing. He eventually enrolled into SP's DNS course and now, as a second-year student, he's looking forward to how his studies will prepare him for a sailing career. "For sailing full-time, many contracts involve two to six months of sailing depending on whether you are in the offshore or ocean-going sector, and then one to three months of time off back home; some companies even pay you while you're on leave. To me, this is an ideal work-life balance. I also don't spend money when I'm on a ship, and the journey spares me the price of an airplane ticket to the destination country. DNS allows me the opportunity to get this balance, which is great. However, I should also share that shore leaves are potentially shorter these days because ports are now more well-equipped and move cargo faster. Also, I've heard life at sea isn't for just anybody. It's rewarding

but it has difficult aspects as well, such as potential homesickness, for one. Overall though, I haven't started my internship and seen real life at sea yet, but the idea of it definitely intrigues me." Ben particularly looks forward to his one-year internship on a commercial vessel, which all second-year DNS students must undergo. He hopes to be assigned to a ship heading towards North or South America.

Do his long trips from home, and the longer trips to come at sea worry his parents? "During my 10-month trip to India, my mom was not too amicable with the idea," Ben says. "But I don't think it's something that could've been avoided. Traveling is innately selfish in some ways, and as I grow older, I know I have to make my own life decisions and know what works for me. My mom is more traditional. My dad is more open. He's a man of few words but I know he's alright with what I've chosen."

TRAVELING LIGHT

Ben offers some travel tips on packing, "Pack light but pack right. You can buy quick dry clothes," he says, "such as towels that are absorbent and odour-resistant shirts that wash and dry quickly too. Sometimes I pack only two t-shirts. One for wearing, one for washing."

"Also pack duct tape," he says, his tone becoming deeper and more serious. "There are a lot of things in life that you cannot believe in... and duct tape is not one of them. (Laughs). It's like the best invention in this world." His best use of it to-date was in Cambodia. While Ben was visiting an orphanage, dogs chewed up his sandals, which he'd left on the floor. Twenty minutes of DIY with duct tape later, his sandals were back in a functioning state. Ben later trekked for 30 days with them in the Himalayas without them falling apart.

The tanned young man, equal parts serious and funny, talks about money as well. Tips like how it's good to safe keep cash by rolling it into an empty lip balm stick. Or how it's possible to spend just about \$6,500 during a six-month trip across China, Mongolia, Russia and Eastern Europe if you carefully consider and research couchsurfing (staying for free at the homes of locals who accept foreign visitors). He also sternly advises people to cut their Starbucks coffee spending if they have a long trip they want to invest in. He himself funds his trips using savings and his salary as a freelance camp instructor, and spends on few to no extravagances.

His final advice to people considering extensive travels: "The most important thing to pack for your trip is an open mind. Leave your own perspectives back at home. Be a "yes man"... not like saying yes to following strangers into a car, but yes to new experiences and challenges."

delayed on their return trip to their host village. Two local brothers, whom they had met in the village, became worried by their absence and rode motorbikes up the mountain to see if they were lost. In the end the brothers gave them a ride back down to the village, at no benefit to themselves.

Another incident he remembers was in Tashkurgan, a city in Xinjiang near the Pakistan border. "My friends and I were walking around a village area. The people there are of Tajik ethnicity and they are known in Chinese to be *chun pu* ("pure" in Mandarin). We bumped into two kids and started chatting with them, and they invited us to their homes to have dinner and stay overnight. That was something we just don't see in Singapore, so it left a strong impression on me."



"The best grilled mutton I've ever sunk my teeth into. *Au naturel* goodness as the sheep get to drink really good natural waters in Xinjiang," says Ben.

Ben sums up one of the main learning points of the trip: the value of experiencing a new place in person. He says, "A lot of people associate Pakistan with conflict because of terrorism there... I would say the only point when I felt danger was when I was traveling in a bus along a narrow mountainside. At no point did I feel any sort of hostility or aggression toward me from the locals. Of course, Pakistan has serious conflicts, but there are many normal daily life activities going on that we don't think about. Many locals I met were also keen in their efforts to show the authentic side of their country and that to me is priceless because the usual tourists would

often be on the receiving end of 'interactions for transactions'. One of my greatest benefits from going to a new place is getting to understand its people's culture and being proven wrong about my assumptions. That's what happened to me here."



Going once, going twice, sold! Locals loading up a buffalo to be used for its meat, hide and fur.



Digital Delights

A Day Out Fishing by DDA graduates is a gorgeously animated short film. It features a young girl who befriends a sea monster who changes the colour of its skin whenever it eats an object. The team behind it is (from left): DDA recent grads Esmond Yeo, Tiffany Yong and Lum Yu An. It's amazing that this 3-person team created their film in just four months, even while juggling other modules!



For three years, they honed their skills in labs and studios, waiting for the final moment to showcase their creations in the form of apps, software, animation clips, short films and music compositions. At Render 2015, graduates from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology put on their best works for an inspection by professionals from the industry.

Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM) students showed off anti-hacking and website and operating system protection software. **Information Technology (DIT), Business Information Technology (DBIT) and Interactive Media (DixM)** students built mobile apps, programmes for analysing global data and social media initiatives. **Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** and **Digital Animation (DDA)** students presented gorgeous short films and animated movies. Last but not least, **Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)** students filled the air

with love ballad, jazz, emo rock and pop tunes that they themselves composed.

Several of these projects were collaborations with real-life companies and organisations. Others were put together using the skills that the students picked up while on internships or study trips in places like San Francisco, London and Japan. **SPiRiT** brings you highlights from the exhibition ([check out the entire range of works at www.render.sg](http://check.out.the.entire.range.of.works.at.www.render.sg)):



(From left) DixM graduates Wong Jiamin, Brice Tan and Maisarah Osman created Travla, a one-stop mobile app that allows travellers to research countries and tourist attractions, book hostels and find directions all at once, thus avoiding the hassle of constantly switching between multiple internet browser tabs while researching their trip.



Derailed is a film depicting the perceptions and haunted memories of a patient suffering from schizophrenia. DVEMG team members (clockwise, from left): Chew Keng Hao, Benedict Lim, Melvin Nicholas Lu, Edinburgh Poh, Rachel Tan. Keng Hao, Benedict and Rachel were all invited back by their respective internship companies (1Light Media, a video production firm in San Francisco, USA; A Post Office and Onedash22, both local video production companies) to work for them after their internships had ended.



DAS Math Assessment is a collaborative project with the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS). It is a mobile app assessment tool for screening primary school students to see if any of them require a math education programme for dyslexics. The creators are DBIT graduates (from left): Benedict Then, Timothy Ho, Tan Hui Yee, Douglas Lee, Edwin Lee.



Global Health Analytics is a big data application that allows users to analyse health data from the World Health Organisation and other global sources. The app provides multiple ways to visualise the data info-graphically, and allows newcomers to the health scene to learn about international health patterns or trends. DIT team members (from left): Ang Jin Wei, Yap Jun Hong, Liew Jun Yi, Zheng Bing Bing, Khu Giem Teck.



DMAT graduates Nicolette Tay, Lek Kai Wen (background, left) and Joel Choo (background, right) performing their original song during the grad show. The musicians, singers, composers and sound engineer graduates from DMAT put together a stunning performance of musical genres like pop, rock, love ballads and jazz for the captive audience at Render.



Not too long ago, the news reported how hackers around the world had hacked and defaced various websites. DISM graduates (from left) Mustaqim Muhar, Muhd Asri Bin Ali, Bernard Tan and Santhoshraj S/O Elamparidhi collaborated with the Institute for Infocomm Research to develop new anti-hacking measures. They made D.N.A (Detect.N.Alert), a software that can automatically detect website defacement attacks and alert web administrators.

A Young Designer's Touch

Design can be found in our teacups, our houses, our computer games, the logos of our mobile apps and even advertising commercials or campaigns. And good designs will change the way we perceive and experience these seemingly commonplace things. This fact has never been clearer than during the Edition 15.9 and Unlimited exhibitions, which showcased final-year projects of SP's recent graduates from the SP Design School and the School of Architecture and the Built Environment.

Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)

graduates showcased a range of proposals for modern community centres. **Landscape Architecture (DLA)** graduates unveiled their plans for re-shaping various districts of Singapore to improve their beauty, community bonding and traffic circulation.

Experience and Product Design (DXPD)

graduates created a range of lifestyle objects, items to promote tourism or interaction between individuals, and concepts for mobile

apps. **Interior Design (DID)** graduates presented their ideas for modern housing spaces, wet markets, memorial grounds and furniture designs. **Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** graduates displayed corporate branding projects for improving the look and public image of a company, and social movement advertising campaigns. **Games Design and Development (DGDD)** graduates showcased a range of imaginative and thrilling computer games.

Each project provided a modern re-design of things that we see in daily life, to give them fresh purpose, fun and increased usability. All of them were created based on the fundamentals of good design: effective research, curiosity and experimentation. And they were all viewed and appreciated by professionals from the design and architecture industries who viewed the exhibitions. **SPRIT** brings you some of the exhibition highlights.



DLA graduates Andy Mok and Koh Mun Yen showing off their landscape re-designs for an area near Tanglin Halt and the Queenstown area, respectively. Their proposals aim to improve community interaction and traffic circulation in the areas. They also have additional water catchment zones as a means of beautifying and cooling the environment. Both of them gained valuable landscape design experience during their internships at local firm Cicada and the National Parks Board, respectively.



From left: DARCH graduates Gan Chien Huey, Bryan Sanchez and Jude Ho with their models of modern community centres with improved features for encouraging community bonding. Bryan's model emphasises an elegant, classy exterior to attract nearby residents. Jude's model presents a structure with few walls between activity areas and rooms to encourage openness and community. Chien Huey's model has a structure designed to channel wind into the building to make it a cooler and nicer place to rest in.



Badge Up by DXPD graduate Liyana Bte Md Yunus is a sassy and smart re-design of wedding favours. Instead of wedding favours that aren't lasting (e.g. a chocolate) or practical (e.g. a mini-photo album), Liyana felt that favours creating social interaction could be given out instead. She thus designed badges with quirky messages like "I Kissed The Bride" and "I Volunteer As Tribute" to encourage fun interactions between wedding guests who wear them. Liyana's unique ideas were recently featured in the local newspapers.



DXPD graduate Natalie Cheng created *comfort food*, a packaging for congee with garnishes that's meant to evoke a sense of comfort for Singaporeans living overseas through its warm and simple design. She also created *100 better days*, a collection of messages meant to help a person cope with grief from losing a loved one.



Singapore Flavours by DXPD graduate Teresa Khoo is a tourist souvenir in the form of a condiment bowl with the shape of actual condiments like green chilies sculpted inside it. The item triggers the owner's memories of eating in Singapore. It comes together with a booklet of recipes for preparing these condiments.



DVMD graduates Amanda Lim and Kay Thu (not in photo) created a corporate re-branding campaign based on the corporate identity of a local koi retail and farming company, Nippon Koi. Their campaign consists of advertising images, t-shirts, souvenirs, a new logo, and brand art guidelines.



DVMD graduates Joy Oh (left) and Tang Liang Ying designed a re-branding campaign for Something Old Something New, a thrift shop in Simei that hires mentally ill patients to help re-integrate them into society. Their campaign consists of new uniforms, various collateral and promotional images and videos for the shop. Both of them were exposed to branding campaigns while in SP: they won the Ministry of Home Affairs SAFE Programme Silver Award this year for campaigns on security awareness, and also worked on the art direction for the SP Open House 2015 publicity campaign.



DVMD graduate Celestine Ng created *Missing Highlights*, a thought-provoking ad campaign based on the profile of Live On, a social awareness movement for organ donation. The campaign's key image is an organ with an outer skin of newspaper with a key quote on it sharing the hopes, fears and story of a person in need of a transplant.



DGDD graduate Seet Ting Peng with his character designs for various game projects. Ting Peng received the SP Design School Best Design Award in 2014 for his course.



From left: DGDD graduates Joshua Han, Mohd Farhan Bin Mohd Yusman, Oh June Yee, Jasmond Lim and Nicholas Tan with *Parts*, a third-person action game with a robot as the main character. The game gets its name from the robot's ability to pick up the spare parts of enemies he destroys and gain new powers. The team members had various roles in the game's creation, such as game concept designer, artist and programmer.



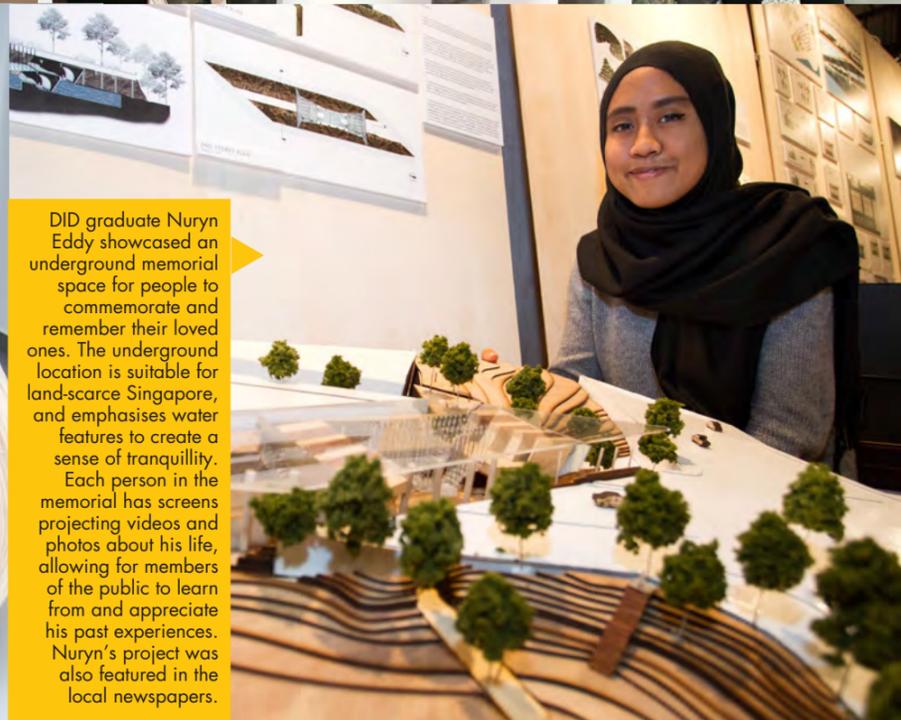
DID graduate Choo Pei Ling designed *The Making*, a modern perspective on Singapore's wet markets. It emphasises good ventilation, a brightly-lit layout and less cramped walkways to create a more comfortable setting where shoppers can appreciate the traditional skills and crafts of wet market shop owners. This project is of one several in a collaborative effort between SP and the National Environment Agency to re-think the design of existing wet markets.



DID graduates Chesna Yeo and Keith Soh with their boutique furniture creations. Chesna's chair is inspired by traditional Teochew embroidery, and can be taken apart to create two separate seats. Keith's seat draws upon the art of traditional lacquerware, and is created out of multiple layers of coiled wood.



DID graduate Nuryan Eddy showcased an underground memorial space for people to commemorate and remember their loved ones. The underground location is suitable for land-scarce Singapore, and emphasises water features to create a sense of tranquillity. Each person in the memorial has screens projecting videos and photos about his life, allowing for members of the public to learn from and appreciate his past experiences. Nuryan's project was also featured in the local newspapers.





Dates With Dubai

Venus (left) with course mate and fellow graduate Leow Qiu Yi sightseeing in Dubai on camelback.

While on internship in a hotel in the United Arab Emirates, recent graduate Venus See got face to face with the many facets of hotel operations and management. She shares about her learning and cultural experiences, as well as the yumminess of dates and hummus in Dubai.

Hey guys!

I'm Venus, and I've just graduated from the **Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM)**. Before graduating, I completed my 22-week internship in Dubai along with my close pal, Leow Qiu Yi! I was privileged to intern at Ibis Al Barsha, a three star hotel conveniently located in the business districts of Dubai.

For the first 11 weeks, I was attached to the front office department as a receptionist. My main tasks involved checking in and checking out guests, assisting them with their requests and

dealing with complaints. As the majority of the guests spoke only Arabic and Russian, I had trouble communicating with them, but luckily, Google Translate came in handy!

For the next 11 weeks, I worked at the food and beverage department (F&B) as a service staff. The hotel has four F&B outlets which include a buffet restaurant, a café and two bars. I enjoyed working at the bar the most as I had the chance to mix cocktails! Working in these roles helped me get a grounded perspective of the challenges and realities involved in hotel management and operations.

Having travelled more than 5,800km from Singapore to the Middle East, I told myself I must explore the exotic country during my off days. I visited several popular tourist attractions like the Dubai Mall, Burj Al Arab and the Dubai Miracle Garden. The most memorable experience I had was visiting a desert safari, where I did exciting activities like quad biking and camel riding, all while donning Dubai's traditional costume! Being on a sandy dune was a rare opportunity for me and I was extremely thrilled to be basking under the sun and carrying out activities I can't do back home.

I learnt a lot about the local culture as well,

the way they dress, the type of food they eat and their common practices. During Ramadan, which is the fasting month strictly enforced in this country, most of the shops were closed during the day. Only during this trip did I realise that dates are a common dish that is served during Iftar (dusk time when Muslims break their fast). I tasted many mouth-watering Middle-Eastern dishes and my favourite is the hummus served with Arabic bread! Hummus is a kind of dip made with chickpeas, olive oil and sesame sauce. I have been craving for it since my return and it is difficult to find equally tasty ones in Singapore.

Through this trip, I have become more independent. Being away from my family for a long time was not easy but thank goodness, we have communication platforms like Skype! Dubai is a bubbling cauldron of many nationalities. Being exposed to people with varied cultural backgrounds taught me to be more sensitive to



Venus worked at the hotel's 24-hour café and other F&B outlets, learning how to make cocktails and sandwiches while getting a deeper understanding of F&B operations.



Venus at a mosque in Dubai.



Venus touching a sand dune for the first time at a desert safari.

different cultures and practices. My diploma has equipped me with sufficient knowledge back home, and this internship was really a good practical platform to apply whatever I have learnt in school to the working environment. This would make me more prepared and confident in the future, especially when handling guest relation matters.

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, which allowed me to step out of my comfort zone to live in a different city. Through my time there, I have forged valuable friendships and acquired indelible memories.

Venus plans to study for a degree in Hospitality Business at the Singapore Institute of Technology, and pursue a career in the service industry in future.

Mind My Own Biz

Entrepreneurship is seemingly taking our youth by storm. We hear of so many new businesses being set up by eager and hungry youth who want to be the next big business breakthrough. Here at SP Business School, students have a platform to test their entrepreneurial skills. **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** and **Business Information Technology (DBIT)** students can take up the Entrepreneurship Option specialisation, which teaches them the skills needed to start and run every part of a business (e.g. accounting, marketing and market research, supplier

sourcing, logistics). During their final year, they are tasked with developing and running their own start-ups for six months or more. They invest their own money into their businesses, and get to reap any profits or losses incurred.

The annual Entrepreneurship Bazaar showcases the businesses created by recent DBA and DBIT graduates (still students at the time of the bazaar). Final-year **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** students taking the Engineering Projects for Entrepreneurs module also took part in the event.

Also displaying their start-ups were students from Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) and Outram Secondary, who are currently taking the 'O' level subject, Introduction to Enterprise Development taught by SP Business School (SB) lecturers.

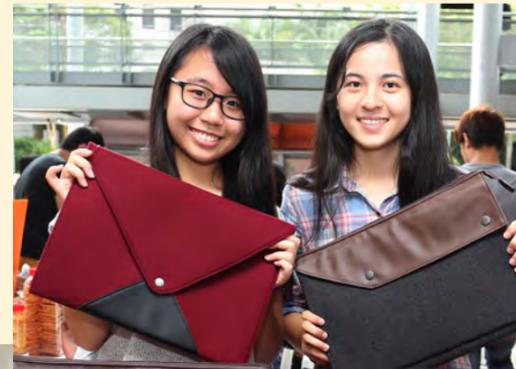
They started their business last year with a mere \$600 capital, but by February this year, they had taken in a total gross revenue of around \$60,000, a new record in the bazaar's history. **TEE-T'S PRINTING & APPAREL** (Tee-Ts, for short) has produced custom t-shirts and polo tees for customers such as Volvo, Caraters (a diamond ring retailer), Lighthouse Ship Agency, the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. ([Website: www.tee-ts.com](http://www.tee-ts.com))

For Tee-Ts, getting clients in their early days meant using word-of-mouth marketing to student groups in SP and external companies. But as time went on, their quality products and excellent service resulted in their early customers recommending them to others.

Tee-Ts also received a \$1,500 scholarship from the SB Entrepreneurship Seed Fund which is given to fund student ventures with strong business proposals.

WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR RUNNING A VENTURE?

Hui Han: Work smart, not hard. For some jobs, we made mistakes due to miscommunication. But after coming up with a more systematic way of liaising with suppliers and customers, we cut down on errors significantly. Sincerity in dealing with customers is important too.



From left: DBA recent grads Ng Heng Rui, Willie Lim, Tan Hui Han and Venus Ee.



From left: Chua Jia Qi (DBA) and Lina Lin (DBIT). Team members Rachel Chia and Yeo Wei Ming (both DBA) not in photo.

TRUFELT is perhaps the team with the broadest span of operations. They have overseas suppliers of their backpacks and laptop sleeves, a website filled with gorgeous pictures of their products, and a unique line of goods created by designers that they hired. Their start-up capital was \$2,500, of which \$1,500 was funded by a scholarship from the SB Entrepreneurship Seed Fund. Since this year, they've broken even and have started making profits. ([Website: www.trufelt.com](http://www.trufelt.com)).

WHAT'S ONE USEFUL THING YOU LEARNT FROM TRUFELT?

Lina: It's important to think about your target audience to get a clearer idea of what to sell. Trufelt's laptop sleeve designs were chosen by us to appeal to both poly students and young working adults.



THE VER WATCHES gets its name from the Spanish term *the ver*, which means "to watch". This team invested one of the highest amounts of start-up capital of about \$4,000. But by February this year, they broke even with \$10,000 in gross revenue! Brands offered include Fossil and Daniel Wellington. ([Website: www.theverwatches.com](http://www.theverwatches.com))

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?

Sheikh: I'm definitely more careful with money now. I used to spend on unnecessary things, but now I realise the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like long-term financial security.

From left: DBA recent grads Tay Kian Hong and Sheikh Naufal. Teammates Andy Sng and Cavier Ong (both DBA) not in photo.

For the first time, SP also invited Crest Secondary students to be involved in the fair and get exposure to what it takes to start a simple business. Says Mohd Hezther Bin Hamzah: "I've learnt that customers place great emphasis on the quality of the goods, and that it's easier to make the sale if you can convince them of the quality. I enjoyed my time at the bazaar as I got to interact with people who have experience in running a small business."



From left, in blue and yellow t-shirts: Crest Secondary students Mohd Hezther Bin Hamzah, Nur Halif Bin Abdullah Sani and Isabel Morris helping out DBA recent grad Nicole Chen Min at her store.

Students from Fairfield and Outram showed great entrepreneurial pluck as well with food and accessory businesses. Says Outram student Wei Jiayi: "Introduction to Enterprise Development studies (a module taught by SP Business School lecturers) are really out-of-the-box, and different from other subjects. We learn exciting things like starting our own business, or



From left: Fairfield Methodist students Ili Luffiah and Dorothy Yip sold macarons and cake pops (cake shaped into a ball on a stick) at the bazaar. Teammates Mindy Leoh, Alethea Quek and Apichart not in photo.

talking to suppliers to try to get cheaper prices for goods." Fairfield student Ili Luffiah adds: "I've learnt to read documents like sales or account records, so next time if I see one, I'll be able to calculate properly and not get cheated too easily, haha! I hope to open my own bakery one day, so these lessons will come in handy."



From left: Outram Secondary students Wei Jiayi, Puvana Swarn, Nick Lee and Chan Kuang Hwa ran Massive Charms, a business selling accessories, laptop stickers and pillows.

Taking Their Stories To The Next Level



The DTVM Class of 2015 at their most glamorous for their red carpet graduation event!

The DTVM Awards 2015 honoured the best television concepts, short films and multimedia projects created by the fourth batch of Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) graduates. **SPiRiT** speaks to Haikal Bin Latiff about DTVM life and the story behind his moving film on foreign workers, *The Invisible Migrant*, which won the Best Documentary award.

WHAT DOES DTVM TEACH, HAIKAL?

DTVM trains you to be a media maker. You learn a lot of different skills such as editing videos, filming, script writing and creating websites. Personally, I like to deal with factual things, so journalism and documentary modules in the course excited me most. We also created stories and concepts for our own original TV or web series ideas.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE COURSE?

Our on-location filming project. In our final year, we travelled to Lombok, Indonesia, and were given four days to shoot a documentary there. We had to find an interesting subject and figure out what our story angle would be like. We encountered plenty of challenges, such as limited time and a lack of suitable profiles. But it felt very real, and that was the exposure we needed.

I also remember how we bonded there as a course. On our last night, we got in a circle around a beach campfire and had a "confession night". Everyone shared what they loved or hated in the course, and cleared up any misunderstandings they might have had with someone else in the past. We got a lot closer that night.

WHAT MADE YOU FOCUS ON MIGRANT WORKERS FOR YOUR OTHER

DOCUMENTARY SHOT IN SINGAPORE?

At that time, the Little India riots had just happened, and there were a lot of xenophobic comments online blaming foreign workers for causing Singapore's worst riot in about 40 years. We wanted to let people empathise with what the workers go through in Singapore,

we were doing. What made it easier was that Belayet really treated us as friends and made us feel welcome.

WHAT IS THE BEST LESSON YOU GAINED FROM DTVM?

During my internship at Channel NewsAsia as a journalist, I felt very out of place. There were a lot of things that I didn't know about, mostly technical, which was frustrating because I hate not being in control of a situation. At one point, I gave up and felt really useless. But my lecturers knocked sense into me and told me that I shouldn't quit. They were very harsh with me, but it was the kind of discipline that showed they really cared about



Haikal's interview with Belayet changed his perspectives. "Foreign workers now mean a lot to me because I see just how much they help in creating Singapore's comfortable landscape," he says.

my opinion, a well-informed group of individuals is the hallmark of how successful a society is.

ANY PARTING WORDS FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND LECTURERS?

My friends, you guys are a talented bunch. You're going to do really well and I can't wait to hear your stories when I meet you again. To my lecturers, "thank you" is never enough for all you've sacrificed for us. We'll be eternally indebted to you.



Second and third-year DTVM students danced and performed for the graduating batch, a tradition at the annual DTVM Awards.

so we did the film to show that yes, foreign workers have stories and lives of their own that we Singaporeans don't know about.

YOUR STORY ON AN INJURED FOREIGN WORKER WAS STUNNING. HOW DID YOU DISCOVER HIM?

On the day that my team went to Little India to find a subject, I noticed this guy on the street with one hand stuffed in a sling. Before you approach a story, you have to know what is interesting and will appeal to people. His story, at first glance, invited plenty of questions. "This guy is in a sling. How is he going to work? How is he going to support his family?" I realised we were about to hit the jackpot. I approached him and sat down with him to talk. His name was Belayet, and he'd been out of work for a few weeks. He suffered a deep cut on his finger after a plank of wood tumbled upon him at a construction site. I felt very sorry for him, so from there, my group members and I started building the story up.

HOW MUCH WORK DID THE FILMING INVOLVE?

I would say we put in a lot of effort. We filmed him in many locales, and at times many foreign workers would look at us and wonder what



From left: Graduates Shalyn Kan, Qaisarah Seiw Hui Ting Bte Roslan, Sim Xi Zhe and Haikal Bin Latiff won the Best Documentary award for their film, *The Invisible Migrant*. Xi Zhe also won the Best Short Film award, while Haikal won the Best Photojournalism Project award. Every winner gets a soft toy called Ah Huat, which is hand-sewed by DTVM lecturer Ms Stella Wee.

me. Eventually, their words pierced through and I changed my attitude. From there, I started performing better. That taught me not to ever give up in anything I do.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING THIS COURSE?

Don't come in with the mindset that you're just going to write. That's not true. You're going to be trained in a wide range of relevant media skills, which is something other courses may not offer.

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM CAREER?

Journalism. I feel it gives you the power to inform and educate others, and it's a service that is very undervalued in today's society. In

THE WRITE APPROACH

The Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) has much to celebrate this year. So far, almost 70 per cent of the course's graduates have gone on to further their studies [mostly in the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Institute of Management]. Several have also received prestigious scholarships such as NTU's Nanyang Scholarship, the Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS) and Media Development Authority scholarships. Three TV concepts by this year's graduates have also been taken up by the media industry and government bodies. View this year's best DTVM videos at the "dtvmsp" YouTube channel.

Training is tough but the boys have developed a bond that will outlast the tough times.



One Stroke One Heart

The SP Dragonboat team has been named the Sports Team of the Year at the SP Excellence Awards Ceremony 2015 for the fifth time. **SPRIT** talks to the boys and girls on the team to find out how they climbed their way up to be among the best dragonboat teams in Singapore while still being full-time students.

PADDLE HARD, STUDY JUST AS HARD

While others are sleeping in on the weekends, the boys from the SP Dragonboat team are already paddling up and down Marina Barrage from as early as 7am. It's tough to wake up early on a weekend to attend training, but that's just the tip of the iceberg for these boys.

In fact, training isn't just limited to Saturday and Sunday. The team's regular training routine consists of five sessions a week. This is ramped up to six times a week, two sessions a day when the team is preparing for a competition. Training is split between land and sea training, with land training being split into strength and endurance sessions.

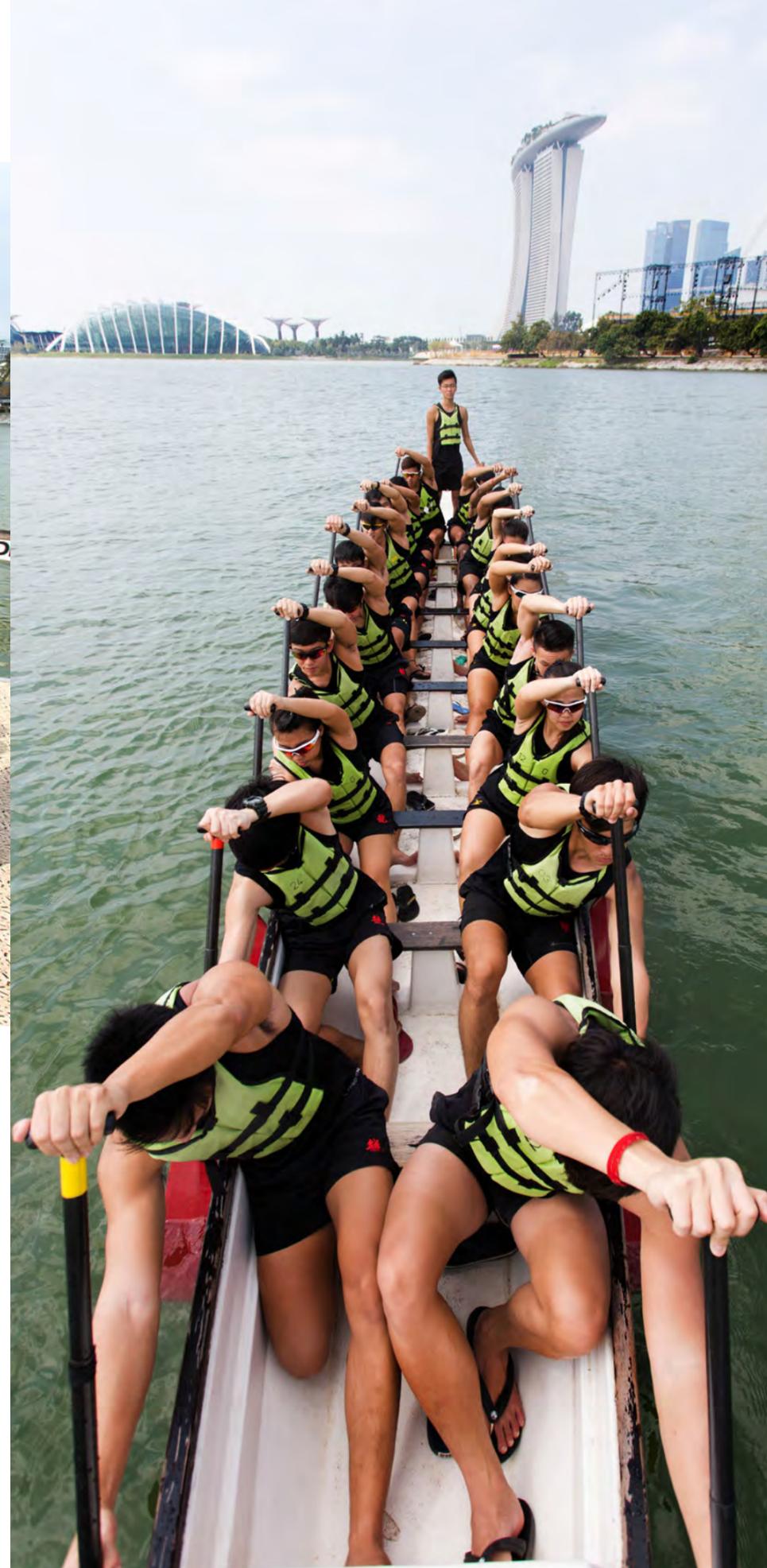
Their training routine definitely looks daunting

to say the least but that's what it takes to be the best; and the SP Dragonboat team is arguably one of the best teams in Singapore. The team's various medals and awards in 2014 include winning all three championships (Men, Women, Mixed categories) at the POL-ITE Games, which is an annual competition for the various polytechnics and ITEs, as well as winning the Men Premier Open and Men Tertiary events for the SAVA Sprints International 2014.

Tan Jun Xuan was the Team Captain, leading them to various victories last year until he stepped down earlier this year to pass the

torch to his juniors. Having an impressive physique and being the captain of a mighty dragonboat team, one might expect him to be loud, boisterous and a tad arrogant. But the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** recent graduate is soft-spoken and modest.

For Jun Xuan, training was definitely tough, and he recalled how he was tempted to quit the team during his first year. "I remember seeing all the other first-year students dropping out as they couldn't handle the training. But going through the tough practices forged a sense of camaraderie among the rest of the team, and



I did not want to let down my teammates by missing training, or worse, quitting the team," he reveals.

With such a demanding training routine, one must wonder how the boys cope with their studies. But Jun Xuan is quick to point out that most members of the dragonboat team score an average of 3.0 for their GPA. The seniors in the team often remind their juniors that their studies are just as, or even more important, than the club. It's not uncommon for some of the members to approach their seniors or some of their teammates for help with school work. Some members also get a bit of time off from training if they find that they are lagging behind for their studies.

As one can imagine, the biggest challenge faced by the boys isn't the training itself, but learning how to juggle their training and their studies. As Jun Xuan puts it, "I've learned to manage my time better, since I used to procrastinate in the past. After becoming a member of the dragonboat team, I needed to dedicate time to both my studies and the dragonboat training. Imagine leaving your house when your family members aren't awake, and only being able to get home when everyone in your family is sound asleep." In addition to spending less time with their families, members also sacrifice their social life as they have less time for social gatherings since training intensifies during the school breaks.

So what is the biggest takeaway from the three furious years of paddling? Besides gaining an impressive physique (he insists that he used to be a very scrawny kid), he has also learned to be more selfless. As the boys go through thick and thin in training, they also learn to support one another in times of need, be it studies or their personal lives. "Being in the team, you will no longer do things for your own interests, but for the other members. Even when I feel like giving up during training, seeing my friends not giving up will spur me to carry on paddling," he states.

Jun Xuan plans to further his engineering education in Nanyang Technological University. He is unsure if he will carry on paddling for the university. While dragonboat may not be on the cards for him in future, the lessons and friendships he has made during these three years will definitely stay with him.

The experiences of going through tough and happy times are what kept the girls together as a closely-knitted team.



The girls certainly have what it takes to hang with the boys in a mixed race or during mixed training.

WE DON'T HAVE BIG ARMS OK?

The SP Dragonboat women's team has won the POL-ITE title two years in a row, and it's largely due to the blood, sweat and tears that the girls have shed over the last three years. But ask the Team Captain, Eunice Thiam, about her life as a female dragonboat paddler, and she will talk more about the experiences and friendships rather than the gruelling training schedule.

Being a member of the netball team back in secondary school, Eunice, from the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)**, naturally looked to joining the netball club after joining SP. But all those years of playing netball also spurred her to look for a new challenge. The dragonboat club was known for its tough training, and Eunice promptly signed up to test herself.

Similarly, Sonia Chong from the **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** also joined the team as a personal challenge to herself. She's no stranger to team sports as well, being a member of the volleyball team back in secondary school. When questioned about the common misconceptions about female dragonboat paddlers, both are quick to point out at the same time that many think that

taking part in dragonboat training will make girls bigger and more muscular. They want to put it on record that this is not the case at all. However, due to the stereotyping, recruiting members was a difficult task in the past. But with the success of the girls' team in the last two years, more girls are coming onboard. "We used to joke about covering up our arms during the CCA Carnival in case the freshmen are intimidated by our tanned, toned arms, but I guess we won't have to do that anymore!" says Sonia with a laugh.

Such candour is common among the girls, as the time spent during training has developed into close friendships. They are so used to making fun of each other and finishing each other's sentences the way only close friends and confidantes do.

However, the frequent tough training still makes it a challenge to retain members. Being a member of two CCAs in addition to full-time studies taught Eunice the importance of time management. "If there were both netball and dragonboat training on the same day, I would go for the dragonboat training," she jokes. "We actually see each other more often than our own family members!" Sonia quips. Since training for both the men's and women's

teams are similar, one would think that the physical challenge of being a dragonboat paddler is the toughest. But Sonia and Eunice disagree, with both feeling that the hardest part about being a female paddler is getting support from family and friends.

They reason that perhaps due to Asian culture and values, boys aren't really expected to stay at home most of the time, but it's considered inappropriate for a girl to spend a lot of time outside home. And so it's unavoidable having some parents getting upset with the girls spending a lot of time on dragonboat training. While it's common for boys to take dietary supplements such as whey protein to aid their performance, Sonia reveals that most parents are not supportive of girls taking the supplements. Hence, some of them take on part-time jobs in order to buy them. And let's not forget the monthly mood swings experienced by the girls. Imagine having to cope with a boatload of cranky or emotional girls!

Even then, the coach for their team still remains firm and strict during training. While the training sessions are tough, the girls speak fondly of their coach, John Goh whom many look upon as a second father. Besides coaching them on the finer points of paddling, Coach John also dispenses nuggets of advice and has even told off a few members for not looking after their health.

And despite having a tough exterior, Eunice reveals that they caught their coach tearing when they crossed the finishing line at POL-ITE and clinched first place for the first time in the history of Dragonboat women's team in 2013. And that's definitely something the girls will remember for the rest of their lives; leaving behind a legacy that will stand in the SP Dragonboat women's team history.



The Amazing CCA Buffet

If you think you're weak, join the SP Strongman Club and start stacking on new muscles. If you have the gift of the gab, the SP Comperes (i.e. emcee and public speaking club) wants you. Why not learn a new language with the SP Sign Language Club? If you need a sport to get your lethargic muscles in action again, join the SP Dragonboat Team. And yes, you can find yourself performing on the stage of the Esplanade if you have a talent in the arts.

It's well known that SP has a wide array of CCAs (more than 120 and counting) that can help you master or improve your skills in areas like scuba diving, makeup artistry or even competitive cheerleading. And if somehow, you still can't find a CCA to suit yourself, you can start a brand new club of your own, with likeminded people to join you!



The SP Canoeists specialise in figuring out how to float your boat.



The SP Dragonboat team made history this year with their championship domination. Read about them on page 52.



Brace yourself for impact with SP Mixed Martial Arts.



Note to all readers: Try to never to solve problems with strangulation. SP Brazilian-Jitsu is just demonstrating the proper technique.



SP Wing Chun offers the first step towards fulfilling one's self-defence needs (as well as Ip Man fantasies).



There is an age-old saying that tells guys to be careful of ladies from SP String Ensemble. They only know how to play charming music and...string you along.



People are all ears for the commanding beats of the SP Daiko Drummers.



A warm greeting from the charming and gracious SP Ambassadors.



Play stirring and moving music along with the SP Chinese Orchestra.



There is raw power sleeping inside you, but it can't be unleashed easily. Or at least, not by a Jedi. You need only give yourself over to the power of the Strongman side.



Roller skates or skateboards - pick your poison and ride along with the SP Skate Club.



You probably don't know what this hand gesture means...which is probably a sign that you should join the SP Sign Language Club!



Smooth tunes and infectious energetic performances are right up the alley of the SP Jazz Band.



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



Memory champs: Wellon (left) and Gerald hold national records for several competitive memory events.

Living on Memory Lane

Wellon Chou says he's just a normal guy. But do you think a normal guy can accurately recall a sequence of 200 colours purely from memory? Normal guys generally don't hold national competitive memory records, or organise Singapore's first-ever Open Memory Championships, either. **SPRIT finds out more about this memory mastermind and his championship co-organiser, Gerald Lim.**

The competitive memory world can surprise first-time viewers. During the Spoken Numbers segment at the 1st Singapore Open Memory Championships 2015 (SOMC), participants listened to a string of 450 numbers recited verbally, and then had 25 minutes to write as much of the sequence down as they could remember. Guess the score of the top performer at the event?

The answer: a whopping 390 out of 450 numbers, recalled by the razor-edged mind of a young Mongolian man. This performance set a new world record in the World Memory Sports Council. In total, the competition saw 52

participants from 10 different countries, some of whom are world-class, like Germany's Simon Reinhard, the world's overall No.2 memory athlete. This inaugural event was held at the Singapore Polytechnic Graduates' Guild and made possible because of one SP student's almost obsessive pursuit of memory techniques.

Wellon Chou started his walk down memory lane six years ago. The **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** recent graduate started watching videos and reading about memory technique. "I used to watch clips of people who could memorise the order of an entire deck of playing cards

correctly," Wellon recalls. "That was when I first learnt that memory techniques existed in the world." He was amazed and started practicing right-brain memory techniques, which focus on imagination, creativity, and making mental associations between facts.

This knowledge presented exciting opportunities to him. "As a kid, I enjoyed reading motivational books. Whenever I felt upset or disappointed, I would spend time in the library reading these 'success books' and feel like I could achieve bigger things as well." Wellon began applying memory techniques to his studies to improve his results, and as time passed, he started thinking about other ways to use this rare skill to achieve more.

When he entered SP, Wellon taught his course mate Gerald Lim these techniques, and together, they've been chasing new

horizons ever since. Wellon and Gerald have graduated with excellent Grade Point Averages of 3.91 and 3.96, respectively, a result which they say was greatly aided by the techniques they'd learnt. Wellon also holds six national records for various memory feats, such as "Most Pi Digits Recalled in 30 Minutes", while Gerald holds the national record for "Most Random Words Memorised in 5 Minutes". Gerald also served as the Vice-President of the SP Primers, a community service and personal enrichment club.

Memory Ark is the name of their latest endeavour. This recently-opened business provides public workshops and corporate training on memory techniques (visit www.memoryark4u.com to learn more). "Our DEB lecturers taught us business pitching, marketing, sales management and resourcefulness," says Gerald. "Their lessons definitely spurred on this idea of having a business of our own, but I think that experiencing my own memory improvement helped, too. I witnessed a drastic change

in my memory capabilities after learning the theory for a day or two, and this experience is a big part of our drive to make Memory Ark the leading provider of memory techniques in Singapore, as well as promote memory sports and cultivate active learning using memory techniques." They have so far organised workshops in primary schools, universities and community centres. The pair organised SOMC 2015 after being granted permission from the World Memory Sports Council. "I managed our human resources, handled finances, and even emceed for the event," says Gerald. "Wellon and I also corresponded with, and made new friends with people from many different countries. It was an extremely eye-opening experience."

When asked what gives him that extra drive to pioneer all these projects, Wellon answers humbly, "I'm not very different from other people; I think I'm just a normal guy." However, after being asked to think a while longer, he adds: "I'm in the SP Marathon club and marathons are one of the things I like. In long

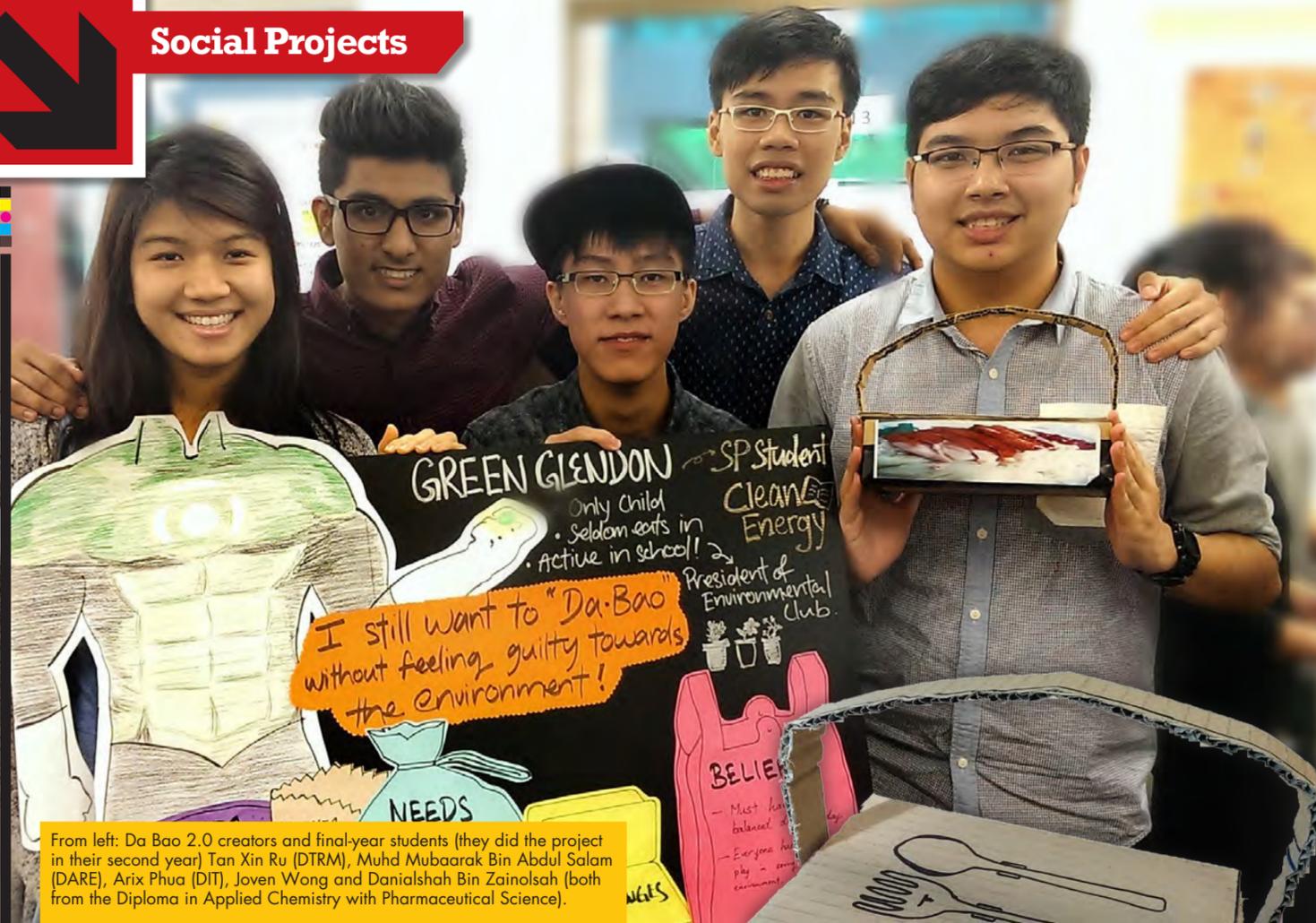
distance running, a lot of people can give up in the race. But I think I have the spirit to run a long race. I think I can complete the marathon if I push myself just a little bit more. And I've found something really exciting that gives me the desire to share it with others."

MEMORABLE... MEMORISATION

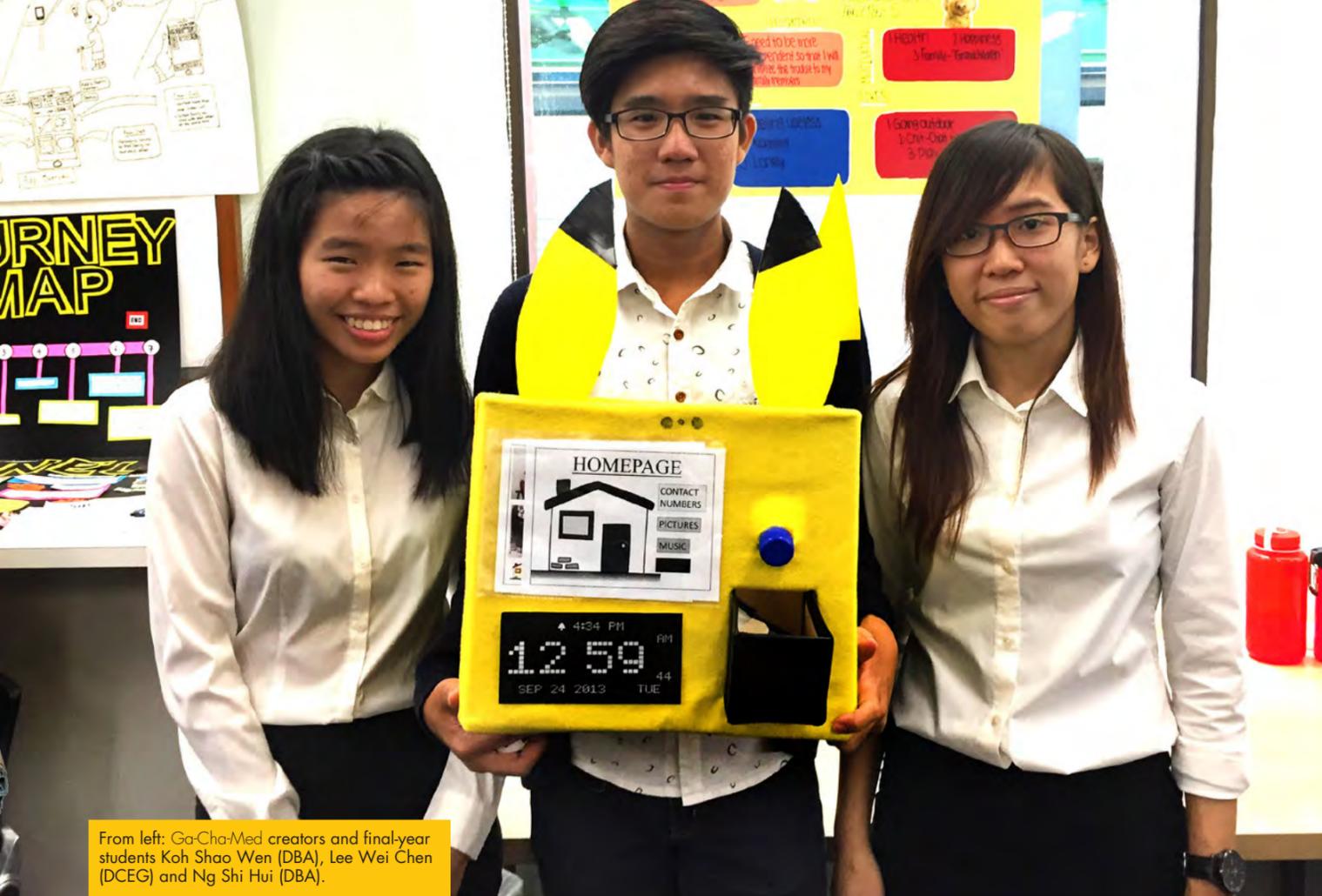
In the National Division of the competition, 10 SP students took part, and three of them managed to sweep the top three prizes! **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** graduate Tan Beng Yew, **Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF)** grad Lisa Wong and DEB grad Ronald Bay won first, second and third place respectively. Says Tan Beng Yew: "For certain modules in school, you have to memorise a lot of content. I find that the memory techniques I've learnt help me remember my work not just word-for-word, but also in the context of how it is applied as well."



SP students and graduates in this first-ever memory event in Singapore: (front row; first, second and third from left) Ronald Bay (DEB), Peh Zhi Rui (Diploma in Business Administration) and Lisa Wong (DBKF); (back row; second, third and fifth from left) Teng Boon Siong, Tan Beng Yew and Wong Shay-ne (all from DEB); (not in photo) Felix Ng, Tay Hui Xin, Lai Siting and Yong Kai Wen (all from DEB). With them are organisers and SP graduates Wellon and Gerald (top left and bottom right).



From left: Da Bao 2.0 creators and final-year students (they did the project in their second year) Tan Xin Ru (DTRM), Muhd Mubaarak Bin Abdul Salam (DARE), Arix Phua (DIT), Joven Wong and Danialshah Bin Zainolsah (both from the Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science).



From left: Ga-Cha-Med creators and final-year students Koh Shao Wen (DBA), Lee Wei Chen (DCEG) and Ng Shi Hui (DBA).

A SIP Could Change The World

It's been said that it is by acts and not by ideas that people live. But even though that is true, it's important to remember the words of famous actor Robin Williams on the subject: "No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world." At SP, all second-year students take the Social Innovation Project (SIP) module, where they examine a real-life social problem with the Design Thinking methodology. They form teams with fellow students from other schools and come up with fresh ideas to solve it. **SPRIT** finds out what two groups learnt about Singapore's social problems, and whether they have a SIP that can change the world.

DA BAO 2.0

In polys and universities, takeaway containers and styrofoam boxes are commonly used. Students who can't find seats in food courts will just *da bao* (which means "takeaway" in Chinese) meals, sometimes consuming them just a few metres from the food court.

Singapore as a whole generates about 6.9 million tons of waste yearly, with each person generating 1,330kg on average. The top three waste types are plastics (23 per cent of all waste), food (21 per cent) and paper and

cardboard (21 per cent). *Da bao*-ing plays a significant part in this, yet most people can't do without the convenience of it, despite wanting to help the environment.

These facts and attitudes were researched by the team behind Da Bao 2.0, a takeaway container that improves on current *da bao* practices. The team's design uses biodegradable materials (wastewater sludge, a by-product of paper manufacturing). It also comes with a handle to remove the need for a plastic carrier, and has a latch to hold a fork and spoon.

Although they had other environmentally-friendly ideas at first, the team methodically narrowed the list down to Da Bao 2.0. Says teammate Arix Phua (**Diploma in Information Technology - DIT**), "We had to fulfil several criteria in order to meet the needs of our user profile - people who want to help the environment while still having the freedom to take away their food. We couldn't freely just 'dream up a product'. We had to think about the user experience and choose our concept carefully."

Guiding that process along was Design Thinking, a methodology emphasising creative thinking tools and a deep understanding of a client or product user's situation and needs. "I think Design Thinking helped me greatly in learning about the potential users of my product. I believe it's a great tool for school projects, work life, and just understanding others in general," says Muhd Mubaarak Bin Abdul Salam (**Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering - DARE**).

The team hopes that ideas like theirs will not just reduce waste build-up statistics, but also create an attitude change. "Convenience has set into our culture today, so much so that it is only natural for the younger generation," says Tan Xin Ru (**Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management - DTRM**). "Wouldn't it be great to start from scratch on a new piece of canvas, and plant seeds for a new generation to have a greater concern for the environment?"

"Something that might interest many is the fact that recycling is still the least effective of the three Rs," adds Mubaarak. "It should be practiced last after reduce and reuse. This is what is needed for

greater reduction of waste overall."

GA-CHA-MED

The population in Singapore is aging, just like in many developed cities around the world. With less young people caring for the elderly, dementia is now a chief problem, a broad category of brain diseases that causes a gradual decrease in a person's ability to think and remember things.

Elderly people with dementia have problems taking medication. They are often required to consume many types of medicine at different times of the day, but some cannot remember which to eat. And they don't always have their children looking after them. Some young adults admit that they forget to remind their parents about their medication because they are busy at work.

This situation was studied by Koh Shao Wen and Ng Shi Hui (both from the **Diploma in Business Administration - DBA**), and Lee Wei Chen (**Diploma in Clean Energy - DCEG**), who interviewed several families to learn more about their struggles in caring for family members stricken with dementia.

Their response to the issue is Ga-Cha-Med, a specialised medicine dispenser. The project's name is inspired by Gachapon, a popular vending machine that dispenses toys contained inside capsules. Similarly, the Ga-Cha-Med unit dispenses medicine in a capsule, but at pre-programmed times with a signal to alert the users to take their pills. "We hope to lessen the burdens of families that need to constantly remind elders to take the correct medication at the right time. This allows the children to worry less about their parents, especially when they're working."

A camera is installed in the Ga-Cha-Med unit so that children can monitor if their parents have taken their medicine on time. Other useful features include a touch screen which allows users to save important phone contacts, listen to songs and the radio, and look at photos in the photo gallery section. This makes it a one-stop, multi-function device for its elderly user. Shao Wen feels that the project has showed her more about the importance of family. "The elderly are constantly facing difficulties in their life, such as eating the right amount of medicine regularly. Their family plays a crucial role in ensuring that their burdens are eased and that they can live more happily each day."

New Batch of Poly Foundation Graduates

The Polytechnic Foundation Programme allows the top 10 per cent of the Normal (Academic) stream cohort to skip secondary five and join a polytechnic directly through a one-year foundation programme. Amanda Choo and Lee Zheng De from the second batch of the PFP cohort share about their experiences and the climb they made to reach the top 10 per cent. As with the pioneer batch of PFP students in SP, a 100 per cent pass was registered with the second batch too.

When Lee Zheng De first heard about the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), he saw it as a chance to bypass another year of textbook-intensive study in secondary five, and experience a different learning approach in poly that would be more practical and hands-on. As for Amanda Choo, PFP presented an attractive and direct path to the diploma course she was keen on.

However, neither student was close to the top 10 per cent in their schools, let alone the whole N(A) cohort. Both soon received

wake-up calls, and knew that changes had to be made.

"At the start of secondary four, I was still doing alright for most subjects, but I got 10 out of 50 marks for a geography paper," recounts Amanda. "It was a wake-up call for me to improve my grades." The former student of St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School started cutting down on leisure activities, and went straight home after school to either study or rest each day.

"Every year, my school would have an annual honour roll ceremony for top students, and I would never come close to making the list," says Zheng De who studied at Kranji Secondary School. "During the ceremony at the end of secondary three, the thought hit me hard that I would be taking my 'N' levels next year. In that moment, I looked down on the ground and made a promise to change myself. Afterwards, I became a different person. I was more diligent in my work, and I decided that if I could believe, I could achieve."

Both Amanda and Zheng De's hard work paid off. They rose to the top 10 per cent and joined SP via the PFP route.

A year has passed since then and Zheng De and Amanda have successfully graduated from their PFP foundation studies and enrolled into the first year of their courses, the **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** and **Landscape Architecture (DLA)** respectively. For his good 'N' level results, Zheng De received the PFP Study Award. He also made it to the PFP Director's Honour Roll, an award given to top students in the cohort.

Both students feel that PFP has prepared them well for their next three years of poly life. For Zheng De, early exposure to a different learning style was the main benefit of PFP: "For my engineering technology module, we visited the Red Dot Museum and Dining in the Dark, an event meant to help people experience what blindness is like. These trips gave us exposure to the issue of designing products that would suit a user's needs well.

In the end, I created a basic design for an electronic wallet, and I think I've learnt so much more through hands-on experiences and projects than I would have learnt through textbook theory alone."

Being in PFP has also allowed them to get used to the poly environment, as well as learn new skills and make friends through CCAs. For representing the SP Skate Club, as well as Singapore on the international level, Zheng De was also awarded the SP CCA Award (Gold with Honours). Amanda received the SP CCA Award (Gold) for winning second place at the POL-ITE Games and Asian All Schools Championships with the SP Touch Football women's team. She says: "PFP has been an absolute adventure for me. Before entering poly, I was never in any sports CCAs. Learning touch football, winning competitions with an extraordinary team and meeting awesome friends at PFP over the past year is something I'll hold close to my heart."

Polytechnic
Foundation
Programme
Completion
Ceremony 2015
07th April 2015



Zheng De and Amanda at the PFP Completion Ceremony.

A FRESH START

First-year **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** student and PFP graduate Natalie Tan received the PFP Top Student Award. The former Commonwealth Secondary School student scored five distinctions out of six PFP modules. She shared in her speech delivered at the PFP Graduation Ceremony how she climbed from the bottom to make it to the top of the PFP batch. Here is an excerpt.

"Many of you might not be aware that I was born and raised in Brunei. I moved to Singapore only four years ago. My dad was an overseas Singaporean working in Brunei. When I returned to Singapore as a returning Singaporean, I had to take a series of examinations at the Ministry of Education before I could be enrolled into a secondary school. Based on the test results, I was placed in the Secondary Two Normal (Academic) stream. I had countless struggles, constantly failing subject after subject. One of my teachers even told me that I wouldn't make it far at all. Despite all these setbacks, I worked hard till this very day and proved him wrong. Indeed, hard work does pay off.

Although my PFP journey was not smooth, it was definitely fruitful and enriching. I got to experience new things and also learned how to step out of my comfort zone. I still remember the first day of orientation; it feels just like yesterday. Like everyone else, I was very nervous because I had to make new friends and meet many new faces. I was also worried that I would not be able to cope well in PFP and as a poly student.

However, PFP at SP has proven me wrong. It has allowed me to expand my social network through CCAs, local community service, and even an overseas community service project in Vietnam. I got many opportunities to make new friends from different backgrounds. Not only that, PFP has

allowed me to expand my knowledge beyond textbook theory and enabled me to think out of the box.

To my lovely classmates of JP02/01, thank you for making my PFP journey a memorable one. I will definitely miss you guys!"



Racing Ahead In SP

Are you burning to get into a dream poly course of your choice? If so, you can consider the Direct Poly Admission (DPA) exercise, which allows 'O' level students to apply for a diploma course even before 'O' level results are out! **SPiRiT** speaks to five new SP students who applied through DPA in June last year. They entered SP in February (three months earlier than the normal cohort), through the DPA Poly Preparatory Programme which gave them a head start in their studies.



JOHN CHOW,
HOLY INNOCENTS' HIGH SCHOOL

DIPLOMA IN APPLIED DRAMA AND PSYCHOLOGY (DADP)

Why did you choose DADP?
Drama has been my life for a long time, so when I heard about this course from a friend, I read up about it. DADP uses drama and psychology together to help people and the less fortunate. It's a course that's very in line with my interests, and I'm really passionate about learning more about it.

What previous experience do you have that's related to DADP?

Before secondary school, my mother enrolled me in speech and drama courses, so I grew up with the confidence to express myself well. In secondary one, I joined my school drama club.

What do you hope to do in future?

I'm thinking of being either an actor or a drama teacher. I believe that drama should be shared and taught to a wide range of people, especially people in need.



TONI SELENA AGUILAR,
LOYANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

DIPLOMA IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE (DBS)

Why did you choose DBS?

I've heard that SP's DBS course is, well... fantastic. Haha! I've been told that out of all the polys, SP has the highest number of DBS grads entering local medical school. Being a doctor or a medical researcher behind the scenes who helps people in their lives is one of my dreams, so I think this course will be a great stepping stone for that and for getting a great foundation in biomedical science.

And why apply through DPA?

I wasn't so sure of how my 'O' level results would turn out (although I did pretty well in the end!), so I thought DPA would be a good way to increase my chances of securing a spot in the course.

Why did you pick SP?

I've heard a lot of success stories about graduates from SP, and honestly I hope to become one of them in future. I also heard that SP is a very fun school from my teacher. She's an alumna from SP's **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)**.



ALI IMRAN BIN SALIM,
HILLGROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

DIPLOMA IN INTERIOR DESIGN (DID)

What first got you interested in designing?

Basically, I grew up with design. As a child, I would make houses using ice cream sticks. My mom also likes designing stuff so I followed in her footsteps. Last but not least, I was inspired by a student from Lasalle College of the Arts. He was from interior design, and his drawing was crazy nice so I figured I would join interior design too.

And why choose SP?

I have two brothers, one who is studying the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** and another who graduated from the same course. They both told me SP is a good school and that it's also very easy to get to by MRT.

What would you most like to do in future?

I'd like to design products or buildings, something original that functions to benefit peoples' lives.



DEANNA NG,
ST ANTHONY'S CANOSSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DBA)

Why did you choose DBA, Deanna?

I knew I wanted to study business, but I wasn't sure of which specific area to go into, so I chose DBA because it allows me to specialise in fields such as finance, entrepreneurship or marketing later on in the course!

What did you know about SP before coming here?

It's the first poly in Singapore, so I thought the schools and lecturers here would be very experienced. I also heard that the dragonboat team here is really great. I'm interested to join, haha!

(Editor's note: SP Dragonboat won more than 10 championship titles in 2014.)

What do you hope to do in future?

Right now, I'm thinking of working in human resource (HR) management in the future. I like to plan stuff, do logistics and take care of people, so I think HR would be a good fit!

TANYA UTE PENDARIES,
XINMIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

DIPLOMA IN MUSIC AND AUDIO TECHNOLOGY (DMAT)
Why did you apply through DPA, Tanya?

Maybe because I can be quite *kiasu*! Haha. I had friends who had gone through DPA as well as teachers promoting it. They told me that it would help me to secure a place in SP. Also, that starting school early through the Poly Preparatory Programme would help me get more used to poly life and prepare me well for my studies.



And why choose DMAT?

My CCA in secondary school was choir, and I also do some personal projects on sound mixing. I want to see where a music education in DMAT takes me.

What did you know about SP before coming here?

It's next to Dover MRT, it's the first poly in Singapore, and there's currently new buildings and facilities being constructed!

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 apply for. They must prove their passion for their course at an interview session

where they can share their personal works or achievements related to the course, if any. Academic results are also considered and you must still meet the minimum entry requirements of your course for your 'O' levels. For more information, visit www.sp.edu.sg/dpa.



After rounds of interviews and presentations, 19 **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM)** and 23 **Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE)** students have been selected to form the inaugural batch of Singtel Cadet Scholars.

Perks under this first-of-its-kind scholarship programme include a monthly allowance, opportunities to work on final-year projects as well as internships with Singtel. Best of all, a career with Singtel awaits them upon graduation.

They will serve a one-year bond with the company and be given management roles. There will also be opportunities for overseas assignments and even degree sponsorships in related fields and subsequent progression opportunities for high-performing cadets.

The Singtel Cadet Scholarship Programme, worth an estimated \$2 million, was launched by SP and Singtel earlier this year. The programme is rolled out in support of

All Ready for a *Singtel Career*



Proud pioneer recipients of the Singtel Cadet Scholarship.

SkillsFuture, a national initiative that will help Singapore through its next phase of growth with an integrated system of education, training

and career progression for all Singaporeans. Interested? Look out for the next application period sometime later this year.



Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology second-year student Elayne Yam recording a short clip at the Star Vista recording booth.

To commemorate Singapore's 50th birthday, Star Vista and SP jointly organised Project Celebrate, a special music project that invited members of the public to be part of it. A recording booth was set up at the mall's basement, and visitors were invited to record clips of their singing. Their vocals were then

added to an original song, *You & Me*, which is written by a local band, Scarlet Avenue.

All this was achieved with the help of students from the **Diplomas in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT), Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)** and

Business Administration (DBA), who were on an internship attachment with Star Vista. Besides helping to set up the specially-constructed recording booth, some of the students filmed the recording process to create footage for a music video of the participants involved. DMAT and DVEMG students handled the sound recording and video filming, while DBA students promoted the event through social media and guided participants through the process. *(Editor's note: The music video is scheduled to be released later this year.)*

The project provided the team a chance to gain additional skills outside of class. Final-year DMAT student Claire Lee learnt to work with Pro Logic, a music recording software not used in her curriculum. Other than picking up technical skills, Claire also improved in her communication. "Over the course of the project, I realised that members of the public do not understand the terms we DMAT students use during recording, so I also learned to convey my instructions and my intentions through simple communication using layman terms," she says. Final-year DVEMG student Gerard Koh learnt to be more flexible during the event. "When participants were not able to achieve what I hoped for during the recording process, I learned how to encourage and guide them in different ways that made sense to them."



Smoother *MRT Rides*

DEEE recent grads John Lee (left) and Benjamin Goh worked on a wireless train fault detection and communication system for SMRT.

Fresh graduates John Lee and Benjamin Goh from the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)** had the unique opportunity of undergoing a 14-week immersion programme with train operator, SMRT.

One of their roles involved working with SMRT engineers to develop and test a wireless detection system to report train faults. Previously, engineers had to board each train physically to check for faults and the process could be time-consuming. With the wireless detection system that John and Benjamin have invented, train faults can now be sent via SMS

to the engineers' handphones directly.

Research was an important component of their project as they had to study existing systems as well as think out of the box to develop solutions. After identifying an approach, they shared their ideas with their supervisors who gave them further advice and permission to begin prototyping.

Working with SMRT was an enriching experience for them as it provided a rare opportunity to find out how their DEEE skills and knowledge are applicable to the industry. It also made them appreciative of the hard work

behind the scenes by the SMRT engineers in making our train rides smoother.

Says John: "It feels good to come up with a working system that was positively received by SMRT. Hopefully, this system will be implemented on all trains in future and allow trains to be faster and smoother."

"The experience was rewarding, and we gained an understanding of the important role that engineers play in society. We would definitely encourage our juniors to enjoy their upcoming immersion programme," adds Benjamin.

Fancy *Paper Wings*

With just ordinary paper and their knowledge of aerodynamics, SP engineering students crafted elegant paper planes to fly them ahead of their competitor. Satish Suppiah (**Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering - DARE**, second-year) and Yap Zhi Sian (**Diploma in Mechanical Engineering - DME**, final-year) won top spots at the Red Bull Paper

Wings qualifiers held at SP. This is an international event where participants from around the world compete to create the most spectacular paper airplanes.

Zhi Sian won second place in the Longest Distance category for making a plane that could fly a distance of 12.6 metres. Both he and Satish won first and second place respectively in the Aerobatic Flight category, where participants had to impress judges with a fun dance or performance making use of their planes. For their efforts, they won the right to compete in the National finals of the event



Satish (second from left) and Zhi Sian with their tickets to the Red Bull Paper Wings National Finals.

held at Singapore Management University. National finals winners get the chance to fly to Austria for the international finals.

The Sweetest Thing Someone Did For Me

Remember the first day you stepped into SP but got lost in the campus, with no one to turn to? Well, since then, you've probably become much wiser ☺ (and older, too ☹)! Along the way, we've all had our ups, our downs, and those special friends who've stood by our side through the painful break-ups, the long nights in school and countless outings and conversations. These are some sweet things done by one best friend for another in SP!

Story by Desirae Tan, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) Class of 2015.



Dovyn Gan

DOVYN GAN

Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)

Well to me, there is no such thing as the sweetest thing. I can't define it. I'm just happy that I have an awesome friend who I met in SP, texting me to make sure I'm okay, buying meals when I have no time to get them myself and even listening to my problems in the middle of the night! It is very encouraging to know that you have someone who is there for you no matter what. You know who you are ☺

ANGELA LIM

Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)

My sweetest memory in SP was not of a particular moment, but of a special friend. Her name is Bernice, and from the very start of our poly days together, she was always there for me. When I had a sore throat, she surprised me with a herbal drink. When we got into a fight, she wrote me a letter and got me to stop avoiding the issue. When I was upset, she called and sang me a song. When I needed my eyebrows done, she shaped them for me! I just wish I could have been a better friend for her. Bernice, if you're reading this, thank you, I love you!



Angela Lim (left) and Bernice Lam (right)

BERNICE LAM

Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)

It was our first year of attending DTVM's graduation awards night, which coincided with my birthday three years ago. I was in-charge of makeup and there was a lot to do, so I was bummed that I wouldn't be able to have cake with my friends. My bestie Angela surprised me with a video she made with the whole class, and a separate video with not just one, but TWO of my favorite YouTubers singing happy birthday to me. I was both crying and screaming at the end of it!



Loh Jing Yee

LOH JING YEE

Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)

When I was afraid of being alone among a group of strangers, she quickly said: "Don't worry! you can stick to me! And I'll stick to you! We'll be together so there's nothing to worry about!" I was so touched. She became one of my best friends in SP and we've stuck together since! Love you, Desirae!

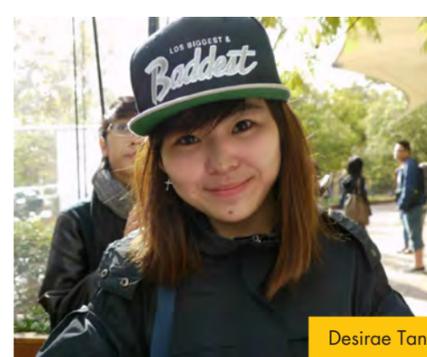


Anson Seow (extreme right)

ANSON SEOW

Diploma in Interactive Media (DlxM)

My birthday falls during the June holidays so I never expected my friends to surprise me with a small party when school re-opened! I got great gifts and even a cake! It meant a lot to me that even though my birthday had passed, they still wanted to celebrate it. I'm truly thankful to have a bunch of friends like Afiq, Camilla, Sabrina, Sarah, Brice, Wayne and Ezzudin =)



Desirae Tan

DESIRAE TAN

Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)

If I had to pinpoint a certain memory, it would be my first day of school. The MRT broke down and I had arranged to meet two classmates at Dover (I didn't know them that well then; I'd only met them at freshmen orientation). They made it to the station with plenty of time to run up the hill for our first class. Instead they waited for me for more than half an hour before I reached, panting and sweating, and we ran up the hill together. These friends have stuck with me till now and I'm sure we'll be sticking together for many years to come!

VANESSA JOVIN LUM

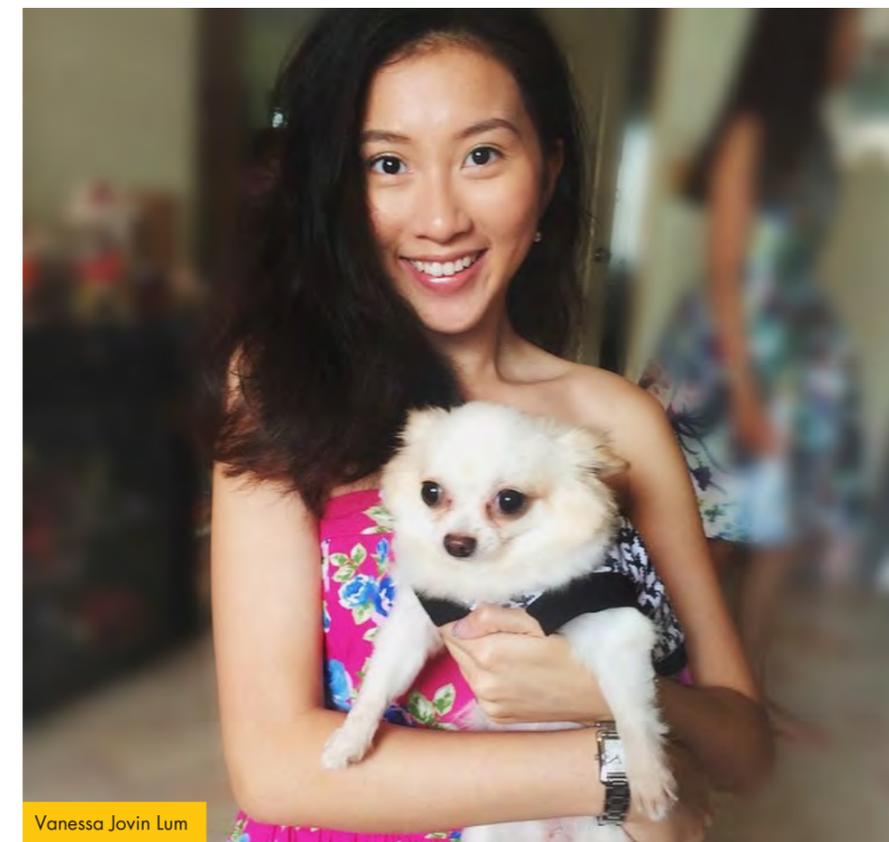
Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology (DADP)

The day I was supposed to submit my final-year project report, I had a mini-panic attack far away from "home ground" (the Hilltop). I was stuck at the printing shop near McDonald's trying to finish up the paper. All the odds were against me. My ez-link card was dry (so I couldn't print) and the printed documents came out in bits and pieces that I could not arrange due to my state of mind. As if it couldn't be worse, I had no money on me, so I couldn't top up my card or borrow the aunty's ez-link card or even bind my thick report.

Thirty minutes to the deadline, the clock was ticking – and I still had to climb the hill!

That's when I spotted my course mates, Illya and Raihana. Illya immediately gave me her card without a second question and Raihana stood in line with me as I waited to print my documents. She helped me to arrange my papers and paid for my binding.

To this day, my eyes fill with grateful tears as I think of that moment because of how selfless they were, especially when they had deadlines to meet themselves. I'm graduating now because of what they did for me.



Vanessa Jovin Lum

5 Not-So-Dreamy Graduation Jobs

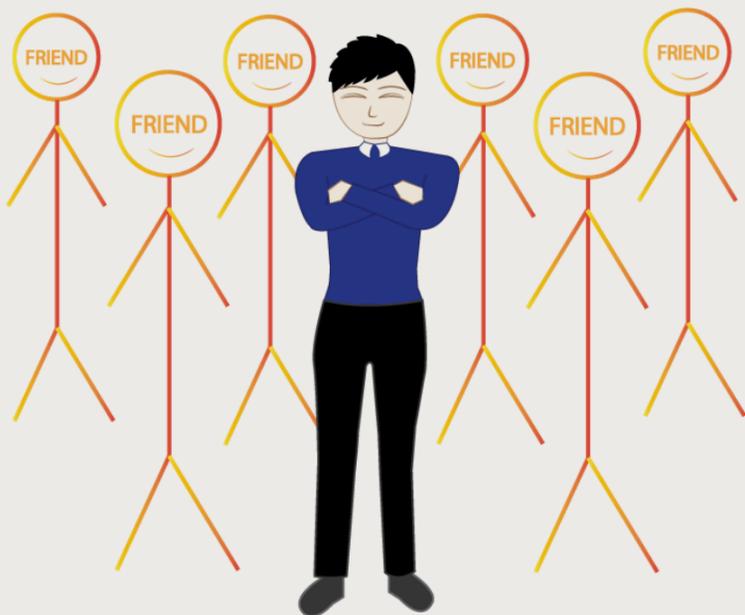
So, it's the end of three long years of your time in SP.

Post-graduation plans abound! It doesn't matter if you're planning to finally visit that country you've always dreamed of, make that big purchase or simply chill out till army calls. Whatever it is you're planning to do, you're going to need some cold, hard cash.

You need a job, if you don't already have one.

So, if you don't, get busy – do your part to send those unemployment rates down – your bank balance will go up in return! Here's a few "unusual ideas" if you just can't seem to find something to do.

Story by Joshua Chen, **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** Class of 2015.
Illustrations by Lynette Neo, final-year DMC student.



CEO OF YOUR VERY OWN MLM OUTFIT

You're in need of money, but you're not short on time and friends.

Sounds perfect! As they say, time is money, and a friend in need is a friend indeed – you can aim to be the neediest person around; that would technically make you everyone's best pal!

Moreover, being in the MLM (multi-level marketing) line is a grrreat way to make use of those pitching, presentation and communication skills you learned in Gen-Ed!

Recruit your friends, and get them to recruit their friends, and their friends' friends! You'll make a tiny commission from each of them, and you'll

soon be like Leonardo DiCaprio in "The Wolf of Wall Street".

Does the word "friend" now sound meaningless to you from repetition? Well, that might be a bit of foreshadowing there for you, friend.

Change that goofy display picture of yours on Facebook – you're no longer an ordinary person, you are now an entrepreneur! Get a picture of yourself in your best suit, and start posting daily about your plans for success, and links to those "inspirational" pictures and articles.



While you're at it, you can start messaging random, fresh-faced Year One students to join you as partners on your new business venture. All the best!

UBER DRIVER

Are you already licensed to drive? If you are, you probably are a firm favourite among your classmates. Cars are such fun, after all – everybody loves that nice, cool kid who always volunteers to be the class chauffeur.

You must already be well liked for driving your friends and family – now it's time to make the whole world fall in love with you! You can do so by being Everyone's Private Driver™. The income's just a bonus! Do it for the love, not the money! You'll get to drive all day, everyday, and you get to meet cool people along the way!

As a bonus, you'll gain an outlet for your

frustrations and an opportunity to hone your conversational skills – who doesn't love hearing a cab driver's rants?



PROFESSIONAL ARCADE RAT

There are regulars at the arcade, and then there's YOU.

You spend all of your free time and extra cash there, the staff know you by name and you absolutely, positively murder anyone who even tries to touch you at Maximum Tune, Jubeat or Street Fighter – everyone scurries in fear at your arrival.

There's only one problem – at something like \$2 a pop, these games can quickly burn a hole in your wallet. Perhaps, with your skills, you can work for the arcade; perhaps you'd be effective at scaring off kids who hog the machines for hours on end – pound them into defeat, and send them home in shame.

It's win-win for everyone – you get more cash for play, and you get to clear your stomping ground of all those filthy casuals. Pfft.

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER

Do you enjoy being at the centre of attention?

Do you also love getting in big, nasty spats with people around you?



YouTube

Do you like living your life like an open book?

Do you like receiving (or demanding) free meals from hip cafes?

Do you wish you could receive free airplane tickets to fly off and write about some exotic destination?

Make your life as juicy as possible and you'll get all the cash from those sweet, sweet ad clicks!

CAROUSELL TRADER

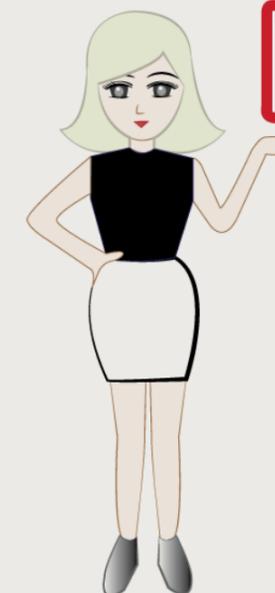
Make some money off of Carousell, where you can sell everything you own, short of your soul! #orcanyou

This e-selling site lets you unload second-hand t-shirts, second-hand underwear, second-hand "enhancement" creams (note: practically any body part can be enhanced)... whatever you think people will buy.

Smell the fresh air of freedom as your room gets de-cluttered with each passing day. Once it's transformed into the purest sanctuary



carousell



of Zen Minimalism™, begin liberating your siblings from the prison of material obsession as well. Start selling their comics, clothes and toys that "you're sure they'll never ever miss". After that's done, start helping your friends to de-complicate themselves of their worldly possessions too (for a token commission, of course).

The SP Connection with Singapore's Founding Prime Minister

Singapore's founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, passed away on 23 March 2015, at the age of 91. As an institution moulded by his support and his vision of providing good education for all Singaporeans, Singapore Polytechnic pays tribute to our nation's founding father. The photos shown here are of condolences offered by students and staff at observance ceremonies held in SP.



Mr Lee speaking at a seminar on education and economic development in new countries that was held by the SP Students' Union on 5 January 1972. Records show that Former PM Lee's support towards SP extended beyond official visits over the years. He also attended Students' Union meetings and SP Graduates' Guild events. Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.



Mr Lee speaking to invited guests at the official opening of SP's Dover campus on 7 July 1979.



Mr Lee and guests stopping to admire a spring winding machine.



The first local SP Principal Mr Khoo Kay Chai showing Mr Lee a model of the Dover campus.

A VISION FOR EDUCATION

Many people may not know about the late founding Prime Minister (PM) Lee Kuan Yew's links to SP.

As early as 1959 when Mr Lee made his first official visit to SP, he impressed upon Singaporeans the importance of expanding polytechnic education if "we are to teach our young people how to earn a living in the new conditions Singapore finds itself." He clearly understood the implications if Singapore were to steer away from industrialisation when he cautioned, "... there is no way by which our entrepot trade can continue to give employment to our rapidly growing population."

Twenty years later, on 7 July 1979, Mr Lee graced the opening of SP's new

campus on Dover Road, with facilities focusing on electrical, electronics and communication, mechanical, marine and shipbuilding, civil engineering, building, chemical process technology and nautical studies.

Mr Lee believed in the pivotal role of SP in Singapore's development, and his steadfastness in staying on course to expand the polytechnic education sector was evident when he concluded in his address, "This new campus marks our resolve to provide our young with the opportunities to climb higher up the technological ladder. The never ending search of new knowledge, new skills and the perfection of old skills is what ensure that we progress." In memory of the passing of our founding Prime Minister, SP remembers and promises to uphold Mr Lee's great vision for the institution and its students.



An impression of Mr Lee drawn by Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics recent graduate Cooper Ng.

Dear Mr. Lee,
Singapore owes much to you. You turned our little island into a first world & recognised by many in the world as a shining example of excellent leadership. You will be missed by all & we thank you for the wonderful environment you have given to us all. Rest in peace. You will have an indelible history in all of us. Thank you.
J. Olaya

The success of Singapore's Polytechnic education is due largely to the support of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew
Khu Kay Chai
25/3/15

Hello Mr. Lee,
Rest In Peace. Thanks for everything you have done for each & every Singaporean's heart. As someone said, the life of the dead lives in the memories of the living.
Farris Chua.

Students and staff offered their condolences in books.

Dearest Grandpa Lee,
THANK YOU FOR DEDICATING YOUR LIFE TO SINGAPORE. YOU HAVE MADE SINGAPORE WHAT IT IS TODAY & WE SINGAPOREANS WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.
Victoria
25th March 2015.



Dear Mr Lee Kuan Yew
You are truly a GRANT in my lifetime. It has truly been a privilege for me to be a part of the time when you guided, mentored and led Singapore. I will miss seeing you on TV every National Day at the morning. There is no one like you and I don't think I will ever get to see another one like you in my lifetime. That said, you have touched the hearts of so many. I will always cherish the selfless leader in you, devoted husband and caring father. I am so proud to be a Singaporean because of what you and the people have done. Rest in Peace.
Mrs. Lee God Bless!
Helen Mok

Dear Mr Lee,
Thank you for your various contribution in building the Nation that we call home. Without you, perhaps all our lives would have been led differently. To the Lee family, my sincere condolences to your loss, our loss. You will never be forgotten by us. Rest in Peace.
Mr Lee.
-Gerald Tay,
SP Bowler.

Dear Mr. Lee,
Thank you for recognising minorities (eg. Indian) and making Tamil an official language. Thank you for creating a better Singapore for us. RIP.
Yours,
Thurga

Dear Mr Lee,
THANK YOU for all your efforts in building up Singapore to what she is presently. THANK YOU for inspiring Singaporeans to believe in ourselves & that we can achieve great things. THANK YOU for setting a perfect example of what a great leader should be & inspiring youth leaders of today.
THANK YOU SIR.
Chiew
patrenthien

Dear Mr Lee,
Thank you for everything you have done to make Singapore the exceptional country that she is today. I am a young Singaporean who, like you said, did not have to experience hardships to enjoy the modern city that we live in today. However, I promise to continue to work hard, to never be complacent, and to protect and honour this home that you have built for us. I pray that you will reunite with our beloved wife in the best place. Rest in peace and thank you.
Rachel Lee

Dear Mr Lee,
I'm probably not the sort of person to congratulate yourself on a job well done, but if you could only see how far you've come, how much you've achieved, how much you've inspired, how much you've changed the world, you would know just how deeply loved and deeply respected you are. All our hearts are with you. Indeed, you have given much of your life for the success we enjoy today. Thank you, Mr Lee! Always in my heart!
-Melissa

Eventhough I have not suffered through the hardships faced by Singapore during times of crisis. I believe that you as a leader had strongly pathed a stable and prosperous road for us. It is you and the others that I will and sincerely thank. Thank you sir! & Sylphine

SP RIT

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SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE



They can.... with
ONE STROKE
AND ONE HEART
*SP Dragon Boat Team turns in their
best performance ever*