02: Cover Story
Meet the top grads from the Class of 2015.

IT Guy, IT Girl
How a love for IT changed these SP students’ lives for the better.

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

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

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

The Sweetest Thing
Touching acts of love and friendship by SP besties.

Dream Job, Or Not?
See if these jobs are either a dream or nightmare for you.

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

20/36/46:
Bachelor of Science (Hons) Computer Security
Bachelor of Science (Hons) Computer and Network Technology
Programmes awarded by Northumbria University, UK
• Delivery of the programmes in the UK is accredited by the British Computer Society which is internationally recognised
• Curriculum is aligned to industrial training by Cisco, world-wide leading provider of networking solutions

Programmes commence 21 Sep 2015

Direct entry for relevant local Polytechnic Diploma holders*

MDIS Merit Scholarships (Local)* available
*Subject to the University’s approval
*Terms and conditions apply

Scan for more info

MDIS SG
Celebrating and Growing with the Nation

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY & E-LEARNING

Cybersecurity IT professionals have never been more in demand, with an influx of cyberspace breaches across the globe. Arm yourself with the right skills and enhance your career to the next level with our IT courses.

Bachelor of Science (Hons) Computer Security
Bachelor of Science (Hons) Computer and Network Technology

Alumni and student photographers:
Ray Chng, Lee Hong Rui, Lee Jian Wei

Student contributors:
Joshua Chen, Lynette Neo, Desirae Tan

is published three times a year by the Department of Corporate Communications, Singapore Polytechnic. All rights reserved. No information herein should be reproduced without the permission of the publisher. All information correct at time of printing. For editorial or advertising enquiries, please email spirit_editor@sp.edu.sg or call 6590-2782.
"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.
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

ALUMUS 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 ZHUANG SHENG
DIPLOMA IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH BUSINESS

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 freshie, 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
Feature Story

AWARDS
• Tan Kay Yong Gold Medal
• Media Development Authority Gold Medal

ALUMNI 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."

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."

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

Scan this QR code to read more about Keng Hao’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

ALUMNI FROM GREENRIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL
“...I kept my promise and was awarded the Best Initiative Award for Intern from the company.”

AARON GOH
ZHAO RONG
Diploma in Maritime Business

SALLY CHIN
SI YING
Diploma in Business Information Technology

AWARDS
• Low Guan Onn Gold Medal
• IDA Gold Medal
• Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Prize
• Senita Brandology 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.”

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

Scan this QR code to read more about Sally’s SP journey:
**Feature Story**

**AWARDS**
- Toy Eng Soon Gold Medal
- Tecmaven Merit Award

ALUMNI 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."

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

ALUMNI 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."
Star Performers

BOO KWOK YING
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Commonwealth Secondary School

KROO YI QUAN
Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics
Westwood Secondary School

KATHLEEN KAYE AHWAYAN VILLANUEVA
Diploma in Bioengineering
Chestnut Drive Secondary School

CHIN CHEN WEE
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Punggol Secondary School

JOHANNA KELLY
Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science
Mount St. School

JERRY LAM
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Tanjong Katong Secondary School

JASON LEE
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Riverside Secondary School

JULIAN YEN
Diploma in Materials Science
Queensway Secondary School

KATHLEEN AWAYAN VILLANUEVA
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Commonwealth Secondary School

LAI YIN WEI
Diploma in Computer Engineering
South Island Secondary School

LIM KENG ZHI
Diploma in Electrical Engineering
Malaysian Secondary School

LIONEL CHENG
Diploma in Aerospace Engineering
Private 'O' Level Candidate

MAHDIYAH AHMAD
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Tanjong Katong Secondary School

MELISSA YEE
Diploma in Optometry
School of the Arts Singapore

MUHAMMAD BIN NUR
Diploma in Mechatronics Engineering
Bukit Merah Secondary School

NAJEEB UDDIN
Diploma in Mechatronics
Riverside Secondary School

NIGHTINGALE CHUAH
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Home-schooled

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

TAN YING JIE
Diploma in Forensic Science
Woodlands Ring Secondary School

TAN SZE MENG
Diploma in Engineering Technology
SMK Tasek Utara (Malaysia)

TAY FEN YEE
Diploma in Bioengineering
SMK Tapak Utama (Malaysia)

TAY YEN HONG
Diploma in Applied Chemistry
Mount St. School

TAY YEE SHEN
Diploma in Bioengineering
Woodlands Ring Secondary School

TAY YING JIE
Diploma in Perinatal & Child Health
Woodlands Ring Secondary School

TAY YING JIE
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Woodlands Ring Secondary School

TAY ZEE MENG
Diploma in Electrical Engineering
SMK Tasek Utara (Malaysia)

TAY ZEE NING
Diploma in Bioengineering
Mount St. School

WIN MYNT ARING
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Home-schooled

XUE HUIMIN
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Tanjong Katong Secondary School

YEO SENG HONG
Diploma in Maritime Studies
Greenridge Secondary School

YEO SONG HONG
Diploma in Mechatronics Engineering
Bukit Merah Secondary School

ZAHRAH BINTI IDRIS
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Tanjong Katong Secondary School

ZHAO RONG
Diploma in Maritime Studies
Greenridge Secondary School

ZOE CHOI
Diploma in Computer Engineering
South Island Secondary School
Graduating In SG 50

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.”

The SG 50 Committee congratulates the Class of 2015 as they take the next big step to be life-ready, work-ready and world-ready.

WE ARE FAMILY!

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

GRADUATION+U

Celebrating your proudest SP moment and join the ranks of more than 100,000 alumni.
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

GRADUATE LO!
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)! WIFI 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...
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. “I 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 it. 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 of his life was sailing smoothly. At home, he was constantly absorbing new information about computers, and would read of his life was sailing smoothly. At home, he was constantly absorbing new information about computers, and would read...
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.
Spectacular Performance 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 Jiakhi

SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & LIFE SCIENCES
Amanda Chia Siew Hui, Prabasri D/O Veeriah and Jonathan Yew Jia Hao

SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY
Choo U Hui, Danial Tan Jia Wang and Tan Chong Der

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
Kevin Low Kai Meng, Stephen Cahyadi and Win Myint Aung

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING
Chye Zhi Koa, Ronald Loh Yu Jet and Nur Syaza Bte Mohd Tahir

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL
Rohali Te Tan Wei Yi

SP DESIGN SCHOOL
Khoo Hui Ting

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY
Vince Han Meng Hou

SPORTS AWARDS (HONOURS)
Goh Li Ting Jasmine (Handball)
Chand Namaan Tan Jia Chuan (Sailing)
Joyce Ang Jing Yu (Sailing)
Joshua Matthew Lim Tze Han (Sailing)
Kimberly Cia Jing Yo (Bowling)
Rajish Lee Si Qin (Swimming)
Brandon Lim Wei Zhang (Tchoukball)
Low Ee Tuck (Tchoukball)
Muhd Wan Aqil bin Mohd Aziz (Soccer)
Muhd Nuzim bin Mohd Haris (Dragoanboat)

SP SPORTSMAN and SPORTSWOMAN 2015
SP Team of the Year: SP Dragonboat (Mixed)

Award recipients (from left) Outstanding Contribution Individual Award winner 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
Ang Wan Long
Chen Guan Wei
Goh Jia Hui
Teh S Yen

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING
Jia Miao Zhi
Lim Jia Meng
Yeong Jia Hui

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL
Kong Ee Lin Eileen

SP DESIGN SCHOOL
Yong Meng Jie

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY
Aaron Goh Zhao Rong
Sun Bowen

MODEL STUDENT AWARDS
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Jonathan Teh Zhang Sheng, Lye Menghong

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 Kong Hoo
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 lessons on quantum physics and mathematical probability by lecturers there, in order to expose them to topics beyond their main expertise. They also made

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

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.

One establishment that stood out was the Tokyo Women’s Medical University - Waseda University Joint Institution for Advanced Biomedical Sciences (TWIns). 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 makeup 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.”

Advis 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 High-tech recycling plant that extracts precious metals like gold and silver from broken electronics, and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), 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, childbirth products and toys.

During their free time, the group visited various Tokyo districts, such as Odaiba, where they saw the famous Gundam statue, Ikebukuro, a popular shopping district, Asakusa, where they visited Sengoku 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. “Tears 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.

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 Sawaj family and the lecturers and staff at Waseda University. They truly showed me what it means to have a spirit of hospitality.”

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 lessons on quantum physics and mathematical probability by lecturers there, in order to expose them to topics beyond their main expertise. They also made

During their free time, the group visited various Tokyo districts, such as Odaiba, where they saw the famous Gundam statue, Ikebukuro, a popular shopping district, Asakusa, where they visited Sengoku 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. “Tears 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.

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 Sawaj family and the lecturers and staff at Waseda University. They truly showed me what it means to have a spirit of hospitality.”

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 lessons on quantum physics and mathematical probability by lecturers there, in order to expose them to topics beyond their main expertise. They also made
Engineering • Curiosity

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!

A social robot who can assist in our daily tasks like delivering items and serving customers.


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.

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, Tan Shin Cai, Nicholas Tan, Mohd Shafiri Bin Mohd Soli, Tan Joo Wei, Clement Fong, Soh Sze Min, Joel Ting, Wilson Ng, Grady Chew, Foo Kiong Rong, Rosh Voo, Siew Ren, You, Chai Yoon Lee, Melvin Kang, Soh Hwee Yang, Adrian Tay and Tan Kah Chun.

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!

A social robot who can assist in our daily tasks like delivering items and serving customers.


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.

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, Tan Shin Cai, Nicholas Tan, Mohd Shafiri Bin Mohd Soli, Tan Joo Wei, Clement Fong, Soh Sze Min, Joel Ting, Wilson Ng, Grady Chew, Foo Kiong Rong, Rosh Voo, Siew Ren, You, Chai Yoon Lee, Melvin Kang, Soh Hwee Yang, Adrian Tay and Tan Kah Chun.

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!

A social robot who can assist in our daily tasks like delivering items and serving customers.


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.

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, Tan Shin Cai, Nicholas Tan, Mohd Shafiri Bin Mohd Soli, Tan Joo Wei, Clement Fong, Soh Sze Min, Joel Ting, Wilson Ng, Grady Chew, Foo Kiong Rong, Rosh Voo, Siew Ren, You, Chai Yoon Lee, Melvin Kang, Soh Hwee Yang, Adrian Tay and Tan Kah Chun.
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.

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 Guan, Herman Theng.

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, Oi Yicong, Daryl Chia, Lim Wei Liang, Kenneth Choo and Loo Joo Gu.

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.

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 Yuan, Tan Jun Hao, Arthur Sam, Terence Thng, Jonathan Foh 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 Guanxiong, Alfian Bin Muhd Amin, Aravin Raj Nalall Tamby.

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 Jami and Muhd Sufiyan Bin Abdil Ramad.
FASTER THAN SOUND
A new Singapore record was broken by three SP fresh graduates from the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME), Daryl Heng, Kendrick Hi 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 ball! 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.

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 School of Aerospace Engineering (DARE), Aircraft Electronics (DASE) and Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DCEG) clinched the first prize in the Unconventional Aircraft Category. Calling themselves the Improbable Aeronautics and the Vexed Subcontractor, they bested 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 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 fresher from the Diploma in Aerospace Engineering, were the winners of the Best Video Award. The team showed their hand-exoskeleton which was designed to assist persons with disabilities in self-feeding and rehabilitation.

GRADUATING AS SG50 WINNERS
Nicola Yang Diploma in Digital Animation – DDA
Avery Lim Diploma in Architecture – DAA
Chinh Jia Hui Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering – DARE
Aaron Lim Diploma in Maritime Business – DDM

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 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.

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 included creativity in both 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 prizes but because of the opportunity to work with a local company to tell their story. Having almost a picture instead, I quickly roped in Nicola, Aaron (Lim) and Jia Hui from the other schools. So this was born out of very different disciplines.”

SP teams swept the top three prizes. Final-year students Ny Zo Yin Ling and Hoo Than Zhylin took the top prize. Second prize went to Ling Wei Jie and Xu Peisong, while Rennie Toh Qian You and Stephanie Lim Wei Ling took home the third prize.

CHAMPION BRIDGE DESIGNERS
About 100 tertiary students from Singapore and Malaysia, including those from SP’s Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB) piloted their engineering skills to build the strongest and most eye-catching minibridges at the NTU Bridge Design Competition 2015.

Organised for the second time by Nanyang Technological University’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, had to design a mini-bridge structure using bamboo 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 Ny Zo Yin Ling and Hoo Than Zhylin took the top prize. Second prize went to Ling Wei Jie and Xu Peisong, while Rennie Toh Qian You and Stephanie Lim Wei Ling took home the third prize.

At the recent Assistive and Rehabilitation Technologies (ART) Student Innovation Challenge (ISC), 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.

INNOVATIVE ART
At the recent Assistive and Rehabilitation Technologies (ART) Student Innovation Challenge (ISC), 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.

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 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.

South East Asia’s leading innovation competition, the Singapore National Agri-Food EXPO (SAFE) started its 10th Edition in September. The big event was held right here at NUS. It was a great success as more than 150,000 people attended the event. The competition aimed to share stories of how local enterprises have grown.

Commemoration 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.
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 light-hearted example of his daring, though, would be his experience eating sheep 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 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 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 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 Muwash Ali Mountain, he and a companion 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.

“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.
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 a village area. The people there are of Tajik ethnicity and they are known in Chinese to be one of the few ‘paw’ 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.”

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 travelling 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 ‘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.”

“The best grilled mutton I’ve ever sunk my teeth into. All natural goodness as the sheep get to drink really good natural waters in Xinjiang,” says Ben.

“The best grilled mutton I’ve ever sunk my teeth into. All natural goodness as the sheep get to drink really good natural waters in Xinjiang,” says Ben.

Ben chalks 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 travelling 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 ‘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.”

“The best grilled mutton I’ve ever sunk my teeth into. All natural 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 travelling 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 ‘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.”

The tanned young man, equal parts serious and funny, talks about money as well. Tips like how it’s good to save up cash by rolling it up and putting it in your sock, 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 your spending (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 even suggests bringing a DIY patch kit, or 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 and assumptions behind, and you'll be extremely surprised by what you'll experience. 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.

If 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. “At first I didn’t think it 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.”

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 travelling 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 ‘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.”

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 travelling 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 ‘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.”

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 travelling 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 ‘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.”
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.

Spectacular Presentations

Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM) students showed off anti-hacking and website and operating system protection software. Information Technology (DIT) and Business Information Technology (DBIT) students built mobile apps, programmes for analysing global data and social media initiatives. 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. 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 graduates Esmond Yeo, Tiffany Yong and Lim Yee An. It’s amazing that this 3-person team created their film in just four months, even while juggling other modules!

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 graduates Esmond Yeo, Tiffany Yong and Lim Yee An. It’s amazing that this 3-person team created their film in just four months, even while juggling other modules!

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 Hsiu Yee, Douglas Lee, Edelyn 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 infographically, 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.

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 Aini Bin Ali, Rema Paul Tan and Samatha Y/O Sengaran 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 enhancing various districts of Singapore to improve their beauty, community bonding and traffic circulation.

Experience and Product Design (DPXD) graduates created a range of lifestyle objects, items to promote tourism or interaction between individuals, and concepts for mobile apps. Interior Design (ID) 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.

From left: DARCH graduates Chia Chien Huey, Bryan Sanchez and Jude Ho with their models of modern community centres with improved features for encouraging community bonding. Bryan’s model emphasizes an elegant, class exterior to attract nearby residents. Jude’s model presents an attractive and 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 nice place to rest.

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. Below brings you some of the exhibition highlights.

Budge Up by DXPD graduate Natalie Ching created comfort food, a packaging for soup with garnishes that’s meant to evoke a sense of comfort for Singaporeans living overseas through its warm and simple design. She also created 150 better messages meant to help a person cope with grief from losing a loved one.

Tanglin Halt and the Queenstown area,改善 features and traffic circulation. Both of them gained valuable landscape design experience during their internships at local firm Cicada and National Parks Board, respectively.

Singapore Airlines by UVMC graduate Teresa Khoo is a tourism souvenir in the form of a condiment bowl with a shape of actual condiments like green chilli, soy sauce, etc inside it. The item triggers the tourist’s memories of eating in Singapore. It comes together with a booklet of recipes for preparing these condiments.

DVMD graduates Joy Oh, Elly and Tong Liang Ying designed a re-branding campaign for Something Old to Something New, a thrift shop in Simei that hires mentally ill patients to help re-integrate them into society. Their campaign consists of various collateral and promotions for the shop. Both of them were selected for campaigns on security awareness, and also worked on the Ministry of Home Affairs’ SARP Prong campaign.

Something Old, Something New

From left: DARCH graduates Chia Chien Huey, Bryan Sanchez and Jude Ho with their models of modern community centres with improved features for encouraging community bonding. Bryan’s model emphasizes an elegant, class exterior to attract nearby residents. Jude’s model presents an attractive and 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 nice place to rest.
Stunning Projects

DVMD graduate Celestine Ng created Missing Highlights, a thought-provoking ad campaign based on the profile of Liew Ooi, 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.

DGGD 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: DGGD graduates Joshua Han, Mohd Farhan Bin Mohd Yusman, Oh June Yee, Jasonard Len 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 emphasizes good ventilation, a bright, lighted 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 one of a series in a collaborative effort between SP and the National Environment Agency to rethink the design of existing wet markets.

DID graduates Cheewa Yeo and Keith Soh with their boutique furniture creations. Cheewa’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 lacquer-ware, and is created out of multiple layers of coiled wood.

DID graduate Nuryn 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 emphasizes water features to create a sense of tranquillity. Each person in the memorial has screens projecting videos and photos about his life, allowing the members of the public to learn from and appreciate his past experiences. Nuryn’s project was also featured in the local newspapers.
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 23-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’s 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 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.
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 Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) students can take up the Entrepreneurship Option specialisation, which teaches them the skills needed to start and run their own businesses.

For Tee-Ts, a platform to test their entrepreneurial skills. The annual Entrepreneurship Bazaar showcases the businesses created by recent DBA and DBIT graduates (still students at the time of the bazaar). Freshmen Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) students taking the Engineering Projects for Entrepreneurs module also took part in the event.

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

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 startup capital was $2,500, of which $1,500 was loaned 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)

WHAT’S ONE USEFUL THING YOU LEARNED 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.”

For the first time, SP also invited Crest Secondary students to be involved in the fair and get exposure to start a simple business. Says Mohd Hazfird 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.”

The VER WATCHES, jits in name from the Spanish term for watch, which means “to watch.” This team invested one of the highest amounts of startup 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)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left, Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)

THE VER WATCHES

HAS WORKING ON THE BUSINESS CHANGED YOUR LIFE IN ANY WAY?
Sheikhu: “I’m definitely more careful with my money now. I used to spend on unammessy-things, but now I realize the value of money and how it can translate to bigger things like longterm financial security.”

From left: Crest Secondary students Fiz Lutfiah and Daniel Chek. (Website: www.theverwatches.com)
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 editing videos, filming, script writing and creating websites. Personally, I like to

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE COURSE?

Our certification 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.

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 slung 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 Belalay, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 my opinion, a well-informed group of individuals is the hallmark of how successful a society is.
The SP Dragonboat team has been named the Sports Team of the Year at the SP Excellence Awards Ceremony 2015 for the fifth time. I talk 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 (the way that he used to be a very skinny 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 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 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 they 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.
So Possible

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.

A warm greeting from the charming and gracious SP Ambassadors.

CCA Buffet

SP Wing Chun offers the first step towards fulfilling one’s self-defense needs (as well as ip Man formances).

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

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.

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.

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

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

Smooth tunes and infectiously 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.

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

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.

A warm greeting from the charming and gracious SP Ambassadors.

CCA Buffet

SP Wing Chun offers the first step towards fulfilling one’s self-defense needs (as well as ip Man formances).

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

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.

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.

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

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

Smooth tunes and infectiously 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.
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. Could this be 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 Championships, either.

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. SP finds out more about this memory mastermind and his championship co-organiser, Gerald Lim.

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 techniques. “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 practising 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,” says Wellon. “One day, I searched the internet for 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.

Wellon and Gerald are the lead providers 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.

Wellon Chou and Gerald Lim

memoryark4u.com to learn more).

Wellon and Gerald’s team at Memory Ark provides public workshops and corporate training on memory techniques (visit www.

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 memory events, including the Most Random Words Memorised in 5 Minutes, the Most Random Words Memorised in 30 Minutes, and the Most Digits Recalled in 30 Minutes.

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.”
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. It helps them understand Singapore’s social problems, and whether they have a SIP that can change the world.

DA BAO 2.0

In busy 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) and paper and cardboard (21 per cent). Da baoing 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 Arif Pria (Diploma in Information Technology – DIT): “We had to fulfill 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 emphasizing 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 Mubarak 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 Rin Hoon (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 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 family around to help them about their medication because they are busy at work.

A camera is installed in the Ga-Cha-Med unit that 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.”

Their response to the issue is GaChaMed, a specialised medicine dispenser. The project’s name is inspired by Gachapon, a popular vending machine that dispenses toys contained inside capsules. Similarly, the GaChaMed 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.”

The team behind Ga-Cha-Med, Arix Phua (DIT), Joven Wong and Danialshah bin Zainolsah (both from the Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science) found out what two groups learnt about Singapore’s social problems, and whether they have a SIP that can change the world.

...
Completion Ceremony.

Zheng De and Amanda at the PFP 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 rate was registered with the second batch too.

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 rate 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 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 felt 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.

Amanda went for 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 for all. Despite all these setbacks, I worked hard till this very day and proved him wrong. Indeed, hard work does pay off.

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.

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 could not believe, I could achieve.”

Amanda加分留级，证明了她的努力。即使在PFP的学习过程中，她也不时遭遇挫折，但是她没有放弃，而是通过努力最终取得了优异的成绩。

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.

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

To my lovely classmates of JPO2/01, thank you for making my PFP journey a memorable one. I will definitely miss you guys!”

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 rate 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 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.

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

To my lovely classmates of JPO2/01, thank you for making my PFP journey a memorable one. I will definitely miss you guys!”

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 for all. Despite all these setbacks, I worked hard till this very day and proved him wrong. Indeed, hard work does pay off.

So Possible
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. SRF 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 CROW, HOLY INNOCENTS’ HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN APPLIED DRAMA AND PSYCHOLOGY (ADDP)
Why did you choose ADDP?
Drama has been my life for a long time, so when I heard about this course from a friend, I read up about it. ADDP was 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 ADDP?
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.

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.

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.

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 do you hope to do in future?
I’d like to design products or buildings, something original that functions to benefit peoples’ lives.

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 graduates 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 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, hahaha!

What do you hope to do in future?
Right now, I’m thinking of working in human resources (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!

What do you hope for in future?
I’m not so 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.

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.

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 drawings were really nice so I figured I would join interior design too.

What do you hope to do in future?
I’m thinking of working in human resources (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!

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.

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 become 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.
floor, and visitors were invited to record it. A recording booth was set up at the mall’s basement, and members of the public were invited to be part of "Celebrate," a special music project that Star Vista and SP jointly organised.

Project So Possible

Behind the scenes, a national initiative that will help Singapore through its next phase of growth is written by a local band, Scarlet Avenue.

"You & Me" is an adapted special music project that will provide opportunities for high-performing cadets. The programme is rolled out in support of Singapore through its next phase of growth. 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 SkillsFuture, a national initiative that will help Singaporeans interest in the next application period sometime later this year.

Business Administration (DBA), who were interested in the Star Vista’s recording process, I learned how to encourage and guide them in different ways that made sense to them. "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."

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. "Owing to 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 convey his instructions and intentions through simple communication using layman terms. "Owing to 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

So Possible

Fresh graduates John Lee and Benjamin Goh worked on a wireless train fault detection and communication system for SMRT. Research was an important component of their project as they had to study existing systems as well as think of a box to develop solutions. After identifying an approach, they shared their ideas with their supervisors who gave them feedback and some directions. 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 appreciate the hard work behind the scenes of the SMRT engineers in making our train rides smoother.

Fresh graduates John Lee and Benjamin Goh worked on a wireless train fault detection and communication system for SMRT. Research was an important component of their project as they had to study existing systems as well as think of a box to develop solutions. After identifying an approach, they shared their ideas with their supervisors who gave them feedback and some directions. 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 appreciate the hard work behind the scenes of 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 train operators 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.
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 or (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!

**The Sweetest Thing Someone Did For Me**

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

**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!

**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 burning 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.

**DOVYN GAN**

*Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)*

**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!

**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 freshman 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. 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**

*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!

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.
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’s pitching, presentation and communication skills you learned in Gen-Ed! Moreover, being in the MLM (multi-level marketing) line is a grrrreat 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’ friends! You’ll make a tiny commission from each of them, and you’ll make a fortune! Not only will you make a fortune, but you’ll be the most prominent person in your social circle. 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 rant?

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 stuff you know 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. PR.

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?

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 toys, 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 decluttered with each passing day. Once it’s transformed into the purist sanctuary of Zen Minimalism™, begin liberating your possessions too (for a token commission, of course).

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!

-sharing 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 rant?

Social media influencers are a grrrreat 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’ friends! You’ll make a tiny commission from each of them, and you’ll make a fortune! Not only will you make a fortune, but you’ll be the most prominent person in your social circle. 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 rant?

Professional arcade rats are a grrrreat 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’ friends! You’ll make a tiny commission from each of them, and you’ll make a fortune! Not only will you make a fortune, but you’ll be the most prominent person in your social circle. 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 rant?

Social media influencers are a grrrreat 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’ friends! You’ll make a tiny commission from each of them, and you’ll make a fortune! Not only will you make a fortune, but you’ll be the most prominent person in your social circle. 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 rant?
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.

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 shipping, 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 poly 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.

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’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.

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

Mr Lee 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.

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

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.

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

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.

An impression of Mr Lee drawn by Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics recent graduate Cooper Ng.
They can.... with ONE STROKE AND ONE HEART

SP Dragon Boat Team turns in their best performance ever