SPIRIT

VOL 2 2016 CAMPUS ISSUE

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

With SP, it's So Possible

STAR PERFORMERS
CLASS OF 2016
**SP Sure Pass Kit**

Vote For Your School. Win SP Sure Pass Kit!

Calling all O-Level students! We have a Sure Pass Kit filled with awesome gifts and exam tips that will help you ace your O-Level!

To win this awesome care package:
- Go to Singapore Polytechnic's Facebook page and look for the “Sure Pass Kit – Pick A Swag” Facebook app.

1. Pick a swag to customise your kit, and vote for your secondary school. You can choose from True Words Chocolate, Caffeine Reward Cards or Efferin Travel Kit.

The schools with the highest number of votes for each swag will receive the kits!

2. Cast your votes now, and follow us to stay updated! With SP, it’s So Possible!

**FOLKESTONE FESTIVAL**

18 NOVEMBER 2016

FRIDAY

1PM - 10PM

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

**GAMES PICNIC GIGS**

Tempted yet? It’s free to join!

Get ready to let your hair down and raise your hands up! Celebrate the end of your O Levels with a day of fun games, picnic in school and performances featuring SP student acts and local headliners.

Find out more about life at SP from the people who know it best – our student leaders, and forge new friendships.

Oh, before we forget, there are attractive prizes to be won and participants get a Goodie Day and all-day festival too!

Welcome back to life!

Register now at www.sp.edu.sg/folkestone

* Free registration, closes on 20 September 2016
* Accepted on first come, first served basis / until maximum capacity is reached.

**ACTS:**

SHIGGA SHAY

NATHAN HARTONO

For enquiries, please contact 6772 1609 / 6772 1766 or schoolrelations@sp.edu.sg
Discover your talents and passion in SP, which has close to 120 CCAs. Here are Instagram photos of some of our amazing student clubs!

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Meet the top grads from the Class of 2016.

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**SP Dancesport**
@spdancesport

**SP HOCKEY**
@sphockey

**SP TAEKWONDO**
@sptkd

**SP SCUBA DIVING**
@spscubadiving
These top graduates from Singapore Polytechnic’s Class of 2016 have faced life’s ups and downs. Some of them have battled personal struggles with issues like dyslexia; others have shouldered burdens in their family. Yet, there was no backing down during their three years at SP. While maintaining excellent grades, they also made time to learn many real-world skills through internships, organise regional events, help villagers through community service, and impart their experiences to their juniors.

SPIRIT honours these Institutional Medallists for experiencing their life in SP at the fullest, and sharing that fire inside them with friends, family and even strangers. Here are the top eight, proudly decked in apparel from SPELL@Changi Airport Terminal 3.

SPIRIT 05
My internships felt like a privilege to me. I had industry training in China at Taikoo Aircraft Engineering Company, where I worked on actual aircraft. I also had the chance to intern at Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technologies, where I worked under many talented scientists to conduct research!

I'm humbled to have received the SP Engineering Scholarship and A*Star Science Award that supported my studies greatly!

The SP Red Cross and BP Mentoring Club allowed me to serve others through organising fundraising events, and tutoring academically weaker students. Tutoring at a primary school with the BP Mentors showed me I have a role as a senior to help teach younger kids to be more patient and to understand one another, as you never know what problems your classmates may have in their families or private life.

I've received the Nanyang Scholarship from Nanyang Technological University, and will be continuing my studies in aeronautical engineering. One day, I hope to work in an established firm such as SIA Engineering!

Pavan Singh Gill
Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)
Alumnus of Woodgrove Secondary School

I've taken on roles in organising committees for CCAs. In the SP Students’ Union, I was a Corporate Coordinator interacting with real-life entrepreneurs, business generalised sponsors. In addition, I was the President of the Student Entrepreneurship Club. I also chaired a committee for the Youth Model ASEAN conference, a regional gathering of youths from all 10 ASEAN states! I believe these experiences will aid my dreams in future.

My life in SP can be summed up in one word: reversal. In secondary school, I struggled through studies because I had dyslexia, and eventually became unmotivated. However, in SP, that dyslexia partially became a gift. Dyslexics tend to think in pictures, so this visual thinking helped me in some of my 3D modelling classes! Being in SP, and learning from friends and incredible lecturers, has changed me, my self-confidence and my self-belief completely.

I've been offered the Global Leadership Programme Scholarship from the Singapore University of Technology and Design, the NTU Nanyang Scholarship and the NUS Merit Scholarship. I hope to continue studying electrical and electronic engineering, along with a second major or minor in design or economics.

My dad was my inspiration as well. He used to work for the air force as an engineer. Afterwards, he started his own company and has done many projects related to aviation.

Aeronautical engineering was my top choice after 'O' levels. I was passionate about physics and maths. Engineering combines both, so I thought it’d be the perfect choice for me!

I wanted to join SP because of its reputation in engineering, but I was neither the brightest nor most hardworking student in my Normal (Academic) cohort. In secondary three, I got a wake-up call when I failed some subjects. I began studying regularly and asked my teachers for help. Over time, my grades turned around, and I built a never-give-up attitude that eventually helped me qualify for DARE at SP!

My dad was my inspiration as well. He used to work for the air force as an engineer. Afterwards, he started his own company and has done many projects related to aviation.

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Acknowledgments

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Feature Story

TOP GRADS OF 2016

DANIEL HO JING YANG
DIPLOMA IN INFOCOMM SECURITY MANAGEMENT (DISM)
Alumnus of Victoria School

I started my polytechnic journey the same way I started out in secondary school, as an introverted, pessimistic student. I had trouble speaking my views with classmates, seniors, and even lecturers. Even making friends was difficult.

At the rate things were going, I was destined to repeat the cycle. So I tried to迫使 myself to learn how to open up. I joined the student ambassador group for the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology called STARS. I also joined SP ACERS, a student ambassador group that promotes SP as a whole! This gave me chances to talk to strangers, make new friends and confront my fears.

During an overseas community service trip to Nepal, I had a life-changing encounter. A young girl from the village we were at walked up to me and offered to share half the lunch she had that day.

- a small handful of oats. The sincerity and generosity of this act changed something inside me. Deep down, it convinced me to get out of the tough shell that made me overly guarded towards people around me. Eventually, I became more open and outward-looking, and took on leadership roles in ACERS, STARs, and other CCAs such as the ISACA Singapore Student Chapter. I also founded the DISM Student Mentorship programme.

My internship at the DSO National Laboratories gave me the amazing chance to explore the alpha stages of emerging cyber security technologies! Another favourite memory is taking part in the Wi-Fi Effect by the Prime Minister’s Office, a large-scale social experiment to show people the dangers of neglecting cyber security.

Joining the SEA Games 2015 as a digital content creator was a wild ride! Speaking to athletes and chasing to always get a story showed us what journalism is like on the go!

I interned at a production house called Beach House Pictures which does documentaries and infotainment for channels like Channel NewsAsia and Discovery Channel. I also went to Ipoh, Malaysia for overseas documentary filming! I’m grateful for the SP Scholarship which supported my studies.

I’ve been accepted into the University of Westminster, London to study a degree in Contemporary Media Practice!

SHANTEL NEO RUI EN
DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING FOR TV AND NEW MEDIA (DTVM)
Alumna of Ang Mo Kio Secondary School

During secondary four, I often thought about what I could do in future. I realised a goal that would make all the hardship of studying for ‘O’ levels worth it!

Thinking hard, I narrowed it down to two of my favourite things: writing and watching TV. When I found about the DTVM course, I realised it was a perfect combination for me! After my ‘O’ level result, my family tried to convince me to aim for JC instead. To be honest, it did make me doubt myself, but something in my gut told me to aim for DTVM. Following that instinct landed me in a course filled with likeminded people who love to be entertained and entertain others through TV and new media!

When my course first began, one of my lecturers got annoyed that our class didn’t want to answer questions for fear of “giving wrong answers.” She chided us, saying that there is no “right” answer and that we had to think and dare to express our thoughts. But she and the other lecturers didn’t just challenge us; they also encouraged us and showed us the way. This tough love is something I’ll cherish.

Joining the SEA Games 2015 as a digital content creator was a wild ride! Speaking to athletes and chasing to always get a story showed us what journalism is like on the go!

I interned at a production house called Beach House Pictures which does documentaries and infotainment for channels like Channel NewsAsia and Discovery Channel. I also went to Ipoh, Malaysia for overseas documentary filming! I’m grateful for the SP Scholarship which supported my studies.

I’ve been accepted into the University of Westminster, London to study a degree in Contemporary Media Practice!
Goh Wei Sheng
Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)
Alumnus of Riverside Secondary School

Growing up, I could hardly recall seeing my parents take a break from trying to provide food for the family. Both my dad and mom would work until late to earn a livelihood. So I and my brother (who’s also a graduate from SP) never fell over because of a lower-income household was a liability. It was a blessing that taught us to be independent and appreciate what we have.

My passion is for biomedical science and what I feel is its vast potential to improve and give second chances at life. I chose SP because it is the longest-established poly, and I was inspired by the large pool of successful alumni who took up meaningful fields like medicine, pharmacy and biomedical research after graduating from SP.

I was honoured to be awarded the prestigious A*Star Science Award (Polytechnic), which granted me the opportunity to intern at the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology’s Nanomedicine department. Studying how newly developed materials are being used as drug delivery mediums or for antimicrobial purposes was incredible, and working there has sparked off a new interest in oncology and infectious disease for me. I’m also very grateful for the SP scholarship that supported my studies.

Another memorable experience during my SP time was an overseas community service trip to Shangri-La, China, where our team helped to build flush toilets for rural villagers. The trip reminded me to appreciate all that we have in life. It was also heartening to see how readily the villagers shared their culture with us and accommodated us.

I’ve been accepted into the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. I’m now one step closer to my dream of serving in healthcare.

Philbert Lim Sin Ping
Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)
Alumnus of Gan Eng Seng School

My first two months after ‘O’ levels were spent at a junior college (JC). Although it enjoyed my time there, the experience made me think about my goals for tertiary education.

Because I believed in the importance of interpersonal and presentation skills, I applied to SP in the end because of its good reputation, and vibrant education that is more project-based and includes many CCAs, competitions, community service and industry networking in its activities. Accountancy was my top choice, as I felt that it forms the foundation for businesses of all sizes.

As President of the DAC Chapter, I was privileged to get the chance to organise a wide range of events, such as a course bonding day, training workshop and farewell dinner. Also, together with the ‘SE Leo Club, I’ve taken part in local community service efforts such as planning a Pizza Day for a Children’s Centre, and bringing senior citizens on a trip to visit the Singapore Sports Hub!

I also went on an overseas community service trip to Laos to teach English and build infrastructure at a village. Teaching the local children English was my most memorable experience there.

The freedom to do all these things during long semester breaks is one great thing about SP. But this freedom is a double-edged sword. It’s important to think how to use the time wisely, or it’ll all be wasted!

My internship at Ernst & Young Financial Services Office gave me a wealth of insight into the auditing profession. I’m really glad for these opportunities and more that my course provided.

My mom has worked hard to raise my sister and me in our single-parent household, and I’m grateful to all the staff who helped me seek support through multiple bursaries and scholarships.

I hope to further my studies in accountancy at NUS or Nanyang Technological University, and perhaps do a Master of Science (Financial Engineering) in future as well!
Before SP, I was a part-time student at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, studying Fashion Jewellery Design! I’ve been doing lots of arts and crafts since young, and I admire the aesthetic value of things!

During SP Open House, the displays for the DIT course caught my eyes because the products created were beautiful, and the aspect of user experience was well thought out. This course has inspired me to create great products and experiences that benefit mankind!

In the second year of my course, my class had to design a 2-seater bench. My classmates and I would spend hours making the benches in a studio; the “hardworking” atmosphere of constant sawing and knocking and the camaraderie shared is a priceless memory to me! I also enjoyed my internship at a local design studio, Hans Tan Studio,

and getting the chance to be the Organising Chairman of the DXPD section of the SP Design School Graduation Showcase for final-year design projects.

Eventually, I even gained the confidence to enter competitions on top of my schoolwork. I really enjoyed the Singapural 48 Hours Challenge @ Park Mall, where I and my teammates designed a makeover for a showroom owned by Castilla, an Italian furniture retailer.

I plan to pursue further studies in industrial design at NUS, and I’ve been awarded the NUS Global Merit Scholarship. My ambition is to one day have a design studio of my own!

Throughout primary and secondary school, I struggled with English and Chinese because of dyslexia. When I enrolled into ITE after secondary school, I felt hopeless, until one day I got the chance to compete in an IT competition with university and poly participants. One of my lecturers motivated me greatly during the event, and helped me to gain confidence in my IT skills. That set me on a path to keep learning IT at the poly level.

Since coming to SP, I’ve done my best in every task assigned. I managed to do well consistently, to the point that I could even go for the Singapore Management University (SMU) Advanced Placement Programme where I studied and experienced two university modules!

The trust that friends and lecturers have bestowed on me has given me the ability to achieve everything that I never thought I could. I’m grateful for my time in SP.

I’ve been offered a place in SMU to study information systems. I see myself in 10 years’ time working for, or owning a company that bridges IT specialists and the business world to build IT solutions.

Oppportunities are what DIT has given me time and time again. In my time at SP, my lecturers equipped me with skills to go for multiple competitions, such as innovate IT, the Microsoft Publish IT Hackathon, and the NIA Clean X Green Hackathon. The skills they taught me enabled me to become a top three finalist or award winner with my teammates in all of these events.

I also got the chance to be involved with two big companies, Singtel and Microsoft! I carried out my internship at Singtel, where I got a very insightful experience in the telecommunications industry. I was also a Microsoft Student Partner, an ambassador of sorts giving IT workshops to students and promoting free tools by Microsoft that could help with their studies.
**S P I R I T**

**Congratulations:**

**THE STAR PERFORMERS OF 2016**

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**LEE BOON YAO**
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Everygreen Secondary School

In my second year, I signed up for the Healthcare Innovation Diploma Plus Programme which allowed me to be part of a team working on a healthcare project for a real client outside SP! I enjoyed all the highs and lows our team went through together, as well as the late nights spent in order to create amazing and brilliant ideas for the project!

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**CHEN JINGWEN**
Diploma in Clean Energy
Chu St Nicholas Girls’ School

Participating in the World Solar Challenge in Australia is something that I will never forget. Building a solar car from scratch is not difficult, but rebuilding it within a month (after it got destroyed in an accident) to participate in an international race is definitely challenging!

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**LEE BOON YAO**
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Everygreen Secondary School

I have successfully completed two half-marathons and one full marathon locally as part of the SP Marathoners! What was most fortunate to me was being able to represent SP in the Hong Kong Standard Chartered Half-Marathon (Open Category), where I got first place! Organising activities in the SP Angling and Aquaculture Club as Vice-President helped me become a well-rounded student too!

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**TOO ZHI LOC**
Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics
(1’4’3”), SMK Taman Connaught

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**LIM BO ZHI**
Diploma in Computer Engineering
St. Joseph’s Institution

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**MUHD TAUFIK BIN JOHARI**
Diploma in Aerospace Electronics
Yishun Town Secondary School

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**CHEUNG KAI HONG**
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Dunman Secondary School

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**PAVAN SINGH GILL**
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Woodgrove Secondary School

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**NUR FARZANA BTE MOHD SAINI**
Diploma in Engineering Systems
Hillgrove Secondary School

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**VINCENT CHIN KAI JIE**
Diploma in Engineering with Business
Bukit Batok Secondary School

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**SP has given me many good memories, so I don’t really have any bad things to say about it… Except maybe the long queues for delicious food at the food courts during long hours!**

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**I enjoyed my time spent with my friends in SP, which seems like a second home to me. I will definitely treasure the memories. I am also honoured to have lecturers who are passionate in teaching engineering and are willing to give us guidance and support whenever we need them.**

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**SPRIT 15**
Star Performers

Peter Jun Rong
Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science
Hua Yi Secondary School

I am thankful that SP has dedicated lecturers who show their endless care and support to their students. They’re always there to clarify any doubts that we have, be it after office hours or even during school break!

Clara Hin Kai Lin
Diploma in Optometry
Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School

Even as a student, I got the chance to examine public patients on my own at the SP Optometry Centre! This ability to provide primary healthcare service to others was a huge but exciting responsibility for me!

Seah Xin Hui
Diploma in Food Science & Technology
Yuhua Secondary School

My family has always trusted me, and whenever I’m down, they are the ones who encourage me. I “inherited” my positivity from them and they’re the ones who kept me going.

Chernis Low Guai Mun
Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science
Unity Secondary School

Ms Law Bee Lee and Ms Jessie Tong are two lecturers who are very passionate and go beyond their call of duty. Their constant guidance and knowledge of the industry has really inspired my study of perfumes and cosmetics!

Nicholas Tan Wei Quan
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Christ Church Secondary School

Ms Low Bee Lee and Ms Jessie Tong are two lecturers who are very passionate and go beyond their call of duty. Their constant guidance and knowledge of the industry has really inspired my study of perfumes and cosmetics!

One of my favourite things about SP is having Starbucks, KFC and McDonald’s within walking distance from my classroom! I’ll miss the enjoyable meals there!
YIP JING WEI
DIPLOMA IN INTERIOR DESIGN
COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Meeting people from many walks of life during community service trips in SP has taught me how to look on the brighter side of life whenever we are met with troubles. Every day is a happy day as long as you make the best out of it!

KWEK AJ LING
DIPLOMA IN EXPERIENCE & PRODUCT DESIGN
GEYLANG METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

I loved my real-world experiences as a student! As part of The Student Agency, I worked on projects for clients and even the publicity campaign for SP’s Open House 2015 and 2016! With SP, it’s So Possible!

DOMINIC CHIA WYNN TAT
DIPLOMA IN ARCHITECTURE
KENT RIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Being introverted at a young age, I was not fond of speaking and sought other forms of expression. Drawing was a personal favourite, and one day, while moving house, it dawned on me that spaces could express who we are. This was what drew me towards the Diploma in Architecture in SP.

ATIKA ALISA BTE MAHAT
DIPLOMA IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION & MEDIA DESIGN
YISHUN SECONDARY SCHOOL

A memorable moment for me was organising a Halloween event for the National Library Board as part of my course. It gave me a taste of life as a professional event manager!

CHOW MAN MING
DIPLOMA IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH BUSINESS (M’SIA)
SMK INFANT JESUS CONVENT

What I like most about SP life is lunch time. We would always imitate our beloved lecturer Mr Saculo Lomibao. He has this catchy phrase, “LUNCH NOW” and we would always mimic it in his voice before going out for a refreshing meal!

PIERCE CHUA MING KAI
DIPLOMA IN HOTEL & LEISURE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
PASIR RIS CREST SECONDARY SCHOOL

MUHD IS’MAIL BIN AZMAN
DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SEMBAWANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

Toh Yie Xuan
DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & WATER TECHNOLOGY
QUEENSTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Meeting people from many walks of life during community service trips in SP has taught me how to look on the brighter side of life whenever we are met with troubles. Every day is a happy day as long as you make the best out of it!
I was really grateful for my 12-week internship in Citibank, which taught me not only skills but the adaptability needed to work in a fast-paced and dynamic environment!

The good thing about poly is that it brings like-minded people together. I was able to find fellow adventurist people in my rock-climbing CCA to travel everywhere together, climb mountains and make great memories!
Star Performers

My proudest moment was having my final-year project appear on Channel News Asia, The Straits Times, Today and other media! The project was a combined effort with the Singapore Police Force to make an app to reduce crime rates!

How was my time in SP? Blood, Sweat, and Tears, quite literally. There have been so many ups and downs for me, and a couple of times where I just broke down. These moments, from day-to-day interactions with my friends, to exhilarating performing, to not being able to get a certain piano playing right; these are my memories in SP, and I will definitely miss all these.

In my course, my classmates and I have our own personal workstations which we can decorate, store filming equipment in and rest in. The M.A.D. Studios are the place I’ll remember in SP.

One of the things that drove me to do well is how impactful the work of applied drama and psychology could be. The course has made me more sensitive to the needs of different less privileged groups in Singapore, and equipped me with skills that can provide beneficial outcomes and experiences for them.

My favourite thing about my course was how small my class was. Because of the size, everyone knew everyone and we had close bands within the cohort and with our lecturers! It was like being in a small family.
Pictures taken at Singapore Polytechnic’s Graduation Ceremony 2016 do something special: capture the magical conclusion of three years of study, amazing adventures, and close friendship.

Each year, our graduates never fail to entertain for the camera, and this year is no different. Here are snapshots of these once-in-a-lifetime moments, and highlights of the fun and crazy photos that have become a staple of SP Graduation.

SPIRIT would like to wish all graduates an incredible and charmed life ahead. With SP, it’s So Possible!
Four Hybrid Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems took off simultaneously in front of the newly-opened AeroHub. They were built by students from the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering and Diploma in Aerospace Electronics.

Mousetraps, aerial vehicles and a solar car. These were some of the innovations at Engineering Show 2016 – a showcase of technological inventions by SP students.

These were close to 110 projects showcased this year and certainly no lack of creativity in them. Some were devised to assist the handicapped with mobility, such as the wheelchair elevator that will assist the handicapped staying in HDB flats with elevated entrance. Another gave hope to the hearing impaired to communicate with ground instructors when they do paragliding.

The environment will also benefit from the inventions of SP engineering students too. Projects like mousetraps that trigger SMS messages when mice are caught and a drone that can spray pesticides to destroy beehives are definitely an improvement over currently available apparatus.

There were close to 110 projects showcased this year and certainly no lack of creativity in them.
Destroy a bee hive without getting near it, all with a mere remote control giving instructions to this flying pest-control machine. Hazardous tasks may become a breeze in the future.

A lightweight racing boat made of carbon fibre composite. It is scalable to perform search and rescue functions on water with a built-in camera.

With a penchant to see a mouse-less country, these guys integrated technology into their mouse traps for a more efficient mouse-trapping process.

A UAV with surveillance and transport capabilities. Called Kestrel, it can carry up to 1kg load despite being lightweight.

This is a multi-function micro-hybrid UAV called Rever that is built with vertical takeoff and landing capability. With its efficient modular system, it can be easily reconfigured for different purposes. Damaged parts can also be quickly replaced.

"Hello! My name is Social Robot. I can perform many tasks such as taking drink orders and delivering them to customers."

No more diesel? No problem. This patrol vessel with solar panels will self-power itself as well as all the appliances on board.
the perpetrators, notify your family members of your call when encountering a robber or molester. This app when a panic button is hit, the DBIT team worked with the Singapore Police Force to develop a multifunctional app that would make living easier and safer. Creative minds are not lacking either with team members from various disciplines. One team, for instance, decided to develop a multi-function app that would allow users to report animal abuse in real-time. With the lack of an app for the SPCA, anyone can notify the SPCA in real-time when an animal abuse case or an injured animal is spotted. This improves the time efficiency for rescue operations and more animals can be saved. The app also raises awareness on the services that SPCA provides, such as pet adoption and animal sheltering. The team would love to expand the app to other animal groups here such as SOSD Dog Rescue and the Cat Welfare Society.

ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM
DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DBIT)
The team works with gas provider Union Energy to develop this app that enables online ordering and delivery of gas cylinders. Once a customer places an order via the app, it will automatically create a dispatch order in the system and assign a driver based on the Driver-Portal Matrix to make delivery. Upon delivery, the driver can even print a receipt for the customer. Overall, the app reduces the workload for the call centre agents while improving the efficiency, services and sales of the company’s ordering system.

THE MACHINE
DIPLOMA IN DIGITAL ANIMATION (DDA)
This five-minute animation film tells the story of Zana, who changed from a fearful and apprehensive girl to become courageous and strong-willed. All because she has to save her father from a machine. This project brings together various challenging ideas and concepts. It is a science-fiction themed story focusing on the bonds between family members as well as a story about becoming brave in the face of adversity. It celebrates the strength of the love between parents and children.

CALL POLICE
DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DBIT)
If you can’t hit the panic button, here’s a panic app when encountering a robber or molester. This DBIT team worked with the Singapore Police Force to develop a multifunctional app that would make living easier and safer. Creative minds are not lacking either with team members from various disciplines. One team, for instance, decided to develop a multi-function app that would allow users to report animal abuse in real-time. With the lack of an app for the SPCA, anyone can notify the SPCA in real-time when an animal abuse case or an injured animal is spotted. This improves the time efficiency for rescue operations and more animals can be saved. The app also raises awareness on the services that SPCA provides, such as pet adoption and animal sheltering. The team would love to expand the app to other animal groups here such as SOSD Dog Rescue and the Cat Welfare Society.

SANTA
DIPLOMA IN INFOCOMM SECURITY MANAGEMENT (DISM)
With online shopping becoming the rage worldwide, there also lies the problem of payment security. Payment gateways such as PayPal and WorldPay play a crucial and central role in e-commerce. In the event that the payment gateway is compromised, banks are held accountable to the merchant for failure to receive the correct payment funds. The DISM team developed a web solution called SANTA that enables banks to check on any vulnerabilities of payment gateways used by online shoppers in e-commerce websites.

SANTA can be used by banks to automate the whole processing of identifying payment gateways used by an e-commerce merchant and proceed on to check for any vulnerabilities present. This will greatly reduce the operating costs for banks as compared to running penetration tests on a regular basis.

PLAY THE MUSIC
DIPLOMA IN MUSIC AND AUDIO TECHNOLOGY (DMAT)
Graduating students from DMAT brought the house down with their renditions of self-composed tunes. From rock to ballads, solo to group performances, guitar to drums, every form and format of music was showcased. From now on, they are no longer music students but MUSICIANS. Respect!
Epilogue means conclusion and is the name for the graduation showcase for Diploma in Architecture and Diploma in Landscape Architecture students. The showcase marks the end of their SP journey but also the beginning of a new venture. SPIRIL checks out the impressive final-year works by these up-and-coming building and landscape architects.

HEAVEN AND EARTH

KENNETH CHONG

In his project, Kenneth pays homage to the artisans of yesteryear who crafts things and projects by hand. Yet he recognises the need for modern technology to progress. His design includes two main volume spaces for both the public and the artisan to coexist.

6 ARTISAN BOXES

JOEL MO

An Artisan Design Centre right smack within the modernity of Orchard Road. Joel’s design counters the commercial-driven architectural style by redefining architecture as a form as opposed to structure. The Centre has six stacked boxes that look out to key points in Orchard Road where people come to a standstill, for example road junctions, and inspire them to take a look inside.

NOTHING

IDAYU BURHAN

Perplexed by the existence of leftover spaces between buildings, Idayu creates an opportunity for these spaces to come alive, from ‘nothing’ to ‘happening’. The once empty spaces are integrated with existing structures to encourage human interaction such as allowing works by artisans.

6 ARTISAN BOXES

JOEL MO

An Artisan Design Centre right smack within the modernity of Orchard Road. Joel’s design counters the commercial-driven architectural style by redefining architecture as a form as opposed to structure. The Centre has six stacked boxes that look out to key points in Orchard Road where people come to a standstill, for example road junctions, and inspire them to take a look inside.

NOTHING

IDAYU BURHAN

Perplexed by the existence of leftover spaces between buildings, Idayu creates an opportunity for these spaces to come alive, from ‘nothing’ to ‘happening’. The once empty spaces are integrated with existing structures to encourage human interaction such as allowing works by artisans.

DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (DLA)

If a stretch of Orchard Road was made into a permanent pedestrian walkway, how would it look like? The graduating students were tasked to redefine the landscape with this pedestrianising project.

THE DYNAMIC ASSIMILATION

NG YONG JIN

A Heritage Square with sculptures related to Orchard Road’s past. A Panorama Deck with unobstructed view. Night lighting at the Aqua-interactive Zone. People zipping in and out on segways. Yong Jin attempts to create a spirited atmosphere for users by strengthening the area aesthetically with an activity-filled landscape.

URBAN DYNAMISM

CHRISTAL LIM

Chrystal would keep the place as natural as possible, if she has her way. The focus of her landscape design is natural yet functional where one can shop, play and relax. For example, she envisions green enclosures and an outdoor art gallery along the stretch.

DIURNAL + NOCTURNAL BLOOM

TAN WEI LIN

Orchard Road by day will be very different by night. This is Wei Lin’s landscape concept where the characteristics of the area are divided by day and night. Flowers that will bloom during day and night will co-exist. Likewise for social activities that could take place under sunlight or moonlight.

Creating Environments

DIPLOMA IN ARCHITECTURE (DARCH)

Students were challenged to produce architectural designs that promote artisanry in Orchard Road. They had to create a space where people can exchange ideas and shop at businesses related to hand-crafted products.
Keep the creative juice flowing. Indeed, it should be unlimited. Design stops when creativity stops. In the second edition of unlimited, the graduation showcase of works by students from SP Design School, the creative juice is overflowing! Spirit brings you a selection of some interesting projects.

DIPLOMA IN EXPERIENCE AND PRODUCT DESIGN (DXPD)

**OUR EVERYDAY HEROES**
**BY DARREN CHAN**

A ready-to-go Thank You Box where you can put little things like candies and drinks and give them to anyone to show your gratitude.

DIPLOMA IN GAMES DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (DGDD)

**TAO: ROCKET OWLS**
**BY TERENCE NG, CHRISTOPHER PANG, NUR FARAH ADDINA, EBE ZAILAN, TAN SHI YUN, CHUE JUN HAO AND FRIEDA MAK**

This is an action-packed game set in a fantasy world with Chinese influences. Players take control of the character who has to battle against monsters and demons.

DIPLOMA IN INTERIOR DESIGN (DID)

**MICRO HOTEL BY KITTRONGSIRI PHAWIDA**

What’s smaller than a boutique hotel? A micro hotel! The interior design ingeniously mixes materials with colours. For example, black carpets are used with white walls to create a stark contrast.

DIPLOMA IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DESIGN (DVMD)

**ATIKA ALISA MAHAT AND SANDRA LAU**

The duo rebranded Beer Market, a pub in Clarke Quay. Besides giving the place a new look via a variety of collateral, they also built a community for like-minded people to come together for a drink.

DIPLOMA IN EXPERIENCE AND PRODUCT DESIGN (DXPD)

**FARMING AT SCOTTS**
**BY LAU EN BEI**

The indigo dying craft found in Buaisou, a Japanese artisanal collection, is brought to Orchard Road. Visitors can experience the process from the traditional indigo farming to dying in customised workshops.

DIPLOMA IN GAMES DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (DGDD)

**JOHNNY MYTHOS BY ADDY LAU, HYE JIA YI, KENNETH TEO, EDMUND FONG, THEON TEO**

These lads created this exploration-action game that revolves around the main character Johnny who goes in search of a mythical creature. The camera function adds intense fun.

DIPLOMA IN EXPERIENCE AND PRODUCT DESIGN (DXPD)

**GUNNY SACK TOTE BAG BY SEAH LI PING**

This project cleverly combines the old school gunny sack and tote bag into a fashion item. A reminder that items in the tote bag came from transactions, and gunny sacks were a mode of transaction in the past.

DIPLOMA IN EXPERIENCE AND PRODUCT DESIGN (DXPD)

**KOIN POUCH BY TEO YAN YAN**

Koi is believed to bring good luck. So carry this good luck pouch designed with the scales of koi fish. When the pouch gets fuller, the scales will expand, signifying “fullness of wealth.”

DIPLOMA IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DESIGN (DVMD)

**ATIKA ALISA MAHAT AND SANDRA LAU**

The duo rebranded Beer Market, a pub in Clarke Quay. Besides giving the place a new look via a variety of collateral, they also built a community for like-minded people to come together for a drink.

**LIM XIN YI AND LIM QIAN YI**

Their campaign for the Dyslexia Association of Singapore attempts to change mindsets towards dyslexia. They want to convey the message that dyslexia is a learning difference and not a limitation.

**CHARITY CHONG AND MARCUS CHOU**

A household name and book retailer, Popular is given a fresh look that comes with a brand new logo, website, staff uniform and even a store makeover. Exercise books are now cool items.
Two students from the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) have a role in upcoming national events.

**National Day Parade 2016 Logo**

Chelsea Lim enjoys National Day Parades and has always hoped that she could participate as a performer. Her dream is finally realised in this year’s NDP. Not as a performer, but as a designer of the NDP logo.

Her submission clinched the top prize in the NDP Logo Competition, which she declares as “the biggest achievement of her life!” Chelsea spent about 10 days to conceptualise and complete the logo. It features a heart in four different shades of red to represent Singapore’s diversity in race and religion, with the number 51 imprinted on it in handwritten font. There is also a firework with five stars for each of the nation’s ideals.

This was the first time that the NDP Logo Competition was opened to all Singaporeans, and the public was able to vote for their favourite logo design. There were 250 entries this year.

“I took reference from past logos, but they were not styles that I could do. I preferred something that was more personal,” said Chelsea in her interview with the local media.

Mr Dennis Mark, Vice President and General Manager at HP Inc and one of the judges of the competition, was impressed with Chelsea’s concept. “I think it’s refreshing, it’s coming from the heart. We were looking for a logo that’s iconic, can really resonate with the people, and also represent this year’s NDP. You can see from her description that it’s one that really represents the diversity of Singapore and the love and experience that Singaporeans have gone through over the last 50 years.”

**Budget 2016 Logo**

With support from the Ministry of Communications and Information, SP Design School (SD) created the Budget 2016 logo that was officially launched in February. This logo could be seen in print ads, videos and other collateral related to Budget 2016.

The lucky student appointed to create this iconic work was second-year student Toh Ping Huang. He was supervised by lecturers Mr Yanzo Pang and Mr Jovan Peh.

Ping Huang shares his design rationale for the logo: “Orange is the colour of youth, enthusiasm and vibrancy. I hope Singapore will always stay as a young nation at heart, even as we cross our jubilee celebration. The four hearts come together to form the logo that symbolises a united Singapore, undivided by our differences and bonded by a common determination to overcome any challenges ahead. The family at the centre of the logo reminds us that our families and friends will always be at the heart of what we do, no matter how far we progress as a nation.”

“Through this project, I was able to learn more about the national budget and what it actually means for Singapore. The budget goes beyond just numbers and figures, and plays an important role in building our nation. It also makes me ponder the possibilities of our future and how we want to progress as a society,” says Ping Huang, who hopes to be a brand designer after completing his course.

SD student Chelsea Lim standing tall and proud at the NDP2016 venue with her winning logo.

SD student Toh Ping Huang with his mentors, SP lecturers Yanzo Pang and Jovan Peh.

Success seldom, or in fact never, lands on you without sacrifices. Just ask any of the award recipients at the Excellence Awards Ceremony 2016. Like they say, no pain, no gain.
Spectacular Performance

Winners of Excellence Awards 2016

MODEL STUDENT AWARD
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:
Lee Boon Yoo; Zhou Yuan; Gilderson Thow Yang Pong
SP BUSINESS SCHOOL:
Pang Chan Hooi; Phuong Lin Sin Ping; Bebeleho Tay En Qi
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES:
Shanlan Neo Kai En; Winnahcharan Nadar S/O Vijayan

SP DESIGN SCHOOL:
Xavier Tse Yuan Kai; Yap Jing Wei
SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY:
Glenn Ng Guo You
SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING:
Chen Pei Yi; Lim Bo Zhi; Pavan Singh Gill; William Tan Jing Yu
SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING:
Lee Boon Yoo; Zhou Yuan; Gilderson Thow Yang Pong

SP SPORTS AWARD (HONOURS)
DRAGONBOAT: Bryen Suhardi; Lester Lim Sheng Long; Lim Yi Jie and R Bharath Ram, Sim Wei Han
BOWLING (MEN): Cai Ming’en
TRACK & FIELD: Valerie Cheong May Chi
SAILING: Daniel Norman Tan Jee Chuan and Joel Neo Jiun Hao
VOLLEYBALL: Edward Lai Wen Chuan

SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING
Lee Boon Yoo; Zhou Yuan; Gilderson Thow Yang Pong

SP BUSINESS SCHOOL:
Pang Chan Hooi; Phuong Lin Sin Ping; Bebeleho Tay En Qi
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES:
Shanlan Neo Kai En; Winnahcharan Nadar S/O Vijayan

SP DESIGN SCHOOL:
Xavier Tse Yuan Kai; Yap Jing Wei
SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY:
Glenn Ng Guo You
SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING:
Chen Pei Yi; Lim Bo Zhi; Pavan Singh Gill; William Tan Jing Yu
SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING:
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TRACK & FIELD: Valerie Cheong May Chi
SAILING: Daniel Norman Tan Jee Chuan and Joel Neo Jiun Hao
VOLLEYBALL: Edward Lai Wen Chuan

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY:
Cassandra Koh Xiao Ting; Chee Ying Xing; Indrasyah Putera Kuda bin Dulhil

SP DESIGN SCHOOL:
Xavier Tse Yuan Kai; Yap Jing Wei
SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA & INFOCOMM TECHNOLOGY:
Glenn Ng Guo You
SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING:
Chen Pei Yi; Lim Bo Zhi; Pavan Singh Gill; William Tan Jing Yu
SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING:
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TRACK & FIELD: Valerie Cheong May Chi
SAILING: Daniel Norman Tan Jee Chuan and Joel Neo Jiun Hao
VOLLEYBALL: Edward Lai Wen Chuan

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR
Jeyyn Ong Angnui (Sailing)

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR
Ann Sim Kwee Peng (Gymnastics)

COACH OF THE YEAR
John Goh Poh Soon (SP Dragon Boat/Canoeing)

CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR
Valerie Koh Min (Waterpolo)

TEAM OF THE YEAR
SP Dragon Boat

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION (GROUP) AWARD
Community Service & Cultural Club
Digital Media & InfoCom Club
SP International Students’ Club
SP Leo Club
SP Malay Language Society
SP NYAA Ambassadors Club
SP Photography Club
SP Rock Climbers
SP Strictly Dance Zone
SP Student Entrepreneurs club
SP Students’ Union
SP Taekwondo
SP Tchoukball
SP Welfare Services Club

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION (INDIVIDUAL) AWARD
Chin Hui En, Marcus Tay Kai Yan and V Z Rihanuddeen (SP Students’ Union)
Chen Yen Ping and Tan Yu Ting (Community Service & Cultural Club)
Chua Song Yo (SP International Students’ Club)
Elly Hafizy bin Sulaiman (SP Strictly Dance Zone)
Ho Xiang Tian (SP Environment Club)
Iffah Syafiqah Bte Imran (Singapore Maritime Academy Club)
Kho Hui Yin and Tan Wan Yin (SP Taekwondo)
Lim Chan Huang (SP Videography Club)
Muh Faidi Fadlan bin Abdhulaziz (Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering Club)
Mu California (SP NYAA Ambassadors Club)
Park Sung Joon (SP Ambassadors)
Sahd Walter (SP Comperes)
Vishnu Logachandy (SP Floorball)
Wong Chen (Digital Media & InfoCom Club)
Yiu Bin Hong (SPCD Lionhearters Club)
Zeph Ng Xin Sheng (SP Business School Club)
If he hadn’t delivered his speech at the Excellence Awards Ceremony 2016, many of us would not have known the hardships that Model Student Award winner Goh Wei Sheng has gone through. Despite life’s turbulences, he ensured that he got holistic development in SP, grabbing every opportunity that would allow him to excel.

In SP, there were many opportunities for me to step out of my comfort zone and I took them gladly. SP connected me to the world and widened my social circle through local events like the Preparatory Seminar and international events such as the Youth Model ASEAN Conference. SP also shaped me from ASEAN Conference. SP also shaped me from

The Road to Becoming a Model Student

After my secondary school education, I was faced with the choice of going to a polytechnic or a junior college. Eventually, I opted for a diploma because I was interested in biomedical science. More importantly, I wanted to take up a part-time job while I studied. You may ask me why am I putting myself through so much in order to balance work, social life, curricular activities and academics at the same time. The reason is simple – it is because I believe going through hardships will stretch me beyond my limits, widen my horizons and imbue resilience and perseverance in me. I also wanted to earn enough money to pay for my own education and expenses so that I could lighten the burden on my parents.

Enrolling SP was a major turning point in my life. The me today is quite different from the one in secondary school. Back then, good academic grades meant everything to me because I wanted to do well to secure my own future. I was a perfectionist who set unrealistic expectations to push myself further. I was unhappy and knew that I had to change this mindset if I wanted to live my life to the fullest.

Life may be short but we should treasure it and cherish those that we hold dear to our hearts. Recently, my only brother who was my playmate, confidant and protector since young, was involved in a serious accident. Despite the pain, he struggled and fought bravely to be back by our side again. Today, he is here in the audience and his miraculous recovery has made me treasure life even more and reinforced my decision to work in the healthcare sector. I want to dedicate my life to helping patients recover, just as others have done for him. “Bro, you are truly my role model”.

Being a Model Student is not easy but I am thankful. Thankful to my family and to SP for the unwavering support and guidance that has helped me to craft my success story.

Albert Einstein once said: “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” Rather than waiting around for a miracle to happen, would it not be better that we strive to be the miracle that we want to see, or create the miracles in the life of others?

“I BELIEVE EACH AND EVERYONE OF US HAS A STORY TO SHARE; IT COULD BE JOYOUS OR IT COULD BE HEARTBREAKING, BUT NONETHELESS, EACH UNIQUE STORY IS A TESTIMONY OF HOW MUCH WE HAVE MATURED AND GROWN THROUGH ALL THE STRUGGLES WE FACED.”

Goh Wei Sheng
Diploma in Biomedical Science
Class of 2016

I grew up in a low-income family, but to me, this was not a liability. In fact, it was a blessing in disguise. Growing up, I could hardly recall seeing my parents take a break. My parents once said, “You have to depend on yourself, because we can’t afford to send you to tuition”. This statement still resonates with me today and self-reliance has been my guiding principle in life. To me, being poor wasn’t a hindrance. In fact, it made me more self-driven and appreciative of what I have. Once, I was asked by my primary school teacher what I aspired to be and I hesitated and pondered. Could I be a lawyer, a doctor or a successful businessman? None of those were possible or within my reach. It seemed bleak because no one around me had managed to accomplish that.

The me today is quite different from the one in secondary school. Back then, good academic grades meant everything to me because I wanted to do well to secure my own future. I was a perfectionist who set unrealistic expectations to push myself further. I was unhappy and knew that I had to change this mindset if I wanted to live my life to the fullest.

Entering SP was a major turning point in my life. The me today is quite different from the one in secondary school. Back then, good academic grades meant everything to me because I wanted to do well to secure my own future. I was a perfectionist who set unrealistic expectations to push myself further. I was unhappy and knew that I had to change this mindset if I wanted to live my life to the fullest.
GREENWAVE COMPETITION

Students from the School of Architecture and the Built Environment share the annual Greenwave Environmental Case Competition, organized by SP Corp Foundation, for their win were the value of research, team work, aspiration, resilience, trust recycling and re-using dry leaves from trees across SP campus. The key factors Of the 13 awards in the poly and university categories, SP clinched five of them.

Outstanding SP student researchers from left: Parwin Singh Gill, Leong Guang Hao, Jihlyn Ong and Jeevan Tan.

The competition encourages students to address a broad spectrum of environmental issues through their projects. It attracted 234 projects from around 850 students from primary to tertiary institutions, including tertiary institutions from ASEAN countries.

Of the 13 awards in the poly and university categories, SP clinched five of them. That’s close to 40 per cent of the total.

• Removal of hydrocarbon using dry leaves in water environment project by DEVT students Li Sui, Eu Jin Nan, Jeanette Au and Li Xueen won the first prize of $4,000. Jihyun Li and Choon Yan from DCEB clinched the Gold Presenter Award of $2,000. They also took the Collaborative Team Award of $1,500.

• “Sustainable paving materials incorporating recycled materials” by DCEB students Choon Yee, Tang Kiat Yong, Joel Tan and Louis Raphael took the Merit Award of $1,000. They also took the Collaborative Team Award of $550.

• “The use of natural rubber latex in bitumenous paving materials 3” by DCEB students Han Xin, Xu Xinyu, Hooi Hakim and Ahmad Fird won the Commendation Award of $550.

These winning projects were supervised by lecturers Dr Handojo Djati Utomo and Dr Max Aung Lin.

GREENWAVE CHALLENGE COMPETITION

A final-year project by students from the Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT) won a Gold Award in the 5th Green Challenge Competition, organized by SP titled “Removal of Hydrocarbon using Dry Leaves in Water Medium”, the project by graduating students Li Sui, Jeanette Au, Eu Jinnan and Li Xueen involved collecting, recycling and storing dry leaves from trees across SP campus. The key factors for their win were the value of research, team work, aspiration, resilience, trust and good time management between supervisor and students.

For their green effort, the team was presented with a $1,000 prize during the SP Engineering Show 2016.

The Green Challenge Competition is an annual event organized by SP Green Committee to recognize final-year projects which tackle green issues.

Two outstanding research projects by SP students were showcased at the annual Polytechnic Student Research Programmes (PSRP) Awards Ceremony 2016. Alongside eight other projects from the other polis, they received the Best Project Award in recognition of the students’ outstanding contribution towards research.

The PSIP was initiated in 1997 with the objective of exposing polytechnic students to research and development (R&D) careers. The participants are paired with some of Singapore’s leading scientists from the universities and research institutes to work on projects that will help change the world.

BIOCHIP PROJECT

By Parwin Singh Gill and Leong Guang Hao, both graduating students from the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE), What is it about?

Currently, microarrays for diagnostics such as Dengue fever, HIV, SARS and Ebola are highly labour-intensive and time-consuming as they involve multiple steps that require skilled manpower and high-tech equipment. One of the most intensive steps involves the separation of blood cells by an experienced lab technician before the sample can be tested for virus.

This research project explored ways to simplify and speed up the breaking down of blood cells. After multiple attempts using various materials and techniques, the students and researchers developed a biochip prototype using polymer technology. With the biochip, a junior lab technician can separate blood cells easily in a shorter amount of time. This invention could potentially speed up testing for viruses.

CELLULAR AND BRAIN CONNECTIVITY IN MOUSE MODELS OF HUMAN NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

By Jeevan Tan and Jihlyn Ong, graduating students from the Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)

What is it about?

TDPA and FUS genes are essential to the proper functioning of the central nervous system. A minor disruption in either gene could trigger irreversible damage to a person’s neurological function, such as memory impairment.

Can damaged TDPA and FUS genes also lead to fatal neurodegenerative diseases such as Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Frontotemporal dementia (FTD)? This research project aims to evaluate the relationship between the described genes and the neurodegenerative diseases ALS and FTD using lab mice.
Going Direct

Spectacular Performance

Why wait when you can go direct? Students from the latest batch enrolled into SP in February under the Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) exercise tell SP! why they made SP their choice. (NOTE: In June 2016, DPA will be replaced by the Early Admissions Exercise. See sidebar for info.)

ZHAFARINA BINTE KAMSANI
EAST VIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN ARCHITECTURE (DARCH)

SO TELL US, WHY DARCH?
I’ve always been fascinated with building designs and the ideas behind their creation. DARCH seemed like a good fit. I applied through DPA because it didn’t just rely on my results. My passion and interest for architecture could be seen.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER SP?
I really want to study architecture at uni level, to build myself as an architect. Maybe even get the chance to work with great architects from all over the world!

LAW JIA WEI
NAVAL BASE SECONDARY SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY (DAC)

WHAT'S THE STORY, MORNING GLORY?
I was a precautionary measure in case I didn’t do well for my ‘O’ levels. I wasn’t very confident of my results. It also helped that I already had an idea of what I wanted to do for the future since I was interested in Principles of Accounts.

SO, WHY SP?
It’s convenient! The train station is right beside campus and I have some friends who are already attending SP. It’ll be easier for me to get help or guidance when I need it.

YOU HAVE BIG DREAMS, YES?
My goal is to become a Chief Financial Officer, or at least an auditor. Even a forensic accountant (detectives of the finance world, they investigate fraud and other financial misrepresentation), because that really interests me.

PALANI KALPANA
BEDOK TOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN OPTOMETRY (DOPT)

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE DOPT?
I’ve got a strong passion for the sciences, particularly optical science since young. Also, my dream is to become a surgeon, and sensors of the course shared how DOPT can be a gateway to studying medicine if you work hard. So it’s a good match for me.

WHAT DID YOU KNOW ABOUT SP BEFORE APPLYING?
I knew that SP has awesome lecturers and guidance when I need it. I was thinking of joining the SP Dragonboating Team but I’ve heard the training is legendary. Fingers crossed!

KEITH KWOK
ORCHID PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING (DARE)

WHAT OTHER PLANS DO YOU HAVE ON THE HORIZON?
I want to work with planes for the rest of my life, so learning everything about them is very important to me. I hope to get a private pilot’s licence, that way I’ll learn from both an engineer and entrepreneur’s point of view.

WHAT DID YOU KNOW ABOUT SP BEFORE APPLYING?
I was told that SP Dragonboating Team is quite good and I’m quite interested in the sport. I still haven’t decided on my course choice, so SP’s diversity will be good for me.

PAGADALA MADHAVA SAI ARUN
GREENDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING (DARE)

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE DARE?
I’ve always been passionate about aircrafts, and wanted to know how they function. So it’s really looking forward to what I can learn here at SP!

DZULHILMANN BIN SAMAT
DUNMAN SECONDARY SCHOOL
DIPLOMA IN MARINE ENGINEERING (DMR)

WELCOME ABOARD, CAPTAIN!
I’ve always been fascinated by the aviation industry. I was thinking of joining the SP Dragonboating Team but I’ve heard the training is legendary. Fingers crossed!

EARE is an admissions exercise that allows students to apply for admission to polytechnic based on their aptitudes and interests before their O-level exams. EAE will replace the Direct Polytechnic Admissions (DPA) Exercise: The Joint Polytechnic Special Admissions Exercise (JPSAE) which takes place after the release of O-Level results, is also folded under EAE. For more info on EAE, go to www.polytechnic.edu.sg
Home Stay In Japan

Did you know that SP and Kanazawa Technical College (KTC) in Japan have an enduring relationship that started way back in 1983? Students from both schools would conduct exchange visits to understand each other’s learning systems. Graduating student Haw Chee Yeng from the Diploma in Materials Science had the chance to visit the 51-year-old institution last winter.

The 10-day long trip started with a flight from Changi Airport to Tokyo, and then a connecting flight to Komatsu Airport in Kanazawa. The final leg was a one hour plus bus journey where Chee Yeng finally realised why Kanazawa means “marshes of gold”. From the bus window, he took in swathes of scenery that seemed to be covered in gold, such as the rice fields.

Chee Yeng was assigned to stay with a family who owns a rice field. The rice harvested could feed them for an entire year, including an additional 3kg bag that was given to Chee Yeng as a parting gift. And he swore by the high quality when he cooked it back home.

On most days, Chee Yeng would head to KTC with the younger son of his host family who studies there. The latter actually stays in a KTC hostel but opted to stay at home so he could accompany Chee Yeng to the school. That’s Japanese hospitality for you!

Over at KTC, the SP students attended some lessons with the Japanese youth to immerse themselves into the learning environment. They also visited the various learning facilities of the 54-year-old institution which also offers learning even at nursery and junior high levels, besides the specialised five-year technical programmes for those who have completed their junior high. Many KTC graduates join the Kanazawa Institute of Technology, a sister institution situated next to KTC, to pursue a degree programme.

No sweat going through all this to understand the Japanese education system, despite the average temperature of 15°C, and at times between 0 to 5°C in the mornings!

And how could the group not visit the must-sees of this unique Japanese city such as the Ninja Temple, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Castle and Kenroku-en Garden. They also visited nearby prefectures such as the Shirakawa-go village, a UNESCO heritage site in Gifu Prefecture, and the Dinosaur Museum in Fukui Prefecture.

Summing up his trip, Chee Yeng says: “Nothing beats staying with a local family when you are overseas. You get the chance to immerse fully into their lifestyle. Living in a house just next to mountains is so different from our HDB landscape here. It’s so peaceful. I admire the high level of respect and trust they have for each other.”

Chee Yeng with his home-stay host, the Kawasaki family.

Getting ready to check out the real and replicated dinosaur fossils at this museum.

Wefie in snowy Shirakawa-go, a small traditional village which is also an UNESCO heritage site.

At the 21st Century Museum where you will keep wondering and wondering.

At the 21st Century Museum where you will keep wondering and wondering.

This 10-day exchange trip to Kanazawa Technical College (KTC) in Japan, he got ready to spend another day at the college together with the younger son of his home-stay host, the Kawasaki family.

Kanazawa is a city located on the western side of Japan’s central Honshu. The naturally landscaped city is the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, and is well-known for its art museums, regional handicrafts and especially the Kenroku-en Garden which was built in the 17th century and celebrated for its classic landscape designs incorporating ponds and streams.

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On most days, Chee Yeng would head to KTC with the younger son of his host family who studies there. The latter actually stays in a KTC hostel but opted to stay at home so he could accompany Chee Yeng to the school. That’s Japanese hospitality for you!

Over at KTC, the SP students attended some lessons with the Japanese youth to immerse themselves into the learning environment. They also visited the various learning facilities of the 54-year-old institution which also offers learning even at nursery and junior high levels, besides the specialised five-year technical programmes for those who have completed their junior high. Many KTC graduates join the Kanazawa Institute of Technology, a sister institution situated next to KTC, to pursue a degree programme.

No sweat going through all this to understand the Japanese education system, despite the average temperature of 15°C, and at times between 0 to 5°C in the mornings!

And how could the group not visit the must-sees of this unique Japanese city such as the Ninja Temple, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Castle and Kenroku-en Garden. They also visited nearby prefectures such as the Shirakawa-go village, a UNESCO heritage site in Gifu Prefecture, and the Dinosaur Museum in Fukui Prefecture.

Summing up his trip, Chee Yeng says: “Nothing beats staying with a local family when you are overseas. You get the chance to immerse fully into their lifestyle. Living in a house just next to mountains is so different from our HDB landscape here. It’s so peaceful. I admire the high level of respect and trust they have for each other.”

Chee Yeng with his home-stay host, the Kawasaki family.

Getting ready to check out the real and replicated dinosaur fossils at this museum.

Wefie in snowy Shirakawa-go, a small traditional village which is also an UNESCO heritage site.

At the 21st Century Museum where you will keep wondering and wondering.

This 10-day exchange trip to Kanazawa Technical College (KTC) in Japan, he got ready to spend another day at the college together with the younger son of his home-stay host, the Kawasaki family.

Kanazawa is a city located on the western side of Japan’s central Honshu. The naturally landscaped city is the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, and is well-known for its art museums, regional handicrafts and especially the Kenroku-en Garden which was built in the 17th century and celebrated for its classic landscape designs incorporating ponds and streams.

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The project, sponsored by J&J, involves conducting SP’s User Experience Centre (UXC) on a six-week-long market research project under various diploma courses in SP worked together year, 17 students and recent graduates from experience through this partnership. Earlier this Some SP students have already gained invaluable prototypes.

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Students at

Johnson & Johnson

Hello, Doctors!

This year, five SP graduates have been offered a place to study in the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. They are Tan Jun Xiang, Jason Ng Jing Qiang and Goh Wei Sheng from the Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) Chemists: from the Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS) and Don Leong; Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT), who is from SP’s 2015 batch of graduates. Chemists is the first-ever DPCS graduate in SP’s history to be admitted into medical school. In total, 20 SP graduates have been admitted into local medical schools so far.

New opportunities for SP students to learn from multinational companies have opened up. On 23 June 2016, SP will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with multinational corporation Johnson & Johnson.

This agreement will greatly benefit students in the School of Chemical and Life Sciences (CLS) especially, as Johnson & Johnson (J&J) spans 60 countries and is one of the world’s largest consumer health, medical devices, biologics, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic product companies. J&J will offer students scholarships, nine-month internship placements, and opportunities to work on joint SP/J&J projects for consumer insights and consumer product prototypes.

Some SP students have already gained invaluable experience through this partnership. Earlier this year, 17 students and recent graduates from various diploma courses in SP worked together on a six-week-long market research project under SP’s User Experience Centre (UXC).

The project, sponsored by J&J, involves conducting interviews with 13 to 19-year-old female Indian teenagers to understand their experiences with using facial cleansers. The research results will help J&J with product development, and at the same time provide meaningful, industry-relevant learning experience for SP students.

Says final-year Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS) student Cloudy Sim: “We conducted many interviews with Indian girls in India through video conferences, as well as face-to-face interviews on the street in little India. I learnt things I never expected about cosmetic products, such as the fact that facial cleansers in India are packed in small bottles, because few people there can afford big bottles, and small bottles will allow them to test the product out before they make a subsequent purchase. The firsthand experience definitely left a huge impression on our team, and showed me just how much there is to consider when selling a single facial cleanser to multiple countries.”

Says final-year Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE) student, Yeo Si Han: “At first, it was quite scary when we went to present our findings to J&J. They are a huge company, and we were worried that they would end up presenting things they already knew. To our surprise, our findings gave them a lot of new insights and made them quite happy. I think it’s great that a huge company like J&J is willing to work with students and have a readiness to explore new research tactics.”

He adds: “Through our interviews, we found a rich source of info on why certain ingredients (e.g. floral or fruity ingredients) had special appeal to girls in India. We even got to learn plenty of things about their culture and daily lives.”

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**DIPLOMA IN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (DMC)**

Let’s get talking

**BY SELVIA AND CHENG KER XI**

How do you get people to talk openly about organ transplant, a topic that even medical workers may not want to delve too much into? This integrated marketing campaign aims to inculcate a more pro transplant culture amongst medical staff working in hospitals. They feel that the more an issue is talked about, the less ignorance there will be. One of their ideas is a discussion wall in the hospital premises which is designed like an internet page. Staff can pose questions about organ transplant and doctors will answer them. Another idea is a video of a doctor speaking but with his voice muted. At the end, it tells viewers to visit the doc’s Facebook page to learn what he’s talking about, which is organ transplant, of course.

**FAST JOB BY SUMMER LEE, KENNETH ONG, DANIELLE TAN AND SYAZANA SUFRI**

You have a great job finding app. But how do you get the word out there in a sea of other job portals? The team here develops a campaign that will drive youth to Fast Jobs, a job portal app. The key selling points of their campaign are “super easy”, “fast” and “instant”. For example, they commissioned a Fast Jobs pop-up truck that will rove around to promote the app. Besides creating awareness, the physical space on the truck can also be used for ads from sponsors to fund the truck’s operation. Youth can also board the truck to search and sign up for jobs.

**BEST DOCUMENTARY: WAITING FOR TOMORROW**

BY JAMIE TAY, SHANTEL NEO, DALENE LOW, ASHLEY SEEK, CHEOK JIA YING, COLIN BOLTON AND CLAIRE SOH

Filmed in Ipoh, this documentary is about death and social stigma. It tells the story of Kamaruddin, an illegal parking attendant (Jaga Kereta) who has no family, no future, and in his own words, no hope.

**BEST PHOTOJOURNALISM: WORKING WOMEN**

BY BELICIA TEO

It’s an equal world after all. More women are now in careers that used to be dominated by men. Belicia investigates why women prefer non-conventional jobs in her photojournalism project.

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**DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING FOR TV AND NEW MEDIA (DTVM)**

All their three years in SP were spent on creating stories that will engage audiences. Here are some of the “Best of” projects from the graduating batch. Alas, we can’t make their vids public yet because most of them are in the running for film competitions which set strict rules on public airing.

**BEST NEW CONCEPT: WE ARE THE MOB**

BY CHELSEA EE, A ARAVIND, DAELEN LOW, SHANTEL NEO, SAMANTHA GOH AND WESLEY TENG

Reality shows are the rage, but can we hit the big one with local content? This concept calls for teams to compete by creating flash mobs that bring about social awareness and positive change in Singapore.

**BEST TV NEWS: ENGAGING YOUNG VOTERS**

BY VERA SNG, COLIN BOLTON, SHIVAANAN AND BELICIA TEO. NOT IN PHOTO: CHOONG DENG XIANG

Election fever hots up and the news team finds out how political leaders are reaching out to woo young voters who have different aspirations from the older generations.

**BEST PHOTOJOURNALISM: WORKING WOMEN**

BY BELICIA TEO

It’s an equal world after all. More women are now in careers that used to be dominated by men. Belicia investigates why women prefer non-conventional jobs in her photojournalism project.

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**DIPLOMA IN APPLIED DRAMA AND PSYCHOLOGY (DADP)**

Vishnucharan Naidu is the name to watch in the drama circle. His passion has only grown stronger with each day he spends learning about drama in SP. So much so that he now has his own outfit called Big Birds Production.

At the CASS Graduation Show, he and his team put up a drama called In(VISIBLE), that was also their final-year project. Through the interactive piece, he hopes to equip young people with skills and knowledge about mental disorder and raise awareness about the issue. Ultimately, he hopes people can view mental disorders from a different perspective and get a better understanding of it. From there, they would know how to help and cope with family members or friends who are suffering from it.

Vishnu took the facilitator role in the drama where he intervened at specific situations and got the audience to respond by reenacting how he or she would react to similar situations.

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**Communication • Stories**

If there are many ways to skin a cat, there are just as many ways to tell a story. Graduates from the School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) have mastered the storytelling skills that combine powerful plays of words, images and action. SPIRIT checks out some of the final-year projects at the inaugural CASS Graduation Show.
Barely into his final year, Riq Harriz has already won the top prizes in three competitions. Two needed his brain, and one his arms and legs. If he had been posted to his first choice poly, he might have missed out on the winning glories and maybe not even discovered where his passion lies. **SPIRIT** learns more from this creative Diploma in Media Communication (DMC) guy.

In his second year, Riq’s portfolio was already a glowing one. With his team mates, he snatched the gold medals in two competitions – the Crowbar Awards and the Yoghurtprende Marketing Challenge. And that’s not all. He’s also in the SP Rugby team that fought hard to win the championship at the POL-ITE Games.

The former St Joseph’s Institution (SJI) student was elected by his lecturer to participate in Crowbar Awards – an annual competition organised by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents Singapore (AAAds) for young creative minds to showcase their best works. The competition has gained a reputation as the best hunting ground for fresh creative talent. DMC sent two teams to participate in the Crowbar 2015 for the 24-hour Advertising Challenge category. Riq and his teammates Chong Joo Xuan, Cheryl Pam, Vanessa Jane Seah and Melissa Phay, submitted an impressive marketing idea to increase sales for Hewlett Packard’s (HP) Indigo line of printers. Within 24 hours, they had to brainstorm, put together a brief and present their idea to a panel of judges when the time was up.

Despite not being trained to handle advertising briefs, the team, with their mentor, SP lecturer Esther Low, brainstormed deep into the night and submitted their challenge titled “My Travel Buddy.”

They developed a marketing campaign that will promote the use of HP’s Indigo Digital Printer amongst tourists. Their idea won the judges and the team took home $1800, including a token of $300 from HP to buy their idea so the company could execute it.

Riq’s second Gold win was the Yoghurtprende Marketing Challenge organised by nBO, a many other creative young minds. So I cannot be complacent and need to be constantly challenged to be more creative,” says Riq.

Riq and fellow course mates played the wacky hosts for secondary school students at an outreach event teaching media literacy. While Riq can win gold with his brain full of marketing ideas, his strong arms and powerful legs also helped the SP Rugby team to win gold at the POL-ITE Games. He has played the sport since his primary school days at SJI Junior and was even offered a place to study in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and Raffles Institution after his ‘O’ levels at SJI. Being in the SP team gave him the chance to be in Hong Kong for a sports enrichment trip. His prowess took him to the national level where he played in Samoa at the Youth Commonwealth Games in 2015.

Going into his final year means a heavier workload, plus internship which also means he might not be able to go for regular trainings. So Riq has decided to temporarily hang up his rugby boots until he finishes his last semester.

He hopes to intern with a company that owns a strong and fun brand, such as Coca Cola or Kit Kat, or advertising companies that handle the accounts for these brands.

“The DMC course teaches us various aspects of communication, and not just advertising. We are also exposed to branding, social media, writing, film production, etc. Initially I wanted to be a QJ but two years into the course, I’ve developed a passion for advertising and hope to enter this industry after national service or university,” says Riq, who is thankful for having a bunch of dedicated and nurturing lecturers in SP’s School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences.
Men Are The Real Shoppers!

Step aside, girls! The guys are the real shoppers, online that is. This is the surprise revelation uncovered by students from the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC). The graphics here reveal more about our youths’ online shopping habits.

**KEY FINDINGS: YOUTH ONLINE SHOPPING**

- Males spend more than females on online purchases. 50.6% of male respondents spend more than $100 a month compared to 41.3% of females.
- 71.3% of youths browse for products and services online between 8pm to 12am.
- Apparel, shoes and accessories is the top purchase category for female youth. Top purchase categories for male youth include apparel, technology and movies.
- 38% of females browse online while at work or in school, compared to 29.3% of male respondents.
- 90.7% of youths agree that they shop online to get a wider selection of items or brands.
- 88.1% of youths agree that they shop online because they can shop anytime and at any location.

**Factors that attract youth to make more online purchases**

- 54.7% have purchased from online stores that offer free gifts, shipping or discount codes.
- 42.3% have purchased from online stores that are popular amongst their friends.
- 40.2% have purchased from online stores they have liked on social media or are subscribed to.

**TEAM BEHIND THE SURVEY**

One may not find it easy to talk to a stranger, let alone 816 of them – but that's what students from the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) course courageously did to gather data for their survey on the online shopping habits of Singapore youths. The survey was part of the Mass Media Research module, which trains the students in conducting research in the context of communication and mass media.

The students, now in their third year, agree that the most memorable part of the experience was getting to interact with strangers and learning how to convince them to do the survey. Second-year DMC student Audrey Ling says: “While a lot of us in DMC are good speakers, I learned that speaking well does not necessarily mean you will be able to interact well with anyone. Convincing a stranger to do our ten minute-long questionnaire needs a lot of on-the-spot thinking about why he or she may not want to spare the time and how we can tackle this problem.”

Follow DMC student Chloe Tai Xuan agrees: “The nicest part was meeting some really friendly strangers on the streets who were so patient with us. Those people really encouraged us to persist and, despite the numerous rejections we received.”

While collecting data for the survey was certainly challenging, second-year DMC student Elizabeth Fan says there were certainly memorable moments. “I enjoyed analysing the data we collected because it enabled me to look at how certain demographics impact our shopping patterns. For example, now I understand how age and gender relate to how we spend online.”

Reflecting on the findings, Nicholas Sim, also in the survey team, says: “As a male youth who shops online, I realise I might have been spending more than my female friends despite making only singular purchases. For example, I can spend close to $200 on a pair of sport shoes while some of my female friends are able to buy 10 pieces of various apparel for under $100.”

Course mate Claire Ang, who was among seven students chosen to present the survey findings to the local media, says the experience greatly improved her presentation skills. "Presenting to the media is completely different from presenting to my class. We had to go through many rounds of practice before we became confident and calm when presenting. We also couldn't leave any room for mistakes and had to double check our work to ensure accuracy," she says.

Even DMC lecturer Ms Clarice Sim, who has taught the Mass Media Research module for four years, found that she had something to learn from the experience. “Each year the topic is different and the results are always surprising! It’s also exciting for me to work with each cohort of students who would bring in new and fresh perspectives,” says Ms Sim, who adds that the module allows her to “marry her two biggest passions: teaching and research.”

“The survey that we conduct each year allows me to dust off my researcher’s hat, get to engage with fresh data in unique ways,” says Ms Sim. “It also helps me understand how age and gender relate to how we spend online.”

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The Modern Explorer

She calls herself an adventurer, a conservationist, and a multimedia storyteller. How many of you wish you could also hold these titles instead of living a predictable life in a city or office? Journalist and National Geographic Young Explorer Laurel Chor shares her journey.

Born in Canada and raised in Hong Kong, Laurel Chor was named a National Geographic Young Explorer in 2013. She is also the founding Exploration Chair for the Hong Kong chapter of the Explorers Club, and sits on the board of the Hong Kong Shark Foundation.

An alumna of Georgetown University in Washington, DC, Laurel said she had always wanted to be an explorer for as long as she could remember. “I wanted to have adventures, see the world, and discover new things. But it wasn’t until I was out of university that I realised it could actually be a viable career option. Jane Goodall (a primatologist and chimpanzee expert) had always been my hero, but it wasn’t until I read the autobiography of another female National Geographic Explorer and primatologist, Mireya Mayor, that I realised I had to do something about my dreams,” reveals Laurel.

To Laurel, Jane Goodall institutionalised environmentalism. “She pushed the boundaries of society and science as a young woman with limited means and education. She forged her own path and followed her dreams despite the odds, and ended up making major contributions to science and the world at large. To this day she works tirelessly - traveling 300 days a year - to spread her message of hope, even at 81 years old.”

During her last year in university, Laurel came to a realisation that she couldn’t just hope to work in a jungle or with animals but had to do something to turn the hope into reality. So she started taking zoology classes, applied to be a primatologist and took photography seriously as “storytelling is a vital part of being an explorer”.

Asked if there’s one project that she’s most happy with, Laurel says, “My most satisfying project has been speaking to students, the public, and corporate audiences about the amazing biodiversity in Hong Kong, and the importance of exploring your own backyard. It’s such a simple message, but one that I’m passionate about, and I’ve seen everyone from kindergarteners to CEOs be inspired to see their homes in a new light and to go outside for the weekend. Having someone come up to me to tell me that they’ve learnt something surprising or that hearing me speak has made them want to go hiking puts a huge smile on my face.”

In the back of her mind lies her incomplete mission. Laurel hopes to create a social venture that organises nature expeditions while encouraging citizen science. She explains further, “I’d love to create an app that helps people plan hikes, identify plants and animals, and interact with an online community. But all of these ideas are far too big for one person to accomplish while working a full-time job.”

While SP has an environmental club and its own green initiatives to rope students into environmental causes, there is certainly still more to be done to motivate youth to care for the Earth. Laurel feels there is a simple way to achieve this.

“I think schools can simply set aside time for young people to be out there without any planned agendas so that they can explore, get their hands dirty and just have fun. Schools need to help youth foster their own personal connection with nature, so that they learn to truly appreciate and love nature. One way schools can do that is by emphasising that in-classroom education is not the only way to learn, and giving youth the time and freedom to be outdoors, use their imaginations, and nurture their curiosities.”

Singapore is an urban jungle, just like Hong Kong. But we can’t pretend that environmental issues don’t exist in these cities. Laurel says emphatically, “There is a lot that people living in Singapore or Hong Kong can do for wildlife conservation! You can reduce, reuse and recycle so that less waste and pollution - especially plastic - ends up in natural habitats. You can tell your friends and family about the wildlife and nature that also call your city home. You can let your government know that you care by making use of protected spaces, and by voicing your concern for wildlife conservation.”

Asked what advice she would give to young people who want to make a difference, Laurel gave the following advice:

“Don’t be afraid to be what you want when no one else is doing the same. In fact, that’s the definition of being a leader. Don’t just do what everyone else is doing. Don’t take the easy path just because it’s laid out in front of you and it’s well-trodden and you know where it goes. Forge your own path.

I’m still figuring everything out. I still don’t know how I’m going to balance everything in my life, and what I’m going to keep doing, what I’m going to give up, what I want to be doing in five or 10 years down the line. But what keeps me going is my fear of regret. My fear that 20 years from now, I’ll be telling myself, ‘Wow, I wish I had done that. I wish I had said yes. I wish I hadn’t been too afraid to do that.’ So be bold! Be brave. Fight for your own dreams. And if you’re not sure what your dreams are, that’s ok too — just do what excites you. Keep exploring. Because you never know what it might lead to.”

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2016

SP students and 233 secondary school students were in for a treat at SP’s Youth Leadership Summit 2016. Visiting journalist Laurel Chor came down to share some of her life experiences. While speaking on the topic of leadership, Laurel gave the following advice.

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Chill Out
Eight DHRMP graduating students recently completed a 20-week Recruitment Specialist Internship Programme (RSIP) with Kelly Services, a renowned recruitment agency with offices worldwide. The programme aims to develop homegrown recruitment specialists who can perform employment agency work according to the Employment Agency Regulatory Framework. Upon completion, the students were issued a Certificate of Employment Intermediaries (CEI) that will raise their employability as work skills, particularly in areas of recruitment and staffing selections,” said Mr Foo.

DHRMP student Tze Kwong Yuen Chen gave a perfect score of 10/10 for the programme. “Interning in a recruitment agency has enhanced my scope of learning beyond the classroom. It allows me to interact with different companies from different industries. Kelly Services gave me a comprehensive recruitment experience from hiring to payroll to renewal and termination of contracts,” he said.

Fellow course mate Ng Qi Yin said: “I opted for this programme to gain greater insights into HR. I’ve gained much knowledge such as how candidates are sourced online and how to determine the suitability of candidates for different jobs.”

“Through my internship with Kelly Services, I got a wider perspective of the thought and considerations that go through employers’ minds when they consider a candidate for a job. This is very useful as I would get a competitive edge over others when I enter the workforce,” said graduating DHRMP student Natadada Prangphothumanond.

Kelly Services Singapore’s Acting Country General Manager, Mr Foo See Yang, was pleased with the partnership with SP. “The programme provided students who have a keen interest in HR management an opportunity to find out more in a real environment. “The experience enables them to develop practical work skills, particularly in areas of recruitment and staffing selections,” said Mr Foo.

Imagine going to the United States for a competition? Two teams of graduating students from the Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) need not imagine any further. They will be heading to Seattle for the Imagine Cup 2016 after winning the Singapore leg of the competition, beating some other 150 tertiary students along the way.

Team Holy Trinity, comprising DIT graduates Russell Loh Chun Fo, Isaac Lim Yong Xian, Aldo Chu Yu Zheng and Delon Lim Long Ting, competed in the Games category where they had to build a game using Microsoft platforms that are fun, original, well-made and have the potential to attract an enthusiastic audience. They named their game ‘Imagine’, a role-playing game about the fantasy world Aferion, where challenges, obstacles and enemies await players. The story revolves around the protagonist, Cliff Owen, an 18-year-old boy from Earth who has a huge interest in fantasy and magic. Going into the library one day, he found a mystical book in a dark corner of the library. Excited to view its content, Cliff opened the book immediately, and as he flipped the book open, a blinding light flashed and incapacitated him. With excitement and wonder, he set out on his journey to explore this mystical world, discover the strength of his powers and most importantly, return home.

A second team called Natural Conquistadors took the crown in the Innovation category where they had to develop technological innovations that will advance user experiences in areas such as social networks, search, classifieds or online shopping.

“A team named NYX, a customizable chatbot-driven platform set to transform event planning and end-to-end customer care. With NYX, event attendees can easily get the information they need by having a casual conversation with the chatbot. The team harnessed the power of AI integration and cutting-edge technologies such as natural language processing to enable NYX to respond naturally to users.

Both teams will now advance to the Asia Pacific Semi-Finals to compete for a chance to represent Singapore at the World Finals, to be held in Seattle, Washington, USA, in July. The ultimate winner will be crowned the Imagine Cup 2016 World Champion, and walk away with the coveted Imagine Cup trophy and up to US$50,000 in cash and prizes.

Good luck guys!
Chill Out

“Rugby is a hooligan’s game played by gentlemen.” - Winston Churchill. No matter how others view this rough sport, our SP Rugby boys are certainly enjoying their game, especially in this season where they were crowned champions at the POL-ITE Games. First time ever for Team SP! SPirit catches up with Team Captain and recent graduate from the Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics (DMRO), Malcolm John Samuel.

**Captain Rugby**

“Why did you choose Rugby as a CCA?”

I’ve been playing rugby since Primary 2 so it was a natural decision to join SP Rugby when I came over.

**Did you play Rugby when you were in St Andrew’s Secondary?**

Yes I did. I played in both St Andrew’s Primary and Secondary school.

**Why didn’t you continue to play with St Andrew’s Junior College since they were one of the top teams in ‘A’ Division?**

I felt that the poly route would be more my speed as compared to JC. Anyway SP has always stood out to me as THE poly to go to other ‘C’ levels.

**What were the main factors that helped SP to win the POL-ITE Championship this year? What were Team SP’s weaknesses in the past years?**

We had a very strong team spirit throughout pre-season and were fearless of the opposition. In the past years, the team had a sense of fear towards the then reigning champions, Republic Poly. This time round, we were fearless and ruthless in our play style towards them which gave us the edge.

**What is the toughest part managing the Rugby team as a captain?**

It’s well known that rugby boys are one of the hardest to manage, and that’s no different for my boys. Sometimes just getting them to meet at certain places at certain times is a chore on its own. However we have a great management team lead by team members and with their cooperation, it’s manageable.

**What is the toughest part of Rugby?**

The toughest part of rugby is definitely having to be game fit. Fitness is a big part of the game and in order to play it well you have to be in the best shape of your life.

**What are the qualities needed to be a good Rugby player?**

Resilience, toughness, passion and strong team spirit.

**What do you guys do to chill out after a hard day of training?**

We normally just head to Foodcourt 5 after training, pull together a few tables and enjoy a simple meal together before heading home.

**How do you guys train?**

We usually train twice a week for two to three hours each session. We train at the SP Stadium, sharing half the field with the SP Touch Rugby Girls.

**Rugby is a rough game, what kind of injuries have you sustained? How bad were those?**

I’ve accumulated quite a number of injuries, from simple finger jabs to concussions and fractured ribs. The latter few were pretty bad but with proper rehabilitation, I was able to be back in action in no time.

**Do you intend to continue playing Rugby after SP?**

Yes, definitely! I’ve already played for the national youth teams. But to represent the Men’s National team is still a goal for me. Performing well at club level will help me get closer to that goal. I have gone on trips with the national team – twice to Hong Kong and once to Adelaide.

Malcolm was a team member of SunSpec4, the SP-built solar car that raced at the World Solar Challenge 2015 in Adelaide, Australia.
Hungry at the POLITE Games

The SP rugby boys were hungry for the gold medal that has eluded them for many years. They returned in supreme form at this season of POL-ITE Games, an annual sports competition for the polytechnics and ITE, and finally trounced Republic Polytechnic to win the much-coveted trophy!

SP canoeists, shuttlers and paddlers also rose to the occasion with top placing at POL-ITE Games. The medals also came from the badminton, tennis and waterpolo teams, as featured in the last issue of SPIRIT.

Our boys and girls from the canoe polo and wakeboarding teams also scored golds at the Invitational Institute-Yarsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Games!

Congrats Team SP!

RUGBY
SP Rugby finally snatched the Gold from Team RP which was the champion team for the past five years.

TRACK AND FIELD
Despite strong competition, SP Track and Field secured four Golds, five Silvers and seven Bronzes.

SP Track and Field was ranked 3rd overall among the polytechnics and ITE. Photo shows Valerie Cheong (top) who took the Gold in High Jump (Women), and Terence Tang who took home 1 Gold and 2 Silvers for Long Jump, High Jump and 110m Hurdles (Men) respectively.

WAKEBOARDING
Two golds, one silver and 3rd overall for SP Wakeboarding team at the 2015 Rip Curl Singapore National Inter-Yarsity Polytechnic Wakeboard Championships.

CANOEING
The SP Canoeing Team retained their Gold for the third consecutive year.

SQUASH
At the Invitational Squash Tournament, SP Squash Team (Men) took first placing while the Women’s team emerged second overall.

CANOE POLO
At the IVP Games, SP Canoe Polo (Men) team beat NYP for Gold in MP category, and Silver in Open category. The women team took the bronze in the Open category.

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Ben Goes Karting

What’s the solution when the need for speed meets childhood nostalgia? You go for a buzzy little racing kart, like what budding engineer Benjamin Chen does. Watch that speedometer rise!

Go karting is considered a low-cost and relatively safe way to introduce drivers to the motorsport world. Fun fact: many Formula One drivers started out in go karts before working their way to the big guns. These include racing champions like Michael Schumacher, Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton.

Benjamin Chen, a final-year Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB) student, can attest to it. He’s been racing since 2009, when his motorsports-fan father brought the family out on karting rides at a newly-built track in Jurong. He’s been hooked ever since, participating in the Singapore Karting Championships for four years straight and even in international karting races held in Singapore, including the MediaCorp Rotax Max Singapore Open in October 2015.

Ben goes karting at the MediaCorp Rotax Max Singapore Open 2015.

EXPLAIN TO US PLEBIANS: WHAT’S THE THRILL OF KARTING?

It’s the adrenaline! I get to race side by side with my friends, speeding at over 100 kilometres an hour… it’s a powerful rush, doing a fast turn, holding your breath because you can’t inhale, feeling like your head’s going to fly off and land somewhere on the track…it’s hard to explain unless you’ve tried it yourself!

WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT DOES KARTING NEED?

For an average person, it’s costly. Generally, a pro-kart starts at S$6,000 and works its way up, depending on the add-ons like engines, fuel and tyres. It’s around S$100 for a three-hour pro-karting practice session. This doesn’t even include the maintenance of the vehicle or replacement of parts! Our safety gear alone is a tidy four-figure sum, so sponsors are a godsend! (Laughs).

When racing competitively, your weekends are sacrificed. Races are usually held on weekends, and practice sessions on Fridays. Add in the time and effort needed to check that your racing gear and kart are in regulation, and all these can eat away at whatever spare time you have left. No time for dates, haha…

GO-KARTING HAS TAUGHT YOU TO BE...

A better student. No, seriously! It’s helped me stay focused because karting is about organisation and objectives, learning how to prioritise and making quick, calculated decisions. It’s also physically draining; people might think that karting is just sitting and driving, but it exerts a lot of strain on the neck, arms and core muscles. Exercise is a must!

SOME ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS?

If anyone is able to afford karting as a hobby, please appreciate it because not everyone can have such a chance – I’m thankful my parents are willing to buffer the costs to expose me to such a unique sport and hobby, where I get to meet people from different backgrounds. Seize the opportunity and work hard. If you prove yourself, you might even get asked to represent race teams!

If you want to have a go at trying karting out, try heading over to our neighbours, Malaysia. You’ll get to stretch your dollar at rentals and the equipment and safety regulations are just as tightly-regulated. Enjoy the speed!
SPRIT gives its heartiest congratulations to the Graduates of 2016!

MUHAMMAD IS’MAILL BIN AZMAN
Diploma in Landscape Architecture
Class of 2016 Silver Medallist

RACHEL LIAM SHU LING
Diploma in Architecture
Class of 2016 Silver Medallist

LIONEL LEW KEE SIONG
Diploma in International Business
Class of 2016 Course Medallist

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