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REVVIN' UP THE HEAT

The SunSPEC 5 solar car took on the international stage at the biennial World Solar Challenge 2017 in Australia, where the car and team were put to the test under real-world conditions for 5 and a half days. Here are some highlights from the pre-race and actual race.

WHAT IS THE SUNSPEC 5 SOLAR CAR?
Designed and built in-house by our students over 30 months, the SunSPEC 5 is SP’s most advanced solar car yet. Powered by solar cells and batteries, the SunSPEC 5 is a significant stride towards applications of solar and energy storage technology. It is designed and fitted with innovative green technologies to perform just like a standard commercial car in terms of speed, seating capacity, and range. What a feat!

WHAT IS THE WORLD SOLAR CHALLENGE?
It is one of the world’s toughest solar car challenges where competitors in the advanced Cruiser Class category undertake an arduous road trip over 5,000km in the Australian Outback from Darwin to Adelaide. Our SunSPEC 5 was the sole entry representing Singapore at the challenge!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SUNSPEC 5 TEAM?
It comprises 35 students from the Schools of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE), Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering (MAE), Digital Media & Infocomm Technology (DMIT) and Communication, Arts & Social Sciences (CASS), 12 SP lecturers and 3 SP Group staff.
LOOK WHO’S BOSS NOW?

Millennial entrepreneurship is not just some trendy word to use in our conversations — after all, in recent years, it is a phenomenon that is on the rise. In today’s world with the internet being such a big part of our lives, it is no surprise that businesses are made up more of pixels than brick and mortar. Find out how these tech-savvy entrepreneurs from SP are innovating and improving the world pixel by pixel.

NYX

Gone will be the days of navigating through maze-like webpages for an answer to a simple question. NYX, a smart chatbot designed by Azeem Arshad Vassawala and his team members Jan Soo and Vivek Tadikamalla — will be able to replace the need for actual customer support officers to answer repetitive questions using the power of natural language processing. The future where we no longer have to struggle when navigating around FAQs pages is here!

For the former Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) student and Institutional Medallist from the Class of 2017, finding an efficient way to digitally disseminate information to the public posed an interesting challenge and that is how this project came into being. Unlike other chatbots currently on the market, NYX will be able to answer questions directly and will only alert an assistant in the event that a straightforward answer may not be found.

Indeed it was during his time as a Microsoft student partner that Azeem started working on NYX, and little did he know that they would clinch the National Champion title for the Innovation Category at Microsoft’s Imagine Cup competition.

Their team also won the Gold award for the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation (SITF) Awards, which recognises innovative and technological achievements of schools and start-ups.
MIGHTYAIM

Touch screens have brought mobile phones into a whole new era (think about all the different games and apps that we use daily that rely on this tech), but the benefits of this transformative feature have not been passed down to certain groups of people. Volunteering at the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH), third-year Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) student Gao Wei witnessed how the visually impaired struggle with their smart phones to accomplish an otherwise simple task.

An idea came to Gao Wei, and thus MightyAim was formed. With a highly competent team, Gao Wei came up with SenseUX, a software development kit to empower the visually impaired. Using a combination of simple finger movements, vibration, voice assistance and haptic feedback together with an intuitive menu system and application flow, SenseUX provides the blind and visually impaired a simple and easy way to access mobile applications with confidence. Think of it as a white cane for the digital world!

The MightyAim team is currently conducting user testing at SAVH twice a week and was also invited to speak at Singapore Management University’s Social Entrepreneur Centre.

PACKDAT

Oh, don’t we all love travelling! But before we pack our bags and hop onto a plane, one major must-do is to plan our itinerary (unless you like to live spontaneously) This often requires searching the internet for the city’s best markets places and hottest deals.

Enter PackDat (www.packdat.com), an itinerary management platform that allows users to customise itineraries from a list of popular tourist attractions in three simple clicks. Think about the amount of time you can save on Excel sheet formatting and planning!

PackDat is the brainchild of Lee Zheng De from the Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) course and who is an alumnus of Kranji Secondary School, and his brother Zeth. Lee, a graduate from the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME) course and an alumnus of Unity Secondary School, Zheng De shared that one valuable piece of advice he has received is to refrain from spending too much time on website development. It is more practical to launch a website with a basic interface and simple functions, and gather user input along the way to develop additional functions and content. Thanks for the tip, Zheng De!

ON THE WAY

Wouldn’t it be great to earn money while on-the-go? Well now you can, with delivery service provider On The Way (www.otwdelivery.com/)

All you need to do is register as a rider with them, and be willing to pick up deliveries to be dropped off at specific locations while en route to your next destination. It’s that simple. There are no restrictions to your mode of transportation – feel free to travel by bus, train, the MRT, or by foot if it is convenient for you.

Founded by three Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) students Mabel Koh, Edwin Lim and Carisse Lee, On The Way is a delivery service provider with a business model similar to that of GrabHitch. They help start-ups deliver anything from flower bouquets and cookies to wine bottles.

Despite being only a few months old, the company has amassed over 500 deliveries. Plans to grow the business through marketing efforts and investor funding are in the pipeline. Keep a lookout for this innovative bunch!
Semester break is a precious period for many to recharge, to hang out with friends, or to pursue hobbies. But for some, this time is spent on meaningful activities while visiting new places and stepping out of one’s comfort zone. Find out how three student teams from SP travelled to neighbouring countries for LexX projects to develop prototypes that tackle certain problems using concepts learnt from their classes.

**SHROOM SENSE**

Their engineering background came to good use when four third-year students, Lim Fang Yi from Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEEB), Lea Kuan Ming and Natalie de Guzman from Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE), and Ninadram Chandran from Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME) visited Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Helping mushroom farmers monitor humidity and temperature levels to optimise the growth of their crops, this team designed Shroom Sense, a monitoring system using Arduino programming. Partnering with BOSCH gave the team the chance of a lifetime to incorporate the XDK, an Internet of Things (IoT) device, into Shroom Sense. The XDK has multiple sensors integrated into a single device that allows them to sense various parameters. In doing so, data collection of climatic conditions can be mined to develop sustainable agricultural practices.

To pull off this electronic-based project, each of them turned to the skills and knowledge they have acquired from their classes. Working in tandem with students from Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta (UMY) this cross-cultural experience taught them how to work with different groups of people, like the farmers, and also researchers from BOSCH. Now these farmers can water their mushroom at the most optimal times to obtain the best yield.

“Creating something and being able to implement it in another part of the world, and seeing how it can help other people made this trip an unique experience.”

— Natalie

A group photo with the community university professors and students in front of the house where they implemented their prototype.

Set up Shroom Sense, clock! (From left to right: Lea Kuan Ming, Natalie de Guzman, Lim Fang Yi, Ninadram Chandran. Peng Niti is an alumnus of Bedok South Secondary School.)
WHAT IS LEX+?
LEX+ is a social innovation programme at SP where students, together with partnering ASEAN universities, join hands in the co-development of functional solutions that seek to improve lives.

SALT WHEEL
The idea of a salt wheel came about after meeting salt farmers from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam who had to transport 40kg of wet salt on their backs during harvest. Wheelbarrows were inconvenient because of the mushy ground and carrying such heavy loads strained these farmers’ backs. Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE) students, Lee Hui Ting, Nataasha Elvita Tan and Muhammad Rizki Arifin Bin Kurnaw, along with Diploma in Pharmacy and Cosmetic Science (DPACS) student, Esther Chan Hui, each played their part in developing a prototype of a salt wheel; the solution to a predicament that salt farmers have faced for years.

To devise a low-cost solution, there were several rounds of prototyping to construct a salt wheel that could withstand corrosion caused by salt and be easily moved around. Under the guidance of their lecturer, Dr. Neelish Bhattia, the team applied the concepts they learnt from their chemical engineering classes, and also picked up business negotiation skills. This would not have been possible without the help of Ho Chi Minh College of Economics (HCE) students, who partnered the SP team and helped them bridge the language barrier.

This salt wheel prototype was featured at the Young Social Entrepreneurs programme by the Singapore International Foundation, and emerged the top 20 amongst 180 teams from 33 countries at the Hong PolyU Global Student Challenge. Who wouldn’t be in awe of them?

“I was working on this project on top of juggling my studies. It was a valuable experience as from it, I learnt to accept failure. Even if something doesn’t work, that’s not the end. We must always continue to improvise and seek out new solutions.”

Hui Ting, alumnus of European Secondary School

COW’S MILK SOAP
Third-year Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE) students turned “soap-makers”, Goh Yu Tian, Lee Shi Er, Lo Jia Joe, Roselle Ong Hui Loo and Tan Wee Keat had an ingenious idea to repurpose surplus cow’s milk that would have otherwise been thrown out. Despite their hectic schedules, these students made their way to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam during their semester break for this LEX+ project.

There, they researched on methods of processing soap and experimented with different oils to arrive at the perfect formulation. The result is an all-natural, additive-free soap that does not harm the environment and is suitable for sensitive skin types. Throughout this journey, their lecturer Dr Noel Kristian supported their efforts and provided valuable guidance no matter how busy he was. Collaborating with Business students from the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), they were also able to understand the local buyers’ behaviour in Vietnam and tailored their product to optimise its selling points.

As part of their entrepreneurship module, SP’s Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) students have launched this product under the brand, FAIRK. This cow milk soap will be hitting shelves soon as an artisanal beauty product in both Vietnam and Singapore, so look out for it!

“Something that is unforgettable about the trip was the commitment and drive of the business students from UEH to make this project succeed. We had to work at an extremely fast pace, but they showed no sign of exhaustion even after long days of discussion and research. The effort that they had shown throughout this trip was the driving force that pushed me during the LEX+ project.”

Yitian

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Axel Brizzly Takes The Stage

After pursuing Events Management at FUS College Central, Axel Tech made up his mind to further his studies in the area of music and pursue it as a career. Axel’s passion for music began early. When he was 15, he discovered rap and hip-hop and this spurred him on to write his own lyrics. A year later, Axel, an alumnus of Koo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School, overcame anxiety and stage fright and was confident enough to perform in public and post his own music videos online.

After FUS, Axel could have gone to LASALLE College of the Arts or another music school, where the focus is more on vocal training and arts performance, to pursue his passion. But after doing his research, Axel felt that SP’s Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) is most suitable for him as it would provide him with a good combination of training in music composition and audio production, and so he enrolled into this course through the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) for ITE students, known as EAE(I).

DMAT has exposed Axel to many new things to say the least. He never had music theory knowledge or played any instrument before he entered this course. Within his first seven weeks at school, Axel had learnt to play the keyboard a little and made progress with music theory. With DMAT’s comprehensive curriculum, Axel believes that he will be able to produce his own beat, record it, mix and master it and then launch it himself down the road. While rap and hip-hop may be his favourite genre, he is unafraid to explore other genres and aspects of music.

In fact his YouTube channel, which follows his stage name Axel Brizzly, already houses song covers and original compositions rapped by him — just like his rap cover of Ed Sheeran’s popular hit song, ‘Shape of You!’ Don’t say that we don’t share!
Our Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) student Raynard Chai received the Lee Hsien Loong Interactive Digital Media Smart Nation (LHLM) Award earlier this year. This award recognises polytechnic students who have contributed projects that support Singapore’s Smart Nation vision.

Using long-range wireless technology, Raynard developed a prototype “Bus STOP”, which alerts commuters at bus stops when their bus is approaching. He was inspired to develop it after seeing his grandmother struggle to flag buses down at bus stops due to her poor vision.

Our Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (LCB) students Koh Wee Chen, Ayu Surya Binte Zainuddin and Eugene Chua discovered that the fibrous residue that remains after a stalk of sugarcane is juiced can be implemented in a used-water filtration system to remove organic contaminants. This gave them the brilliant idea for their project “Green Microfiltration for Organic Wastewater”.

Using a hand-pump installed column, the trio conducted experiments to assess the ability of sugarcane residue to absorb organic contaminants such as dye. Their water solution won them the Sembcorp Water Innovation Medal at the Singapore Junior Water Prize 2017.

Our Business School students have created a record-breaking piece of thumbprint art, measuring 3m by 6m! The team will now have their efforts recognised in the Singapore Book of Records. Organised by Lee Zhi Yu and Ruzoyah Mazlan from Diploma in Business Administration (DBA), and Abdul Matin from Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID), the art piece was part of a fundraising effort by the students to give back to society. Proceeds were donated to Beyond Social Services (BSS), a charity that provides help to less-privileged children and youths.

We’re proud of our alumna Serene Kho, who has achieved so much since her time with us as a Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) student. After an internship with the National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD), Serene joined the company in 2005 as a junior medical technician. Today, Serene is the head of laboratory at the NHGD, and she has held that position for the last two years.

Under her charge, the NHGD has rolled out better services for both patients and caregivers. One such initiative is the Home Phlebotomy team, which visits wheelchair and bed-bound patients to draw blood for tests, thereby reducing the inconvenience caused to them.

A team of Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business students, Elita Teh, Lee Chee Wei, William and Koo Xiao Zheng, together with their lecturer Md Mion, won the Best Structural (Engineering) Design Prize, Certificate of Excellent for Efficiency Ratio and Certificate of Quake-Resistant in the “Introducing and Demonstrating Earthquake Engineering Research in Schools” (IDEERS) competition held from 22-23 Sep 2017 in Taipei. IDEERS is an international competition with the objective to promote earthquake engineering and seismic protection education. The team was the best performing team from Singapore and ranked 9th among the 49 teams from all over the world!
A team of Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) Year Two students was involved in this year’s collaboration project with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) and the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) to spread the anti-drug message. They worked on a number of different activities including secondary school talks, Preventive Drug Education Roadshow in SP, the Break In: Music Concert and the Break Out: Danceworks!

Her petite frame belies a great ability for storytelling through design and for that, Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) student Yang Yun-Ying was recently crowned one of the top 5 winners of MUI Singapore’s Design myBag 2017 Competition. Yun-Ying’s tote bag design is currently on sale at MUI’s new flagship store at Plaza Singapura, and proceeds from the sale of these bags will go to the Children’s Cancer Foundation.

Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) graduate Emil Yong believes that engineering skills are much more important than pure academic grades. To him, using engineering as well as advanced technology for the betterment of the community is essential. With guidance from his lecturers, he created a robotic therapeutic dog, RICO (Rehabilitative Interactive Companion) to assist the elderly in a nursing home.

This year, Emil became a proud recipient of the DSTA Undergraduate Scholarship. He will be heading to National University of Singapore after his National Service to pursue an engineering degree.

At this year’s SEA Games, our Diploma in Bioengineering (DBEN) student Yu Junjie represented Singapore as part of the Men’s Water Polo team. The team clinched Gold at this year’s Games. Way to go, Junjie!

Greenridge Secondary School alumnus Evol (inside in photo) together with RICO

Fairfield Methodist Secondary School alumnus Yan Ying (right) rescuing her price from Mr Takashi Yojiya for her winning bag design titled Moments, which features nano-sized illustrations of bamboo and rattan chairs and tables.

Photo Source: MUI Singapore.

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10. Our Diploma in Digital Animation (DFA) students were shortlisted to represent Singapore at the 26th National High School Manga Championships (Manga Koshiki) in Kochi Prefecture, Japan. Lindsay Lee, Koh Qie Ning, Abdullah Wael, and Bryan Siew flew over 3,000 miles to pit their wits against artists from all over the world, visit the Manga facilities, bask in the spotlight on Japanese TV and learn about the Japanese art industry.

11. Our Diploma in Creative Writing (DCTW) for TV and New Media alumni Lao Mei Jun and her team emerged as the winner of ciNESS’s Overall Best Film Award (Student Category). The film #12-29 illustrates how a Chinese immigrant arrives at his company’s apartment only to find a woman already residing there. Scammed and stranded abroad without shelter or resources, the woman opens up her heart and home to the helpless man.

12. Congratulations to our Diploma in Food Science & Technology (DFST) student Joyce Seah, who won the solo singing category at the National Schools Xinuoao Singing and Songwriting Competition. Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) student Brandon Ling also performed a song composed by fellow DMAT students Wayne Oh, Geng Hui and Jeremy Hwang Jie Wei. Their song ‘Unforgettable Past’ bagged the prize for best composition!

13. Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) graduates bagged a number of wins including 2 Golds, 7 Silvers and 7 Bronzes at this year’s Crowbar Awards. Crowbar is an annual platform organised by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents Singapore (AAAS) for young creative talents to showcase their best works. Our DVMD students fought off challenges from reputed universities including LASALLE, Glasgow School of Art and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Grace Wong and Mavis Lok, who won Gold for both Online Film and Directing for their title “Almost Home”, a production on statelessness, share that “Crowbar allowed us to showcase a project we are passionate about. Being able to spread the message made it all the more meaningful.”

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More with SMA

Marine Engineering might not seem like a typical field that girls would go into, but this never stopped Clair. Here’s her story.

I was the top O Levels scorer of my cohort in CHIJ St. Theresa’s Convent, and at that age I had already known that I wanted to take a path that’s out of the ordinary. I asked myself how I would like to make my mark on this tiny island and that’s when I decided to pursue maritime engineering at Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), here at SP. Thankfully, my parents have always given me the freedom to make my own choices, and that’s how I got to where I am today.

During my course of study in SMA, I learned everything about ships from scratch and the knowledge and skills I acquired were essential to my job as a marine engineer on board one of the Navy’s Frigates. The thing that I like about engineering is that the principles and fundamentals never change, all we need to know is how to apply them. And what I really love about SP is the opportunities made available to students to branch out to non-academic areas and learn other skill sets. The highlight of my Poly days was definitely the many overseas trips, seven in total, that I went on.

So I bet that you must be curious about what it’s like for a girl to be in a male-dominated industry, such as the Maritime sector? Personally, I have always believed in doing what you love, in order to love what you do. This motto of mine has enabled me to excel at the many things that I love doing, which include being on board ships. In fact, being in a male-dominated environment has never scared me because as long as I maintain professionalism at my job, I’ll be able to earn the respect of my colleagues, which I have.

My time in the Navy taught me more than what it takes to defend our seas. While working aboard ships, I grew in confidence and learnt to be independent. I loved all aspects of my job as a Military Expert Scholar, but after four years I decided that it was time for me to further my studies and gain more expertise in the area of engineering. And so, I applied for the MaritimeOne scholarship.

I will soon be studying mechanical engineering at NUS under the MaritimeOne scholarship - an opportunity that was hard-earned and for which I will be extremely grateful. In five years’ time, I see myself stepping back into the maritime industry, which is where I always wanted to be.

At 60 years old, SP’s Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) continues to shine brightly like a diamond!

Here are six interesting facts about SMA that may amaze you!

1. Go on a whirlwind adventure with SMA. Our students and graduates get to experience different cultures across the seven seas!
2. Only in SP can you embark on sea-learning with Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) and Diploma in Marine Engineering (DME)!
3. Talk about girl power! SMA graduates Rita Yan and Pauline Tan went on to become Singapore’s first female Captain and Chief Engineer.
4. Get your dose of vitamin-sea. SP has our very own Poly Marina that brings lessons to life! Without getting their feet wet, students learn to sail with cool sea navigation simulators.
5. Go on trips to South Korea, Japan and China as part of the Maritime Experiential Learning for students!
6. For “shore”, with SMA, you will be part of our close-knit Nautical Family!

Close-up receiving her MaritimeOne Scholarship.
We Rise by Lifting Others

Each year, the Youth Expedition Project (YEP) sees students from across SP contribute their services to less fortunate communities in the region. These YEP trips allow students to engage in meaningful volunteer work and experience an unfamiliar way of life.

We speak to some students who contributed their time and service to construction work and teaching English lessons in Luang Prabang, Laos, and Mekong Delta, Vietnam. They share about their experiences and learning takeaways!

Luang Prabang

I remember forming human chains to transfer heavy buckets of pebbles and cement from one place to another under the scorching sun and rain to carry out construction work. It was heart-warming to see everyone in the team look out for one another. Without the cooperation and contribution of every member of the team, we would not have been able to serve the community of Luang Prabang to the best of our ability.

Ong Jia Wei Mikael, Year One Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBMS) student and Donghwa Secondary School alumnus

On Day Five, I was in charge of conducting English lessons to children. I learnt that we should respect their language first before teaching them English. Our translator Mr Lee explained the importance of English to them, and how they can use it in their daily lives. Although the students were initially shy, they grew to become more receptive over time.

Hans Kristo Parmendran, Year One Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (ADAE) student

Mekong Delta

Although my role was to teach the children, I was taught that one can derive great fulfilment from simple things. Seeing the kids smile and laugh from our simple activities made me feel very accomplished.

Fu Yi Kai, Year One Diploma in Accountancy (DCA) student and Bedok View Secondary School alumnus

The experience of doing construction work has deepened my appreciation for those who help to build Singapore. It also made me realise the importance of teamwork especially in areas where we have no experience in. I am proud to say that we managed to successfully build classrooms for Vietnamese children despite our lack of experience!

Peter Alardy, Year One Diploma in Business Entrepreneurship (DBE) student and Tanjong Pagar Secondary School alumnus

Through this trip, I realised how simple acts and gestures can bring great happiness to people. Our team taught the children simple English which they could use in their everyday lives. Although there was a language barrier, the children gave their best when learning. I will always remember how these children would greet us with big smiles and hugs whenever we entered the school.

Gabrielle Natasha Th vieranto, Year One Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCE) student and West Spring Secondary School alumnus
In October 2017, more than 2,000 secondary three students from 14 schools took part in SP’s Applied Studies Experience and Industry Exposure Programme (ASEEP). ASEEP gives secondary school students the chance to find out more about life in a polytechnic and the different industries they can enter in future. Here are some highlights from the four-day programme:

- Students from Chij Saint Ignatius’ Convent proud of their project at the School of Environmental and Building Engineering Science Centre.

- Students from Woodlands Ring Secondary School learning about engineering at SP’s Polytechnic and Environmental Science Centre.

- Broom Lay Secondary School students were given a brief to design a product for the elderly at the Design Studio.

- Queenstown Secondary School students at SP’s Polytechnic Centre, where they get to experience a simulated social event allowing them to see things with a different perspective.

- Our ASEAN delegates signing off on an agreement.

- We love all the colours in one room!

- Let all that you do be done in love.

One thing we at SP look forward to every year is the 8 Rajaratnam Endowment – Youth Model ASEAN Conference 2017 (SRE-YMAC). This is an annual conference, jointly organized by the five polies and led by SP, where students from universities and polytechnics across the ASEAN region take on the role of ASEAN ministers and simulate a real ASEAN conference. They discuss pertinent political, economic, environmental, social and cultural issues over four days and present their resolutions for a better ASEAN at the end.

In 2017, a total of 100 students from 46 Institutes of Higher Learning across nine ASEAN member states joined 100 students from our local polytechnics and autonomous universities to take part in the conference. Here are some highlights:

- Assured it’s a wrap!
They journeyed far from Singapore to Paris! Team Lumes, which comprises of SP alumni Leong Hei Mern, Leong Hei Kern and Cherniss Low, took part in the prestigious L’Oréal Brandstorm competition!

They designed a credit card-sized personal care product for men and created the prototype using 3D printing – something that Hei Kern is very familiar with. Hei Mern and Cherniss were both from the Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPoCS), and their skills and knowledge acquired in SP served them well when they worked on the product. The team competed and won the Tech category in the national rounds, beating more than 100 teams from National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU) with their innovative idea and presentation!

After clearing the regionals, the team competed against 41 other international teams and won the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Award at the Finals held in Paris. They were also one of the top three in the Tech Category!

Hei Mern, who won the Young Cosmetic Scientist Award 2016 during her time at SP, is now studying at NUS. Hei Kern was a SP Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME) Gold Medallist from the Class of 2013 and is currently a Singapore University of Technology & Design (SU-TD) student, while Cherniss was the DPoCS Gold Medallist last year, and is now studying chemistry and biological chemistry in NTU!

Congratulations to Hei Mern, Hei Kern and Cherniss! Go TeamSP!

Hei Kern (middle in sunglasses), Hei Mern (second from right) and Cherniss (far right), the Mern and Kern were alumni of Chang Cheng High (Todai), while Cherniss is an alumnus of Upp Secondary School.
Masyith has always been interested in food business, and while she was pursuing her Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DST), she discovered that food science is not limited to creating new food products. So when Shanice first heard about the Advanced Diploma in Applied Food Science through an Earn and Learn Programme (ELP), she did not think twice about signing up as this would be a chance to hone her skills before entering university.

As part of the ELP, Shanice was an intern as a management trainee at Mr Bean where she assisted Research & Development executives in food product development. To create new food products, Shanice conducts experiments and sensory evaluations by providing samples to potential consumers.

In the past few months, Shanice has learnt how to skilfully make the pancakes that are sold in-store! And that’s not all, she also carried out tests on beans and found out that different types of beans produce different taste profiles in soybean milk. Shanice had to grind and soak the beans, squeeze the milk out and steam it herself – which were all new to her!

Through this programme, Shanice has not only learnt more about the science behind food manufacturing, she has also gained a wider perspective about the entire process of food product development. Her foray into the food business industry has taught her the importance of business aspects, such as marketing and packaging, as well. As a result of her excellent performance, Shanice was offered a permanent position for the same role earlier this year, which she accepted.

Shanice Lim is an alumna of Clementi Secondary School.

1 Shanice is heating up soy milk for a taste profile evaluation to decide if this batch of beans is usable.
2 This is one batch of soy milk which has been made into beans (right).
3 Soy milk to be evaluated for its taste.
ID YOU KNOW: Out of the 11 polytechnic graduates who scored places in the medical schools at National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) this year, six are from SP — the highest number from a single polytechnic to be accepted into local medicine degree courses!

Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) graduates Kimberley Lim, Alicia Yip, Kenny Sung, Foo Yu Wah and Sylvia Phua, as well as Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT) graduate Pei Ting Yong, will be enrolling into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. They join the pool of 27 SP graduates who have enrolled in local medicine degree courses since 2010.

The six of them took some time off their schedules to share how their interest in medicine was ignited, and some of their hopes for the future.

ALICIA YIP SWEE YAN
Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS), Class of 2017
Admitted into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Alumnus of Riverside Secondary School

How did your interest in medicine and the healthcare sector come about?
I took up a voluntary week-long attachment at Alexandra Hospital, where I shadowed doctors on their daily ward rounds and got to see what went on behind the scenes. My experiences there left me inspired.

Name one interesting highlight of your time in SP:
Choosing the research option in my course. The case-based learning style taught me how to work in groups and conduct presentations. I was also an avid member of Dancesport, and won multiple awards despite never having danced before poly!

PEI TING YONG
Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT), Class of 2015
Admitted into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Alumnus of Compassvale Secondary School

How did your interest in medicine and the healthcare sector come about?
I remember deciding between becoming a doctor or a researcher. But I decided on becoming a doctor after joining SP First Aiders. At that time, I encountered individuals with deep cuts or injuries but I was not able to help them due to my lack of medical knowledge. Determined to help people around me, I decided to study medicine since then.

Name one interesting highlight of your time in SP:
As a Youth Community Leader, I participated in an overseas community trip to Cambodia, and subsequently led a trip to Lijiang, China. We taught English, refurbished village school fences, painted murals and visited rural areas to conduct the Rice Soup Programme. These experiences helped me discover the desire to become a doctor to serve the community.

Share your plans for the future:
To serve as a doctor! I worked as a phlebotomist in polyclinics before entering university.

SYLVIA PHUA YI HUI
Diploma in Biomedical Sciences (DBS), Class of 2015
Admitted into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Alumnus of Compassvale Secondary School

Name one interesting highlight of your time in SP:

Name one interesting highlight of your time in SP:

How did your interest in medicine and the healthcare sector come about?
I was the VP of the Biomedical Science Student Council in Year 2. We organised customised enrichment programmes including trips to the National Heart Centre and hospitals. We also organised health-screening events for the National Health Group.

Share your plans for the future:
I want to become a paediatrician, which is an interest that developed during my internship at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital in Australia in Year 2.

FOO YU WAH
Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS), Class of 2015
Admitted into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Alumnus of Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School

How did your interest in medicine and the healthcare sector come about?
The healthcare sector appealed to me because I wanted opportunities to interact with people from all walks of life. Being from a single-parent family with a younger brother also helped me to develop empathy towards others at a young age. I see my heightened sensitivity towards others as a quality much needed in the healthcare sector!

Name one interesting highlight of your time in SP:
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Name one interesting highlight of your time in SP:

Share your plans for the future:
To serve as a doctor! I worked as a phlebotomist in polyclinics before entering university.

KIMBERLEY LIM YING YING
Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS), Class of 2017
Admitted into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Alumnus of Singapore Chinese Girls’ School

How did your interest in medicine and the healthcare sector come about?
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Kenny Sung, Foo Yu Wah and Sylvia Phua, as well as Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT) graduate Pei Ting Yong, will be enrolling into NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. They join the pool of 27 SP graduates who have enrolled in local medicine degree courses since 2010.

The six of them took some time off their schedules to share how their interest in medicine was ignited, and some of their hopes for the future.
From just 40 students in its first semester, SIM’s Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) is now one of Singapore’s most well-known and popular music diploma courses—its oversubscription every year is proof positive! For more than a decade, DMAT has helped aspiring musicians find their rhythm and groomed outstanding alumni in all corners of the music industry.

We speak to some DMAT graduates who have taken quite varied career paths and find out a bit about their life after SP.

JOSH WEI
Music Producer
Alumnus of Dunman High School

Josh picked up the violin at 5 years old and found his way to DMAT through this musical passion. Like most DMAT graduates, his most memorable DMAT moment was the DMAT Graduation Show cum concert. “It was three great years culminating in one show,” he tells us.

After graduating from DMAT, Josh made the decision to move from being just a violinist to being a music producer. He works behind the scenes but extremely closely with artists (including Gentle Bones) to conceptualise songs and the direction these songs should take. Among other things he loves about his job is being able to help realise an artist’s vision and work with them on something as personal as music.

BETH
Musician and Freelance Composer
Alumnus of Tanjong Katong Girls’ School

Growing up, Beth realised her flair for songwriting while teaching herself the guitar with help from her guitar-teacher father. A passion for music brought her to SIM’s DMAT, where she focused on singing, picked up the bass guitar, and even emerged as top graduate, and Institution Medallist in 2014! This superstar also launched her debut album Beauty for Ashes at an Esplanade concert last year, with guest performers including Inch Chua and Benjamin Kheng.

Beth is currently studying at Berklee College of Music, pursuing Contemporary Writing and Production under the National Arts Council Arts Undergraduate Scholarship. She spends her time playing a supporting lead role in a musical, helping a friend arrange and record a punk version of Lighthouse’s ‘WE (2,818)’ and pushing herself to write more songs and get existing demos recorded. After graduation, she is set to serve Singapore’s music industry for two years and is grateful for the freedom to decide how she should serve her band.
YEO JIA NI
Sound Designer
Alumna of Xinmin Secondary School

Jia Ni started playing the trumpet at eight years old. Her love for the instrument prompted her to join the Symphonic Band in Secondary School, and subsequently SP’s EMAT. She liked that EMAT exposed her to a style of music that was different from the classical music genre she was used to. In fact, Jia Ni emerged as SP Audio Post Graduation SPOP Prize awards winner and received the industry award offered by EMAT by Mediacorp.

Fast forward a few years and Jia Ni is a Sound Designer at Mediacorp’s Audio Post. She deals mostly with post-production music editing – for finales, she will adjust music and background noises to ensure sound for a show is balanced. One recent show she worked on that we might be familiar with is Channel 5’s long form drama Tanglin!

WONG AY SHYUAN
Music Teacher
Alumna of Nan Chiau High School

Ay Shyuan, better known as her stage name V’Sel, picked up the violin at 5 years old and performed extensively at various events at a young age. She graduated from LMAI in 2013 as one of the course’s first SPPEAR artists. SPPEAR (Singapore Polytechnic Emerging Artiste and Repertoire) is EMAT’s own record label.

Her life after graduation never diverged from music. She launched her debut album at The Coliseum at Hard Rock Hotel along with other SPPEAR artists upon graduation. Today, she teaches the violin full-time to over 50 private students.

Ay Shyuan is still very much in tune with her music, genres of which include progressive rock, metal, new age and symphonic. In fact, a radio station from Florida had recently asked to play her music ‘Rage the Storm’ that was just released last year!

ESTHER LOW
Actress
Alumna of Zhong Hua Secondary School

Esther graduated from EMAT in 2008 and built a career as a Singaporean actress who is bilingual in English and Mandarin. She has been acting since 2010, with experience in both TV and commercials. Some of her notable projects include her portrayal as the true Blue Princess in Netflix’s Marco Polo, playing the lead character Lux in Costa Rican, indie film Jandita Furia, and playing a supporting part in Singapore’s TV drama, Ken Muni. She is currently based in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Check out Esther’s shower scene on YouTube! The song used in the shower scene is The Withered Oak Tree, written and composed by Esther herself!

Marcel Polo Season 2, Held in London Hotel West Hollywood
Do You Remember?

What do you get when you put two buddies with exceptional memory skills together? Answer: the formation of Memory Ark, an organisation that specialises in providing content memory techniques to people of all ages!

Memory Ark was founded by two Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) graduates, Wellington Choo and Gerald Lim. Wellington has achieved six National Memory Records and an International Master of Memory title. Gerald is a title holder in the Singapore Book of Records for the most number of random words memorised. Apart from Wellington and Gerald, fellow DEB graduate Felix Ng played a part in the running of Memory Ark projects back when they were SP students and is today a trainer with the company.

The trio share with us about the Memory Ark projects they have undertaken, and leave some tips on how you can improve your memory.

From left to right: Henderson Secondary School alumna Felix, St. John’s Secondary School alumnus Wellington and Holy Innocents’ High School alumnus Gerald

Question: What sparked your interest in memorisation techniques?
Wellington: I came across a YouTube video of a person who memorised the sequence of a deck of randomly shuffled cards in less than two minutes. This was really the instance that sparked my interest! After that, I started to read books and learn from various international memory masters around the world through Memory Championships.

Question: How did you transform your interest into a business idea?
Felix: We conducted market surveys and realised that this market is very niche, which means good business opportunity. We also realised how useful memory techniques are, and wanted to spread our interest to the public.

In fact, we started on Memory Ark projects back when we were final-year students at SP. Managing both Memory Ark and our studies at the same time was one of the biggest challenges we faced then. I’m glad we’ve come this far!

Question: What did you learn in SP that has helped you in this business?
Felix: Being in DEB gave us opportunities to be exposed to both Engineering and Business. In Engineering, we learnt how to brainstorm ideas to create something out of nothing through the process of CDIO (Conceive, Design, Implement and Operate). In Business, we learnt how to market our ideas and services to reach out to the mass public using the 4Ps (Product or service, Price, Place and Promotion) analysis. Of course, the interactive class presentations also enabled us to learn soft skills which were useful for networking!

Question: What is one of the most memorable Memory Ark project?
Gerald: One of my most memorable projects was when we organised the first Singapore Open Memory Championships (SOMC) back in 2015.
Wellington: For me, it was really the SOMC in 2017, which saw 45 participants from 11 countries come together to compete. Together with our co-organisers, SP and SP Graduates Guild (SPGG), we brought this event to a whole new level. We are happy to have received such positive feedback from both international and local participants.

5 Tips to Improve Your Memory for Your Exams

1. **EAT WELL**
   - Take foods that help to boost brain power such as salmon, maca, tuna, soybeans, pumpkin seeds and walnuts rich in omega-3!

2. **SLEEP WELL**
   - Get a good night sleep.

3. **MESSY SPACE EQUALS MESSY MIND**
   - Ensure that your study environment is always neat and tidy!

4. **CALM DOWN**
   - When you feel tense or stressed, keep calm, close your eyes and breathe.

5. **PRACTISE, PRACTISE, PRACTISE**
   - The best way to beat a test that requires heavy memorisation is to practise and revise regularly.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

DIPLOMA IN VISUAL EFFECTS AND MOTION GRAPHICS STUDENT

Raihanah!

Meet Raihanah Binte Rustan, the ever-busy second-year DVEMG student (and alumna of Unity Secondary School). You may have even seen her yourself on campus, since she’s always on the go. Here’s a peek into what a typical day for her is like!

8.30am: Quick breakfast from a vending machine

I hardly have time for a full breakfast before my morning classes because I’m usually in a rush. Thankfully, there are vending machines on my way to class and I’d usually get chocolate cornflakes and two packets too, which would give me just enough energy for the next three hours!

9.00am

Right now I’m taking a motion capture module and the classes are three hours long, though it feels so much shorter than that. During this time, I am always on my feet as I have to calibrate my movements to animate my character on the computer. On top of that, I have to carefully follow the storyboard planned out earlier, and ensure that the live footage and animated elements are in order.

12.00pm

My favourite time of the day, lunch!!! Here I am at the Malay food stall at PC 6, where I always get white rice, the famous spicy chicken, sunny side up and curry gravy with sambal! The food here is so popular that I usually have to queue for about 20 minutes, but it’s so worth it!

1.00pm

Welcome to my cozy corner in the M.A.D. Studios, which is shared among DVEMG students, and this is where I usually try to finish up as much of my assignments so that I don’t have to bring them home. When we take breaks, you can easily find my classmates and I playing a ball game or sparring with each other using our sword props!

4.30pm

My go-to spot for group meetings is just a short walk from the M.A.D. Studios, at the tables right outside Social Hub (this is also a great spot where I can grab a light snack if I’m feeling peckish). Our meetings usually take place after class, and they are always very productive as we are all busy with our own projects and assignments.

5.30pm

The day is not quite over! Before it gets dark, I’m learning how to fly a drone. While practising, I’m also collecting footage for a scene in my Video and Audio Fundamentals project, where we need to shoot our own film. So I’m making a supernatural film and am working hard on a particular scene where the protagonist is running and eventually starts flying.
HAPPY PLACES ON CAMPUS

With a campus as large as SP, most students will each have their own go-to spots, whether to chill alone or hang out with friends. We speak to a few students to get in on their favourite corners of SP!

Food Court 2 is not just another food court to my friends and I. Since we started poly together it has been a familiar place for us to share our stories. Sometimes we may grumble about little things over our teh pengu, but looking at the greenery of the Eco-Oasis, which is right next to us, brings me some peace and calm.

Nur Farah Binte Noor Mohamed, second-year Diploma in Interior Design (DID) student and alumna of Riverside Secondary School

This quiet corner near InneV is not actually very well known. But I really like that it’s away from crowds and I can really focus on my work.

Jerusha Tan, first-year Diploma in Business Administration (DRA) student and alumna of Puchong Secondary School (left in picture)
Whenever I need somewhere to do work and chill a little after my classes end, the Main Library is definitely my go-to, mainly because of the bean bags. I usually plug myself down and get my earphones out to drown out any distracting thoughts. Sometimes, inspiration hits and I’ll start to jot down random lines that come to mind, and the same lines may very well turn into lyrics for my future track. So in my book, the Main Library is definitely the top contender as the coziest area to chill in.

Anel Teoh AKA Axel Brizzy, first-year Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) student and alumnus of Kuala Lumpur Chia School Presbyterian High School.

I started hanging out at the Sanctuary with my friends ever since I was a Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) student. It’s a great place to study too (when the library or classrooms are too cold), my friends and I would find ourselves a quiet corner here instead! Also, I’ve known Zaheer (right in picture) since I was in primary school and we still find time to catch up at the Sanctuary despite our schedules.


The Sanctuary is a peaceful place that allows me to calm myself down and forget about the pressure brought about by school work and projects.

Zaheer bin Abdul Malik, first-year Diploma in Civil Engineering student and alumnus of Chua Chu Kang Secondary School (right in picture).

Goin’ CAR-FREE

In a social media campaign in collaboration with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), a team of Diploma in Media and Communications (DMC) students took over the Car-Free Sunday SG Facebook page from 21 to 30 July 2017. During this time, they produced content and shared updates with over 3,000 followers of the Facebook page.

For three months, the team of third-year students, Janny Sah, Serene Kaur, Lim Chee Yang, Muhammad Adil, Tan Shu Jin and Teo Jing Lie, worked to put together a social media strategy and interactive content to engage followers and promote active, car-free lifestyles. This included creating infographics and interactive hits to encourage participants to try out a new sport at Car-Free Sunday, and encouraging cycling from heartland areas like Toa Payoh directly to the Civic District via the Park Connector Network.

On Car-Free Sunday itself, as participants enjoyed the car-free streets, the team captured fun-filled moments with their mobile photo booth and continued updating the Facebook page with photos and live broadcasts of the goings-on.

Car-Free Sunday SG is a community initiative by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Land Transport Authority (LTA), National Parks Board (NParks), National Arts Council (NAC), Health Promotion Board (HPB), Sport Singapore (SportsSG) and Singapore Land Authority (SLA) to promote the car-lite message and enliven the streets. Read how our DMC students contributed to this cause!

Sharing the message of a car-lite society at Car-Free Sunday SG (Pictured from left to right, standing: Jurong Secondary School alumni Yeo Jun Hong, Kah Secondary School alumnus Janya and Adil. Front: left to right, standing: Julis Alustina of Peirce Secondary School Serene Kaur, and Maris Stella High School alumnus Ghee Yang.)
In conjunction with the annual Distraction Arts Festival, the Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations organised their first Cat Therapy event, Purrapy, to welcome students back on campus after term break. Studies have shown that human-animal interaction promotes relaxation and improves emotional well-being. So not only did Purrapy appeal to the cat lover in us, it was greatly beneficial to our overall health.

These furry friends were rescued off the streets, and SP students were able to gain a deeper appreciation for these community cats from their interactions with them. We were indeed all reminded of the fact that the stray cats we might come across in our neighbourhood are endearingly playful and deserving of love too! There are around 60,000 community cats in Singapore currently, and it is through public education – from avenues such as Purrapy – that the welfare of these animals is not forgotten or ignored.

The cats at Purrapy are under foster care and up for adoption, so the event doubled up as an adoption drive for suitable adopters. So if you’re an animal lover like us and missed the chance to adopt this year, do look out for more of such events in future!

Apart from Purrapy, other highlights of the Distraction Arts Festival this year included an interactive art installation created by School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (SDMIT) students, a marbling and terrarium workshop, and a flea market. Good times, good times.
FUN FACTS ABOUT SP
#NOWYOUKNOW

Think you know everything about SP?
Let Prithpal Kaur, alumna of Geylang Methodist Secondary School, SP student ambassador (ACE) and first-year Diploma in Accountancy (DAC) student, explore the campus and share some of the fun facts she’s discovered – from SP’s huge selection of food, to wide, open spaces and smaller, hidden corners!

FOOD

Food Court 1’s Japanese Curry rice is a plate full of goodness. It consists of a thick, flavourful curry with chunks of meat in it, which goes well with the short-grain rice that is nicely cooked and chewy. I recommend getting the omelette with cheese! You get to watch the chef personally torch the cheese and taste the oozing goodness later. What’s there not to like?

Sometimes, I’m really craving for something delicious but don’t want to worry about piling on those calories. When that happens, I’ll usually go for a healthy bowl of salad at The Crowded Bowl, located at Food Court 3! A regular bowl comes with standard lettuce as your greens. Then, you get to choose a salad dressing of your choice (Japanese Sesame is a hot fav!), and pick two other veggies and one carb. A healthy meal for the affordable price of $3.80! Why not?

Did you know that Food Court 5’s fruit juice stall has been in SP since 1974? Yes, it’s been here for 43 years! If you’re unsure what kind of fruit juice to get, you can ask Auntie and she can recommend the best juice to you. If you’re looking to detox, get something carrot-based. Looking for a quick fruit sugar fix that benefits your digestion? Try a Yakult fruit mix, like I did!
SPACES

The SP Stadium is an oldie but a goodie. Did you know that the stadium used to have a 100m flying fox that was linked from the former high ropes course at T19 to the 200m mark at the track, of which many alumni may have experienced during their leadership training programme? During the National Day Celebration in the early years, we used to have students coming down from T19 carrying our National and SP flags to welcome the Guests of Honour. Talk about arriving in style!

You may be more familiar with our concrete SP dino... but now, we also have a new resident dino at the Biostream! Yes that’s right, this little exopond with its lush greenery, koi fish and terrapins (if you are lucky to spot one) has been a quiet corner of tranquility that we mostly walk by without taking notice. Stop by and say hi to our new dino today!

Ah, the ever-popular Red Bridge is a hotspot for many memorable #OOTD pictures. It may take quite a hike to get there (since it’s located at Hilltop) but I guarantee a cooling breeze and stunning view.

CCA

While you may be more familiar with other forms of martial arts (such as Wing Chun or Muay Thai), Sanda might be a name that is less familiar. Developed from traditional martial arts and free boxing matches in the early 19th century, Sanda was created by Chinese soldiers. With powerful kicks, punches and grappling, the SP Sanda team is one you don’t want to cross!

While we relax and party the night away on Fridays, the SP Astronomers get to work with their telescopes and camera lenses, ready to capture mesmerising pictures of outer space. Here they are on various stargazing missions, in SP and in Mersing, Malaysia. I’d also like to find my place among the stars!

I’m rounding off this feature with a symphony from the SP Chinese Orchestra (SPCO). Our SPCO is no stranger to delivering stunning performances onstage, from Sabah to Hong Kong and even on Superstar Virgo cruises! Under the guidance of Singapore Chinese Orchestra Siona Musician, Mr Lee Heng Quee, I’m looking forward to seeing more awe-inspiring performances from them — just look at this one at the Esplanade!
I can stay ahead of the curve
With SP, it’s So Possible

HIGHLIGHTS

Course Counselling
Find out more about yourself and the courses suitable for you! Course counselling sessions take place from 4 to 6 Jan, 10am to 6pm, at SP Convention Centre and at all SP Schools.

Campus Tours
Come experience the culture and spaces that make SP special. Facilities you will visit include the AeroHub, Perfumery and Cosmetic Science Centre, Media-Art-Design (M.A.D) Studios, Cyber Wargame Centre and the UOB Kay Hian – SP Dealing Centre.

Get all the details at openhouse.sp.edu.sg. SP is located at 500 Dover Road, right next to Dover MRT Station.

Career Interest Profiling
Take the profiling test to find out which diploma course matches your personality!

Life@SP at Open Plaza
Get in on the action with SP’s hottest CCA clubs and enjoy a line-up of exciting performances.

Goodie Bag
Grab your one-of-a-kind goodie bag filled with awesome stuff exclusive to 2017 ‘O’ level students! While stocks last!

“What Kind of Poly Material Are You” Quiz
Take this quiz at openhouse.sp.edu.sg to find out how well you will adapt to poly life!

#SP0H18 #singaporepoly #spye