

SP **SPIRIT**

GO SERVE

SP STUDENTS GET INVOLVED AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

SP'S SOLAR CAR

WHERE ARE THEY RACING OFF TO?

AROUND THE WORLD

WHAT SP STUDENTS DO ACROSS THE GLOBE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GUESS WHICH SP DIPLOMA TURNS 10 THIS YEAR?

FEAR OF MISSING OUT

AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU



IT'S **BACK!**

GET READY FOR ARTS FIESTA 2015,
A MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF DANCE,
MUSIC AND THEATRE

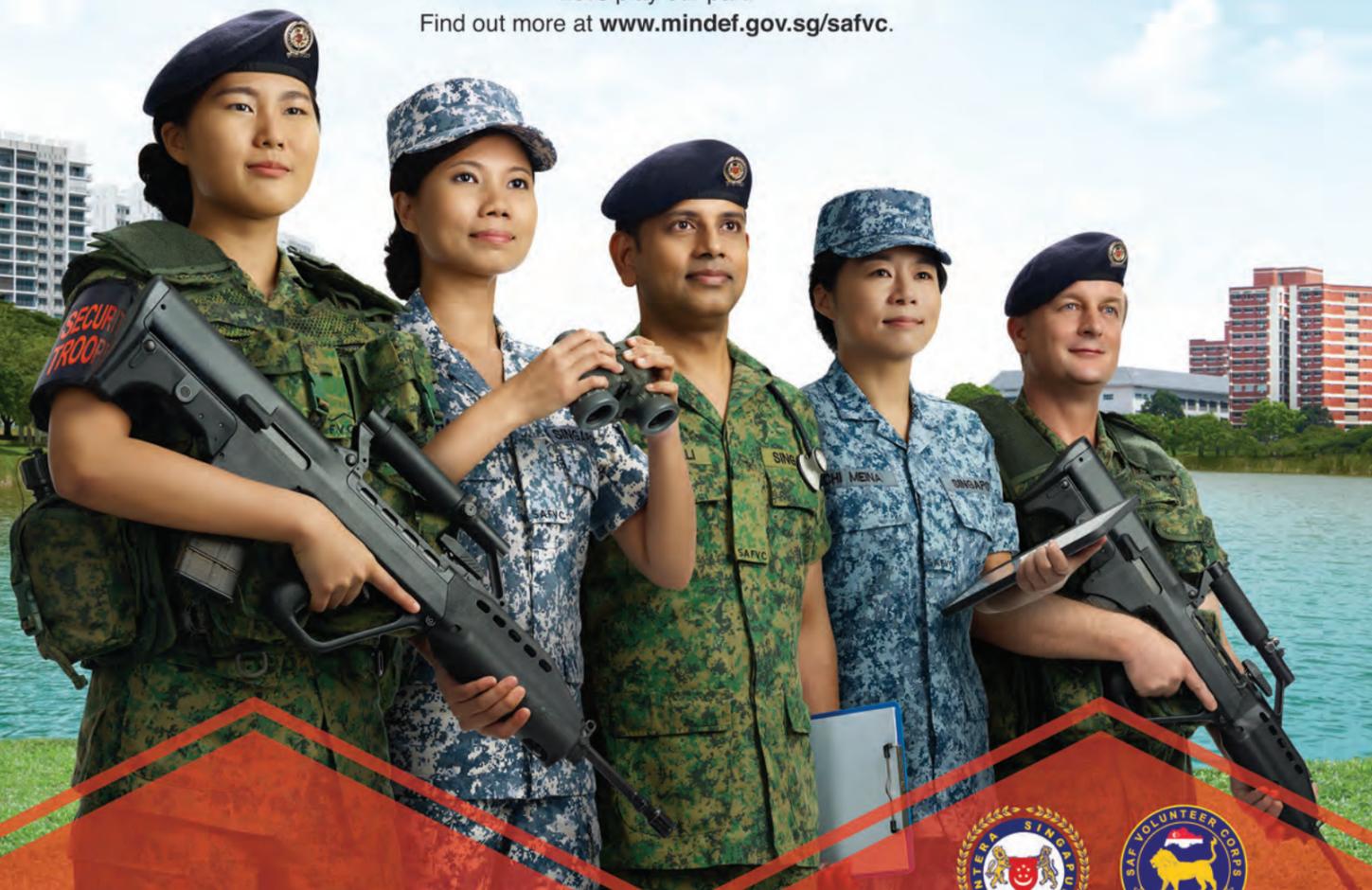




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SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES
VOLUNTEER CORPS



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“Sometimes, you have to look back in order to understand the things that lie ahead.”



PUT ON A SHOW!

Stunning performances by the SP Strictly Dance Zone. This seems oddly Disney-familiar...

Show Me My Reflection

Come November, limbs be poppin', beats be spinnin' and tickets be sellin'.

It's time again to celebrate all things artsy!

Here comes SP's annual Arts Fiesta, a month-long festival of all that's flamboyant and hip in the arts scene. There's music, dance and theatre performances by SP's performing arts CCA clubs, arts installations at corners you least expect, and wacky fringe events to enjoy. Basically, it celebrates everything that doesn't have to do with studying!

SPiRiT takes a sneak peep at the beats and splits that go into Arts Fiesta, starting with a very key member.

Held annually since 2011, Arts Fiesta was created as a platform to support the underappreciated performing arts in SP. Five years on under the care of the Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations (DSA), this festival is now an SP year-end staple, bringing colour and culture to the campus. Better yet, it's right before the real festival: December vacation (be still, my heart!).

This year's theme is **Reflection**, an apt title for 2015.

In light of Singapore's Golden Jubilee, it's about reflecting on our history and celebrating the little triumphs that has made us who we are today; how far we've come as a nation and a polytechnic - SP's a whole decade older than the nation's independence, and don't anyone forget that!



An artistic war! From left: Kristin Yip (SP Theatre Compass), Ryan Peh (Strictly Dance Zone), Rumchawanwong Charles (SP String Ensemble)

Where It All Begins

Meet Nur Annisaa' Saihah Bte Abdul Latiff. Third-year **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)** student. Graduating SP Vocal Talent member. And two-year reigning designer for Arts Fiesta 2014 and 2015. Without her, there's no collateral for Arts Fiesta.

She sings; she designs; she studies. What can't she do?

Her laugh is infectious. "I get asked that a lot!"

Annisaa' (oh yes, make no mistake: that apostrophe isn't a typo) first got involved in Arts Fiesta through DEPM's Integrated Project, a second-year module where students work in groups to assist real-life events. In her case, it was the Arts Fiesta 2014.

She was literally outed by her teammates, who recommended her design work to DSA. The Arts Fiesta team was so impressed with her portfolio, that they requested the collateral be designed by her.

"Aside from planning Arts Fiesta 2014, the bulk of my work was designing. I didn't have any professional experience prior to the event, so it was a good platform for me to start exploring and sharpening my abilities as a designer," she said.

If that wasn't daunting enough, Annisaa' still committed to Vocal Talents, as Treasurer and in the Arts Fiesta showcase. "I've always been passionate about the arts coz it's an outlet where I can express myself. For Vocal Talents, I helped in the planning of the production, from scriptwriting, to stage management, and even choreography. I was practically running from class to Arts Fiesta meetings to CCA production all the time!" she recalled.

For Arts Fiesta 2015, Annisaa's sticking to design. "I had my internship during the initial planning stage, and it was hard to manage my time. Fortunately or unfortunately, I got sick and was on MC. I rushed all the designs at home. Now it's more relaxed, as I can tweak the final designs until we're all satisfied with the overall look.

Since my internship has ended, I've more time to help out with Arts Fiesta before the next semester starts."

Think that's all for her? Hardly! Even though she's graduating from Vocal Talents, Annisaa' is still designing their Arts Fiesta production poster.

Excited for Arts Fiesta yet? Look out for brochures and announcements coming near you at life.sp.edu.sg/arts/arts-fiesta. Keep your eyes peeled for updates on their social media links on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @SPartsfiesta.

BRAND NEW AT ARTS FIESTA 2015
Arts Fiesta Opening, Halloween Outdoor Movie Night
 SP Multi-Purpose Field (in front of Sports Complex)
 30 Oct 2015, 6pm
 (free admission)

In honour of spooky Halloween, Arts Fiesta kicks off with a scarefest under the stars! Jointly organised by the **SP Student Union**, sit back and get your heart racing while some of the scariest movies ever play on! Bring along frightfully fun friends, mats and pillows for a scary good time. Drinks, popcorns and goodie bags galore. For a bonus, dress to scare and win!

Silent Disco
 SP Main Library, Event Space
 11 Nov 2015, 4pm to 7pm (free admission)

The SP Deejays will be spinning out tunes... in the library! The sickest beats in the quietest places in SP, how will that happen? A little hint: you'll each get an individual listening experience, and no one will be disturbed. In fact, no one will complain about the noise level! Intrigued? Come take a look and stay for the experience.

Visual Arts Display
 Main Library and Sports Arena
 29 Oct 2015 onwards

What the eye sees, the mind interprets. Arts installations designed and created through the creativity from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology and the SP Design School will be on display throughout the Arts Fiesta month. Look out for them!



Annisaa' work from scratch to finish. This is for the main theme alone.



Solemn and nervous, the String Ensemble begin Arts Fiesta 2014.

SP STRING ENSEMBLE
Classical Renaissance XVI
School of the Arts Concert Hall,
1 Nov 2015, 8.00pm

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Held for the third time running at the School of the Arts' Concert Hall, Classic Renaissance XVI returns with a repertoire of melodies spanning different time periods. Celebrate the classics and the contemporary on strings! Think it's just the oldies you'll hear? There might be a surprise or two in store for you.

WE TALK TO:

Shermaine Lee, second-year **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** student, chairperson of Classical Renaissance XVI and the current president of the SP String Ensemble.

Soo...how's the prep going so far?

It's going well, we've confirmed almost all our pieces (around 10 scores), and tried them out as an ensemble. We're also collaborating with the SP Symphonic Band again this year, and will be practicing with them soon. It's a great opportunity to establish bonds between both clubs! Why the collaboration? Sometimes you need more than just string instruments for that extra oomph. To mix it up, we'll also be performing the theme from Narnia and The Prayer by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli.



Never stop practicing. The show must go on!

It's also your first time performing for Arts Fiesta, yes?

Yeah, I'm really excited because playing in an ensemble and individually is different. When everything comes together in an ensemble, it's almost magical...you have to experience it to understand what I mean...haha! It's not just performing, the whole journey of Arts Fiesta has brought our whole club together. We practice together, we eat together, we even go for group outings and it's really heart-warming.

Sounds fun... but also time-consuming. Dare we ask how studies are going? (Note: shouldn't be a problem for Shermaine's whopping 3.8 GPA!)

Sacrifices have to be made, but it's also a matter of prioritising. School comes first to me, followed by CCA; especially so since Arts Fiesta is nearing and it will be my first official performance in an external venue with priced tickets for entry. I take pride in this and

hope that Classical Renaissance XVI will not disappoint the audience, especially the family and friends that I have neglected during this hectic period!

I know it will all be worth it in the end and that's the motivation that keeps most of us going!

GET TO KNOW...

SP String Ensemble

Can't play a musical instrument? Don't fret! The SP String Ensemble accepts all students, regardless of their musical ability. For Shermaine, she joined not knowing how to play a string instrument (if you haven't guessed, the String Ensemble is all about the strings – cello, viola, etc) and can now play the violin.

The String Ensemble aren't the only stringers at Arts Fiesta. The **SP Guitarists** will also be putting on a two-day show. **Viva La Guitar III** will feature a classical performance and an acoustic performance on two separate days. It'll be part of SING-CAPO-LAH 50, a little Arts Fiesta tribute for SG50.

Lumiere Du Jour
Singapore Polytechnic, The Hall,
5 Nov 2015, 7.30pm

Reminiscencia
Singapore Polytechnic, The Hall
6 Nov 2015, 7.30pm



For Arts Fiesta 2014, Vocal Talents didn't just sing stoically. They acted too, like a Broadway musical!

SP VOCAL TALENTS
A Capella Night IV
Singapore Polytechnic, The Hall, 7
Nov 2015, 7.30pm

WHAT TO EXPECT:

It's a musical match between father and daughter. She wants to join the music industry, but daddy knows best and daddy doesn't think she knows enough about the music industry in Singapore. Determined to educate his daughter, he takes her back in time on a musical journey of music of Singapore over the last 50 years. It's part of SING-CAPO-LAH 50, a little Arts Fiesta tribute for SG50.

WE TALK TO:

Estee Ng, second-year **Diploma in**

Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) student, President of the SP Vocal Talents, and Overall-In-Charge of the Arts Fiesta Vocal Talents concert.

Sing for us!

We will, soon! We're making sure that all performances are up to standard and ready to hit the performance stage for Arts Fiesta 2015.

Sounds like there's still quite a bit to do.

Currently, the individual groups are working on the songs for the concert, while the script is being written. Each group will come up with their own arrangements for the songs. It's not prescribed, it's acapella; anything goes! Last year's Arts Fiesta gave me a look into how a production happens. From scriptwriting, to

props, everyone had their hands full.

Answer this age-old question: how is school?

Ohh, that's evil. Many of us have sacrificed our

free time for practice, but we always find time to study too. We often study together in groups before or after practice sessions in the clubroom, and this helps us to forge great friendships with one another. Although it's tiring at times, it teaches us how to manage our time wisely.

GET TO KNOW...

The SP Vocal Talents

If you've watched Pitch Perfect, then you'd know what to expect. But do you know that Vocal Talents was formed in 2011, the same year that Arts Fiesta was created? Using only their impressive pipes, these vocalists and beatboxers deliver worthy performances. So worthy that Just Daunt, a subgroup of Vocal Talents clinched Silver at the Annual Acachamps Competition 2015. Check out Vocal Talent's performance on SP's Facebook page, where another subgroup, D'Stellers, delivered a mash-up of favourite National Day songs over the years.

Think that's all? D'Stellers was also runner-up in the Annual Acachamps Competition 2014. Their cover of Little Me, a song by British girl group, Little Mix, was even picked up and shared by the group itself! In their words: "You guys are so talented, it's not even funny!"



SP CHINESE ORCHESTRA

Legacy
Singapore Polytechnic Auditorium,
29 Nov 2015, 7.30pm

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Join the SP Chinese Orchestra as they bring you through the time museum of music, featuring the legacies of heroes from the past to the present! If you think there's only classical Chinese tunes, think again: how would the theme from Superman and Star Wars sound like on Chinese instruments?

WE TALK TO:

Ariel Lim, second-year **Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)** student, current President of the SP Chinese Orchestra and Assistant Production Manager for Arts Fiesta. Her instrument of choice: the zhongruan, or moon guitar.

We hear that the Chinese Orchestra has weekly sectional and combined practices. What does that mean?

It depends on the instrument that you play. Let's say if you're in the plucking section, you'll practice with members who play similar instruments to learn from each other. On

another day of the week, all Chinese Orchestra members will practice as a full orchestra for up to three hours.

How's the journey through Chinese Orchestra going so far?

It'll be my second Arts Fiesta as part of the Chinese Orchestra. It was quite a rush for me. I joined the Chinese Orchestra in October and had to be ready within a month to participate in last year's Arts Fiesta concert. Luckily, I've been playing the zhongruan for the past nine years.

Outside our own activities and gigs, we're currently working together with other CCA clubs, like the SP String Ensemble and the SP International Student Club for club activities and future collaborations and events.

Performances are in November, so how's the preparation going so far?

It's quite tedious. We all have our own coursework submissions, and deadlines for the Arts Fiesta like poster and booklet design submissions, let alone practicing! But I believe that nothing is impossible. "With SP, Its' So Possible", right? So we'll do our best!



Can you hear the serenade?

GET TO KNOW...

SP Jazz Band
Improvise 8
Esplanade Recital Studio, 25 & 26
Nov 2015, 8.00pm

Can't play a musical instrument? Don't fret! The SP Jazz Band turns 10 this year! They return with their annual Arts Fiesta Concert, *Improvise*, across two days at the Esplanade Recital Studio. Take in the sounds of swing, funk and contemporary jazz. They're certainly no stranger to the Esplanade Recital Studio, having performed there over the past four Arts Fiestas. Are you ready for all that jazz?



If I pluck this wrongly, no one can hear me, right? Right?

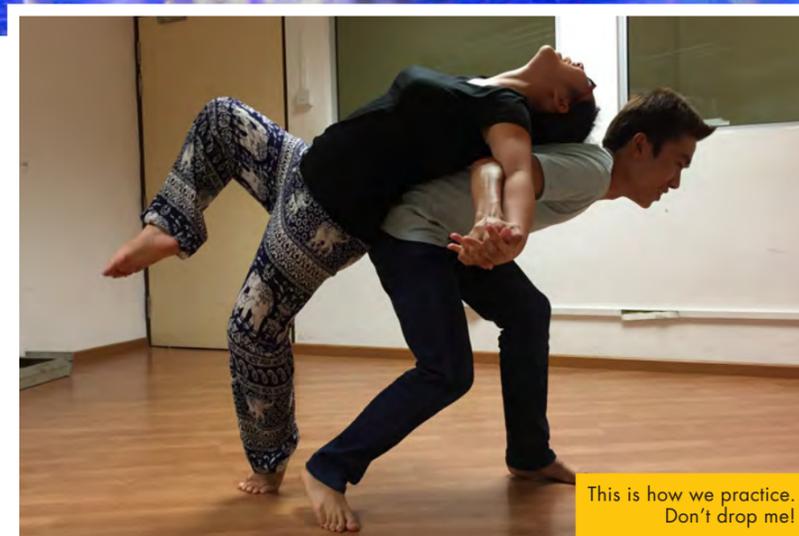


SP STRICTLY DANCE ZONE (SDZ)

Waves 20 - Leap!
Esplanade Theatre,
13 & 14 Nov 2015, 8.00pm

The SP Vocal Talents won't be the only ones putting on a show.

You've seen them practicing at elevenSq, grooving to the beat, popping to the rhythm. It's the Strictly Dance Zone (SDZ)! Tickets to SDZ shows are constantly sold out at every Arts Fiesta. To accommodate demand, they'll be shifting venues from Kallang Theatre to the Esplanade Theatre, capable of seating 1,950 spectators. It's a well-established CCA, starting out as a cheerleading club in the 1980s. Over the years, they've transformed into the Strictly Dance Zone we now know and love. Their genres of modern, hip-hop and breakdancing are a favourite at events and competitions. Book your tickets to Leap!, before they're gone!



This is how we practice. Don't drop me!

GET TO KNOW...

SP Theatre Compass
The I00king Glass
Singapore Polytechnic Auditorium,
21 Nov 2015, 7.30pm

The I00king Glass is a new play presented by renowned theatre playwright and actor, Mr Rodney Oliveiro who serves as advisor to the SP Theatre Compass. What will you discover at this year's Arts Fiesta play?

eventually. Being theatre, the techniques of devising and improvisation are used. Scenes are acted out, improvised, then collected and transcribed into a script, creating a more realistic play.

Alia Binte Abdul Aziz Alkaff, second-year **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)** student, current president of the SP Theatre Compass, and stage manager for The I00king Glass, shares that the schedules gets more hectic closer to the date.

"We rehearse intensively two weeks before the show; almost every night after class, and most of us only get home around midnight. And let's be real, this is theatre. Last minute changes are a norm. But we roll with it, to give a great performance, regardless", she says.

Don't forget the line, don't forget the line...!



It's all hush hush at the moment, but everything falls into place...

High Score, *But Not Just GPA*



What makes a scholar? Or let's narrow it down...what makes an SP scholar? Excellent grades? That's a given. In the context of our education system, where we talk a lot about character development, the answer lies in achieving that something more beyond your GPA score. Think active CCA involvement, undertaking or participating in SP-wide projects, or taking on local or overseas community service projects.

This year, 71 SP students were crowned SP scholars. For the first-year scholars, they were selected primarily because of their good 'O' level results. After all, they've only been in SP a few short months before being invited for the scholarship interviews. It'd be unfair to judge them in non-academic pursuits. Nevertheless, for the rest of their first-year journey, they'll be expected to develop themselves holistically in order to keep the scholar title. So guys,

remember well: this isn't a you-can'take-it-back-from-me thing.

The second-year scholars have proven beyond their academic scores that they have also contributed back to SP or the underprivileged communities during their first year. **SPRIT** shows you why they deserve to be SP Scholars.



ENG YU TING EVELYN
YEAR 2, DIPLOMA IN NUTRITION,
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

She doesn't need to be coaxed into doing

community service. In fact, she chose SP after her 'O' levels so she could do more. Her course gives her ample opportunities to do so. For example, she's visited elderly folks staying in one-room flats to take their blood pressure and give general advice on healthy living. She's also a member of the SP Welfare Service Club and volunteers with them on several projects, such as collecting food donations from HDB residents for the less-privileged. She also flew to Surabaya, Indonesia, last year to teach English to the local students and helped construct part of a classroom through cementing and plastering. To her, time management is a choice, not a skill, and she chooses to manage her studies and community service. It all boils down to making decisions, doing the right thing at the right time. And what Evelyn does right is allocate time for things important to her.

KARTHIK S/O PRATHABAN
YEAR 2, DIPLOMA IN
AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

With his current perfect GPA, it's hard to believe that just three years ago, Karthik was considered a failure by many after failing his 'A' levels. After army, he felt depressed seeing his junior college friends progress to university. With his new-found interest in aircrafts, his parents encouraged him to take up aeronautical engineering in SP, a course that his younger brother was already in.

Besides studies, he's also actively involved in community service, such as making visits to old folks' homes, playing games and interacting with them. He also interacts with Down syndrome kids and helps with their art therapy lessons.



IAN CHAN KEN W'EI
YEAR 2, DIPLOMA IN
ACCOUNTANCY

Ian chose to study accountancy in SP because he felt that the skill sets were more practical. The same reasoning explains his involvement in community service as he sees the practicality of helping others. He's a member of the SP Business School's Community Leadership Programme and volunteers for community projects whenever he has the time. Under the KidsREAD Programme, he read books to children and taught them English for about an hour every Saturday. Last year, he went to Cambodia to visit an orphanage for abused children and single-parent children. With his fellow SP students, they performed tasks like painting, cooking and teaching English to the native children. The positive energy of the children left a deep impression on Ian. One of the culture shocks he had was bathing with cold water in the company of frogs, crickets and cockroaches. Ian believes that with self-discipline and time-management skills, he could prioritise his studies while offering his time for community projects.



**FERRY MAULANA BIN
ACHMAD CHEAN**
YEAR 2, DIPLOMA IN
INTEGRATED EVENTS PROJECT
MANAGEMENT

A trip to SP during its Open House got Ferry interested in his event management diploma course. However, the biggest challenge in his SP journey was not managing any events but surviving a two-week community service programme in Kunming, China, out of his comfort zone. Being Muslim, he couldn't eat most of the food in the rural part of China. So he cooked or ate canned food. The climate was another challenge as the village was located some 4,500km above sea-level and the oxygen was thin. Nevertheless, all went well. Fluent in three languages – Mandarin, Malay and English – Ferry could easily interact with the natives, except for some who only spoke Tibetan. Like they say, if you can't beat them, join them. By the end of the trip, Ferry had picked up enough Tibetan to have simple conversations with the locals.



MATTHEW GUAN
YEAR 2, DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL
AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

From young, Matthew has been good in his studies. He put them to good use by giving tuition to primary school students in Toa Payoh. Seeing his students grasp complicated concepts or doing well in their tests brought him joy as he could feel himself nurturing the next generation. He's also a member of the SP Sign Language Club where he picked up a new skill to communicate better with the hearing impaired. With the club, he teaches sign language to volunteers and also provides sign translation services for hearing impaired audiences at community events.

ONE JIE JUN
YEAR 2, DIPLOMA IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT AND WATER
TECHNOLOGY

Many of us work part-time for a little extra money to indulge in our favourite hobbies. For Jie Jun, he's been working since 12 to help supplement his family's low income. Coming from a humble family background, Jie Jun knows the struggles of the disadvantaged and would readily avail himself to assist others in similar situations. He embarked on a recycling project with his SP friend and they went round the campus to collect newspapers and recyclable materials during their free time. Tapping on his course knowledge, he managed to sort and sell off these recyclables to waste management companies, earning about \$400. All of it was donated to SP's Student Service Centre, which disburses funds to needy students.



RAISE YOUR GLASS TO THIS YEAR'S SP SCHOLARS! SP SCHOLARS / SP ENGINEERING SCHOLARS

School of Architecture & the Built Environment

- Chan Wang Sheng James, Sophia Tan Qi Ying (Diploma in Architecture)

- Gianan Hazel Joy Baris, Tan Xin Ying (Civil Engineering with Business)

- Ong Jie Jun (Diploma in Environmental Management & Water Technology)
- Lee Li Ying (Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management)

- Lim Ruqi Zoel, Ferry Maulana Bin Achmad Chean (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management)

- Mohamad Arif Bin Mohamad Azmi (Diploma in Landscape Architecture)

SP Business School

- Ian Chan Ken W'ei, Nabilah Binte Azhar, Natalie Tan Ying Jin, Tsai Min En (Diploma in Accountancy)

- Teo Hui Jia (Diploma in Business Administration)

- Kimberley Tan Mui Kuan, Elene Wong Say Cheng (Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology)

- Goh Yu Xuan (Diploma in International Business)

School of Chemical & Life Sciences

- Chong Cai Ting Joscelyn, Tricia Chua Wen Xin, Biondi Lee, Eric Ong Jia Yong (Diploma in Biomedical Science)

- Genessa Chew Sze Yin, Tan Peng How Kenneth, Yeap Yi Sheng James, Yong Mei En (Diploma in Chemical Engineering)

- Eng Yu Ting Evelyn, Wang Yi Chieh (Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness)

- Christine Ng Li Ti (Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science)

School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences

- Kirstin Yip Su Jun (Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media)

- Chan Chi Yin, Lim Li Hong Dorothy (Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology)

- Chong Han Lyn (Diploma in Media & Communication)

SP Design School

- Loh Wan Ping Michelle (Diploma in Experience & Product Design)

- Choy Yi Jing, Lim Hao En Toby Gail, Tan Yan Ru Valery (Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design)

School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology

- Sabrina Lim, Maximilian Wallace Joseph Tan (Diploma in Digital Animation)

- Cheong Pei Ann Amanda (Diploma in Music & Audio Technology)

- Tay Zheng Yao Schuyler (Diploma in Infocomm Security Management)

School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

- Lim Xin Yi, Seat Mun Kit (Diploma in Aerospace Electronics)

- Lee Zheng De, Lim Chung Wen Jonavan, Lim Fang Yi, Wee Chang Han (Diploma in Engineering with Business)

- Joanna Lum Jia Min (Diploma in Energy Systems & Management)

- Guan Jeng Kang Matthew, Daniel Ravindran S/O Thangaraju (Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering)

- Marcus Xing Kah, Tay Wen Hao (Diploma in Computer Engineering)

Singapore Maritime Academy

- Nurul Ain Binte Amran, Chen Yanan, Ong Ji Ting (Diploma in Maritime Business)

- Low Eng Ler Bryan (Diploma in Marine Engineering)

School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering

- Chin Kang Jie, Tedrick Fong Zheng Jie, Karthik S/O Prathaban, Raymond Sombol Keow, Jonathan Lee Wei Ze, Robin Louis Buxton Leow, Lew Lin, Lim Jun Wei, Ong Si Ning, Mary Aquiline Shibu Patteri, Thay Kai Wei Jeremy (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering)

- Peh Yong Sheng (Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics)

SP Arts and Music Scholars

- Aaron James Lee Han Ming, Tan You Wei Erwin (Diploma in Music & Audio Technology)

SP Sports Scholarship

- Cheong May Chi Valerie (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management)

- Edward Lai Wen Chuan (Diploma in Architecture)

Continuing With Their Excellence

Out of 10 top Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates who were awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student / Trainee Award this year, five of them have chosen to continue their learning journey with SP. Why? Because they strongly believe that SP can equip them with the right hard and soft skills for their future, coupled with the drive to do their best. Let's get to know them a little better.

DANIEL RAVINDRAN S/O THANGARAJU

**From ITE College West
Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering**

Two years ago, Daniel asked his mother for one last chance to right all his wrongs but she thought it would be another empty promise. He didn't fault her scepticism: he had already let her down too many times. However, Daniel found his niche in electrical engineering and aced his way to graduate with a perfect GPA!

With passion, everything seems to move in his favour. In ITE College West, Daniel became the President of the ACE Club (a programme that helps groom outstanding students through engaging experiences and exposures) and co-led the Youth Corps Singapore. He also represented Singapore in a cultural exchange programme in Jakarta.

HOW'S IT AT SP SO FAR?

The six food courts and cuisine variety are welcomed by Daniel. Come lunchtime, he can be found noshing on fragrant and fluffy nasi lemak at Food Court 6 or sinking his teeth into hot, crispy ayam penyet at Food Court 2. He's also pursuing his interest by joining the SP Videography Club, a great way to complement his love for photography.

The biggest and most pleasant surprise so far is the patient and caring lecturers he encounters. "I used to think that the lecturers here would just finish their lectures and walk off. But in the past few months, I've encountered extremely helpful lecturers who would go the extra mile to explain challenging concepts to me after class. That's really an awesome SP experience," says Daniel.



ANDREW TAN KAI HAO

**From ITE College East
Diploma in Computer Engineering**

Andrew Tan took advantage of the Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) which allowed him to gain direct entry to a polytechnic after completing ITE. When entering ITE, he applied for the infocomm technology course but was offered engineering. Instead of whining, he made the best out of it and graduated with perfect GPA.

Along the way, Andrew also scored gold medals at the 10th ASEAN Skills Competition held in Vietnam, as well as WorldSkills Singapore 2014, in-between caring for the elderly and underprivileged with ITE's Community Service Club. Now, he's happily pursuing the **Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE)** at SP, a combination of his two loves – IT and engineering.

HOW'S IT AT SP SO FAR?

Laughing infectiously, Andrew shares that the 38 hectare SP campus means needing the SP Mobile Map application to get around. He still gets lost in campus from time to time but appreciates all the latest facilities that SP has to offer, such as the newly-opened Sports Arena. An avid cyclist, he joined the SP Cyclists club and just recently completed a race with them. SP was his first choice after ITE due to its reputation for producing fine engineering

graduates. Andrew also shared excitedly, "It also helps that the Dover MRT station is right next to our campus. There's no sweat in going for lessons, rain or shine!" You hear that, people? No sweat.

RAY TAN GUAN RUI

**From ITE College Central
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering**

A good leader never leaves anyone behind—Ray firmly believes in this and it's with this philosophy that he clinched the Halogen Foundation's National Young Leader Award 2014. Seen as a natural leader by his teachers, he went on to lead the Student Council at ITE College Central as President.

At a conference for young leaders held in Myanmar, he spoke on issues such as global environment and volunteerism. The best part: meeting President Barack Obama in person!

If you think you've seen him frequently at Sentosa before, yup, it's him. He's a beach lifeguard there. (Save me, Mister!)



HOW'S IT AT SP SO FAR?

Ray had a huge, happy shock when he discovered that SP has more than 120 CCA clubs! How is this possible, he wondered? He was tempted to join everything. In the end, he settled on the SP Ambassadors, feeling that he could contribute to boosting SP's image at official events.

He's pleased that the curriculum here has a balance of theoretical and hands-on practice. "It took me a while to get used to the workload and to be disciplined in learning on my own," he shared. He's motivated to learn about the latest aeronautical engineering skills and knowledge in his course. He adds, "While doing research for my course, I found out that

SP's the top poly for engineering and that I will be guided by some of the best aeronautical engineering lecturers. What's more, we're going to learn in the brand new AeroHub soon."

YONG MEI EN

**From ITE College Central
Diploma in Chemical Engineering**

For 10 months, Mei En brought smiles to kids from disadvantaged backgrounds with fun activities, made possible under the Y Arts Challenge Programme, an initiative by ITE and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). This experience encouraged her to



Mei En (left) and Clement receiving their ITE Award from Mr Bruce Poh, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Technical Education.

play bigger roles in helping the communities, and she eventually headed the college's Community Service Club.

With her course knowledge, she led her team into winning the first prize at the Student Design Challenge in Assistive and Rehabilitation Technologies 2014. This perfect GPA student is now working towards getting the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold).

HOW IS IT AT SP SO FAR?

Her passion to help the communities continues at SP and Mei En is now a Youth Community Leader here, happily juggling her community service work with her studies. Despite the numerous food choices in SP, Mei En still fancies McDonald's the most, as it's the most convenient option for her constant busy late nights on campus.

Mei En describes entering SP as a big jump from ITE as the modules are more difficult and in-depth. In the past months, she's learnt to be more independent and resilient. "It's definitely very different from ITE. But I'm excited to learn and walk this amazing journey with my mates for the next three years," she says.

CLEMENT CHIN

**From ITE College West
Diploma in Infocomm Security Management**

He could have gone on to Secondary Five but Clement knew he would be happier in ITE. His decision paid off handsomely when he graduated with a perfect GPA score. And that wasn't his only accomplishment. At ITE, he shone as an emcee and 'ladies and gentlemen' became his most frequently spoken words. His gift for the gab was rewarded in 2013 when he was crowned the Champion in ITE College East's Public Speaking Competition, beating

out contestants from polytechnics and junior colleges.

Another major feat was joining an ITE team that won the top prize in the National Climate Change Competition.

HOW'S IT AT SP SO FAR?

Since joining SP, Clement has settled in nicely and is enjoying student life. His tip for freshies: spend some time exploring SP's huge campus and find your favourite hangout spots. His is a cosy corner at the Hilltop Library, uncrowded even during peak periods. Most times, you can find him there studying or simply relaxing after classes.

Clement's favourite lunch choice is the Manna Pot Café at T11B that sells a variety of pastries and gourmet dishes at affordable prices. A spicy food lover, the spicy chicken from the oft-crowded Malay stall at Food Court 6 is also a favourite of his. An active student, Clement continues to pursue his love for hosting events by joining SP Comperes, where he gets to learn a lot from his seniors.





30 SP's School of Chemical and Life Science graduates received the Healthcare Merit Awards. Among them are (from left) Ng Xin Ting, Amanda Lee, Nurshafinah Bte Mohd Isa, Samantha Chan, Claudia Poh, Sarah Tan, Komathi d/o Arumugam, Tan Shi-Ning, Tricia Lam and Christel Leong.

Healthcare Warriors

A whopping 30 SP graduates were recently awarded the Healthcare Merit Awards (HMA), given by the Ministry of Health Holdings and the six healthcare clusters. The Award will allow them to pursue an undergraduate programme in health science at a local or overseas university.

All but two of the recipients were graduates from the **School of Chemical and Life Sciences (CLS)**. The two odd ones, but equally outstanding as well, were Soong Wen Yi, **Diploma in Business Administration (DBS)** graduate, and Muhd Shafieq Bin Muhd Nizam from the **Diploma in Bioengineering (DBEN)**. Wen Yi will pursue a nursing degree at the

National University of Singapore while Muhd Shafieq plans to study physiotherapy at an overseas university after his national service.

The 28 graduates from CLS are: **Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science (DACP)**: Yeo Hui Wen, Muhd Danial Bin Suthree and Bryan Pong; **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)**: Dai Qian, Denys Lam, Samantha Chan, Christen Leong, Tan Shi-Ning, Tricia Lam, Claudia Poh, Ng Xin Ting, Amanda Lee, Lee Shin Ying, Sarah Tan and Nicholas Ling; **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)**: Nurshafinah Bte Mohd Isa, Woo Wan Lu, Shannon Tiang, Lee Yan Lei and

Komathi d/o Arumugam; **Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE)**: Ngoh Yi Rui; **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)**: Ashleigh Pang; **Diploma in Nutrition Health and Wellness (DNHW)**: Jonathan Yeo, Wong Ying Git, Danielle Choong, Yeo Yingjie and Ser Ting Fang; **Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS)**: Sarah Ng.

They will pursue degree programmes ranging from Dietetics, Speech Therapy, Podiatry, and Occupational Therapy in either a local or overseas universities that includes countries like Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom and United States.

FROM BIOENGINEERING TO PHYSIOTHERAPY

Mohd Shafieq, a former President of the SP Student Union, shares why he's choosing to pursue a degree in physiotherapy despite graduating with excellent grades for his bioengineering course in SP: "My passion for physiotherapy first sparked when I did my FYP (final-year project) that involved a rehabilitation device for stroke patients. For the project, we visited a hospital to find out the limitations of the current rehabilitation process that a stroke patient has to undergo. There, I job-shadowed and interviewed a physiotherapist while also recording my findings.

That was when I realised, being a physiotherapist, is more than just making sure that the patient recovers from a disability. It's about the special bond created between a therapist and the patient, and the empowerment the therapist can give, on top of constant moral and emotional support for the patient. My passion for physiotherapy grew as I gained more knowledge about the industry in my final year. Two prominent modules in my course, Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering, and Biomechanics, played a huge role in furthering my understanding about physiotherapy. So in a way, the course paved the way for me towards physiotherapy."

He plans to study physiotherapy at an overseas university after his national service.



DOCTOR DREAM COMES TRUE

Three more SP graduates have entered the National University of Singapore's Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. While our grads have made it to medical school since 2010, this trio of life science alumni have more to tell.

Amanda Chia (DNHW), is the first poly graduate with an 'N' level background to make it to medicine. Ahmad Abdurrahman (DBS) holds the record for being one of the first two former madrasah students to gain admission into this highly competitive faculty in NUS. Amanda and Loh Hong Rong (DBT) will also have their names carved in as being the first from their diploma courses to make it to medical school.

Altogether, 15 SP graduates from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences have been admitted to medical schools in NUS and NTU. In addition, two more were taken in by NUS to study Dentistry. They are certainly living testimonies of the adage "live up to your dreams".



Doctors to be (from left): Loh Hong Rong, Amanda Chia and Ahmad Abdurrahman.

Pioneer Singtel *Cadet Scholars*



Pioneer batch of the SP students receiving the Singtel Cadet Scholarships.

Photo credit: Singtel.

Early this year, Singtel launched a diploma scholarship programme in support of SkillsFuture, a national initiative that will help Singapore through its next phase of growth with an integrated system of education, training and career progression for all Singaporeans.

Called the SingTel Cadet Scholarship Programme, it focuses on nurturing young talent in the fields of Engineering, Cyber Security and Customer Experience. Scholarships for the first two fields are offered exclusively to SP students taking the **Diploma in Computer**

Engineering (DCPE) and Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM). The scholarships, which start this year, are worth over S\$2 million in total a year and provide students with industry-relevant training, employment and progression opportunities.

After rounds of interviews and presentations, 19 DISM and 23 DCPE students were selected to be in the inaugural batch of Singtel Cadet Scholars. Besides tuition fee sponsorships, they'll also be able to work on their final-year projects at Singtel while receiving a monthly

allowance. Best of all, they can look forward to a career with Singtel after graduation!

For more info on the Singtel Cadet Scholarship, visit info.singtel.com/about-us/careers/students.

SINGTEL CADET SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

From DISM: Lee Tze Ting, Yew Jing Hui, Randall Lim, Xin Zhiyuan, Darren Neo, Wong Yi Jing, Lim Wai Kiat, Sean Michael Yee, Yong Jun Jie, Juve Wong, Chong Jia Hao, Ng Kaijie, Marcus Tan, Siak Hui Mun, Aloysius Lee, Nicholas Koh, Kenneth Kan, Jared Tan, Poon Hao Jun and Sean Phang.

From DCPE: Raynor Siah, Ivan Tay, Chang Qiao Er, Muhd Hozefa Zumkhwala, Muhd Firasfidin Bin Razali, Leong Jia Long, Gary Ng Mai Feng, Isaac Soh, Syed Mohd Fahmie Bin Syed Nasir, Russell Tang, Arielyte Tsen, Ng Chun Kai, Jeremy Tan, Ooi Yuxuan, Joshua Lee, Jarvis Pek, Christopher Lim, Ong Eng Hao, Andrew Foo, Muhd Faiz Bin Tambi Ali, Muhd Naufal Dusan Urosevic, Howard Wong and Lee Seng Ngee.

Future IT Captains

The SP spirit soared high at IDA Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2015 held in Fusionpolis. Once again, Team SP garnered the lion's share of the Infocomm Polytechnic Scholarship or iPoly Scholarship (renamed from the previous Integrated Infocomm Scholarship or IIS). Of the 23 scholarships up for grabs, SP students clinched 12. Separately, six SP students also clinched the iPoly Award.

The iPoly Scholarship aims to attract outstanding 'O' level students to pursue infocomm-related courses at the polytechnic level. At the end of their studies, they're required to matriculate and read an infocomm-related degree (as approved by the Infocomm Development Authority) at the university level.

The new iPoly Award (Infocomm Study Award) aims to widen the infocomm talent pool by offering study awards to attract and assist deserving students to pursue their passion in infocomm.

SP graduates also shone at the ceremony. Four of them received the National Infocomm Scholarship (NIS) that'll allow them to pursue infocomm courses at renowned local or overseas universities. They'll also gain valuable mentorship opportunities through job attachments both locally and overseas.

NIS RECIPIENTS

Goh Jin Qiang (**Diploma in Information Technology [DIT]**) / Isaac Lee Bo Xi (DISM) / Sushil Siwraj More (**Diploma in Financial Informatics [DFI]**) / Tsu Wei Quan (**Diploma in Computer Engineering [DCPE]**)

iPOLY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Shawn Pang Huan Shan / Lim Zhao Xiang / Tan Teck Hwee / Lee Seng Oon / Calvin Tan (**Diploma in Infocomm Security Management [DISM]**); Alwin Lam



SP students and graduates doing SP proud with their IDA scholarships.

Zhiwei / Tan Jia Hao (**Diploma in Games Design and Development [DGDD]**); Sherna Liew / Mary Theresa Heng / Sum Yuan Loong (from DIT); Carlton Anthoni Foo (**Diploma in Business Information Technology [DBIT]**) and Goh Jia Yi (from DFI).

iPOLY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lim Yan Ting, Sean Robert Den Hartog, Timothy Low Zhi Hao (from DISM); Alicia Lim Mei Xiu and Joyce Tan Shi Yin (from DFI); and Chan Ging Yang (from DBIT).

New Blood For *Maritime Sector*

The maritime industry is all set to receive new blood with 45 SP students and recent graduates clinching the Tripartite Maritime Scholarship (TMSS) and the MaritimeONE Scholarship. These scholarships will go a long way to nurture talents for the maritime sector in Singapore.

All 20 TMSS scholarships worth a whopping S\$1.4 million went to SP students from the SMA taking the **Diploma in Marine Engineering (DME)** and **Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS)**. The scholarships are jointly awarded by the Maritime Port Authority (MPA) and its partners such as shipping companies APL Co and NYK Shipmanagement.

For the MaritimeONE Scholarship offered by the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF), 25 of the 38 scholarships were clinched by SP students and recent graduates. Funds for this scholarship are sponsored by 20 organisations and companies, to the tune of S\$1.2 million. MaritimeONE Scholarship holders can choose from a wide spectrum of 21 diploma and degree programmes offered by SMA and universities, local and overseas. All but one amongst the SP recipients are from the diplomas in **Maritime Engineering (DME)**, **Maritime Business (DMB)** and



Nautical Studies (DNS).

For details, as well as to apply for the TMSS, do visit www.maritimecareers.com.sg/TMSS.php.



Hidayat Bin Yusoff (DME) and Cheong Xuxen (DNS) were among 20 recipients of the Tripartite Maritime Scholarship.

RECIPIENTS OF TMSS:

From DME: Yap Kiat Weng, Muhd Furzan Bin Zul, Muhd Hidayat Bin Yusoff, Ahmad Ridhuan Ali Bin Mohd Amin, Kenneth Gan, Muhd Asyraf Bin Kamarudin, Deveanraj S/O Amachenderan, Muhd Hishamuddin Bin Azmi, Gan Kok Wei and Ibrahim Bin Ismail. From DNS: Saravin Koh, Shivananthan S/O Chandrasekaran, Chua Jun Minn, Ammar Bin Abdul Rahman, Muhd Asyraf Bin Samat, Takamasa Ng, Ryan Sia, Cheong Xuxen, Hee Chan Kai, Donn Ong Kit.

RECIPIENTS OF MARITIMEONE SCHOLARSHIP

CURRENT SMA STUDENTS:

From DME: Yvonne Yeo, Tay Kai Wren and Yin Jinghong. From DMB: Chen Yanan and Nurul Bte Amran. From DNS: Amalina Bte Aidal, Muhd Khadri Bin Joffery and Hareshh S/O Gunasegaran.

SP GRADUATES:

From DME: Eric Tan, Yvonne Wiu, Aloysius Tay and Clauson Seah. From DMB: Wong Qing Le, Chua Xin Yi, Terry Tan, Fam Wai Cuan, Leong Wan Shan, Stella Neo Zi Lin, Lin Wenfu, Lee Yie Ling, Lim Zi Jin, Ivy Heung Chui Teng, Angelia Ong and Chan Si Yun.

From **Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology**: Nicole Lai.



Angelia Ong receives the MaritimeONE Scholarship from Director of Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), Mr Mohd Salleh Bin Ahmad Sarwan. She'll pursue her degree in Maritime Business and Maritime Law at Plymouth University, UK.

Helping *Destitute Women*

In the Hawaiian culture, the word Ohana symbolises family. It emphasises that families should be bound together and family members must cooperate and support one another, no matter how tough it gets.

This was also the belief of four SP students who founded One Ohana to help destitute women in the Philippines. Through their initiatives, the team wants to lead women communities out of poverty by providing financial and marketing support for their sustainable and home-grown

businesses. One initiative was setting up Fento.org, an online marketing platform for the One Ohana community to sell their handmade products to a worldwide audience. The initiative was also the fruit of their Learning Express journey (see box story below).

Their idea beat 54 other teams to win the Top Prize for Best Social Innovation Project in the university category at the Global Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge held in Hong Kong. Their prize included a

cash funding of S\$1,500 for them to implement their project. Organised by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the business plan competition is a platform for young and creative talents to showcase their business flair. It's also an opportunity for youth to turn their ideas into innovative products or services.

LEARNING EXPRESS

Learning Express is an international social innovation programme by SP that provides students with opportunities to experience the natural world, learn new skills, make meaningful new friendships and rediscover themselves through out-of-classroom learning. It aims to promote Design Thinking and Social Innovation.

Students from different SP schools form teams and partner with counterparts from overseas educational institutions to collaborate on projects that will benefit a community. They'll apply skillsets from their diploma courses and use Design Thinking Methodology to co-create innovative solutions that strives to meet the needs of the local community.



Best in Social Innovation Project: (from left) Almanda Sim (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering), Lee Han Wei (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering), Vanessa Low (Diploma in Business Administration), Brandon Maxwell Wong (Diploma in Biotechnology) and project supervisor, lecturer Mr Neelesh Bhatia.

RoboPower

SP engineering and IT students brought home two major wins at the RoboCup 2015 which was held in Anhui, China. The event is widely regarded as the Olympics for robotic competition. In the RoboCup@Work category, the made-in-SP robot, named Robo-Erectus, took first place in the Precision Placement Test Challenge and came in second overall. In the RoboCup Humanoid League, Team SP came in fourth in the Humanoid Kid Size Test Challenge.

RoboCup@Work is a new category in RoboCup. It targets the use of robots in work-related scenarios. It aims to foster research and development that enables the use of innovative mobile robots equipped with advanced manipulators for current and future industrial applications, where robots cooperate with human workers for complex tasks such as manufacturing and automation.



More than 25 students from the **School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)**, **School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE)** and **School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT)** spent close to a year to prepare for the competition. Eventually, 14 of them were selected to represent SP at RoboCup 2015. The team comprised of three recent graduates (two from EEE and one from MAE), eight final-year students (seven from EEE and one from MAE), and three second year students

(two from EEE and one from DMIT).

SP is not new to RoboCup, having participated in this prestigious competition for many years. In 2010, it co-organised RoboCup with the Science Centre Singapore Board. Held at Suntec City, the competition then drew a record-breaking 500 teams from more than 40 countries. The next RoboCup will take place in Leipzig, Germany.

Now we know why they say SP has robotic power!



Representing SP to receive the cheque were School of Architecture and the Built Environment students (from left) Wang Shan, Xie Tingting, Cyrus Foo, Sun Yiwen, Ong Ching Kang and Na Shi Ching.

Watch Your *Foodprints*

When it comes to ideas for saving the environment, you can count on SP students to hatch them. Here's another award-winning one to add to the impressive list of go green awards that SP has garnered, including the most impressive President's Award for the Environment.

Thirty-five students from the **Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business (DCEB)** and the **Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology (DEWT)** won for SP an institutional prize of S\$1,000 at the CDL E-Generation Challenge 2015. Organised by City Developments

DID YOU KNOW

The amount of food waste generated in Singapore has increased by about 48 percent over the past 10 years, from 531,500 tonnes in 2005 to 788,600 tonnes in 2014. Food waste in Singapore is expected to rise further in tandem with a larger population and greater affluence.

Limited, the event aimed to cultivate a generation of young influencers to drive and advocate eco-friendly practices and habits for a more sustainable future.

The competition's theme of Trace Your FOODprint was adopted to raise awareness of food wastage amongst youths. Participants had to travel to various points in Singapore on foot or public transportation and overcome different challenges along the way. For example, at the Know Your FOODprint station, they had to carry increasing loads while manoeuvring an obstacle course.

Winning *SPace*

A group of final-year **Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM)** students calling themselves Team SPace has emerged as one of the winning teams at the inaugural Singapore MICE Challenge 2015. Among their prizes: a ticket to compete against 60 other ASEAN tertiary institutions at the AEC+Expo that will be held in Kuala Lumpur in November.

Organised by Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers (SACEOS), the association that represents the MICE and Events industry in Singapore, Singapore MICE Challenge 2015 is a nationwide challenge which engages competing teams on their knowledge and understanding of the MICE industry to create a successful business event.

Team SPace – comprising Sheryl Koh, Hilary Tay, Leow Kai Yeow and Denise Lee, and facilitated by Mr Raphael Wong, Course Chair for DEPM – impressed the panel of international judges with their proposal for an ASEAN Sports Exhibition of Arena event.

One of the judges, Ms Lilian Kuan, executive Director of SACEOS, commended the team for delivering a solid presentation. "The presenters were stable and they remained calm and composed during the Q&A session. They were engaging and seemed very well-prepared."



Team SPace, supervised by (from left) DEPM course Mr Raphael Wong, Sheryl Koh, Hilary Tay, Leow Kai Yeow and Denise Lee.



The Right Ingredients: MasterChef Season 2

SP Masterchef is back, with more mind-blowing dishes, new celebrity judges, and stronger contestants! **SPiRiT** sneaks into the kitchen to take a look (and sneak some bites as well. Nom nom nom).

OUT OF MY WAY! An ingredient-snatching pre-contest begins for the title of SP Masterchef 2.



Competition intensified in this second season of SP Masterchef, with contestants from SP and secondary schools pitting their cooking skills against each other to win attractive prizes. Similar to Season 1, each dynamic had to prepare a three-course meal within 90 minutes, using commercialised food products created by SP's **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** students and staff.

These products include: Pokka Lemonsi Delight can drink, Low Salt and Low Fat Sausage, Yamie Rice and Low GI Brownie Mix. Formulated in collaboration with real food companies, these products can be found in supermarkets.

An additional secret ingredient this year: chocolates generously sponsored by Cadbury Milk Chocolate.

With prizes like air fryers and bread makers to be won, participants came prepared—a little birdy even told us that a certain team had a crash course in kitchen science from their teachers to prep for the competition (cough cough, the school begins with a Y, cough).

Bringing joy to potential romantic partners and mother-in-laws alike, were the hipster magnets



A seriously tasty discussion for the judges. From left: Mr Martyn Wong (Consumer-Centric Innovation Manager of SP's Food Innovation Centre), Matthew Yap (SP Masterchef Season One winner and current DFST student), and Nina, Ryan and Sylvia from comedy YouTube Channel, Night Owl Cinematics.



Win liao lor! Adele Sim (left) and Rachel Jiang (second from right) from Yuying Secondary School clinched first prize, winning Philips Air Fryers. Their lemon jelly dessert incorporated the Pokka Lemonsi Delight.



from SP, Nicholas Lau (**Diploma in Engineering with Business**) and Zhou Jiahao (**Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology**), who emerged runner-ups. We're guessing they decided to be magnanimous and hold back their culinary strength. The DFST student crew assisting in the event certainly didn't, snagging samples of food from the participants when the cameras stopped rolling.

Matthew Yap, current first-year DFST student and winner of Season 1 was a special guest judge. Commenting

on their performance, he said, "This year's contestants beat last year's hands down, no question about that. We weren't bad, but they're more prepared, probably from the info gathered from the previous SP Masterchef. They've got great ideas and are well-versed in different cooking styles."

He hints for a third season of Masterchef, now



Nicholas Lau (second from right) from Diploma in Engineering with Business and Zhou Jiahao (middle) from Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology won second place and Philips Juicers. Their savoury appetizer dip used the DFST Low Salt and Low Fat Sausage as a healthier option.



Will you impress this Season 1 winner? This School of Science and Technology alumnus was so inspired by his Masterchef journey that he joined DFST upon graduating. Read about SP Masterchef Season 1 online, in **SPiRiT** Vol 3, 2014.



Merciless joker: Emcee Felicia Chow (SP's Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology second-year student) (third from left) asked, "Smells good. Are you cooking porridge?" "No, risotto using Yamie Rice," Zhou Jiahao replied while stirring. "...but it looks like porridge."

armed with a year's nutritional knowledge from his course. "I'll like to join...if I'm allowed to (laughs)! Most probably with my former Masterchef partner Yi Chieh (also from School of Science and Technology)."

For more about SP Masterchef, check out the chills and spills on SP's YouTube Channel.



First unveiled during the SP Engineering Show 2015, the HuGGLer was the cutest (and cuddliest) of them all.

Show Me How You Innovate

There's more to winning Gold, Silver and Bronze at the CDIO Academy 2015 (where budding engineers gather to present their projects to engineering experts) than just getting a trophy...or three. For the three student teams from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences (CLS) and the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), getting that stamp of approval from renowned engineering authorities and experts could mean seeing their projects on the big map one day soon. Why did their projects win? **SPiRiT** breaks it down.



Sweeping the awards at the CDIO Academy. From left: Joshua Lim, Yunya, Mohamed Ifthar Bin Mohamed Fazlulkareem, Pheh Jing En, Om Bahadur Thapa, Lim Guang Liang, Xu Miao Qi, A Abdul Hakeem, Tan Jun Hao.

The *Winning* Trio

Photo credit: Jenny Netzler, CDIO Office



GOLD AWARD
PROJECT: HUGGLER
TEAM MEMBERS: A Abdul Hakeem and Tan Jun Hao (**Diploma in Computer Engineering**); Pheh Jing En (**Diploma in Electronic and Electrical Engineering**)

WHY IT WON: The HuGGLer is a health-assistive pet robot within a squishy, furry exterior. Co-created with A*STAR, it's designed especially for dementia patients and the elderly, who sometimes find human interaction taxing on the nerves. Hold it close and you can feel a heartbeat. Stroke it and it purrs. It provides the comforts of pet companionship without the hassles of owning a pet, including a music mode when animal sounds get too much.

Cuteness aside, it's also a massive medical snitch. It's fully pimped-out with enough sensors to log statuses like facial and emotional recognition and temperature-sensing around the clock, providing valuable data for doctors and therapists. There's even a voice transmission system included where therapists can communicate with patients remotely without spooking them.

SILVER AWARD
PROJECT: CONVERTING SOLID WASTE INTO USABLE AND VALUABLE PRODUCT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TEAM MEMBERS: Yunya; Xu Miaoqi and Joshua Lim (**Diploma in Chemical Engineering**)

WHY IT WON: A mouthful title, but exactly as it implies. The project aims to help

local disadvantaged communities living in the squatters of the WaVva dumpsite in Las Pinas, Philippines, to earn a sustainable living. This ambitious project was done in collaboration with a non-profit Christian organisation, Mission Ministries Philippines, and Singapore-based social enterprise, Asian Journeys. The team created two prototypes, based specifically on the waste materials that could be found in the dumpsite. The result: solid fuel briquettes and paving bricks.

It gets better. Solid fuel briquettes are clearer, alternative sources of fuel, with lower greenhouse emission than charcoal. The paving bricks, solid and safer, can replace the sandbags currently being used as pathways by the locals. The team further streamlined the production process and technology application, such that it can be easily adopted by the locals and replicated for large-scale production, making it both sustainable and economically viable.

BRONZE AWARD
PROJECT: BRAIN COMPUTER INTERFACE BASED COMMUNICATOR AND HOME CONTROL
TEAM MEMBERS: Om Bahadur Thapa; Mohamed Ifthar Bin Mohamed Fazlulkareem and Lim Guang Liang (**Diploma in Electronic and Electrical Engineering**)

WHY IT WON: Communication and entertainment, which many of us take for granted, can be out of reach for many paralysed patients. The SP-designed Brain Computer Interface (BCI) aims to change that. In this project, patients are trained to use certain face expressions to change the brain

and muscle signals, which can be captured by a wireless emotive headset and converted into action. It can help circumvent several issues, namely emotional difficulties that such patients face, from boredom and depression and the need to be dependent on caregivers in their daily lives and activities.

What can the BCI do? From expressing their daily needs, pain and wellness, it can even provide self-entertainment, from games, to music and movies. Want to select a radio channel? Just blink. The possibilities are endless.

THE CDIO CONNECTION

DID YOU KNOW... in 2004, SP was the first educational institution in Asia to be a CDIO collaborator? The CDIO (Conceive — Design — Implement — Operate) Initiative is an educational framework aimed at grooming future engineers: experts in their specialisations, gently-lubricated with the soft skills of teamwork, communication and adaptability. It's a framework that's adopted by many institutions worldwide. To date, SP is one of two Singapore member schools of the CDIO Initiative.

Hosted by China's Chengdu University of Information Technology this year, and held concurrently with the 11th International CDIO Conference, the annual CDIO Academy is a student-only programme (show us your student pass or you can't sit with us!), where participants get to show off their hard work.

The CDIO Academy comes in two parts. First, submit your projects and be judged. Second, take part in a two-day activity tailored just for you. The activity this year: to assemble a miniature intelligent green vehicle within two days and take it for a spin...with rules and requirements, of course.

At the project showcase, each team must present an innovative design of a product, process or system before a panel. Amongst the requirements, the project must have potential for practical application. 11 team from China, Russia and Singapore participated in this.

Touch Me With Nature

Holidays and studies: words that don't go together? Students from the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) certainly thought they did, while on their study trips to Bali and Taman Negara in June. What tropical adventures did they have?

TALK TO ME, BAMBOO

Bali: the destinations of beach lovers and partygoers, known for its forested volcanic mountains, coral reefs, and architecture. Bali 2015 is a Vertical Studio Elective for **Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)** students across all years. This time, 16 carefully chaperoned students travelled to Bali for a week-long study trip to understand overseas architecture.

Amongst the highlights: a four-day, three-night workshop at GreenCamp Bali, an organisation situated in that conducts workshops on sustainable living and architecture. Situated in the forest, it integrates custom-designed organic gardens and traditional bamboo and thatched roof yurts.

The material of choice: bamboo. The workshop introduced students to the properties and structural construction of bamboo (it ain't just for panda consumption, ya know). Bamboo is a sustainable alternative for building materials, being a fast-growing vegetation, with compressive and tensile strength comparable to concrete and steel.

"Bamboo isn't allowed as a structural material in Singapore, but the Balinese use it to build whole houses. It got me thinking about how different materials can be utilised to create something unique and beautiful," said Joshua Koh, third-year DARCH student. "What about elaborate, three-storey villas made out of bamboo, with fully functioning utilities? It's harder, but not impossible. It's going to be fun



So. Much. Bamboo. A traditional building material, bamboo is still very popular in Bali.

to come up with something new."

Besides their bamboo adventures, they also had the chance to visit Alila Ubud Resort, which blend contemporary design and traditional Balinese architecture, designed by Singapore and Perth-based architectural firm, Kerry Hill Architects. Historical temples were like the Mother Temple of Besakih and the Taman Ayun Temple, which showcases ancient Balinese architecture, were not missed out either.



Taman Negara is huge, bridging the Malaysian states of Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu.



Don't try this at home! The DLA students were allowed to try out the hunting pipes of the Orang Asli.

WHEN NATURE CALLS

While their DARCH mates were in Bali, 14 **Diploma in Landscape Architecture (DLA)** students explored Taman Negara in the Malaysian state of Pahang.

Coined the world's oldest tropical rainforest, Taman Negara is estimated to be over 130 million years old. It has extensive and diverse flora and fauna, home to some rare animals: the Malayan tiger, Sumatran rhinoceros, and

the rare Malayan peacock-pheasant. It's famed amongst nature lovers for its wildlife and forest activities and is so well-protected, permits must be granted by the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks in order to visit.

There, students learnt about the framework of the forest ecosystem, native plant identification and characteristics, and even went on night treks for a different perspective on nocturnal forest life.

On the last day of their four-day trip, they even had a chance to visit the indigenous Orang Asli village, located within Taman Negara, where they learnt how the indigenous people hunted for food and made fire.

For second-year DLA student Manfred Ong, this was his first trip to Taman Negara. "This was the first study trip where we were so deeply immersed in a village visit. We saw their hunting tools and how they lived – in tentlike conditions and structures, which were easy to construct and dismantle, perfect for their nomadic lifestyle."

What did he learn? Besides learning about new cultures and forest life, he notes that the trip would be beneficial for his future experiences. "Unlike in classroom, we immersed ourselves in this huge landscape meant for tourists. When we join the industry, it will prepare us better for similar projects in landscape architecture."



It's not yet ready, but this will soon be an iconic Balinese structure.



Alila Ubud Resort: where contemporary meets modern architecture.



Lush foliage of Taman Negara for miles. Nature-lovers: ahhh. Nature-haters: eww.



We're just too adorable for our own good.

Ipoh Hor Is Fun



Hello Ipoh! We're from DTVM Singapore! We're not here to bring world peace but to video-capture Ipoh life.



Residential area: Waller Court. Dodgy on the outside but filled with some amazing characters.

What happens when you drop 40 Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) final-year students in Ipoh, Malaysia, with instructions to film and produce a story of their choice within three days? They make it happen, that's what.

It's not a plot to Survivor, it's the DTVM On-Location Production module! Conducted in their final year, DTVM students are required to travel overseas to an Asian city for a filming assignment – a documentary video – accompanied by responsible lecturers, of course. Mirroring the lives of documentary makers and foreign correspondents, students are split into production teams and assigned to specific locations. They are to produce a compelling three-minute video report within 72 hours. Entirely on their own. Overseas. Did we mention there's no air-conditioning?

Jesleen Soh and Siti Nur Aisha Omar were in the same production team and each faced their own sweaty demons. The main combined challenge: unfamiliarity.

"The heat was incredible!" Aisha recounted. "We were under the sun for hours, lugging our equipment. And there was a language barrier—yes, in Malaysia! Ipoh has a large Chinese community and locals warmed up only if you spoke Mandarin or Cantonese."

"We had to find story profiles when we reached Ipoh, because we knew that the

stories based on our research weren't strong enough," said Jesleen. To prevent content from overlapping, all teams were sent to different locations. Jesleen's and Aisha's team was assigned to Ipoh New Town.

Taking improvisation to a whole new level, their team approached the locals at random, hoping to find interesting profiles to focus on. They eventually ended at Waller Court, a series of old flats, where most residents were elderly, and as they later found out, also home to some drug addicts and gangsters.

The three days were spent scrambling for profiles, approaching residents for conversations, and dealing with the irritation that goes hand-in-hand with heat and humidity when filming outdoors without the comforts of climate control. Nights were spent discussing the next day's filming schedule, writing scripts and reviewing footage.

Jesleen spoke of how they played cat

and mouse with one interviewee, an elderly woman who ran a traditional sweets shop. "We were waiting to interview her after she'd finished cooking. Next we knew, she was leaving for her shop. For an old lady, she was fast on a bicycle! She kept taking us by surprise, but at that age, she could do anything she wanted."



Everyone, back off! The camera's finally working!

Aisha even encountered real danger at one point. "Our filming was an unusual presence, and some residents wanted to disturb us. When we ignored them, they threw rocks, just to mess with us. It was scary, but luckily, we weren't injured," she said.

However, it wasn't all hard work and no reward. Before returning to Singapore, all of them had a chance to visit the Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat for a well-deserved lunch and tour, not to mention viewing the footages of their documentaries.

DID THEY LEARN ANYTHING?

Beyond further familiarising themselves with the technical skills of operating film equipment and story-writing, Jesleen and Aisha felt that they had learnt intrinsic skills that would serve them well beyond the classroom.

"The filming gave me a new perspective. When I was interviewing people and getting to know more about their lives, I realise how small my world really is," said Aisha.

For Jesleen, she was touched by the encounters she had, and even took some of the lessons

to heart. "Sometimes, random people would wave at us. When we took a closer look, we realised that they were people who we'd talked to previously. And one of our potential profiles gave me a ginger sweet on the last day of our filming, just because he was concerned about my coughing. That really touched me.

"A personal lesson I took away from this overseas trip is that even though I have many kinds of phobias, it doesn't mean I am timid. I learned not to be discouraged by my own pessimism, to approach people even if they look disinterested because the results can be interesting. I'm really glad I had chance to for this."

From dealing with Murphy's Law, to working around undesirable climates and even dangerous situations, learning more about themselves and what it takes to get a story-in-video filed, that's what our DTVM students went through. Keep that little nugget of thought for the next time you're watching a documentary.



In addition to their filming assignments, the groups also squeezed in some time for fun, visiting a local school for a storytelling performance for primary school students. The stories performed were written by DTVM students, in Year 1 for a different module.





Save Point Unlocked

From left: DGDD and DigiPen (Singapore) graduates Chan Li En, Jeremiah Boon, Jasmin Tan and Gavin Yeo.

Gamers may rule the world; but it's game developers that build them. Behind every crisp graphic and kill-me-baby action move are game design warriors setting our hearts aflutter. At SP, these budding keyboard warriors call the Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD) home. **SPRIT caught up with some of our graduates since they've left the nest to see where their gamer destiny had taken them next. First stop: DigiPen (Singapore).**

THE DIGITAL HEARTBEAT

When asked about his hobbies, DGDD graduate Gavin Yeo's answer is almost classic. "Apart from playing lots of games?" he asks. It's all the explanation you need to know why he'd joined DigiPen (Singapore) after graduating from SP in 2008, all the way to his current career as a junior level designer at one of the holy grails of gamer haven, Ubisoft Singapore.

Hands-down, Gavin is living his gamer dreams. "DGDD was my first official step in joining the game industry," he explains. "I had played around with making games before, but DGDD was a brave step as I had to commit three

years of tertiary education to chase my dream." It was a gamble that paid off handsomely. His outstanding performance earned him the Media Development Authority Education Scheme Scholarship upon graduation, which aims to nurture budding media industry leaders. It helped defray tuition fees when he enrolled under the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Game Design at DigiPen (Singapore). Personally, one of his greatest achievements at DigiPen (Singapore) was acting as the game designer in a student team for a gesture-based action game, *Descension Depths of De'mae*. The game scored a student finalist award at the Independent Games

Festival China in 2013, organised by the Game Developers Conference (GDC) China, the world's largest professionals-only game industry event.

IT'S PAIN BUT WE LOVE IT

Widely-regarded as the Harvard of game design, the American-based institution established its first international campus in Singapore in 2008. Most recently, in a partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), DigiPen (Singapore) moved into its new campus at SIT @ SP. *(Note: Check out the new SIT Building next to the SP Sports Arena)*

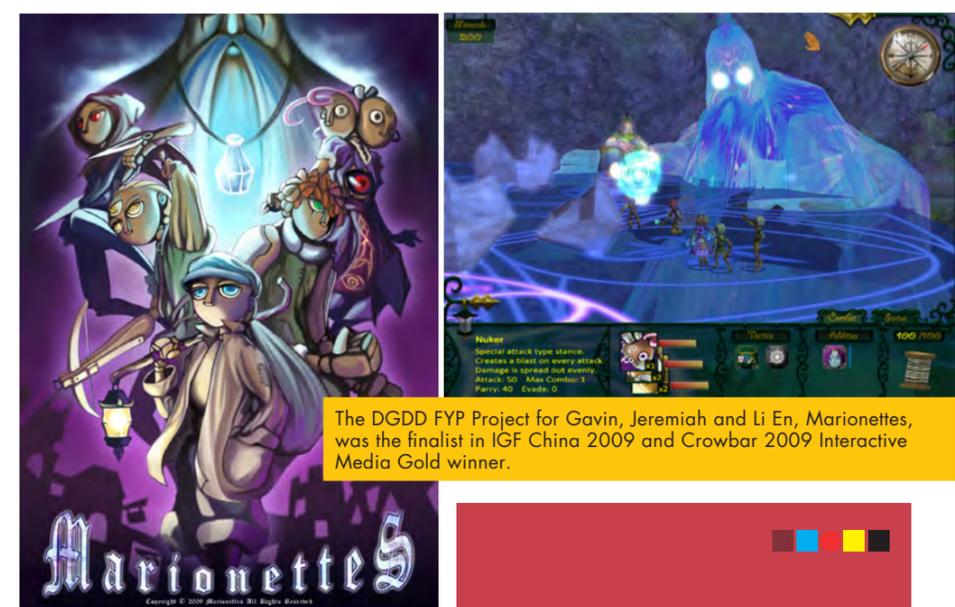
Like Gavin, Chan Li En and Jeremiah Boon also graduated from DGDD and enrolled at DigiPen (Singapore). Both have since graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Art and Animation, and found career opportunities almost immediately, thanks to the foundation built in DigiPen (Singapore). Ask about their learning journeys, and the trio wax lyrical with mind-boggling gaming terminology. For Li En, the opportunity to study a course in his interest and within a shorter timeframe was too attractive to pass up. He finished his course within two and a half years, instead of the usual four. "It was the best choice for me after DGDD. The course at DigiPen (Singapore) was structured in a progressive manner which built our basics and fundamentals first before proceeding to advanced modules."

Jeremiah remembers this clearly. "Right on the first day, our art lecturer, Mr Dilip Chaubey, told us with a smile that coming to DigiPen (Singapore) will be the worst decision we ever made in our lives, because of how tough and tiring the course will be. It was true, the course took everything out of us. But in a sense, it was rewarding when you finally complete it."

It isn't all just hard work and no games – there's plenty of games, it's DigiPen (Singapore)! Amongst the highlights is a three-month Overseas Immersion Programme where students get to spend a semester at DigiPen (Singapore)'s Redmond campus in Washington, attending lectures and touring games studios.

WHERE GAMES TAKE THEM

For all of them, life after DigiPen has been just as rewarding. Li En is currently at a Research and Development Artist at DigiPen, working on art assets and support for the DigiPen's proprietary game engine, Zero Engine. Enthusiasm peppers Jeremiah's words as he shares his career as a computer graphic artist with Japanese game company Koei Tecmo. A massive fan of their games for over a decade, he's ecstatic to be with the company that's produced some of his favourites, such as *Dead or Alive* and *Fatal Frame*.



The DGDD FYP Project for Gavin, Jeremiah and Li En, *Marionettes*, was the finalist in IGF China 2009 and Crowbar 2009 Interactive Media Gold winner.

When nudged to divulge some trade secrets, Gavin conspiratorially shares that he's currently working on an unannounced AAA game (a classification term for a high-budget, high-development and high-quality game), spearheaded by the Singapore branch. It's not part of the *Assassin's Creed* franchise, if you're wondering!

"I feel like I'm living out my dream of being a game designer in a AAA company. The amazing thing is how much they respect the ideas of individuals in the studio. I really appreciate that even as a junior designer, many of my ideas and work will be in the final game, for millions of people around the world to play."



From *Marionettes* to the *Depths*: a gritty crossover to the dark side for Gavin, this time at DigiPen (Singapore).



They see me slidin', they see me glidin'....all in a day's cool work in the *Adventures of Slingshot*, Jasmin's DGDD FYP project.

CONFESSIONS OF A DIGIPEN STUDENT

Currently a freshman at DigiPen, Jasmin Tan is a fresh graduate from DGDD and the first of the four to experience life at the new SIT campus. Having been in DigiPen (Singapore) for three semesters, there's plenty of stories to share.

She's practically rooted to campus

DigiPen's facilities are open most of the time. While this breeds a workaholic culture (we can spend up to 12 hours in school every day, even on weekends), it's time that we're willing to sacrifice to produce quality work. There are certain periods when I see my course mates more than my family. We have bonded quickly and now support each other, knowing that we are all going through the same trials and difficulties.

Passionate lecturers makes a difference

The teachers are also very approachable and focus a lot on learning. I remember one teacher telling us not to get too stressed up with work. He once told us, "You need to have a life to learn," and that really resonated with me. I constantly have to remind myself to focus on what I'm learning, not on my grades. I'm also really excited to experience the visit to the DigiPen Redmond campus next year.

Her plans for the future

After I graduate, I hope to become either a marketing artist or a concept artist at a game company. I'm currently interning at a game company. Hopefully, that will eventually lead to a full-time position, and allow me to continue learning and working with my colleagues. I also intend to continue working on game projects with my final-year project friends from DGDD.

I'm Not In SP To Get A Diploma

SkillsFuture is a national movement that aims to help students strengthen work-relevant skills and make informed choices about their career and studies. Meet Nick Williams, a final-year Diploma in Nautical Studies student at SP's Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA). This soon-to-be salty young man is steering himself to a specific goal – to one day be known as Captain Nickith John Williams. Jack Sparrow, eat your heart out!

Adapted with permission from the Ministry of Education.



I've always told my dad that I want a career that takes me into the air, or out to the open waters. Everybody else wants to find a job on land, but I don't want to be just another brick in the wall. My dad has been in the shipping business for the past 22 years, and I grew up surrounded by his friends telling stories about their adventures at sea.

As I listened, I realised that I, too, want to navigate the world and know vast oceans like the back of my hand. I want to tell my children one day about storms that made my ship pitch so fiercely that I wasn't sure she would come back up, about how I went through hell and came out alive. It's true that life as a seafarer is tough, and it's not what most people would choose.

But I think there are few jobs on land that are as adventurous and important.

Officers on ships have big responsibilities. The captain commands a multi-million dollar ship carrying cargo worth hundreds of millions, and, of course, lives that are invaluable. Being in charge of all that makes you feel like you have a purpose. That's what I want.

It doesn't hurt that your job is secure. My teachers tell me there's always a shortage of sailors, because 90 per cent of the world's economy relies on shipping. It's a vital part of everything, especially in Singapore; our MRT trains, our food, and our building materials come here on ships.

It's the seafarers who make it all happen.

With globalisation, people want more things to be available to them, so there will always be demand for cargo to go from point A to point B. My dad told me how he used to ship logs from Indonesia to Bangladesh for construction. Aren't there trees in Bangladesh? I asked. He said that the Bangladeshi companies wanted that specific quality of wood. Air freight is expensive, so shipping is what everyone relies on.

So I knew that I wanted to sail. The question was how. After my 'O' levels, I enrolled in an International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, which gave me a clear route to university, if I did well. I knew of the Nautical Studies course at SP, but I was worried that going to poly might be a step down. It was my friends who changed my perception of poly education. They told me that many students now choose the poly route because it gives them a sense of direction about their career, and the internships help them to cope better with work when they graduate.

When I went through the course materials online, I saw that they were right. This diploma truly prepares you for life at sea. So I left the IB midway, applied to SP for one of the 60 places SMA offers every year in the Diploma of Nautical Studies. It was nerve-wracking, but I made it.

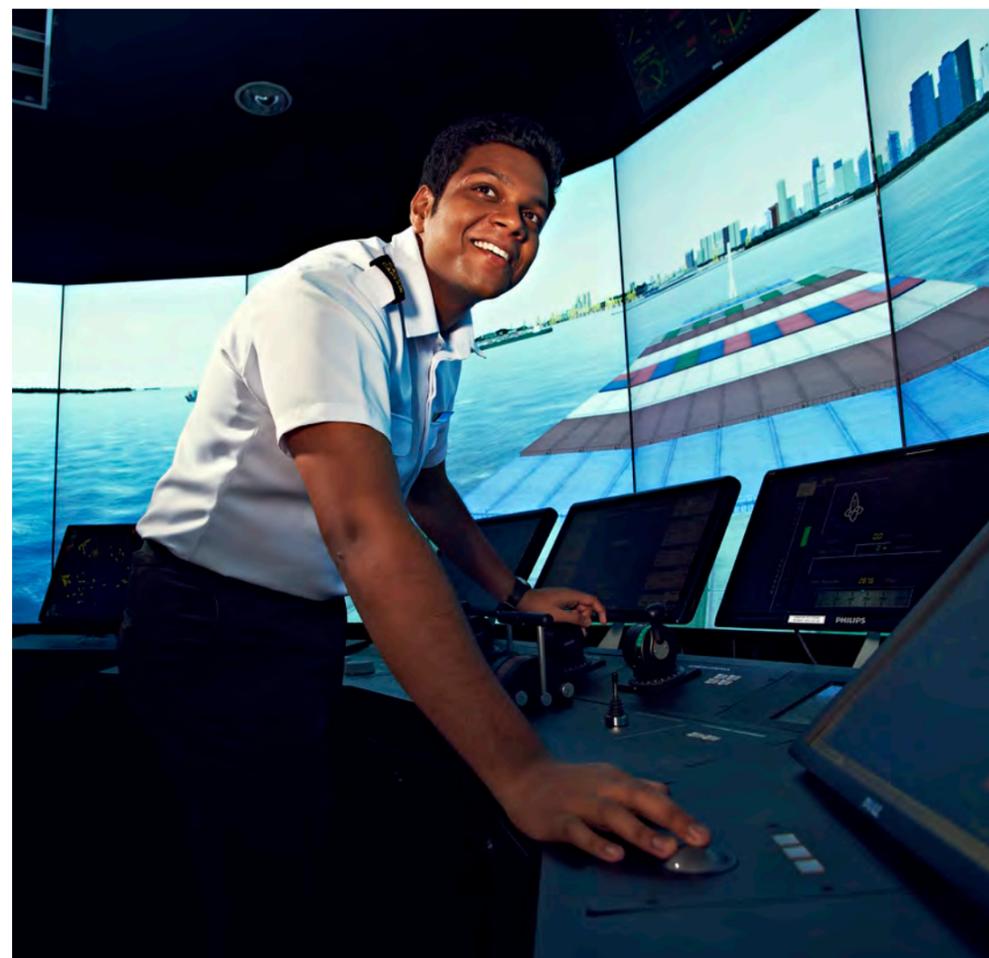
The course covers an amazing variety of things. We learn about cargo operations on tankers, how to navigate using the stars, and practise what to do if a man goes overboard. When I was in school before, I never knew how my learning was going to be useful. I knew that polytechnic would involve putting theory into practice, but it's really exceeded my expectations.

When we learn about tankers, we learn the chemical structure of hydrocarbon fuels, and how reactive they are. We examine systems that are designed to prevent accidents from occurring, which involves controlling the pressure within the tank. That's actually chemistry and physics, but applied in real life.

As for maths – I would never have figured that knowing about "spherical triangles" would ever be useful. It turns out that we use them to map out transoceanic passages. From China to the Panama Canal, or Japan to the US, the shortest distance isn't a straight line, but a curve. We use spherical trigonometry to plot the course. I sometimes show off to my 'A' levels friends; we both studied the same concept, but only I can say I actually use it. So that's why those shapes are useful, they say. Who knew?

I'm really enjoying my course now. I had a great time during my year-long internship with Herning Shipping. I sailed on their chemical tankers, and I even experienced what a real storm is really like! I'm aware, though, that being at sea is seldom so dramatic. In fact, it's often routine, and sometimes lonely. For the first time, I was far away from my family, among strangers, in a foreign place. I've heard that commercial ships are not made for comfort. The engines hum through the night. I'll just have to get used to it, slowly.

As a cadet, I will be at the bottom rung,



and these chemical tankers are especially challenging to work on when you're so junior. The processes and documentation are more stringent and rigorous than for vessels engaged in dry bulk shipping. Transporting flammable chemicals simply carries much more risk; iron ore going overboard is much less of an issue than an oil spill. Getting familiar with these procedures will be tough, but that's what I signed up for. These are the kinds of skills you need on board a ship that can't be studied in a book. I like to stretch myself.

Like all cadets, I also expect to spend quite some time on menial tasks – cleaning toilets, chipping away at rust, and painting over what remains. The ship is constantly rusting, so we'll never run out of those jobs. I'll also need to scrub crude oil off the inner walls of the tanker. It's dirty, dangerous work, but there are strict safety procedures to guide us. It's just part of the job, and you need to push through this if you want to go to the next level.

Within just eight or nine years, if I'm focused,

I may reach the top of my profession and earn more than \$7,200 a month! I'm not too concerned about going to university, because earning my Certificate of Competency (CoC) will give me the same opportunities and pay. A degree will not help me sail, but the CoC will. It's great that I can chart my own course. How many careers give you that opportunity?

My lecturers tell me I was the only one to turn up for my diploma interview in a suit. I took the occasion very seriously. After all, I wasn't just interviewing for a place in the course; I was applying to start my career. I remember clearly that at the end of the interview, they asked me where I see myself in 10 years. I told them I wanted to be Captain Nickith John Williams.

WHAT SAILORS CAN'T LEARN IN THE CLASSROOM

In the classroom, students do a lot of imagining. But learning how to load cargo well takes more than a creative mind. It's really hard to imagine putting a train on a ship; you need to work with the actual cranes and derricks. The carriages can weigh almost 40 tons each. We have to lash them down, because shifting train cars can flip your vessel, or worse, make a hole in the hull. And if we don't spread out the weight correctly over the floor, the train will actually fall right through. We can theorise all day about how to do this, but the only way to get it right is to actually do it.

Another challenge you only face at sea is rough weather. Storms at sea can last for days. They are harrowing times – our energy gets sapped just trying to stand upright. It's unsafe to cook, so meals consist of instant noodles and sandwiches. While sleeping, the violent rolling can throw us out of our bunks and mattresses. We've got to think on our feet although our legs are about to give way. Should we stay the course, or turn back? We learn to make critical decisions, and quickly, under tough conditions – to keep our seafarers, cargo and ship safe.

By Captain Savio Coutinho, Course Chair for the Diploma in Nautical Studies at Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA), SP. He progressed from Third Officer to Captain within eight years and has been teaching at SMA since 2007.

Seoul Far Yet So Good



Mission Seoul: (from left) Goh Siak Wei, Chan Kuang Hong, Karlo Abbugao, Aaron Goh, lecturer Mr Wilson Yeo, Wong Ching Jing and Sharon Chan at Underwood Hall, Yonsei University.

Two fresh graduates and four current students made a trip to Big Bang's country of origin. They weren't there to audition for a spot in the next Korean pop act. Nor were they trying their luck bumping into a Girls Generation member for a wifie. So then, what's the deal in Seoul? **SPRIT** finds out from the two grads who visited kimchi land under the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) programme.

COME CLEAN NOW, WHAT'S THE TRIP FOR, AARON?

I wish we were there to watch Girls Generation, lah. But you think SP will sponsor us for such a thing? We were there with more than 100 fellow students from all over the world for the Harvard World Model United Nations (WorldMUN) Conference 2015. The event was to expose youth to the workings of United Nations.

Note: Aaron is a fresh graduate from the Diploma in Maritime Business (DMB).

SIAK WEI, HOW WERE YOU GUYS SELECTED?

Certainly not because we're good-looking. We're all under the SP Outstanding Talent Programme (SPOT) which organises local and overseas trips to nurture and hone our

leadership skills. *Note: Goh Siak Wei is a fresh graduate from the Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE).*

IN A NUTSHELL, WHAT'S THE CONFERENCE ABOUT?

It was held at the Korea International Exhibition Center in Goyang City. The venue is the largest exhibition centre in South Korea and the fourth largest in Asia. The conference itself spanned over five days and we spent all the time preparing for the debates on several hot topics such as terrorism and world health. There were optional nightly social activities but we didn't go due a strict no-alcohol policy by SP. We're such good guys, see?

NO TIME FOR SIGHTSEEING OR DO A QUICK NOSE JOB?

Haha...there were really a lot of plastic surgery clinics in Seoul. We wish we had more time as there were so much to see and do. Besides honing our skills as communicators in the conference itself, we also went on cultural learning visits to historical sites such as the National Museum of Korea, the demilitarised zone, Leeum and Samsung Museum of Art. We also toured places like Insadong and Hongdae.

ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU NEVER KNEW BEFORE THE TRIP? FUN MOMENTS?

Yes, at the Changdeokgung palace tour. We were expecting to learn historical facts of the Joseon dynasty but the guides even gave us a lesson on how the zeitgeist (or spirit of the ages) influenced the architecture of the palace



A wifie outside the mammoth exhibition centre in Seoul.

buildings. We also saw how closely knitted and associated Korean and Chinese cultures and ideas were. Visiting Hongdae was fun. There were a multitude of shops and food outlets, most of which were cheaper than the other 'prime' areas. We had a go at street foods, burger stalls and ice-cream parlours! It also gave us time to see what Korean teens do on weekends. After all, Hongdae is known as a congregation point for youth, urban arts and music culture. The influence of western culture was pretty visible in the street music performed.

YOU GUYS EVEN WENT TO THE DEMILITARISED ZONE?

It was definitely an eye-opening experience as we managed to go real close to the North Koreans as well as 'crossing' the border. We understood and could even feel the tension, the severity of the current issues and the threats. We found out at the conference that many South Koreans desire to see unification and an end to the Korean War which has only been 'paused'—there was no peace treaty signed between the two zones, just a disarmament agreement.

BACK TO SERIOUS WORK, HOW WAS THE CONFERENCE?

The opening ceremony was spectacular as it was a good mesh up of heritage and modernism thorough art and dance. There was this sand art segment that resembled the piece we did for the Youth Model ASEAN Conference last year. Our itinerary was packed but it was definitely a fun-filled one with plenty of meaningful journeys.

WHICH COUNTRY DID YOU GUYS REPRESENT AT THE



At the restored Namdaemun Gate which was badly damaged by a fire in 2008.

Night at the N Seoul Tower, also known as the Namsan Tower or Seoul Tower, a communication and observation tower located on Namsan Mountain in central Seoul.

CONFERENCE?

The SP delegation was allocated Papua New Guinea (PNG) as the country to be represented in WorldMUN. We were split into teams to represent PNG in the large assemblies and the various special committees such as the Disarmament and International Committee and the UN Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

HOW'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF SOUTH KOREA AFTER THE TRIP?

It's changed drastically. Seoul's subway system exceeded our expectations. It was very efficient. This vast improvement from just a decade or two ago greatly reflected the 'Miracle on the Han River', a term frequently used to describe the post-war economic growth. A lot of the economic miracle was attributed to third President Park Chung Hee. We learnt that the economic progress was made possible by not just the Chaebols (usually family-owned business conglomerates) or business giants, but also the hard work and resilience of the South Koreans. During

Editor's note: Besides Aaron and Siak Wei, the other four SP students on the trip were Ching Jing (Diploma in Food Science and Technology); Karlo (Diploma in Architecture); Kuang Hong (Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness) and Sharon (Diploma in Biomedical Science).



Taking a stroll at Itaewon, a popular shopping and eating district.

Work and Play In Melbourne

Julian Sng's (Diploma in Biotechnology) adventures to Melbourne began with him nearly missing his flight!

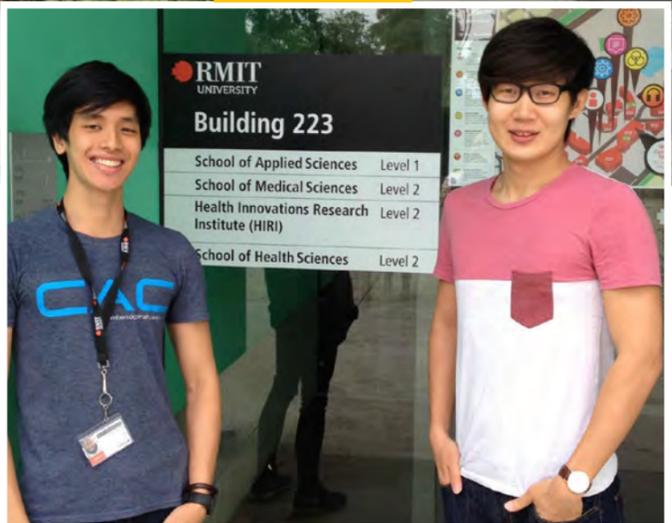


The famous Flinders Street Station.



The Lorch Ard Gorge! Legend has it that it used to be a huge cave before the ceiling, well, caved in.

Why are kids looking at me funnily after I posed?



I think my lecturer thinks well enough of me, even though I may not be the best, or even one of the better one amongst her students. She actually created an opportunity for me to do a ten-week long internship at RMIT University in Melbourne, assisting a professor in his research work!

Or maybe she just wanted me out of her sight...hmm...

Boy, where do I begin?

Firstly, the trip didn't begin on a positive note! My classmate and fellow intern to RMIT University, Sun Wenhao (final year, DBT) and I nearly missed the flight! Who knew duty-free shopping would be so addictive? When we finally landed in Melbourne Airport, it was about 3pm Australian Time in the middle of summer. The temperature was a hot and dry 42 degrees Celsius. I was pretty sure I could feel myself melting under the scorching heat (unlike Singapore's humidity, you don't sweat. You just bake in your own skin).

Bad start aside, it got better! After navigating through the confusing transit system in Melbourne, we got to go around the different farmers markets, such as Victoria's Market and Preston Market, where we did most of our daily grocery shopping. That's right, ladies. We men can do groceries and cook too.

How could we miss Chadstone Shopping Centre, the biggest mall in the Southern Hemisphere? We even ended up in the zoo! These non-research side trips were only a small part of our bigger adventure in Melbourne. We went to many more places where the sceneries was just breath-taking...albeit hot, hot, hot!

We were given the first week to get used to Melbourne; take in the sights and adapt to the weather. Before going, my family told me to

pack warmer clothes because, and I quote, "Melbourne's known to have four seasons in a day".

Naïvely, I only brought one jacket. I wished I'd brought my entire wardrobe because there were days when the temperature dropped to 12 degree Celsius in the middle of the day! Nevertheless, braving the cold during our sightseeing was definitely worth it. The sceneries were breath-taking and awe-inspiring. I'm not just a lab nerd, you know!

On a serious note, the reason for embarking on this overseas internship was to get out of

my comfort zone. Don't get me wrong, those interning in Singapore surely learn a great deal too. They may develop good relationships with the companies or institution they work with, and could even work for them after graduating. At the very least, they can go home to their family and friends after an arduous day.

No such thing in Melbourne, we had to adapt to a new lifestyle! It was just Wenhao and me, and we had to plan days in advance of what we would do at our workplace and during our off days. To me, it was a great experience being able to support myself and plan my own schedule: what to do during the holidays, when to do laundry or even what to cook for lunch the next day. These might seem minor back home, but in a foreign land where you're self-reliant and unsure of a lot of things, planning ahead gives you the assurance you need to carry on with your activities. Especially on days when you're bored and dread the routine, a minor change like what you cook for lunch really makes you appreciate the smaller things in life!

This internship has taught me that planning ahead is important in everything I do. I was asked by my professor to plan an experiment that would last a week, without any instructions

or clear protocols. I felt slightly lost when I received those vague instructions, but thankfully, the lessons in class and the practical lab sessions back in school helped a lot.

Another worthy takeaway is that it taught me the importance of making choices. A lot of us make decisions without thinking deeply. I learned it the hard way when I got scolded in the first week of internship after making a redundant step in the lab, which resulted in me wasting about 30 minutes a day. Seems insignificant, but it adds up. Before you know it, you've wasted nearly three hours a week on doing absolutely nothing! This internship

really helps me examine what I do on a day-to-day basis, and taught me how to eliminate "redundant steps" to prevent wasting time.

A little sour note though. I realised that racism can be everywhere, even in a country where the Chinese population makes up about 10 percent of the total population. There were people who would wind down car windows and shout obscenities at me when I was just minding my own business! That really came as a shocker as I've always regarded Melbourne as an advanced city in both infrastructure and cultural development. I now realise that the world is a harsh place, and you'll have to learn

to adapt and understand that not everyone thinks the same way.



Australians are into Phở right now and nearly every other food outlet is Vietnamese!

Overall, it was a wonderful experience in Australia. It was not just a 10-week internship, being stuck in the lab from morning till night. It was a journey of discovery where I picked up more about the world outside my familiar zone, through real experiences.



Jason taking in the sights at Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco on a bike.



Jason with fellow participant from Singapore, Nanyang Polytechnic student Chew Rong Kang.

Oh Microsoft, If Not For You...

Sometimes, good things come a little late. For Jason Chee, he had to flunk his first year in a Junior College before he realised that Information Technology (IT) was his true calling. On the eve of his JC promotional examinations, he was attending the Windows 8 launch event instead of studying. Consequently, he failed a number of exams and dropped out. But just look at him now!

A few months back, this JC dropout became one of two Singaporean students selected to attend BUILD, a grand, annual Microsoft event for developers held at San Francisco, United States of America (USA) where the IT giant would unveil its latest technologies. These included new ways to develop for Windows, along with demonstrations of new platforms such as HoloLens, a smart glass accessory that overlays the real world with holograms, and the Azure Cloud platform.

This extremely-hard-to-get-an-invite-to event was attended by thousands of IT professionals from all over the world, with 50 places reserved for students worldwide. Jason, a final-year **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)** student, was one of the lucky 50

selected to attend, along with an IT student from Nanyang Polytechnic. He even got to speak with Mr Satya Nadella, the CEO of Microsoft, at the event!

Jason would have missed this lifetime opportunity if he hadn't chosen SP after failing his JC1 exams. In his own words, he failed all subjects spectacularly, except for General Paper where he topped his cohort!

He wished a crystal ball had told him to join SP after the 'O' levels. However, everyone else from his alma mater, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), was heading to a JC, and he decided to join the herd. He quickly became bored with economics, the sciences and couldn't focus on his subjects. Boredom led him

to dabble with creating apps and this self-discovered talent took priority over everything else. He joined a Microsoft competition where the staff saw his enthusiasm and asked him to join the Microsoft Student Partners (MSP) programme. At that time, the prestigious programme comprised only of students from the polytechnics and universities. Jason became the first JC student in MSP, although his time in JC was short-lived.

Through the copious amount of time spent in Microsoft, he got to know a Technical Evangelist, an SP alumnus, who encouraged him to join the country's first polytechnic. He thought, "Hey, this guy was from SP, so it must be good." His father also echoed the same, "Go to poly, it's more hands-on." He came to SP to check out the campus and remembered chatting with then Director of the **School of Digital Media and Information Technology (DMIT)**, Ms Georgina Phua, and DIT course manager, Ms Leong Fong Sow. They both convinced him.

app ecosystem and best of all, gets paid for it!

Five semesters on, and despite his time and commitment to Microsoft, Jason scored an accumulative GPA of 3.969. He's well on his way to graduating as one of SP's top students.

He made a second trip to USA in July where the top MSPs from each country (there are 12,000 MSPs worldwide, by the way) met in Microsoft's Headquarters in Seattle. They discussed the best strategies for handling MSPs, while learning new things about Microsoft first-hand and interacting with those who made Microsoft what it is today. There, he had the opportunity to watch the Imagine Cup World Finals live: an annual competition showcasing the best in Microsoft's platforms where student teams compete in three categories – World Citizenship, Innovation and Games.

At SP, he continued his close relationship with Microsoft, continuing as a MSP, then progressing to become the Singapore Programme Lead. This means all 60 MSP from the polytechnics and universities have to call him 'Boss'. He then became a Technical Evangelist where he builds up the Microsoft

Jason's memorable SP journey would not have been possible without the support of his close friends from DIT. He said, earnestly, "I couldn't have gotten where I am today without the support of my close friends and course mates Jun Ao, Leo, Benjamin, Zachary and Gabriel. The bonds that I've made with them and the SP environment – all of these have brought me to this point."

He also credits an interest group called SEED (Share, Explore, Enrich, Develop) headed by lecturer Mr Tan Hu-Shien, who works tirelessly to bring out the best in his students.



Serious business inside...the BUILD Conference held in Moscone Center in Seattle.

"The SEED family learns together, codes together, competes together and have fun together," said Jason. The group had participated in the LTA (Land Transport Authority) Transport and Youth Hackathon, clinching the People's Choice Award and even showcased their solution to Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong.

When asked about what's next, Jason says he looks forward to pursuing further studies in university, after which he hopes to join his dream company, Microsoft, fulltime.

SEATTLE, ROUND 2

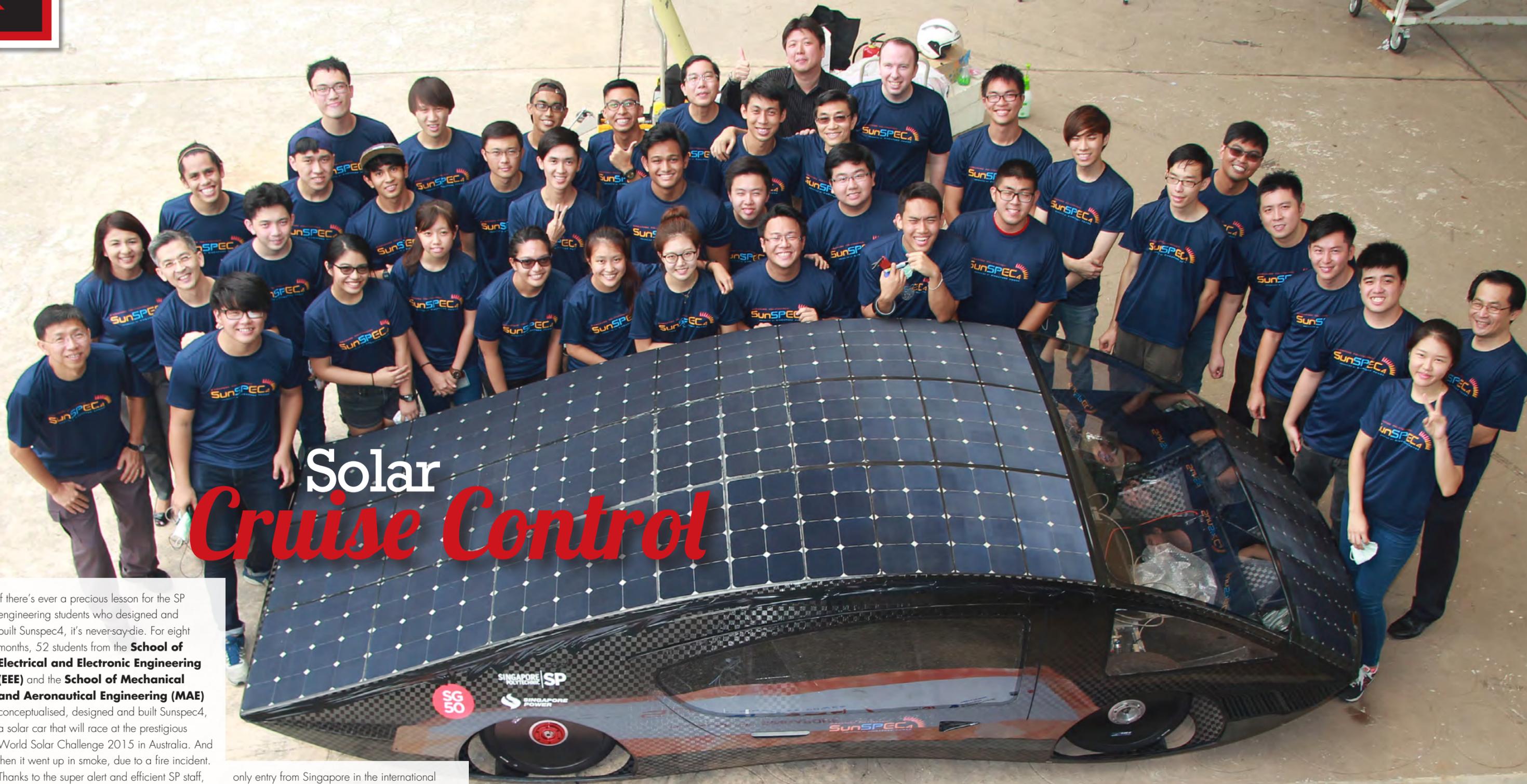
Just as quickly as he'd left Seattle, Jason was whisked there again to assist with the Microsoft's Imagine Cup event. Unbeknownst to him, he was named the Worldwide Microsoft Student Partner (MSP) of the Year by Microsoft Corp Headquarters during the event, which also coincided with the MSP Summit 2015 and was attended by 55 top MSPs from around the world. That's an all-expenses paid USA trip twice in three months!

The inaugural award was a pleasant surprise to Jason, as he'd only known about it moments before it was announced. He won, not just for his technical competencies, but also for his involvement in organising hackathons, and volunteering in communities, such as teaching young kids computational thinking skills.

Being a student himself, Jason takes feedback from the MSP programme seriously and provides directions, goals and missions for 60 MSPs here. He aims to provide avenues to share new ideas, and is most passionate about technology among his MSP peers. Don't know how to use Microsoft technology and services? Just look for him.

The award comes with a handsome US\$2,000 cash money which Jason says he'll kept in the bank for now since isn't anything on his must-buy list. How about a treat for your fellow MSPs, Jason?





Solar *Cruise Control*

If there's ever a precious lesson for the SP engineering students who designed and built Sunspec4, it's never-say-die. For eight months, 52 students from the **School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)** and the **School of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (MAE)** conceptualised, designed and built Sunspec4, a solar car that will race at the prestigious World Solar Challenge 2015 in Australia. And then it went up in smoke, due to a fire incident. Thanks to the super alert and efficient SP staff, the fire was put out even before the Civil Defence team arrived. It was heart-breaking for the team, but smiles and spirits returned when a decision was made to rebuild the car. With tremendous support from Singapore Power and SP's Board of Governors, all of them toiled day and night for four weeks to resurrect Sunspec4.

Gleaming under the sun, Sunspec4 is the first two-wheeler solar car build by SP. It's the

only entry from Singapore in the international competition and will race 3,000 km from Darwin to Adelaide. Competing alongside are teams from other big-name institutions such as University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University. Team SP has competed in previous editions of the race but in a one-wheeler configuration. After this major setback, they're more confident and determined than ever to do well in the race. Don't dare these guys!



Visit To A Former Bombed City



A visit to Ten Bosch Huis, a theme park in Sasebo, Nagasaki, Japan, which recreates the Netherlands by displaying real size copies of old Dutch buildings. Si Yuan and Karthik are fourth and fifth in back row.

Many trips to Japan are organised every year but this one was especially meaningful to a group of 10 Diploma in Aerospace Engineering (DARE) students. They flew to Nagasaki for a six-day exchange programme at Sasebo National Institute of Technology (NIT), an institution founded in 1962 to train engineers. This year, Nagasaki and another Japanese city, Hiroshima, mark the 70th anniversary of atomic bombings by the American Air Force which effectively ended World War Two. Two of them returned with deep reflections of their trip and penned their journals which are reproduced here.

MY NAGASAKI JOURNAL LEE SI YUAN, YEAR 2, DARE

I was excited but a bit worried for this trip because it was my first time visiting Japan and I couldn't speak the language. When I arrived, I realised I had nothing to worry about. Most people in Japan do speak some English. With a few hand gestures, I had no problems ordering food or getting around.

The city of Sasebo is about two hours away from Fukuoka International Airport by car. We stayed at the Green Hotel, a convenient location because it was located just a minute away on foot from the Sasebo train station. During our trip, we visited Sasebo National Institute of Technology, Huis Ten Bosch (a theme park), the Kujuku-Shima National Park, and of course, the Nagasaki Peace Park which houses the atomic bomb hypocentre, and the Atomic Bomb Museum.

One thing about their culture struck me: the Japanese are very serious about everything that they do and if they make any mistake, they become very apologetic. I also feel that most Japanese are extremely well-mannered people, notwithstanding bowing, which is their tradition.

We were invited to tea at the Principal's Office at

Sasebo NIT and also interacted with their students who had previously visited SP in September. Through them, we learned more about their institution and their four main departments offering programmes in mechanical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, control engineering, and chemical and biological engineering.

The institution has an air-conditioned mini factory with equipment ranging from Computerised Numerical Control (CNC) machine tools to laser cutting tools. They used the latter to cut out a souvenir for us to bring back to Singapore, a memento that I found really meaningful.

At the Atomic Bomb Museum, which was really an eye opener, we learned how devastating the atomic bomb was on Nagasaki. It affected them deeply, even till this day. I was surprised and amazed to learn that the gift shop in the Peace Park is run by the atomic bomb survivors.

The trip was an enriching experience for me because I got to experience a different culture while learning about their technology. As the saying goes, "A ship in a harbour is safe, but that's not what ships are built for". I believe in that saying, which was why I signed up for this trip to visit a country that I've never been to before – to

explore, to learn, and to grow.

MY NAGASAKI JOURNAL KARTHIK S/O PRATHABAN, YEAR 2, DARE

The study exchange was an enriching one. From gaining a better understanding of Japanese culture, to getting a perspective of the study environment at Sasebo NIT, there were a multitude of benefits from the trip.

I was particularly moved by how the Japanese carry themselves on a daily basis. Upon arriving at the airport, I noticed that the baggage handlers were all waiting in a single, straight line as the aircraft taxied to the gate. They bowed when the plane came to a halt. This was something new to me and to me, it was a display of pride they had in their jobs. In another instance, I approached a lady in a supermarket, hoping she could recommend a matcha tea brand. Incredibly, she examined each brand and explained each one to me, often pondering and repeating herself to ensure that I really understood what she said.

A noticeable aspect of Sasebo was the placement of buildings which were mostly clustered in very close proximity. It's either packed with building or pure greenery. It gave the impression that



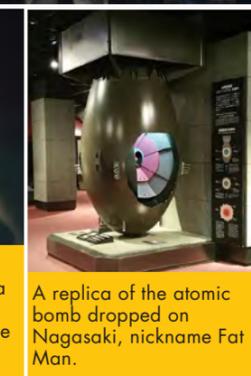
DARE students with their Sasebo National Institute of Technology counterparts.



The hypocentre of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki where the bomb exploded approximately 500 metres above this point.



A famous artefacts in the atomic museum – a clock that stopped at 11:02, the precise time the bomb hit the city.



A replica of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, nickname Fat Man.

residents are very conservative with the amount of space they use in construction. Perhaps this was cultural or being environmentally conscious. Either way, it was certainly a refreshing view. The city's cleanliness was also exceptional.

Sasebo NIT prepared quite the welcome for us, where we had a tea session with the Principal, Dr Mitsuhiro Nakao and got to learn more about the school and Japan itself. We entered a classroom and were unexpectedly welcomed by 30 students! The Japanese students had prepared information about Sasebo in the form of posters and short speeches for us in English. Although it was a struggle for us to communicate properly, we were able to discuss topics of common interests, such as anime, Japanese music, and for me, as a musician, even classical music. I also learned about the engineering courses at Sasebo.

I saw some younger students using a special set of drawing tools to do engineering drawings manually. This was very different from us as we

were introduced to 2D engineering drawings using computer-aided drafting (CAD) software. Eventually, they would go on to use software to design in 3D, with programs such as Autodesk Inventor. However, this initial process of manual drawing encourages them to gain a strong foundation.

We also got to see their lab equipment, laser cutters and milling machines that were extremely advanced. The microscopes and material inspecting equipment cost millions of dollars. It was clear that the institution devoted a lot of funding to its facilities.

I also learned from the trip that simple innovations can be put to greater use. Over there, I saw a robot that could hold and balance a rod vertically, like a human hand. But this simple invention can even be applicable to rocket engineering, where the same programming would be used to prevent a rocket from going off course during flight!

The students live in reasonably-sized dormitories, with a common bathing area. Everyone eat the same food, unlike us who can choose what we want at the food courts.

Visiting the atomic bomb memorial park and museum was a partly dreadful but awareness-infusing experience. As the peace ambassador took us around the different monumental tributes by different countries to Japan, she told us how the victims of the blast and the radiation suffered. Seeing the effect of the blast inside the museum was a horrifying experience.

Another highlight for me as an engineering student was the trip to the museum at the Nagasaki Shipyard. Though the museum wasn't huge, the displays were fascinating, ranging from ships to components such as turbine engines and windmill blades. Each display had a story to tell about the development of this spectacular shipyard, and the pride this massive company had over its products.

The journey was an extremely fruitful one. I enjoyed every aspect of the trip, from learning about the education system, to the warmth of the Japanese people. I will be back, for sure, perhaps to a different city and during a different climate, for a different purpose. I am extremely grateful to SP for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



The Rotman Experience

Chilling in Toronto Islands, a chain of small islands just offshore from the Toronto Centre.



What's Toronto without the Niagara Falls? SP students get wet with the most awesome waterfall in the world.



Coffee's probably available, but it's not a café. It's the Centre for Social Innovation with its open and cosy décor.



Kristal Lee (right) and course mate Jasmine Tan with Mr Roger Martin, the guru for Design Thinking.

As if it wasn't crowded enough, 33 SP students thronged the very populous city of Toronto City for 17 days. Fortunately, they mostly stayed indoors, within the campus of Rotman Management School at the University of Toronto, Canada. The final-year Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID) students were on a thinking mission: Design Thinking to be exact. And who better to steal the knowledge from than the institution that invented it? Kristal Lee and Rehan share their takeaways from the thinking trip.

THE SERIOUS SIDE KRISTAL LEE JIALIN

Just two words to describe my Rotman experience? Unexpectedly rewarding. I went to Toronto with the mindset that I would be embarking on yet another Design Thinking project, albeit now it was with a Canadian client instead of a local one. Therefore, I was excited for what the experience could offer me as a business design student.

Editor's note: In DBID, students learn how to apply Design Thinking process to innovate creative ideas for businesses that range from banks to healthcare and consumer products.

When I arrived in Toronto, on the first official day of the program, I instantly thought, "This

is different. This is going to be great." As an individual who underwent the Singaporean education system, I've always wondered how the Western education system works. Generally, the system in Rotman was more open-minded and supportive. The program focuses on optimism when coming up with solutions and taught me to think from a perspective that I would never have thought of. In the past, I would weigh the pros and cons before coming to a decision. However, through the Rotman program, I learned that, perhaps, listing out all the pros and combining them to create a new solution could be a better idea.

The Rotman program genuinely surprises me, in a great way. I learnt new tools that complemented my existing design-thinking

capabilities. For example, the Strategy Cascade thinking was helpful in detailing out every single aspect required of a holistic strategic plan. It provided me with a clearer vision as to how my team's concept integrated with the client's existing business strategy and gave me a clear direction to work towards. It was clear-cut, to the point, and definitely a tool that I would use, not only for my future school projects, but when I embark on various projects upon entering the workforce too.

Time management is another key takeaway from the trip. Usually, I'm given the duration of a term to complete my design thinking projects in school. For a major client project, I'm given an entire academic year, according to the various design thinking phases. However, in

Toronto, I had to complete the same amount of work within the span of only two weeks! This simply means that time management is key and I had to be responsible for my own time. The biggest challenge I faced there was the needs mining phase, which normally takes my team around two or three days to complete. During my time at Rotman, I was given only a couple of hours to do so. It was stressful, but the experience was beneficial. It pushed me beyond my preconceived limits and allowed me to grow mentally as an individual.

We also made various field trips to places such as the Centre for Social Innovation, MaRS Discovery Centre and Market 707. These visits provided me with different perspectives towards how social innovation could be carried out. There were also talks by Rotman's design thinking gurus—Roger Martin, Heather Fraser and Diane Hampton. They gave insights into their careers and life experiences and were inspirational as well as motivational for me.

THE FUN SIDE MUHD REHAN BIN MOHD MAHADI

This two-week immersion programme will definitely go down as the highlight of my three years in SP. We were tasked to work with FoodShare, a 30-year-old non-profit organisation that works with communities and schools to deliver healthy food and food education to schools in the Ontario area to boost their knowledge in food literacy. Not only did we learn about the organisation and its mission, we also learnt a lot from the interviews that we conducted with the local students on the current school food landscape and the challenges they experienced in adopting a healthy food habit.

At the end of the program, all 33 of us budding business designers crafted and presented radical and user-centred solutions that could possibly help FoodShare expand their mission. These solutions included a complete redesign of current school cafeterias in Toronto to make them more attractive and

conductive for students to eat in, and also the development of an app that empowers students to create their own lunch meals with healthy ingredients. FoodShare was definitely blown away by our solutions and they're actually considering to roll out some of these ideas soon!

From this experience, I've benefitted a lot as a business design student. I picked up new tools and honed my current skills through this integrated client project. It also made me realise that I can do something positive for the society with the skillsets I possess. As a business student, the endgame is all about money and profits. But as a business design student, the creation of user-centred solutions is not only meaningful but also a worthwhile experience, as we can help overcome challenges that firms or community groups may face.

That said, the trip was not all about doing projects. Work hard, play hard right?

Niagara Falls was such a memorable experience! All of us plus our lovely lecturers took a 90-minute coach tour to Toronto just to catch the awesomeness of this amazing waterfall.

We also visited the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto. In this innovation haven where like-minded people with a social mission come together, we were exposed to various startups and individuals who worked together to innovate for the public good. The space itself was really inspiring as it adopts an open concept to promote interaction and collaboration. This was certainly an eye-opener for a business design student like myself as I'm able to see the real life applications of my skillsets. Not only that, I could also see a little further into my future prospects and it inspired me to carry out side projects of my own.

Last but not least, we visited institutions like the Ontario College Art Design and the University of Toronto. These opened our eyes to the possibility of furthering our education after getting our SP diploma.

Study Hard, Serve Hard



SP's vision says we are a caring community, besides being inspired learners, serving with mastery. You think we don't walk the talk? From your very first instance of community service – the compulsory Flag Day during orientation week – to signing up for community projects voluntarily, the opportunities to care for the less privileged are aplenty. But how does one grow from these experiences? What good will a community service project do to you? **SPiRT** speaks with six recent graduates on their study hard, serve hard legacy and how the process didn't even leave a dent in their GPA. Flip the pages!



Great fun together!

WHY SERVE?

GO SERVE provides opportunities for SP students and staff to play an active role in being socially responsible and caring global citizens. The initiative sees students and staff

getting involved with local and overseas community projects.

YOUTH COMMUNITY LEADERS (YCL) are the ambassadors of Go Serve. The first batch was inaugurated in 2014, and the

group has since led several projects that include helping elderly residents in our HDB estates and refurbishing school buildings in the villages of countries such as China, Cambodia and Indonesia.

These community projects provide experiential and service learning opportunities for SP students. They are also excellent platforms for character building and leadership development. Many of them woke out of their comfort zones through participating in these

projects, which made them re-examine their perceptions and priorities, and appreciate what they have.

At the end, Go Serve hopes to make SP students a cut above the rest with their strong

sense of social responsibility, living up to the SP vision of "a caring community of inspired learners committed to serve with mastery".

Nico Lim
DIPLOMA IN BANKING
AND FINANCE

When I was selected for the Youth Community Leaders (YCL) programme, I didn't really have the confidence to be a leader and thought that I wouldn't be able to cope due to the heavy academic load of my final year in SP. With these perceptions sneaking into place, I felt that the YCL journey wouldn't work out well for me.

Interacting with the elderly was also something that I'm not entirely comfortable with, even though I've always wanted to do so. After being a part of the YCLs, I had the chance to learn from my peers and improved on my interaction skills.

Another great exposure was the Befriender Project where we visited our assigned families and interacted with the elderly in Commonwealth on a weekly basis. From this project, I gained more confidence and it made them happy as much as it made me happy.

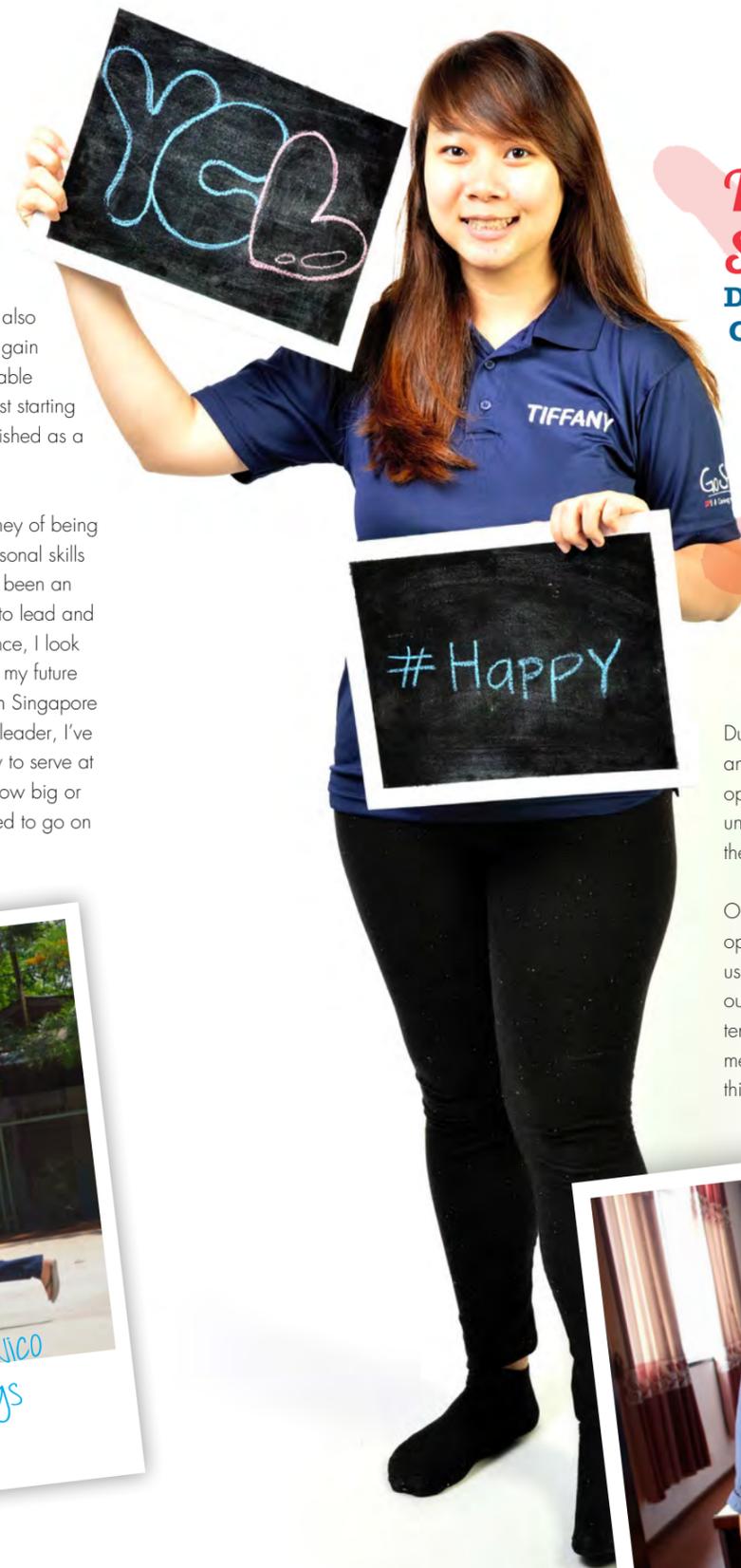
I was also a student co-leader for a YEP project to Dalat, Vietnam. I felt extremely accomplished as I got to see all my members taking home beautiful memories from the trip. I also learnt how to communicate effectively with people from different backgrounds. Knowing that my every action affects my team's performance gave me the motivation to do better for my members. The responsibility of being a role model isn't easy as I had to balance the roles of being a leader and a friend carefully.



A kicking good time with Nico in Vietnam. Soccer brings everyone together!

Maintaining a positive attitude was also necessary, as everyone would only gain strength from a leader with dependable qualities. Contrary to when I was just starting out, I now feel much more accomplished as a leader.

Looking back on this year-long journey of being an YCL, my leadership and interpersonal skills have indeed sharpened greatly. It's been an honour to be given this opportunity to lead and inspire my peers. With this experience, I look forward to leading other students in my future university to do community service in Singapore and overseas. Other than being a leader, I've gained great insight and learnt how to serve at wherever I may be. Regardless of how big or small the impact may be, I'm inspired to go on and serve the community.



Tiffany Chua Shi Hui
DIPLOMA IN APPLIED
CHEMISTRY WITH
PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCE

One issue I've faced since young is my explosive temper. Be it towards friends, family members or even teachers, I tend to lose my temper easily. It was only after I entered SP and went for my first Overseas Community Service (OCS) trip to Dujiangyan, China last year, did things change.

During trip preparatory meetings, conflicts and arguments often occurred due to differing opinions. But as I wasn't one to back down, an unhealthy working relationship formed between the members and myself.

One day, we were asked to give honest opinions about our fellow members in order for us to improve our teamwork. Seeing them point out my anger management issues and how I tend to disregard the feelings of others struck me deeply, and I was determined to change this side of me.

When I returned to school, I was selected to be one of the Youth Community Leaders (YCL) by my delegation leaders. During my one-year stint as an YCL, I had a chance to participate in another OCS project as a student co-leader in Jin Tang, China. For this trip, I made sure that my emotions were under control and to be more aware of others.

My attempts to make these changes gave me one of the most satisfying outcomes. On the last few nights in Jin Tang, we wrote words of appreciation for one another. It was humbling and rewarding to read each heartfelt message written by my team members to me.

What got me tearing was when I realised from the feedback that my explosive temper was no longer an issue and that the change was even apparent to those who had known me earlier.

It appears that all the changes I had been trying to implement had worked and I could see the difference in myself. These changes would definitely help in my future working life as well.

My journey as an YCL has been worthwhile and I'm now involved in more local community services. As we give back to the community, we're also learning. These experiences are incredibly fulfilling.



Tiffany enjoys helping the elderly, as part of her overseas service of Jin Tang I, in China.

Lin Xun Jian DIPLOMA IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

When I first entered SP, I had no goal or aim. I went to poly only to attend lectures and returned home straight afterwards. I seldom talked to my course mates and I became a "loner".

As the first semester drew to a close, I spent the six-week vacation reflecting on what it should have been. It made sense. I decided that I wanted to make the most out of my poly life and get to know more friends beyond the lecture theatres and workshops.

In September 2012, I came across an email calling for students to join an overseas community service project to China. As this was a good platform to start making new friends, I decided to sign up for it. I had nothing but a gut feeling that it would be worth it if I made it through the interview.

I was chosen to be part of Team Dujiangyan 5. Together with 13 new friends, we flew to Chengdu, China and conducted two weeks of

community service in the village of Dujiangyan. It sparked off my interest in serving the community and I realised that no matter how small our efforts are, they can make a huge impact on people's lives. I was determined to make full use of my time in SP to contribute more to the society. My passion for serving the community was recognised when I was nominated to be part of the Youth Community Leaders (YCL) in my third year.

Being part of the YCL team is a milestone for me. I never thought that I would make it this far and I wanted to inspire more peers to join me in doing community work. I believed that with the support of my peers in YCL, we would be able to achieve much more than what we can individually.

Some of these projects I worked on included the CCA Carnival, Go Serve Day and Go Serve Week. As a student, I am used to receiving guidance and instructions from the staff and lecturers. It was strange having it the other way around as I was giving instructions instead for the mentioned projects. It certainly increased my confidence.

One of the highlights was the painting project we did together with the SP Management Team for several elderly residents in the Commonwealth estate. Minister Chan Chun

Sing dropped by to see how we were doing and thanked us for helping the residents. I had the privilege of showing him around and could tell he was impressed by our efforts. However, what made it more memorable was the smiles on the faces of our elderly friends when they saw the completed result.

Within this year, I've gained so much. YCL has given me many opportunities to enhance my soft skills and character. I'm ready to take on more responsibilities and leadership roles in my future.



Xun Jian showing Minister Chan Chun Sing their Go Serve efforts at the Commonwealth Estate.

Nur Amal Radiah DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY

At some point in our lives, we'll be asked by someone or even ourselves, what our purpose in life is. For me, that was a question I often pondered over. Knowing your purpose in life adds value to it, and I wanted that.

I always thought that one's purpose in life should be something grand or specific. Eventually, I realised that that may not be the case.

During my first overseas community service project over a year ago, I had a sudden insight and my mindset changed ever since. The trip was short, but I felt that somehow, what we had done impacted others. I met many great individuals and like-minded people with the heart to serve, and it certainly motivated me to do more.

After returning to Singapore, I wanted to inspire others. And my chance came with the invitation to be a Youth Community Leader (YCL). However, I was petrified when I asked to emcee at a local community service event. Being shy and reserved, it was close to

impossible for me to stand in front of a large crowd and speak to people I had never met.

Despite this, I didn't want my fears dictate my actions and I wanted to give myself a chance. Hosting that event was challenging but I did my best. As long as I believe in myself, I know that I can go further.

I also had the opportunity to co-lead an overseas community service project. It was different from when I joined as a participant, but equally meaningful. While the scope of the project didn't vary much, I held more responsibilities as a student leader. My team consisted of students around my age or older; I had to learn how to manage my leadership role by knowing when to draw a line between being a friend and a leader.

Coordinating the team wasn't as easy as I had hoped. The planning and preparation process was definitely made easier by the guidance I had gotten from the Go Serve team. The



Radiah in Laos, playing with the local boys!



project had its highs and lows and gave me many opportunities to learn and grow.

My journey as an YCL has been a particularly enriching one. I'm glad to have been able to serve, improve and find my purpose in life.

Nicole Wong
DIPLOMA IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

When I first entered SP, I never thought that I would become a leader.

During my first year, there was a recruitment drive for volunteers to participate in an Overseas Community Service project. Not knowing what to expect, I submitted my name anyway and went for the trip. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I had made—I returned home with the motivation to continue serving the community.

Later on, I was offered the chance to become a Youth Community Leader (YCL). With no prior leadership experiences, I was hesitant to accept the position. But I overcome my concerns as it was a rare opportunity to learn and experience community service from another angle.

As an YCL, I met many like-minded peers who shared the same passion for community service. We organised bonding sessions and camps to cultivate our leadership skills and got to know each other better. We laughed, we talked,

and we learnt from each other along the way.

Co-leading an overseas community service project to Srok, Cambodia, was the biggest event of my entire YCL journey. From planning the recruitment drive for interested participants, to wrapping up the project, and the post-trip sharing session by the group; this six-month journey was not all smooth-sailing, and there were many challenges. But it was worth every bit of hard work as I met the objectives I set and gained more than what I could ever imagine.

Not only did the YCL experience give me the chance to meet new friends, it gave me the confidence which I once lacked. I'm extremely grateful for all the opportunities given to me throughout this journey as they had shaped me into a much better person. It was a journey of no regrets.



It's hard to spot Nicole, because she's hard at work, painting a wall for memories in Srok, Cambodia.



Fong Xin extends a helping hand at the Befriending Project in the Commonwealth Estate.

Tan Fong Xin
DIPLOMA IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

With no expectations, I participated in an overseas community service project (OCS) to Dujiangyan three years ago. But to my surprise, it was a life-changing experience that gave me the chance to rediscover myself. Before this trip, I only focused on completing tasks. My teammates have told me that I should not be overly preoccupied with outcomes, but I never listened.

It was through the service programmes that I learnt to enjoy the learning process. From giving lessons to children to interacting with the handicapped and elderly, I learnt to be adaptable and to be thankful for small victories.

Back in Singapore, even though I struggled to manage my academic and committee duties in the SP Red Cross, I was motivated to commit my time and effort to community service. I was closest to Granny Lin during my service in St Luke's Eldercare at Tampines. She always greeted me with a smile like my grandmother does, asking if I've eaten and patting me gently while saying, "辛苦你了", which means "it must have been a tiring day for you". These little actions and words touched me greatly.

When I started the Youth Community Leaders (YCL) programme, I tried to do everything by myself and worried over minute details. Slowly, I began to place my trust in my teammates and respective tasks were completed in time. As the saying goes, "no man is an island". I've learnt to be a leader and a team player too.

Last year, the team also engaged in a year-long befriender project with the elderly residing in Commonwealth. I learnt that caring for the ageing population requires much effort and work. They are the ones who had toiled to build a better Singapore and we should do what we can for them now. I was fortunate to have befriended Granny Lee Yoke Seam. We had endless conversations while I used ointment to massage her knee to relieve her arthritic pain. I really enjoyed her company and hope she did too.

Looking back, these experiences taught me to be more patient, tolerant and considerate. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Go Serve Team.

Volunteering is not a short-term commitment and it may take years to see the fruits of labour. But with these amazing experiences, I'm well-prepared to continue on the journey.





Wong Ay Shyuan
ELECTRICAL VIOLINIST
(GRADUATED IN 2013)

Wong Ay Shyuan, better known by her stage name, V'bel, graduated from DMAT in 2013 as one of the course's first SPear artistes. A gifted musician, Ay Shyuan picked up the violin at the age of 5 and performed extensively at various events at a young age. The favourite part of her studies was the DMAT training in writing songs and composing music. Upon graduating, she launched her debut album at The Coliseum at Hard Rock Hotel along with other SPear artistes. Ay Shyuan is currently the protégé of violinist Qian Zhou, who is Head of Strings at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Check out her amazing works at www.soundcloud.com/vapostrophebel.



Khairul Ridzwan

YEAR 3 DMAT STUDENT AND SPEAR ARTIST

Music's not just a hobby, it's a career path for Khairul, ever since the day his father bought him his first guitar in Secondary One. He taught himself to play chords, and worked his way up to strumming covers of popular songs on Youtube. However, Khai, as he's affectionately known, felt that self-learning would only take him so far, and decided to enrol in DMAT. He's never looked back since. As a DMAT student, Khairul picked up music theory, goes through pitch training and, in his favourite module, learns to write songs. Khai feels that the connections he's made with his seniors, who are already working in the music industry, gives him a head start in pursuing his music career. A dedicated singer and guitarist, Khairul has plans to release a single on Youtube soon.

Beth Yap

MUSICIAN AND FREELANCE COMPOSER
(GRADUATED IN 2014)

Beth grew up in a musical family which often sing together at gatherings. As a child, she would come up with songs on the way to her grandmother's house. She grew to realise her flair for songwriting, while teaching herself the guitar with help from her father, a guitar teacher. DMAT equipped Beth with the skills necessary to become an all-rounded musician. Some of her favourite modules were composing, musicianship and music arrangement. As part of DMAT's pioneer batch of SPear artistes, she was in a group called Formalisms, and wrote music under the supervision of DMAT course chair, Mr Michael Spicer. Upon graduation, Beth worked as an assistant soundman for Mediacorp for a year and is now in the midst of producing an album. She also performs at public events under the stage name "bittymacbeth". Tune in to Beth's works at www.soundcloud.com/bittymacbeth.

A Decade

of DMAT

How better to celebrate SP's Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) 10th birthday than with a rocking good party to enchanting performances by talented musicians-to-be, and graduates who've made it in the local music scene?

From just 40 students in its first semester, DMAT is now one of Singapore's most well-known and popular music diploma courses – it's constantly oversubscribed every semester! Over the past decade, DMAT has helped almost 400 aspiring musicians find their rhythm and groomed outstanding alumni in all corners of the music industry.

SPiRiT caught up with DMAT's rising stars and graduates, currently pursuing their dream careers.

Kaela Chua

YEAR 3 DMAT STUDENT
AND SPEAR ARTIST

Kaela first heard about DMAT in 2012 when she participated in DMAT's Music Fiesta, an annual immersion programme for aspiring musicians—she's been playing the piano since kindergarten. Her (then) DMAT seniors recognised her musical talents and encouraged her to join the course. For Kaela, SP's a second home. DMAT's relatively small cohort means knowing everyone, while friendly lecturers provided her with great support, often attending her gigs. Currently, she's doing her internship at recording label and production company, United Records, where she arranges songs and provides backup vocals. Inspired by female songwriters like Lana Del Rey and Birdy, she hopes to become a singer-songwriter.



Jerry Poh
FREELANCE MUSIC PRODUCER
(GRADUATED IN 2013)

As a young boy, Jerry was fascinated and inspired by the magic of Disney movie soundtracks. After completing Piano Grade 8 in secondary school, where he was the student conductor for his school's concert band, Jerry enrolled in DMAT as it taught both musicianship and audio technology. His favourite part of DMAT: getting to know different kinds of people, many of who have become close friends. Jerry's now serving NS, but still finds time to compose and arrange music freelance, even starting his own music production service. He's also the resident composer for V'bel, and plays the keyboard for local Chinese rock band, Little Fellas. Check out Jerry's music works at www.soundcloud.com/jerry Pohmusic.



Clockwise from left: Jerry with his V'bel band members (Melvin Cyril, Gabriel Hoe and Joon Lei).



DMAT's course chair, Mr Michael Spicer (Front row, centre), with his group of talented final-year DMAT students who helped prepare the evening's programme line-up and logistics.



But first, let me take a selfie! Winnie (in the middle) together with the Digital Team at the medal-awarding victory stage at the OCBC Aquatic Centre.



Observe my cool pose and lanyard. I HAVE THE POWER!

Seeing the SEA Game Live

Behind every close-up of displayed ab muscles at swim events and gleeful taunting by opposing athletes and spectators alike, was an ant farm of 17,000 Team Nila volunteers. While they splintered their fingers to the bone, we salivated over the... erhm, energetic prowess of athletes? Nursing her bruised knuckles, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM) student and SPiRiT writer Winnie Goh shares her experience volunteering as a digital content producer for the SEA Games.

Story contributed by **Winnie Goh, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM), Class of 2016.**

Volunteering for the SEA Games was a little too much like signing up for torture for my comfort! As Digital Content Producers (a role that thankfully complimented my diploma), we were tasked with generating media content for Game coverage: articles, social media posts, you name it. I love writing and I'm always up for a quick chitchat (another reason why I'm in DTVM), but interviewing athletes and working with media professionals was terrifying! Why would a gold medallist even want to give an 18-year-old volunteer the time of day?

We signed up in November 2014. What followed after was a series of centralised

trainings, test events and venue familiarisations. That's how long it takes to prepare for a large-scale event like the SEA Games: at least six months of preparation for volunteers alone.

Veteran sport columnist Godfrey Robert (from The New Paper) hinted this during our training: "Where else can you find a wealth of human emotions other than sports journalism?"

He was right. During the Games, I saw plenty of emotions; apprehension from retiring Thai

swimmer Natthanan Junkrajang, hope from SEA Games debutante, Singaporean Christie Chue (who won her first Gold in the Women's 4x200m Swim Relay Event) and the volunteers' tears, when SEA Games ended.

When interviewing a veteran swimmer like Natthanan Junkrajang, soon-to-be coach of the Thai swimming team and defending champion of many a swim relay, do you panic or freak out? I did both.

She was graciously accommodating when a fellow content producer and I (coincidentally a first-batch DTVM senior) barged into the training room at the OCBC Aquatics Centre to corner her. Then, we saw local swimming superstars Joseph Schooling and Quah Zhen Wen walk right past us. So much athletic eye candy! Naturally, I surreptitiously took a photo of Joseph Schooling's abs...

Of all the stories I covered at the SEA Games, my favourite wasn't about the athletes. Instead, it was about the unsung crew making the event a success (tooting my own horn much, heh?). What will I miss? I'll miss waking up on the pursuit of a story. I'll miss interacting with athletes from all walks of life. I'll miss the roar of the crowd and the thrill of exhilaration. But most of all, I'll miss the Aquatic Centre and my wonderful colleagues. I'll definitely take this experience with me in my future communication roles.

(Editor's note: Read more about Winnie's expert cornering skills on the SEA Games website)

IN ADDITION TO WINNIE, HER FINAL-YEAR DTVM SENIORS, SHANTEL NEO AND VERA NG WERE ALSO CONTENT PRODUCERS FOR THE SEA GAMES.

Why did you choose to volunteer?

Shantel: I was quite sporty when I was younger but stopped during my 'O' levels and never found the time to continue. Joining the SEA Games felt like I was diving back into the sports I missed.

Vera: I thought it'd be a great experience covering such a huge event. It's a nice

coincidence that it was held in Singapore just as I'm in DTVM, so it felt like I was fated to join.

What were your duties?

Shantel: As a Content Producer, I was creating blow-by-blow social media posts during the matches and races and short articles after the events. Inspiration could come from interesting-looking supporters with drums and costumes, to cheeky articles about coming over to the OCBC Aquatics Centre. Sometimes our questions raised eyebrows as we tried to go beyond the typical "how do you feel about the match" questions.

Vera: Like Shantel, I covered match updates and soft stories: fan pieces, personal athlete thoughts, even articles about the volunteers. Some of us were also selected to update the Twitter feed. I tweeted for the Netball competitions, giving real-time score updates and background information on the players.

What surprised you most about the SEA Games?

Shantel: To see so many people put in so much effort collectively. People from all ages and all backgrounds were coming together and volunteering to give back. When you greet your fellow volunteer at lunch, you can see the joy and excitement in their eyes.

Vera: How fun the stress was! That may sound odd, but I was having fun even while sitting on the edge of my seat, gripping my slippery phone with sweaty palms and neck hurting from constant movement. I liked the first tweeting session so much that I requested to switch shifts with a friend who preferred working on human articles and stories, although my brain would always be fried by the end of the day.



Cameras, laptops and smartphones: all in a day's work for the Digital Team stationed at the OCBC Aquatic Centre. On the walls (far right) are all kinds of info: athlete details, events and juicy gossips... cough cough...eh, info.



Oui, what are you doing?! The Digital Team joins in the hacking! (Winnie in the first row, third from right).

How would you describe your SEA Games experience?

Shantel: Frustratingly amazing! I got to cover water sports like swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and water polo, which were very close to my heart. I eventually learnt to get over the fear of approaching and interviewing people: the worst people could do was say "no", and our fumbles would eventually be forgotten, anyway. When some of our articles went up onto news platforms like AsiaOne, it made our efforts feel worthwhile.

Vera: A daze! It was so quick, one moment we were in training, the next, we were running around OCBC Arena posting articles. Then, it was the Closing Ceremony and everything was over. The amount of experience I gained is definitely the biggest reward. I wouldn't have learnt any of this in normal lessons. Another reward is that despite the hair-pulling, finger-cramping time we had, knowing our articles were being read and our tweets retweeted was the best feeling ever. Not to mention the certificate and goodies we got for being helpful little minions!



From left: Shantel Neo and Vera Ng

Sporting Prowess



Why didn't your mum force you into the pool when you were three years old? By now, you could be Joseph Schooling's biggest pool enemy! We can't stop you from dreaming about being a big sports star. Not until you bump into the real ones – right here in the SP campus, and get your dream smashed! Meet the ASEAN + SP sports stars!



ANN SIM (DAC)

When Ann Sim gets tired looking at numbers, the **Diploma in Accountancy (DAC)** student probably goes to take a stretch – and practise her rhythmic gymnastics moves. We don't know if that's her way to de-stress but it certainly paved the way to her gold medal.

Ann and her teammates had their euphoria moment when their rhythmic gymnastics moves earned them a gold at the SEA Games – the very first rhythmic gymnastics gold medal for Singapore, beating out hot favourites, Malaysia. They performed superbly in the five ribbons, six clubs and two hoops routine to win the gold.

"Rhythmic gymnastics hasn't received as much attention from the public as artistic gymnastics has," said Ann, who's also the team captain. "But I think this will be a turning point," she told The New Paper after her win.

The decision to defer her studies to compete has paid off handsomely for Ann.



AUDREY YONG (DHLFM)

Winning a medal is sweet! But being the first to do so after a long hiatus makes it even sweeter. Yes, it was 26 years ago that Singapore had a gold in windsurfing at the SEA Games. Audrey Yong broke the chain, taking the gold in the women's RSX windsurfing event at SEA Games 2015, beating her Thai rival who won the gold in 2011.

It wasn't all smooth-sailing for the **Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM)** student. She took a year's leave of absence to prepare for the games, and prior to that, was balancing studies with windsurfing. Her good GPA grade is testimony to her ability to do well in both.

The feeling of beating her arch-rival from Thailand was especially ecstatic for Audrey. "It feels really good to beat her this time. I've played second fiddle to her in many races in Asia, including last year's Asian Games, so I was really pumped to win at home," she told The New Paper after her win.

She sure can relax now. How about getting a hotel staycation (and checking out how a hotel operates!)? Chuckles!

Timothy began diving in 2009 and he excelled in the sport so fast that he earned a place to represent Singapore at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG), his first major international outing. The following year, he bagged two bronze medals at the Asian Diving Cup – an individual one and another with Mark, who formed a synchronised diving duo with him after YOG. At the Southeast Asian Swimming Championships last year, they took home a gold and silver medal each.

The pool is his playground, but the sky is his limit!

TIMOTHY LEE (DARE)

How can one love aeroplanes and yet like to dive? It's a rollercoaster of ups and downs! The two don't seem to mix well for most of us, but not for Timothy Lee. The fresh graduate from the **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** enjoys the contradictions.

He and his twin brother Mark, a Republic Polytechnic student, bagged a SEA Games silver in the men's 3m synchronised springboard final. This adds to the string of medals that the duo have won ever since they started diving.



ZOE MUI (DACP)

You'll need a certain chemistry with your body when practising wushu. For Zoe Mui, that chemistry resulted in her clinching the gold in the changquan (women) event at the SEA Games. **The Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science (DACP)** student had a final score of 9.71 and drove her Myanmar rival to second place. She also clinched a silver for the duilian (weapons) event.

It was sweet revenge. Two years ago, she was fourth in the same event held in Myanmar, where she also finished second in the women's duilian (weapons) event.

"Finally, there's a breakthrough, and I can't stop smiling," said the pint-sized Zoe to The New Paper, after collecting her first international gold medal and being enveloped by volunteers, made up of the local wushu fraternity.

Winning the gold felt like a weight off her chest, she said, as she had trained long and hard and still had to overcome her ankle injuries. Glad she found her chemistry both in SP and in wushu!

POL-ITE

The light of Team SP shines again at this season's POL-ITE games, where teams from the polytechnics and ITE compete for sporting glory. Here's an update.

DRAGONBOAT

SP dragonboaters just get better and better. After their clean sweep at the POL-ITE Games last year for the men, women and mixed categories, they fought vigorously and repeated the feat this year. The POL-ITE competition was held under the Singapore Dragon Boat Festival and the team also took part in the tertiary category where they clinched the first Runner-up for Tertiary Mixed (only behind SIM) and second Runner-Up for Tertiary Men (behind SIM and NUS).

The SP Sports Team of the Year winner also triumphed beautifully at the DBS Marina Regatta. For the first time, they became the first polytechnic to win the Overall Champion title in the Tertiary Open category, beating all the other university teams! In addition, the women and mixed teams came in second runner-up in

the Tertiary Women and Mixed races.

Their unending victory was not restricted to just local competitions. Just last month, their fierce padding swept three titles at the Serawak International Dragon Boat Regatta 2015 – International Open Team 12's, International Mixed 12's and International Mixed 22's. Now, we can truly call them regional champions too!



BADMINTON

The women's team emerged second while the men's team took third placing.



TENNIS

Both the men and women teams took second placing.



WATERPOLO

The boys brought home a silver this time.



TABLE TENNIS

The men's team smashed home with a first place win, while the women's came in third.



Catch Me If You Can!

This year's Poly50 upped the ante with new routes and new rules.

An annual tradition dating back to the 1960 Prince Edward Campus days, Poly50 brings students, staff and alumni together in the sweaty solidarity of fun and teamwork. Eye candy aside, it was great to see participants of all ages and fitness levels stomping the ground. Originally, the 50 rounds were done in classroom corridors and muddy turfs around the Prince Edward Campus (the only time you could run in the hallways, track in mud, and not get into trouble!).

This year, the route followed the Admin Building, past SIT @ SP, ending at the new Sports Arena and back. This route came with steeper inclines and a new rule which reduced the previous three exchange zones to two. The resulting 50 laps of 300m sprints per runner left them cramping and gasping for mercy (no gain, no pain right?).

Last year, Poly60 – changed to 60 laps but a merciful 500m in honour of SP's 60's anniversary, was conducted at elevenSq. The only other time this was changed was in 1984: 30 laps for SP's 30th birthday.

Watch out for the next Poly50! How fast will you go?



Try it, punk. I dare you.



The top sprinters! Anticlockwise from top: Team ABC (Student category), TIETANS (Second-time winner, Staff category – Department of Technology, Innovation and Enterprise), Record Breakers (Alumni category)



Cheering from the shade. Thanks guys.





TEDx Toronto
x = independently organized TED event

Post-event success! In addition to DSA, who organises the Summit, the SP Advisory Committee for Education & Course Relations (ACERs) were also on ground to mentor and manage the secondary school attendees. What do they do? Take a peep here: Instagram@sgpolyacers.

Why Should

We Listen To You?

Why do people like Oprah and Warren Buffett matter? Because they're filthy rich? How then, did they become so rich? Because people listened to them? Why did people listen? Because they're popular leadership giants? Consequently, why do we think it's difficult to lead, and why are people embarrassed to be called leaders? These questions were answered at the second SP Youth Leadership Summit, before 600 students from secondary schools and polytechnics, including SP, of course. Organised by the Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations (DSA), the summit invites a speaker who aims to coax the leadership potential out of young adults.

And who better to make the oft eye-rolling talk of leadership more palatable than Mr Drew Dudley, who spoke at the first SP Youth Leadership Summit in 2013. He's the Founder and Chief Catalyst of Nuance Leadership Inc., which helps organisations and individuals develop the leader within. His impressive track record includes founding a leadership development programme at the University of Toronto, and a talk on world-renowned platform TED (Technology, Entertainment,



Am I pretty?
Sure, I'm talking about leadership, but make sure I'm pretty.

Design) that's been viewed almost two million times. Over the last seven years, he's spoken about leadership before the crowd 842 times.

Despite it all, Mr Dudley – or Drew, as he prefers – wants you to know that deep down... waayyy down...he's a dork, just like you and I, complete with an embarrassingly large stuffed penguin collection.

SPRIT (in fellow dorkdom) took notes.

ACCORDING TO DREW: THE SIX STEPS TO EVERYDAY LEADERSHIP

Identify the values that are important to you. Define what they are, to the point where you can explain it when someone asks you suddenly. These values will help define you as a person.

// WE TEND TO FOCUS ON EXTRAORDINARY DAYS AND FORGET THE ORDINARY. BUT THE NUMBER OF EXTRAORDINARY DAYS IN OUR LIVES IS DWARFED BY THE NUMBER OF ORDINARY DAYS. HENCE, WE SHOULDN'T FOCUS ON EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP. THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON EVERYDAY LEADERSHIP. //

IMPACT

What have I done today to recognise someone else's leadership? Are you living your life in a way that makes people smile all the time? FYI, Drew's own definition of impact is "creating moments that cause people to feel as if they are better off for having interacted with you". Avoid describing yourself with "just". It's limiting and gives permission for people to think less of you.

PASSION

The ol' easy-to-say, hard-to-do. Try this: Live or work each day like it's your first time, where everything is fresh, exciting and full of possibilities. Approach every day like an unknown adventure – or delude yourself as best you can.

GROWTH

What have I tried today that I thought might not work but tried anyway? Try to be rejected. No, it ain't crazy talk. Try to do something where you



Fedora game ON POINT.

you're at least building good karma.



Amongst the 600-strong attendance at the summit included invited secondary schools like Jurongville and Yuhua Secondary School.

KINDNESS

What positive thing have I said about someone else today? It feels good to talk smack, but remember, what goes around comes around. You talk about them; they'll talk about you. Spread the good vibes.

SELF-RESPECT

What have I done today to be good to myself?

Because I'm worth it – no, we're not advertising for L'Oréal. All too often, we don't treat ourselves as good as we should. Have that extra slice of cheesecake if you want...just not every time.

might be rejected (like asking to enter the airplane cockpit). Not only will it build thick skin, but when you don't get rejected, the possibilities are endless.

EMPOWERMENT

What did I do today to make it more likely someone else will reach a goal? Be a nice friend or an ally. Sometimes, people remember a friendly face, and they'll try to reciprocate when they can. If not, then

Verdict: everyday leadership is really about being the best you can be every day. Leadership is striving to add value to the lives of others and yourself in a positive way. Embrace what you are and what you can be.

Story by **Mehd Firdaus**, Diploma in Creative Writing For TV and New Media (DTVM), Class of 2016.
Illustrations by **Lynette Neo**, final-year, Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC).



Don't Fear the Fear of Missing Out

Can't say no to that party invitation even though you've got assignments to do? Feeling left out when everyone talks about that new movie you haven't caught yet? You scramble for that phone every time it rings, panic when the battery goes flat; and then panic even more when your backup powerbank goes flat too.

That's FOMO, folks.

WHAT IS FOMO?

The Fear of Missing Out. It's that gnawing feeling of anxiety that something exciting or interesting may be happening elsewhere – and you're not invited.

No? Does this smartphone scenario sound familiar?

You wake up and scroll through the notifications that came in through the night. You take a selfie. Twitter update: Hashtag #iwokeuplikethis. Then it's on to Instagram. Back to Twitter. WhatsApp is next: 40 new notifications! You reply when on the move

and trip over nothing. It's ok, you haven't mastered the synchronised art of texting and walking yet. On the train: Twitter, Instagram, and more WhatsApp. The occasional Facebook check for birthday reminders. Rinse, reply, comment, repeat.

Feeling guilty yet?

Don't be too hard on yourself; it's not entirely your fault. Mr Kevin Menon, Human Behaviour Expert and Regional Director Asia of Davidson Trahaire Corpsych shares with **SPRIT** that FOMO is partially fuelled by connective technology. Mobile devices, data connections

and Wi-Fi are the main culprits.

It saturates youths and young adults (yes, you!) with endless streams of social media updates of people have fabulous times. Lists of "must-see" gigs and movies; "must-visit" destinations and holiday tours. Foods and fitness that you "must-do". It's an esteem-loathing marriage of instantaneous oversharing coupled with the age-old love of comparing oneself against anyone and everyone who cares. Admit it: you live for Instagram Likes, don't you?

"In the past, without mobile devices, this need [of self and self-worth] was largely limited

to one's physical social circle," Mr Menon explains. "Singaporean teens, like in many developed countries, are attached to their mobile devices because it helps them stay connected, distracted and entertained."

If that's not damning enough, a survey conducted in 2014 shows that 52 percent of Singaporeans cannot spend more than 12 hours without the Internet. *Kiasu sia!*

Just a short horror story to brighten up your day: the Journal of Computers in Human Behaviour in 2013 found that students with higher FOMO levels are more likely to be distracted on the road as it affects their ability to self-regulate and focus on what's on hand...not on-hand-mobile-device-in-your-hand, but things like monitoring road traffic, avoiding cars...not falling down stairs...

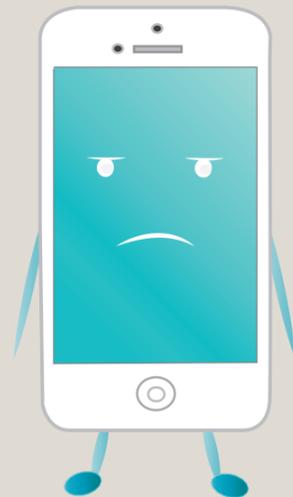
"It can lower productivity, prevent someone from truly experiencing the moment or learning from experiences, interfere with a person's daily functioning; even negatively affect their mood," Mr Menon adds.

So how not to be a slave to your mobile devices?

MOBILE MORE, MOBILE DEVICES LESS

TIP 1:

Avoid using mobile devices while on the move. How many times have someone shoved your slow-moving, thumb-twiddling, head-bowing, social media engrossed self out of the way? And sometimes people do that purposely. Pay attention to your surroundings. Especially for those of you finally legal to begin driving lessons, have some RoadSense!



TIP 4:

Take a hiatus from social media. Yeah, that's right. Challenge yourself to be offline for day, a week...even a month. Steve Corona, former Chief Technology Officer of TwitPic did that. He took himself off social media for a full month and gained some insight into the sites and accounts he was dependant on. Mr Menon concurs, stating that doing so would help one recognise how to use mobile devices in ways that add value to one's life instead of being a hindrance.

TIP 2:

Put your phone away during mealtimes, especially with friends and family. At least pretend to care! To make it more interesting, play a game. Whoever picks up their phone first has to do a forfeit.

TIP 3:

Schedule mobile-device-free periods throughout the day. Instead of checking all notifications, schedule intervals on when to check your phone. This will help to reduce the paranoia of FOMO. During those intervals, reward yourself. Post a selfie, play a game. Give yourself up to 10 minutes to use your devices, then put them away.

TIP 5:

Delete social media apps from your phone or mobile device. Allow yourself to view it from only a single source at a time, such as your computer, instead of cross-platforms. It's relatively easy and painless way to reduce social media use without going cold turkey.



Chill Out

ARTS FIESTA 2015 01 Nov - 29 Nov REFLECTION

SINGAPORE
POLYTECHNIC

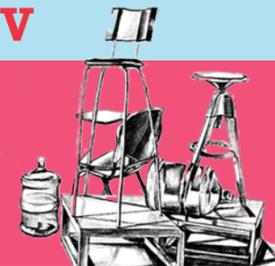
SP

SG
50

Calendar Of Events 1 NOV - 29 NOV

ARTS FIESTA 2015
01 Nov - 29 Nov

**VISUAL ARTS
DISPLAY**
SP Main Library &
Sports Arena



THURSDAY, 29 OCT ONWARDS

**SP STRING
ENSEMBLE**

Classical Renaissance XVI
School of the Arts (SOTA)
Concert Hall



SUNDAY, 1 NOV, 8PM

**SING-CAPO-LAH 50
SP GUITARISTS**

Viva La Guitar III:
Reminiscencia (Acoustic)
SP, The Hall



SG
50

FRIDAY, 6 NOV, 7.30PM

SP DEEJAYS

Silent Disco
SP Main Library,
Event Box



WEDNESDAY, 11 NOV, 4-7PM

**SP THEATRE
COMPASS**

The Looking Glass
SP, Auditorium



SATURDAY, 21 NOV, 7.30PM

**SP CHINESE
ORCHESTRA**

Legacy
SP, Auditorium



SUNDAY, 29 NOV, 7.30PM

ARTS FIESTA OPENING

Halloween Outdoor
Movie Night
SP Multi Purpose Field



FRIDAY, 30 OCT, 6PM

**SING-CAPO-
LAH 50 SP
GUITARISTS**

Viva La Guitar III:
Lumiere Du Jour
(Classical) SP, The Hall



SG
50

THURSDAY, 5 NOV, 7.30PM

**SING-CAPO-LAH
50 SP VOCAL
TALENTS**

A Cappella Night IV
SP, The Hall



SG
50

SATURDAY, 7 NOV, 7.30PM

**SP STRICTLY
DANCE ZONE**

Waves 20: Leap!
Esplanade Theatre



FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13 & 14 NOV, 8PM

SP JAZZ BAND

Improvise VIII
Esplanade
Recital Studio



WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, 25 & 26 NOV, 8PM

STAND OUT WITH A GLOBALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION



PROGRAMME SPECIALISATIONS

MDIS Business School

Accounting & Financial Management
Business Administration
Banking & Finance
Business & Management Studies
Business & Marketing
Finance
International Business
International Marketing
Marketing

School of Engineering

Electrical & Electronic Engineering **NEW**
Electronic Design Engineering
Engineering Management
Mechanical Design Engineering
Mechanical Engineering **NEW**
Product Design Engineering
Project Management **NEW**

School of Fashion & Design

Fashion Design
Fashion Design & Marketing
Fashion Marketing & Branding

School of Health & Life Sciences

Biomedical Sciences
Biotechnology
Health Sciences (Management)

School of Media & Communications

Mass Communications

School of Psychology

Counselling
Psychology

School of Technology & E-Learning

Computer & Network Technology
Computer Forensics
Computer Security
Computing & Information Systems
Digital Media
Information Technology

School of Tourism & Hospitality

Convention & Event Management
International Hospitality Management
International Tourism & Hospitality
Management
International Tourism & Hotel Management
Tourism & Hospitality
Tourism, Hospitality & Events
Management **NEW**
Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Management

79.4% of MDIS graduates surveyed were employed within six months (Graduating classes 2014)

Our University Partners:



University of
Sunderland



UNIVERSITY of
BRADFORD



NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY



University of the
West of England



MDIS Merit Scholarships (Local)* available

*Terms and conditions apply

Southern Cross University (CRICOS Provider: 01241G)

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Cert No.: EDU-2-2016
Validity: 30/12/2014 - 29/12/2018



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Management Development Institute of Singapore
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Celebrating and Growing with the Nation