SPirit

With SP, it's So Possible

WHAT'S YOUR PERFECT CLUB?

Catch a sneak peak at three of our coolest clubs in SP!

JUST FOR Fun

SP #OOTD
Style tips from SP's fashionistas
P.30

INSIDE SP

DREAMING BIG
SP graduate earns her stripes in Hollywood
P.28

FEATURE STORY

LEARNING ACROSS THE GLOBE
Check out some of the coolest places SP students have journeyed to
P.12
08 | A BRUSH WITH FATE

A Diploma in Information Technology student turned Makeup Artiste Club President shares more about what goes on inside the private beauty world that is his CCA.

LEARNING ACROSS THE GLOBE | 12

Read about some of the places where our students have built friendships with overseas communities, gained unforgettable experiences and developed a global mindset in their education!
CREATING FOODTOPIA!
Check out how students from SP's Diploma in Food Science and Technology and Diploma in Experience and Product Design combined forces to create original trendy food products and treats!

LIFE LESSONS FROM LAUNCHING A CONCERT 30
SP graduate and singer-songwriter Beth Yap shares how she fulfilled her dreams by launching her debut album to great success.

SP #OOTD 36
Looking Good! These fashionable SP students share their #OOTDs and some personal style tips!
Fighting with Family

SP MMA’s President and Captain share about the club’s humble beginnings and tough training, as well as the rewarding friendships they’ve forged.

(By Felicia Lee, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media – DTVM, Year 2)

From left: Tseo Kai Lin, current Female Captain; Ryan Lio, current Male Captain; Brandon Tan, upcoming Vice-Captain; Ahmad Syalimi Bin Agil, current Vice-President; Wong Sheau Qian, upcoming Vice-President; Chin Zhi Jian, current President; Lin Jinghuan, Member; Kelyn Chur, Member; Yap Kai, upcoming Male Captain.)
No limits. No fear. No excuses. Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), an eclectic combination of Muay Thai, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Boxing and Wrestling, is all the rage these days.

At SP, the MMA club, where student enthusiasts spar against one another, is still young, having started in 2012 by a group of students keen on the sport. Ryan Lio, a Year 3 student from the Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE), is one such enthusiast. Having learned Taekwondo and Wushu in both primary and secondary school, it was only natural for him to join the SP MMA club when he joined the school.

As a rowdy, playful boy, who was into the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) since young, it is fair to say Chin Zhi Jian caught the MMA bug early. The Year 3 student from the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEEE) also ended up joining the MMA club at SP when he first enrolled at the polytechnic.

It was not an easy journey getting the CCA to where it is today. Zhi Jian recalls stories from his seniors about how they struggled when the club first started. “Our seniors couldn’t even afford to buy training mats, and had to train on hard ground,” he reveals. “I feel like we’ve come a long way – we have a clubroom, a store room, and better equipment now.”

“Our seniors did not give up on MMA despite tough times,” says Ryan. “They used to fork out money each month to keep the CCA going. After a while, the school finally started to recognise MMA as a CCA and increased funding for them.”

SP MMA is taught by two coaches. On Wednesdays, their coach Shawn conducts training focused on striking, while on Fridays, their coach Bruce conducts training on ground work. In a two-hour training session, the first part will be on techniques while the last 30 to 45 minutes is reserved for physical training.

However, the toughest part about MMA, the boys share, is surprisingly not learning new fighting techniques, but physical training like cardio and conditioning. Zhi Jian shares that physical training requires a lot of stamina, which can get really tiring.

“Sometimes they train your endurance, sometimes your strength. It really pushes your mind to work over your limits,” Zhi Jian says. Their coaches definitely do not go easy on them, but they understand that it is tough love.

The tough training not only makes them physically and mentally stronger, but it is where the members bond the most, and forge close friendships.

Zhi Jian and Ryan are both leaders of their CCA, being the President and Captain respectively. Being a CCA leader is no easy feat, and the guys share what they’ve learned since stepping up to their positions.

Zhi Jian did not expect himself to run for the role of President, but his senior encouraged him to pursue it. As the President, he says it is a huge responsibility as he is the face of the club, and has to be a good role model. Ryan shares that he stepped up to leadership because he felt the desire to help the club grow bigger. As Captain, he aids the coaches in training, and takes care of his juniors’ welfare.

So how has SP MMA transformed their lives? Their first reaction is to joke about how SP MMA definitely made them fitter. “When I first came to SP, I was a bit lazy, you know, after ‘O’ levels you just stay at home and laze around,” Zhi Jian admits with a laugh. “But after I joined SP MMA, I got fitter and slimmed down.”

MMA also helped him with anger management. Zhi Jian says that although MMA is a physical sport, it involves the mind too — if one is distracted, there is a high chance that he will lose in a fight. He recalls that he once sparred with a senior and was in a bad mood. All he wanted to do was strike him, but his anger got the better of him and he ended up losing the fight. His senior told him that anger will not do good in MMA, and hence, Zhi Jian slowly learned how to turn his anger into power.

“I always remind myself that an angry mind is a narrow mind,” he says.

Through MMA, Ryan became more disciplined and responsible for his actions. “SP MMA taught me to multitask more efficiently in school and in life, and to be more disciplined. I also gained knowledge in terms of how to fight properly and control myself better.”

Both speak fondly of the friendships forged through their CCA, and how hardships bonded them even more. “We are like family, more
than just a CCA.” Ryan says.

When asked about any misconceptions people usually have about the club, both immediately laugh and say that many people tend to associate MMA with violence.

However, Ryan points out that SP MMA is not as violent as it appears to be. The sport emphasises heavily on safety during training, and focuses more on self-defence and learning proper fighting techniques. Although MMA is a sport, it is also an art form.

“People always see us as a violent CCA, but we’re fun and lovable people!” Zhi Jian chimes in cheekily.

In the years to come, Ryan and Zhi Jian hope that SP MMA will continue to stay bonded as one big family, and grow even bigger. Ryan also hopes the club will have more chances to participate in competitions in the future.

Lastly, Zhi Jian and Ryan’s advice to people interested in MMA is that you don’t need previous experience to join. “We all start somewhere, and we can slowly learn together. So don’t be afraid to join!”
WHAT PASSION CAN TRIGGER
How far would you go to pursue your dream? The founder of SP’s Shooting Club shares his story...
(By Carol Lerh, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media, Year 2)

It is a rare opportunity to hold a weapon in your hands, but how in SP, you have the chance of a lifetime. Established in 2013, SP Shooting is one of the smaller sports clubs in SP, offering its members the chance to shoot an air pistol or an air rifle.

However, shooting is not as easy as video games make it out to be. Chue Kun Da, who founded SP’s Shooting Club and graduated in 2015 with a Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST), said, “Being a good shooter is dependent on your passion, your discipline and your determination.”

Shooting has been Kun Da’s passion since his secondary school days. He took up shooting as his CCA in West Spring Secondary School and practised hard for the chance to compete for his school. However, he did not get a chance to enter a competition back then. As a shooter who dabbled in both air pistol and rifle, it took longer to master one since he often switched between them.

When he entered SP in 2012, he wanted to join a shooting club, but the school did not have one. “I tried joining other CGAs, but nothing caught my interest,” he said. What he wanted to do was to shoot.

In his second year, some of his old shooting friends from secondary school joined SP and it occurred to him that together, they could create a place for people who were equally passionate about pursuing shooting. There is a criteria to be met in order to start a club — 50 names and signatures of the future members running the club for its first year. Kun Da admitted that he was not confident about this at first. Yet, in the end, there were almost 90 sign-ups, over 50 of whom participate in the CCA regularly.

Then, a few months later at the annual SP CCA Carnival, 300 people indicated their interest to join. But how many of them would actually turn up? The Shooting Club committee held their first newcomers’ briefing in front of Manna at T11 Square. “When the meeting began,” Kun Da said, “the entire stretch from the Manna stall to the half-basketball court was crammed with people!” It turned out that there were many people who were interested in a weapon-based sport like shooting.

This early success marks just the beginning of Kun Da’s pursuit of his passion. It is not easy to maintain a club, much less one where members need to travel out of school to a shooting range for training. He explained that to juggle being in a CCA’s committee and his course work, he had to depend on his committee and earnestly share the work of leading.

Kun Da shared that the club’s toughest moment was when the shooting range they trained at in HomeTeamNS at Bukit Batok, abruptly closed for renovation in February 2014. It happened without warning and the committee was at a loss. They had chosen to shoot at HomeTeamNS because the prices there were three times cheaper than another range at Yishun SAFRA and it was close to the school.

The range assured them that renovations would be completed within six months and they would retain their membership afterwards. So the committee scrambled for a solution and ran other activities such
as a “Colourful Run” to keep the members involved.

Six months later, the reported renovation works had not even begun. They only began a year after the place had closed and ended six months after that. “It was a very stressful period for us,” he recounted, “I was very afraid that the club would fail.”

The committee discussed this issue with their SP club officer at length and finally decided to move to Yishun SAFRA, given the range’s quality and numerous shooting lanes. Kun Da described overcoming this turbulent period as his greatest achievement. He added, “Honestly, nobody would want to join a shooting club that doesn’t let you shoot. So we are very grateful for those who stayed during the transition.”

Since the club’s return to shoot at Yishun SAFRA in late 2015, they have built a team of shooters who compete in national tournaments like the Singapore Cups 2016, where they go against the best from Singapore Sports School as well as Team Singapore athletes. Joseph Koh, the club’s current vice-president from the Diploma in Architecture (DARCH), reported that one female rifle shooter and another female pistol shooter both made it to the finals of the Singapore Cups. With more experienced shooters joining the club this year, he hopes that the club can achieve greater heights.

When asked about the current leadership of the club, Kun Da described them as ‘very bonded’. He often returns to SP to watch the club train and helps the committee with the organisational work. “As a founder, I find it very hard to let go,” he said. And with good reason. This club is the product of his passion. He was unable to actually shoot in the three years he spent within SP because the range was closed. But he has no regrets. He said that he is proud of how far the club has come and how it has become the home for others to pursue their passion.

Kun Da regularly returns to watch his juniors shoot. This is important to him so they know there are people rooting for them. He said, “There will be a period of time when your score will drop, shooting starts to become a bit boring, a bit sian. That’s when your friends’ support and encouragement will make a difference.”
A Brush With Fate

A Diploma in Information Technology student turned Makeup Artiste Club President shares more about what goes on inside the private beauty world that is his CCA.

(By Kirstin Yip, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media, Year 2)

Clockwise, from top left: Ong Xin Jia, Member; Gabriel Kok, model for MAC photoshoot; Tan Gin Yee, Public Relations Head; Christina Tran Vuong Y Nhi, model for MAC photoshoot; Kimberly Feliciano Kung, Vice-President (Beauty); Ahadiyat Abadi Bin Rawi, President; Janire Ng, Vice-President (Special Effects).
“Everyone has beauty inside of them,” the SP Makeup Artists Club’s (MAC) president, Anadiyat Abadi Bin Rawi says, when asked about some of the things he’s learned since joining MAC.

At the very first MAC session Abadi attended, a year ago as a Year 1 student, he and other juniors were instructed to come bare-faced. He recalls looking around the room and seeing the shy — almost embarrassed — faces of his new CCA mates, who were hiding their faces with their hands. There was a collective anxiety looming over the room, fueled by everyone’s perception that their natural, unpolished faces were being judged.

Then, their instructor handed each of them a blank piece of paper. They were encouraged to go around and write down the best features of their fellow members. Compliments like “nice eyebrows”, “good skin” and “love your outfit” surfaced, followed by small, tentative smiles. There was something distinctly “feel good” about the session, Abadi shares.

“The compliments may seem insignificant, but not for someone who might be insecure about his or her own looks.” The Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) student, who is now in Year 2, recounts one session that definitely taught him something.

“I think it’s very important for us to at least uplift a person’s spirit by telling him or her how good they look. Until now, I still do my best to give a compliment or two about my clients’ looks.”

It’s this spirit that MAC wants to imbue in its members — the club prides itself on being a family for fellow makeup artists who believe in and support natural beauty.

The tightly-knit CCA conducts two four-hour-long CCA sessions per week. There’s a Special Effects session on Wednesdays, which starts at either 3:30pm or 5pm, and a Beauty session on Saturdays at either 10am or 1pm. The session timings are versatile, changing with the members’ and instructors’ schedules. Members of MAC don’t have to limit themselves to specialising in either one. They can attend both regularly if they choose.

In Special Effects, which just started this year, MAC members learn how to make wounds, burns and even fake blood. They even dabble in colour theory, which teaches them about different shades of colours and how colours complement one another. Abadi shares that the club makes concrete and gelatin molds for the fake wounds, which is the same gelatin used in the gummy bears we eat.

Flowers, ethereal nymphs and comic book characters — these are just some of the things you’ll see if you head over to the MAC’s beauty sessions. The instructors and seniors teach the basics of makeup, like how to use foundation, where to highlight and what to do to remove makeup. After some exposure, the juniors get to explore and experiment with their creativity.

MAC members can even suggest what they want to learn. The CCA is very people-driven, Abadi says, which is one of the reasons he loves it. Strangely enough, Abadi never meant to join MAC. In fact, the Year 2 student sheepishly confessed that he had only joined because his friend wanted company.

An example of Special Effects scar creation using fake blood and paint.
He didn’t know a thing about makeup before joining, but flash forward a year later, now he’s hoping to bring MAC to new heights.

One of the things Abadi really enjoys about MAC are the people he meets. He describes the other MAC members as “very chill, smart and nice.” Usually the CCA has people from all sorts of diplomas, but Abadi noted that this year there were especially more juniors from SP’s School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences (CASS).

“In our club, you can always find someone with a common interest other than makeup,” he says. “From K-pop to TV shows to even things like cleaning products.”

When asked about one unforgettable memory he has, Abadi says: “It was during my first ever event. I was doing hand painting for little kids and one of the girls asked me to paint her some pretty flowers.

I knew I wasn’t good but I did it anyway. Then,” he says with a chuckle, “she went over to my then-senior and told her ‘this kor kor do the flower not nice’. I laughed so hard on the inside seeing how sheepishly she said it. Of course I knew I had to step up my flower drawing game that day. Thank goodness the rest of the kids just wanted superhero masks painted on them, which I was better at.” He smiles sheepishly.

Soon, Abadi will be stepping down and a new team will helm MAC. Yet he has high hopes for the next committee and is grateful for everything that he’s learned as a makeup artiste — it’s definitely been a memorable ride.
JOINING THE RIGHT CLUB

SP has more than 100 awesome CCA clubs!
Here are a few other clubs that might be just right for you!
Learning Across The Globe

Overseas internships, study trips and community service programmes are an important part of life in SP. Read about some of the places where our students have built friendships with overseas communities, gained unforgettable experiences and developed a global mindset in their education!
Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) student Lily Kuik sourced for her own overseas internship experience, and snagged an incredible opportunity at the University of Glasgow in Scotland! Her role there was Architecture Intern at the school’s Estates and Buildings Department, where she worked on master planning for an upcoming infirmary site, as well as space management of existing properties. (Group Photo: Lily with her colleagues in the department.)

Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT) students Yei Xi and Nigel Yeo had a three-month internship at Yale University, while DBT students Sara Tan and Tommy Lee interned at Ohio State University! Both groups of students worked under distinguished professors at these famous institutions, gaining experience in areas such as lab work, cancer research, stem cell studies and commercial drug testing. Of course, they made sure to tour other parts of the US on their weekends off!
A trip to Penang is a rite of passage, of sorts, to students from the Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM). While living there for four days, they must film a short documentary for their “On-location Production” module. This year’s students had an unforgettable time uncovering and filming the life stories of Penang locals. Think “Humans of Penang”, documentary-style!

Perang, Malaysia

At SP, it’s possible for a luxurious hotel stay to be an important part of one’s studies. Students from the Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management (DTRM) spent a week at Le Grandeur Palm Resorts in Johor, where they learnt about the operations and management of various departments in the hotel. The students toured departments like the front desk, concierge, and golf course management. They also had practical sessions in food and beverage service and housekeeping, in order to better understand how to manage such operations in future.

Johor, Malaysia
Thirty students from the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) soaked in sights like Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall of China during their six-week overseas industrial training attachment at Pratt & Whitney (P&W), a world-famous aerospace manufacturer. There, they gained deeper knowledge about various technologies used in commercial aircraft, practised handling and inspection of airplane components, and were introduced to some of the latest practices and technological developments at P&W.
Twenty-five Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR) students spent a month at Dalian Maritime University, one of China’s premier maritime institutions. Not only did they study various systems and components used in ships, but they were also treated to a wide range of fun cultural activities by their hosts such as workshops on tai chi, pottery, calligraphy and tea ceremonies!

Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering student, Tan Wei Teck, spent a meaningful time during his six-week training programme at the China University of Science and Technology (CUST) in Taiwan. From daily lessons and practical sessions to removing and installing aircraft landing lights at the Avionics systems maintenance practice, Wei Teck gained much knowledge and insights to the aviation industry. Work aside, Wei Teck also took the chance to explore various parts of Taipei and Tai Chung and released sky lanterns in Shifen for the first time!
For two weeks, 15 SP students lived together with a Cambodian community in Kampong Cham, where they conducted basic English lessons for children and also participated in construction work to rebuild five concrete classrooms for Hun Sen Factory Primary School. The group also participated in distributing free rice and soup to the needy.
Fifteen students from the Youth Community Leaders Programme (YCL Programme) spent two weeks in Lijiang teaching English to children at Liang Mei Primary School. One of the participants, Heng Ching Yee, shared that the children took their learning very seriously and displayed exemplary attitude towards learning. Besides spending time in the classroom with the children, the students also helped to build the foundation of the fence wall for the school soccer field.
Becoming a top graduate at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) was no easy climb for Muhd Ridhwan Bin Mohd Muzaki. This persevering figure believes that you either have discipline, or you have nothing. He shares tips that have helped him along his journey.

Ridhwan started in the Secondary N(A) stream, and left it as the top Malay ‘N’ Level student. Afterwards, he joined SP’s Diploma in Biomedical Sciences (DBS), despite not having a foundation in biology from secondary school.

Because he hadn’t studied biology, he struggled and his GPA was only 2.34 out of 4.00 after his first semester. However, after working hard for the next two and a half years, he graduated in 2010 with a GPA of 3.25.

In 2010, he applied to study biological sciences at NTU and was rejected, but Ridhwan didn’t give up, and in 2011 he was accepted into NTU. He was so determined to do well that he borrowed his elder brother’s (also an NTU grad) notes and studied them for a year before entering his course.

We asked Ridhwan to share some tips for SPirit’s readers, and he very kindly obliged:
Dear students,

In primary school, I was well-known as the quiet boy in class who hardly ever spoke. I would often get into trouble for things like untidy handwriting, late submissions, and so on. Back then, I didn’t see much importance in going to school, and this translated directly into my poor performance. It did not help that I was picked on by bullies in school.

The wake-up call came while I was awaiting my PSLE results. For that period of time, I was in constant fear about the possibility of being thrown into the Secondary N(T) stream. I told myself that if I were ever to make it through, I would start treating my studies more seriously.

I was lucky enough to scrape through PSLE and was placed into the N(A) stream, which I believe was actually a blessing in disguise. The five-year ‘O’ Level programme actually worked in my favour, as it gave me ample time to work on my foundations (which I was severely lacking), and my confidence.

Every step of the way, I had to deal with naysayers. During my poly years, I was once told by someone that I would ‘dream on about getting myself a place in a local university’. Over the years, I’ve learnt to deal with such negative comments, using them as an impetus to motivate me further.

Also, at the start of polytechnic, I struggled quite a great deal because I had no foundations in biology. I only found my rhythm during Year 2 of my course.

Making it to NTU required a lot of perseverance and squashing of self-doubts. The tips below helped me to achieve this. I hope they’ll help you as well.

- **Discipline** - discipline is not something you develop over a short period of time, and I CANNOT stress enough how important this trait is. It’s a result of habit. I have often seen talented people fall on the wayside solely because of a lack of discipline. You need discipline to make sure that you follow through with your plans or timetable.

- **Belief** - I see myself as the captain of the ship. If I don’t even believe in myself, nobody else will.

- **“Siege” mentality** - over the years, I have learnt to manipulate my mind to make sure I stay motivated throughout. One thing I do is to have a siege mentality (‘Oh yes, people would want me to fail’ – I repeat this to myself each day).

- **Tactics** - set goals -> come up with a strategy -> execute. The first part is the easiest. The second requires a clear and thorough understanding of one’s strengths and weaknesses, as well as coming up with a plan suited to them. Execution requires sticking to the plan no matter what, and that requires discipline."
Creating Foodtopia!

SP’s Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) and Experience and Product Design (DXPD) students just finished an awesome collaboration. Combining their expertise, they crafted a range of trendy food products and treats! DFST students formulated the food prototypes, while DXPD students designed the food packaging and researched food ideas targeted at youths. Check out some of the showcase’s gems born from the mingling of science and design!

These products were created as part of an initiative of SP’s Food Innovation and Resource Centre. They were showcased to industry companies as examples of the possibilities of food product design. Students conducted user research before starting on their product. Each item is targeted at either youths, working professionals, or the elderly.

Rice Burger

Main student in charge of prototyping: Law Li Min (DFST)

A burger that has a one-and-a-half month chilled shelf life and contains healthy ingredients such as cauliflower, mushrooms, carrots, etc. It’s low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol, and is a source of fibre and protein! (This product is eligible for the Healthier Choice endorsement.)
Instant Salted Egg Lava Sauce

Main student in charge of prototyping:
Ong Wai Peng (DFST)

Satisfy your salted egg cravings whenever you want! This powdered sweet and savoury mix can be kept on the shelf for months, and just needs hot water to be transformed into a sauce or a dip.

Instant Kaya

Main student in charge of prototyping: Joanne Ong (DFST)

A powdered kaya mix which requires the addition of equal amounts of water. Heat over a stove for a few minutes and you’ll get kaya straight away. A perfect sugar and cholesterol-free gift for a care package to a friend overseas! (Due to the fact that it has no added sugar, this product is eligible for the Healthier Choice endorsement from the Health Promotion Board.)

Low G.I. Instant Noodles

Main student in charge of prototyping: Angel Tey (DFS)

Low Glycaemic Index (GI) foods release energy to our bodies more slowly and have a more controlled impact on our blood sugar levels. These low G.I. noodles contain soluble fiber and wholegrains, and keep a person’s blood sugar at regular levels so they won’t get hungry too quickly. They’re also beneficial to diabetics. (This product is eligible for the Healthier Choice endorsement.)

Cracker Smith

By Nesanne Ho (DFST) and Charles Ang Jia Hui (DXPD)

Versatile cup-shaped crackers that contain oats, flaxseed and chia seeds. You can add your own toppings into them to personalise your breakfast, such as yoghurt, mixed nuts or fruits. Or you can pour them into a bowl and add milk to eat them as cereal! The healthy ingredients and elements of customisation make Cracker Smiths attractive to health-conscious youths! (This product is eligible for the Healthier Choice endorsement.)

Beauty Serum Drinks

By Regina Tan (DFST) and Teo Hui Wen (DXPD)

A day and night drink consisting of different ingredients for rejuvenating (sour, bright coloured, wakes you up!) and recuperating (flora, soothing, helps to relax) Perk up your mornings with the goodness of coconut water, collagen, lime and passion fruit! Soothe your worries away with the calming taste of elderflower and lemongrass.
For top and middle images:
Mazes and labyrinths are some of the challenges that players must overcome using the portal mechanic.

The portal is the key game element in Reflections, allowing players to jump through it to reach a parallel world.
GAME ON

During Year 3 of their studies, Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD) students work in teams to create exciting final-year game projects. SPirit takes a peek at Reflections, a 3D puzzle-adventure game that's currently in the works!

The Story So Far
A young reporter, Jaslyn Pines, is on the trail of a scientist who was once famous for his inventions but fell into obscurity after losing his family in a tragic accident.

When she reads headlines stating that the scientist has gone missing, Pines decides to track him down. Her investigation brings her to the basement of the scientist's abandoned home, where she discovers a mysterious blue portal reflecting an image of a world that's not her own...

By stepping through the portal, Jaslyn will follow the trail of a lonely man who will do anything to carve out a new place for himself in another world.

The Gameplay
The portal Jaslyn has discovered leads to a parallel world. The scientist has entered it, and killed and replaced his counterpart who, in this alternate universe, still had his family intact and was leading a prosperous life.

In the game, Jaslyn jumps through various portals to travel in between the two worlds and uncover the trail of evidence left by the scientist's crimes. What is unique about the portal is that it allows a person to enter the parallel world in ways that defy physics. Before entering the portal, Jaslyn can manipulate the invention to rotate the blue image of the parallel world sideways, or upside down. When she walks through it, she will enter the new world at the angle that it was shifted to (i.e. she can enter the world sideways, or upside down). This game mechanic allows players to solve puzzles or conquer complex mazes and environments in the game.

Inspirations behind the game design
Reflections, was designed with the aim of incorporating distinct, intriguing game mechanics that will leave lasting impressions on a player. This project, as well as other DGDD projects currently in the works, will be registered with the 2017 Independent Games Festival held in San Francisco, California, where games that are unique and push the boundaries are celebrated.

Jauzan Darwisy
(artist)

Rachael Lee Jia Xin
(artist)

Leroy Tan
(game designer; artist)

Chester Ng
(game designer; overall IC)

Wong Wee Meng
(programmer)
Vick at the Primetime Emmy Awards 2015 held in Los Angeles, California. One of The Walking Dead episodes she worked on was nominated for visual effects.

At Stargate Studios in Los Angeles, California. In top photo Reid Paul (General Manager) (left) and Chris Mann (VFX Supervisor) (right).

Vick at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming.
At the TEDxNapaValley conference, Vicki spoke about the impact of virtual reality on visual effects, and the world in general. (YouTube: "Shaping Realities, Vicki Lau") Photo credit: Robert McClean and TEDxNapaValley

SP GRADUATE EARNS HER STRIPES IN HOLLYWOOD

Can a person who was once quiet and shy survive in Hollywood, where dramatic situations are common? You can ask Vicki Lau. While living alone in California, USA, she has experienced being strangled by a mentally ill roommate, and had her work hijacked by a dubious company.

Vicki’s day job is creating blockbuster entertainment. From 2013 to 2014, she freelanced with an American company, Stargate Studios. There, she got her first major break in TV, working on series such as Parks & Recreation, Grey’s Anatomy, and The Walking Dead. In 2014, the young lady took a second leap forward, working with Stereo D (Deluxe) on blockbusters Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Guardians of the Galaxy. Including other works like music videos and commercials, Vicki has completed over 30 projects since graduating from SP’s Diploma in Digital Media in 2011 (her portfolio is at www.lauvicki.com).

[Note: The Diploma in Digital Media has been renamed as the Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)]

She often works as a compositor: a visual effects (VFX) specialist who combines visual elements from separate sources into single images, often to create the illusion that all the elements are part of the same scene.

Vicki also explores Virtual Reality (VR). Last year, she worked as Lead VR Compositor at VRSE tools – Los Angeles. This year, she spoke at the TEDxNapaValley conference about the global impact of VR and the changing nature of creative industry work.
TODAY, SHE'S STILL OVERSEAS, PROACTIVELY ARRANGING HER OWN WORK PROJECTS. IT'S A LEVEL OF INDEPENDENCE AND BOLDNESS THAT THOSE WHO KNEW HER IN THE PAST WOULD HARDLY EXPECT, HOWEVER. IN SECONDARY SCHOOL, VICKI WAS SO QUIET AND SHY IN NATURE, SHE WAS BULLIED BY CLASSMATES TO THE POINT OF BEING FORCED TO EAT PENCIL SHAVINGS BY THEM.

She shares about life so far:

**WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING OVERSEAS?**
I definitely revel in the independent living overseas—I get to call the shots on everything from where to stay, what to eat, where to go (everything, you name it, I can do it). Thanks to my own chaotic upbringing, it was never difficult to adapt to new environments. The tough part is probably the loneliness, but that comes with the territory with the job.

**WHAT ARE SOME GOOD AND BAD THINGS ABOUT THE FILM INDUSTRY?**
Good things, well, the industry is fun and full of excitement. Bad things... it's never a stable job.

**WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING THING YOU HAVE DONE SO FAR?**
In terms of merit and notoriety, one would normally point out that attending the 2014 Primetime Emmys was phenomenal. However, if I really get deep into this, I would say that my most exciting moment was my first time working at Stargate Studios on Season 4C of The Walking Dead. This was the experience that led me to meet amazing supervisors, producers and artists in the field. Also, as a big fan of the show, to have played a part in the process was simply exhilarating.

**WHAT ARE SOME DEFINING MOMENTS YOU’VE HAD?**
Being sacked by a VR company in 2015, after they had me create for them an original VR stereoscopic conversion post-production workflow process, and then went on to use it to make their company headlines. Needless to say, I published all the steps of my workflow in the public domain to put a halt to their evil schemes (laughs). They tried to get me back after a while but I declined. The good thing about this situation is that technology changes so quickly, that the workflow is now outdated and unusable to them.

Also, almost being strangled to death by a mentally-ill roommate in San Jose in 2014. How has this brought me to where I am at now? When I realised that I was not traumatised by such a horrific event that could have ended my life.

**WHY WEREN’T YOU TRAUMATISED?**
Maybe I have a higher threshold level for traumatisation (laughs). To make this a bit more light-hearted, when I was taken back to the house three hours after the incident, she was still inside, and we had to kick her out. But I suppose one could say I was thinking about the future, because I actually had a test in the next six hours after the strangling. So, I slept only for three hours... and I still scored with flyin’ g colours!

**HOW WAS IT LIKE SPEAKING AT THE TEDx CONFERENCE?**
Definitely exhilarating. If you have not seen the other speakers yet, all of them are incredible, delightful and ferocious leaders in their own fields. I would say in a very clichéd manner, that it was unforgettable because you will never forget the audience’s reactions and acceptance of what you say on stage.

**FREELANCING OVERSEAS ISN'T EASY. WOULD THE "PAST" YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT?**
I was shy in the past but not really timid—I did act on stage in secondary school as a boy (laughs), and even had to change my voice for that part! Maybe it was that shyness that made me easy pickings for bullies back then.

As for freelancing overseas, though, I think that even if I were still shy and quiet, I would still be able to do it, because I have no problems with saying my piece in interviews, since my work would be doing the talking instead of me.

Joining the Singapore Polytechnic Videography Club (SPVC) in SP did change me, though. The club was my first experience in leadership positions and in being held accountable for the growth of an entity. If it weren't for the club, I would still be the shy character that I was back in the day—keeping to myself and minding my own business. SPVC not only gave me the opportunities to lead, but their belief and support gave me the hope that there truly were people out there who trust in my skills to do something I have not done before.

Who am I today? Fundamentally, I am driven intrinsically, and partly by the desire to make things better. It’s kind of the heartbeat of my spirit. When I see a problem, I like to fix it, and I won’t rest until I fix it, and fix it rea good.

**WHAT WOULD HELP OTHERS WHO ARE LIKE YOUR PAST SELF, TO CHANGE IF THEY WANT?**
This is a very subjective question that all depends on the individual. I would also say that there is never a past self for me, as I am always myself, regardless. You just have to know who you are and not be afraid to embrace every part of yourself. There is nothing wrong with being shy and quiet if that is who you are, but there is something wrong with being shy and timid if that is not who you really are. You should never care about impressing anyone but yourself.

**DID STUDYING IN SP SERVE YOU WELL IN YOUR CAREER?**
What I liked about SP’s Diploma in Digital Media was its diverse modules, from math, to media law, programming and of course, visual effects. This broad base of knowledge has made me very adaptable in my field, and able to apply the intelligence from these different arenas into my work.

**ANY ADVICE FOR YOUR JUNIORS IN SP?**
When you are out there, in the working world, you ought to love what you do. It’s really tough to live if you don’t.

**WHAT ABOUT SECONDARY STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT THEIR NEXT STEP?**
Whether your parent forced you or you were given the freedom to choose SP yourself, you can take it from me that being a part of this S’pecial family will never be a regret.
Crystal Wong interned at Bandai Namco (creator of famous anime and games such as Gundam, Tales of Vesperia) during her final year in the Diploma in Digital Animation (DDeA).

She worked on line art and the user interface (UI) (e.g. game menus, buttons, and other things a player uses to interact with a game) for Pokken Tournament, which was later released for the Nintendo Wii U. Impressed with her work, the company offered her a job after the internship.

Crystal graduated in May this year. She is now working full-time at Bandai Namco’s Singapore branch as a UI artist. SPririts asks three quick questions:

What is office life like in Bandai Namco?
The life there is very relaxed. You can come to work any time from 8 to 10am, and leave after you’ve done eight hours of work. The projects are really exciting and fun, although sometimes it’s challenging as they may require software I haven’t used before.

There are many game consoles for staff to play with during break time or after work, or on the weekend if they’re doing overtime. I’ve stayed back a few times to play before… haven’t stayed back for work yet though! Haha.

I can focus on my work a lot more too, compared to school. In Bandai Namco, everyone is working with you, so if you don’t do your job right, it will affect the others. You have to produce good stuff to work well with them. It’s a good feeling, because in school, you can be unlucky and get teammates who are half-hearted, but here, everyone works as a team.

What do you do at work every day?
I start at 9.20am and end at 6.20pm. I do UI, which involves implementing user interfaces such as game menus and combat screen heads-up displays into the game’s engine. I also create menu and logo designs.

Sometimes I help out with the concept work for character designs, mainly the illustrations for character art. I also play test games once in a while, too.

What’s your tip for impressing a boss during an internship?
You have to do more than what they require you to do. If they ask you for something, try to spend longer hours on it. It can be tough, but it’s worth it to put in your 120% effort to give them a quality product.
Beth (centre stage) launched her debut album Beauty for Ashes at the Esplanade Recital Studio.

Beth with Benjamin Kheng, Ben performed as a guest at her show.

LIFE LESSONS FROM LAUNCHING A CONCERT

SP graduate Beth Yap made dreams into reality by launching her debut album at the Esplanade this year. Besides performing, she stacked up extra challenges for herself, acting as producer, marketer, and event manager for the concert. She shares more.

At age 14, Beth Yap was playing the piano and guitar, and dabbling with singing. Two years later, a passion for music got her searching for poly courses after her ‘O’-levels. She wasn’t keen on theoretical studies in JC, and wanted to start music-related training immediately.

She joined SP’s Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT) in 2012, where she focused further on her singing and picked up a third instrument, the bass guitar. Beth excelled in her lessons, emerging as a top graduate and Institutional Medallist in 2014.

Launching a concert this year was challenging, she shares.

However, the show at the Esplanade Recital Studio was in many ways an impressive display of her abilities. She performed her debut album, Beauty for Ashes, showcasing a range of spirited and vivacious soul-pop and funk (listen to the album on Spotify at hyperurl.co/MBFAspotify). Also supporting the show as guest performers were budding Singaporean talents and personal friends such as Dru Chen, Tim De Cotta, Inch Chua and Ang Zhi Hui (Zeeaura):

HI BETH. WHAT ROLES DID YOU PLAY FOR THE SHOW?
I did a good part of everything. (Laughs.) I conceptualised the show, sourced for sponsorships, did press promotion, set up admin and arranged for ticketing on Peatix. I also contacted all the musicians, arranged their parts, and coordinated practices.

HOW DID YOU MARKET THE EVENT?
I crafted a press release and sent it to as many channels as possible. I worked with an online-gig finder, Bandwagon, to promote the concert. I posted photos of one guest performer every week before my show. My concert was framed as a package – you would pay $20 to see not just me, but a group of artistes. I revealed the last guest, Benjamin Kheng, on YouTube with a video in which we covered Crush Yuna featuring Usher, which I arranged in my own style.

HOW DID YOU MEET BENJAMIN?
I met a lot of my guest performers just by supporting our music scene, attending album launches and participating in competitions and music festivals like the Noise Singapore Festival and Getai Soul.

I first met Ben after a DMAT concert where he guest-starred. After my segment of the show, he encouraged me and said “Hey, great job!” I only saw him again a few years later while working as a sound engineer. He recognised me, and said that he happened to hear a showcase I did on Soft TV which was livestreamed to 3,000 people. He liked it and told me that we should jam together sometime.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM MANAGING THE SHOW?
This was my first major concert, with acts opening for me. The experience taught me that what matters most is not how technically excellent my playing is, but that I have to put my heart and soul into my performance and work at connecting with the audience more than anything.

Also, “Delegate more”. (Laughs.) Looking back, I took on too much admin, which didn’t help me to focus on the music. I could have relied on others more and just focused on chilling for the performance. Nonetheless, it was everything I hoped for it to be.

WHAT HAS DMAT TAUGHT YOU?
I once thought that I would be the one writing lyrics and melodies, and that I’d depend on others to write chords and instrumentation. It was through DMAT that I learnt about chord progressions. This led me to experiment a lot with music arrangement, and I discovered a passion for writing music, and not just lyrics.

My audio training in DMAT taught me how to record myself in a studio and understand audio mixing and mastering. I basically learnt the entire process of getting a song from just words on a book, into a track on Spotify.

WHAT ARE YOUR SONGS ABOUT?
My songs are mostly about taking bad things and turning them into good things. I use music to turn bad situations into a positive product. For example, at one point, I was stuck in a job that really drained me, my relationship had ended, and I had very little time with loved ones. I was really upset, so I wrote Beauty for Ashes to encourage myself that all this would pass, and things would get better.

I also aim to write songs that are catchy and singable, but also have something interesting to offer to musicians who are analysing music on a technical level, in terms of things like rhythms and chord progressions.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?
I’ve received a National Arts Council Arts Undergraduate scholarship for my studies at the Berklee College of Music, as well as two smaller Berklee scholarships.
A Day in the Life of an SB Student

What is a typical day at school like for an SP Business School (SB) student? SPirit follows Rafiq Hariz Bin Hanafi, a Year 2 student from the Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) around for a day to find out! (By Felicia Lee Si Yun, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM), Year 2)
Hariz gets to school via Dover MRT, which is located right next to SP! He kickstarts his day walking to school from the MRT.

What is school life without good food? Hariz likes visiting Kim Hua Food Court for a delicious lunchtime with his friends. His favourite food there is fried chicken rice.

In between classes and after school, Hariz and his friends like to study at the easy to access Phillip Library. Sometimes, they have group meetings and discussions there too.

Hariz and his classmate Bradley at SP Business School.

What better way to destress after a day of school than to go for a run? Apart from being in SPSSU, Hariz is also in SH Track and field, and trains twice a week.

Hariz shares that his course includes a lot of project work. Here’s one for the Consumer Psychology module, where his group chose to do a project on Unilever. They analyzed marketing strategies for Unilever, applying the concepts they learned in class.

Hariz also shares that his course includes a lot of project work. Here’s one for the Consumer Psychology module, where his group chose to do a project on Unilever. They analyzed marketing strategies for Unilever, applying the concepts they learned in class.

Looking smart, Hariz and his groupmates worked up for their Cultural Intelligence module as part of their Business module. A module where they learn about the cultural differences around the world and how to work effectively in a cross-cultural business environment.

Hariz shares that his course includes a lot of project work. Here’s one for the Consumer Psychology module, where his group chose to do a project on Unilever. They analyzed marketing strategies for Unilever, applying the concepts they learned in class.

Hariz is the SP student union’s (SPSSU) Assistant Sports Secretary. His role is to organize sporting events for the student body and encourage students to have a healthy lifestyle. Here he is with his SPSSU committee.

School life is all about balance, and Hariz’s SP journey is DEFINITELY A FULFILLING ONE!
Secrets to a Good Presentation

Be it a sales pitch to a potential client, or an emotive speech to change your audience’s mindset, your presentation skills are just as important as the information you are presenting. Spirit interviews three expert emcees who share their tips and tricks to presenting well. (By Carol Lern, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM), Year 2)

1. **Role Play Your Enthusiasm**

Unless you are really, really blessed, you may have to present on topics that you are not interested in. When that happens, Peiyu suggests faking it. If you do not believe in the project you are working on or the product you are selling, you will not be able to convince your audience either.

Peiyu says: “Link the topic to subjects you are more familiar with and encourage yourself to be enthusiastic about it.”

2. **Know Your Content Like the Back of Your Hand**

Read, research and understand. There is no shortcut to this. Our experts stress this very strongly.

Reshma: “Know your content by heart.”
Brandon: “Don’t talk fluff and use buzzwords.”
Peiyu: “If there’s going to be five questions, you prepare for twenty.”

3. **Rehearse. Rehearse. Rehearse.**

Get your slides done early so that you have plenty of time left for rehearsals. Reshma says that practising over and over is the key to building confidence. “For me, it depends on the intensity and the duration of the presentation, but I usually rehearse a minimum of four times.” Reshma shares that for a 45-minute presentation she had recently, she met up with her group from Monday to Friday and went to each other’s houses to practice during the weekends. Rehearse. Rehearse. Rehearse. Practice makes perfect.

4. **Do Not Ever “Wing” A Presentation**

Our experts have confirmed that it never leads to a good outcome.
Reshma R  
Year 2, Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) – emceed in Dialogue with Minister (Empowering your Future)

Pan Peiyu  
Year 2, Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) – emceed in HarmonyWorks! Conference 2016 by OnePeople.sg

Brandon Cheong  
Year 2, Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRMP) – President of SP Comperes Club

5
PREPARE YOURSELF PHYSICALLY
All the things you should do the day before an important exam, you should do the day before an important presentation. Brandon recommends not doing anything related to your presentation on the day before you actually present. Other than looking through your material and reading notes, you should rest. “Play music, go out with friends. Then sleep early and drink lots of water.”

6
VISUALISE YOUR PRESENTATION
Never go into a presentation without having a thorough idea and understanding about how everything is going to happen. “Rehearse like it’s the actual thing,” Brandon says. It is important to know what sound system you are going to use, where you will be presenting from and where your audience will be sitting. When you know where everything is, you can have complete control over your presentation.

7
DO NOT BE LATE
“The biggest mistake that I ever made was being late for a presentation. It was really bad because even though we were not the first group to start, it really left a bad impression on our lecturer,” Peiyu shares. Not being a morning person is no a good excuse. “Set more alarms, or tell your whole family to wake you up. It helps.”

8
KNOW YOUR LECTURER/AUDIENCE
The aim of a presentation is to engage the audience, and the best way to hook them is to speak their language. Peiyu says, “Different lecturers prefer different presentation styles. Some lecturers can take jokes, some cannot. I once collaborated with a lecturer and made things interactive for him by including him as part of my presentation.” Knowing who your audience is can allow you to shake things up and be unique without going out of bounds.
Looking Good! These fashionable SP students share their #OOTDs and some personal style tips!

(By Felicia Lee Si Yun, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM), Year 2)

Thng Kai Xiang
Diploma in Interior Design (DID), Year 2

**What is one wardrobe essential?**
A denim jacket. I feel like if you wear something very ugly on the inside you can just put on a denim jacket and still look good.

**Where do you like to shop?**
Topman, H&M, Zara, Pull & Bear. I shop online from eZbuy.sg and zalora.sg.

**What do you look for when you go shopping?**
I like looking for outerwear, shoes and clothes that are black. I also like collecting different shades of denim jackets.

**Who is your fashion icon?**
I get inspiration through Tumblr and Instagram. If I see something I like, I will screenshot it and if I have similar clothes, I will try their style.
What is one wardrobe essential?
A long outerwear.

Where do you like to shop?
H&M, Pull & Bear. I also shop on Carousell, ezbuy.sg and taobao.com!

What do you look for when you go shopping?
The price! The clothes must be worth the price, because there are always cheaper alternatives. Also, I look for items that can be matched with whatever I have in my closet.

What’s your go-to style when you’re running late but want to look put together?
A striped T-shirt, jeans and Converse shoes would be perfect for running errands or going out.

What is one wardrobe essential?
A dress. When I am tired I just wear a dress because it’s a one piece and I don’t need to worry about matching.

Where do you like to shop?
Thailand! Sometimes I go overseas and when I go, I will take time to bulk buy. I don’t shop online because I am quite old-fashioned.

What do you look for when you go shopping?
I look for comfortable items that make me feel confident, especially jackets.

Who is your fashion icon?
My mom, in her youth.

What is one wardrobe essential?
Crop tops!

Where do you like to shop?
Definitely The Editor’s Market. Other than that, I also visit TEMT, Forever 21, Fatonic and Cotton On. For online shops, it varies from taobao.com to zalora.com.

What do you look for when you go shopping?
I look out for the design. I will try on anything that catches my eye! Oh, and the price tag as well... if it’s too pricey then nope!

Who is your fashion icon?
I don’t really have one, but I sometimes look at menswear and ask how they match the clothing and take note!
3 Tips for Better Teamwork

Written by Kirstin Yip Su Jun, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (BTVM), Year 2

You know that feeling when you come for a group meeting 10 minutes late and you’re the earliest one there? Or when the meeting reaches a most point and everyone gets distracted by their phones? Or when your groupmate “can’t come” at the last minute because “they’re not feeling well”? We’ve all had those experiences — group work is inevitable in poly. Even if you’re in an exam-heavy course, there’ll still be team-based modules like Gen Ed and Social Innovation Project.

Having been in a project-heavy course for the past one and a half years, along with group work in Gen Ed and my OCA, I’ve seen my fair share of unpleasant situations and difficult groupmates. I’ve vented to my friends, cried in front of people I didn’t want to, and evolved people I thought I could count on. The good, the bad and the ugly — these are things that can definitely turn up in any group project.

I’ve heard countless stories from my friends about groupmates who don’t put in any effort, are absent for meetings or contribute ideas that just aren’t up to standard. Sometimes it can be really frustrating — you wonder if they’re intentionally not pulling their weight or if you’re just overthinking.
With that in mind, here are a few things I’ve learned when it comes to dealing with awful group work situations:

““

1. **Go in with the lowest expectations.**
   There are all sorts of people you’ll meet in project work, and with every new group comes new people with different work ethics. Get to know who they are and how they work, because not everyone will have the same working style as you. Entering a group project with high aspirations of completing work early or extravagantly may spur everyone on to greater heights… or may end up with you staring at countless ‘blue-ticked’ WhatsApp messages, silent group meetings and the seemingly unanswerable question of ‘who’s fault is it that the project isn’t turning out as planned?’

2. **Speak up when you think there’s something to be said.**
   Honestly, I think one of the biggest mistakes I’ve made – repeatedly – is that I don’t let my groupmates know when I feel they aren’t doing as much work as they should be. I’d like to think I’ve improved on this, but I still remain on “friendly terms” with my team members. However, if you’re really interested in solving a problem within your group, it’s always a good idea to clear the air face-to-face (and calmly). I’ve never realized how much miscommunication can crop up between people until I entered SP, and I think it’s important and insightful to know everyone’s side of an argument through speaking with them directly. We should always “think win-win”.

3. **Focus on their strengths rather than their weaknesses.**
   If you feel like all hope is lost for your group, it may be tempting to blow up on your WhatsApp group. Before that, though, take a step back and think. Positive reinforcement is always preferable to critique, especially if you think of it from the receiving end.

   Give your groupmates tasks you know they can do or that they’re good at. Find and compliment their strengths. It may or may not help your team’s progress, but it definitely won’t do more harm. It might even encourage your team and give you a more positive mindset about your project.

All in all, group work is an integral part of any polytechnic education. We may not realise its benefits now, but collaborating with all sorts of people – “good” and “bad” alike – is just one of the many ways SP is preparing us for the working world. So let’s do our best to enjoy it.
National windsurfers Leonard Ong and Audrey Yong – an SP alumnus and final-year SP student respectively – made us proud when they represented Team Singapore at the Rio Olympics earlier this year. Their journey onto the Olympic stage was no easy feat, and shows us how hard work and perseverance can pave the way to one’s dreams.

They crested the waves of Rio de Janeiro, their sails proudly bearing the Singapore flag as they competed with other, more seasoned windsurfers from all over the world. It was their Olympic debut, yet Leonard and Audrey did not let themselves be intimidated by the opposition at the 2016 Olympic Games.

To Audrey, a final-year student from SP’s Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM), being able to represent Singapore at the Olympic stage is already a dream come true. The reigning Southeast Asian Games champion and 2010 Youth Olympic Games bronze medallist is also the first Singapore woman windsurfer to compete in the Summer Games.

She said in an interview with The Straits Times: “It’s a big honour to sail as Singapore’s first female windsurfer in the Olympics. I hope this brings windsurfing here to new heights and in the future, people will be able to continue in the sport. So this is a form of awareness also.”
The 21-year-old was a late addition to Singapore’s sailing contingent after she was nominated by the Singapore Sailing Federation to take up the unused women’s RS:X quota place awarded by the world governing body World Sailing. Audrey, who was then doing her internship with Marina Bay Sands, decided to put her studies aside and train for the games.

Fellow windsurfer Leonard, a Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE) alumnus, also had to juggle his studies and training schedule. In fact, the 23-year-old even deferred his Business degree at Nanyang Technological University to commit himself wholeheartedly to training.

Leonard’s passion for his sport – exemplified in the years of practice he has poured into windsurfing – paid off when he made it through the Olympic qualifiers on his second attempt, becoming Singapore’s first male Olympic windsurfer in 32 years.

He had failed to make the cut on his first try, and decided to spend nearly two years on hiatus away from the competitive scene. However, during this time, he continued to coach others on windsurfing, which proved useful for his own training.

The immense dedication Leonard has placed into windsurfing is evident but attempting the Olympics wasn’t something he thought he could achieve. It was only with the strong support of his coaches – who believed in his abilities even when he didn’t – that he dared to turn his dreams into reality.

He said it best during an interview with The Straits Times: “I know that I’ve made it to the Olympics not by luck – but by hard work, by merit, by counting on the people who believed in me rather than those who doubted.”

Audrey and Leonard, we’re proud of you!
Arts Fiesta 2016 is back with more zest this year! The highly anticipated annual month-long festival celebrates our passion for arts with performances by SP’s performing arts CCA clubs at various locations including our SP Auditorium, School of the Arts Concert Hall, and the Esplanade Theatre.

This year’s Opening Ceremony includes a short performance, followed by a heart-warming documentary that captures the essence of what it is to pursue our passion for the arts.

Indulge yourself in this series of productions and join us to welcome the newcomers, SP Malay Language Society and SP Harmonica Ensemble!

So what are you waiting for? Come on down to show us some love and support! Visit http://site.sp.edu.sg/ArtsFiesta for more details.
4 NOV (FRI) 6.30PM
ARTS FIESTA 2016 OPENING
Born Into Brothels Screening
Singapore Polytechnic, T11 Square

9 NOV (WED) 7.30PM
SP MALAY LANGUAGE SOCIETY
MaiOhMai
Singapore Polytechnic, Auditorium

16 NOV (WED) 2PM
ARTS FIESTA 2016 Open Mic
Singapore Polytechnic Food Courts

22 NOV (TUES) - 23 NOV (WED) 8PM
SP JAZZ BAND Improvise IX - Libertatis
Esplanade Recital Studio

6 NOV (SUN) 8PM
SP STRING ENSEMBLE
Classical Renaissance XVII
School of The Arts (SOTA) Concert Hall

11 NOV (FRI) - 12 NOV (SAT) 8PM
SP STRICTLY DANCE ZONE
Waves 21 - supERRman
Esplanade Theatre

16 NOV (WED) 7.30PM
SP THEATRE COMPASS
The Deux Express
Singapore Polytechnic, Auditorium

24 NOV (THU) 7.30PM
SP GUITARS (CLASSICAL GROUP)
Viva la Guitar - Afresh
Singapore Polytechnic, Auditorium

7 NOV (MON) 7PM
Cajon Playing Workshop
Main Library, Programme Zone

11 NOV (FRI) - 12 NOV (SAT) 8PM
SP STRICTLY DANCE ZONE
Waves 21 - supERRman
Esplanade Theatre

14 NOV (MON) 7PM
Ukulele Playing Workshop
Main Library, Programme Zone

19 NOV (SAT) 7.30PM
SP CHINESE ORCHESTRA
经典序曲 (Classical Overture)
Singapore Polytechnic, Auditorium

21 NOV (MON) 7PM
Zentangle Canvas Tote Bag Painting
Main Library, Programme Zone

26 NOV (SAT) 7.30PM
SP HARMONICA ENSEMBLE
Musica En Vivo
Singapore Polytechnic, Auditorium
Each year, SP graduates receive generous scholarships from various organisations, which support their undergraduate studies in both local and overseas universities. Here are just a few of the awards they’ve received.

A total of 23 SP graduates from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences and one graduate from the Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) received the Ministry of Health Holdings Healthcare Scholarship Awards. These highly competitive awards cover a recipient’s tuition fees for degree studies in fields such as dietetics, pharmacy, and occupational therapy. They also provide allowances, airfare (for overseas studies) and opportunities for an awardee to be groomed for leadership appointments in the public healthcare sector.

More than 2,700 applicants applied for the prestigious Public Service Commission (PSC) Scholarship for the 2016 cycle. In photos: SP graduates Daniel Ho (chequered tie) (Diploma in Infocomm Security Management – DISM) and William Tan (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering – DEEE) receiving the award from Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.
Class of 2014 Diploma in Materials Science graduate Bryan Lim receiving the DSTA Undergraduate Scholarship from Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen.

Final year Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) student Aqilah Alwi was one of the recipients of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) scholarship this year. (Photo Source: Berita Harian © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Permission required for reproduction.)
Fourteen SP graduates, mainly from SP's engineering schools, received scholarships from the Singapore University of Technology and Design. SP is the top poly in terms of SUTD student intake and scholarship awardees this year.

Ten SP students and graduates gave a stellar performance in Leipzig, Germany for RoboCup 2016, the leading competition for intelligent robots with 3,500 participants from more than 45 countries and regions. They ranked well in three categories: 2nd place in Humanoid KidSize Technical Challenge, 4th place in Humanoid Soccer KidSize, and 3rd place in RoboCup@Work, pitting their artificial intelligence and robotics expertise against numerous university teams. Team members: (Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering – DEEE) Dinesh Kumar S/O Jaya Kumaran, Wilson Tai, Tan Shi Guang, Mabel Koh, Poh Boon Pin, Juanna Tjia, Wu Chen Zhou, Yeo Wen Jing. (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering – DME) Ng Ming Yao. (Diploma in Information Technology – DIT) Yap Yong Woon.

SP has won the first prize at the biennial BCA-CDL Green Sparks Competition this year. A five person team from SP's School of Architecture received $10,000, beating seven other finalists who had presented designs for a sustainable community space at City Square Mall to a panel of judges comprising industry professionals. The competition is organised by the Building and Construction Authority and property developer CDL to raise awareness of best green building practices amongst tertiary students. Participants hailed from seven local tertiary institutions including Nanyang Polytechnic, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.
Final-year students Samuel Yat, Leow Qi Qi, Denice Poon and Ferry Maultana (Students in blazers; from left) from the Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management (DEPM) emerged as champions at the Singapore MICE Challenge 2016. This event is a nationwide challenge for tertiary students majoring in Marketing, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) or business events and hospitality-related fields. The team received a fully-sponsored trip to attend “Convening Leaders 2017” next year in Austin, Texas, where they’ll have the chance to interact with over 4,000 industry thought-leaders from the Professional Convention Management Association.

Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS)
2016 graduate Leong Hei Mern received the Young Cosmetic Scientist of the Year Award from the Society of Cosmetic Scientists for her impressive research and results in her final-year project, titled “Formulating a facial lotion with good moisturisation and shows water bledding effect”.

Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)
Damian Quek, Class of 2016 graduate from the Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) with then Principal and CEO, Mr Tan Choon Shan during SP’s graduation ceremony. Damian has recently been admitted into the National University of Singapore to study law, making him the second graduate in SP’s history to be admitted to the course after graduating.

A team of Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRMP) alumni won first place at the Singapore HR Challenge organised by the Singapore Human Resources Institute. From left: Shieromi Anuusha Dias, Cindy Lee, P. Sharmini and Claire Goh won $500 cash, a gift hamper, and seats for a three-hour workshop on Leadership and Personal Development and a two-day certified Behavioural Consultant programme worth $1,580. Sharmini and Claire won also received the Best Presenter Awards.
SP’s Diploma in Business Administration students, (from left) Cherie Lee, Desiree Sim and Audrey Kwan share how PFP prepared them for a smooth poly life.
INTO POLY LIFE

SP’s Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) graduates and current students Cherie Lee, Desiree Sim and Audrey Kwan offer insights into what it’s like to get a headstart into poly life. Also, find out what these three Diploma in Business Administration students like about their course, as well as some of their best experiences in SP.

How was your ‘N’ Level year like?

Audrey: My ‘N’ Level year was quite a rollercoaster ride with the never-ending workload. It was stressful as I took mathematics and design and technology as ‘O’ Level subjects, which meant I needed lots of time for project work and practice. However, I felt motivated when I saw my good results after putting in hard work.

Desiree: I was a late bloomer who took a while to learn new things. My relatives used to look down on me because I was in the Normal Academic stream, and I felt hurt by their occasional comments. My dad then told me: “The more others look down on you, the more you have to prove them wrong!” I took his words as motivation and I was determined to do well. I also had to juggle my co-curricular activity (CCA) – bowling – and had to train hard because I was in the school team and the National Youth team. It was tough juggling studies and sports, but I wanted to show that I can do it. This all paid off when I achieved good grades for my ‘N’ Levels and made it to SP.

Was PFP helpful in preparing you for your studies and life in SP?

Cherie: Being in PFP helped me in many ways. I enjoyed an early start to poly life and I knew how the curriculum worked by the time I began Year 1. I was also exposed to project work and presentations early which allowed me to gain confidence while presenting and cope with the work load. PFP has prepared me mentally and I was thus able to excel in Year 1.

Audrey: I felt that PFP gave me a prelude to poly life. It was also helpful because introductory modules like Language and Communication Skills and Fundamentals of Enterprise Development built my foundation for higher level modules I took the next year. PFP taught me that self-discipline is important and that we have to take the initiative to plan our studies and be an independent learner.

What do you like most about the Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) course?

Cherie: I like how DBA exposes us to the many different aspects of business. I was able to take a wide range of modules on the topics of Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, and even International Business. Also, the course allows you to pick your area of specialisation in Year 2. I entered polytechnic not really sure of what I want to do in the future, but after two years here I decided that I want to start my own business. I chose the entrepreneurship option offered by DBA and have never looked back since.

Desiree: I really appreciate how my lecturers went the extra mile to guide me along the course – for example, my financial management lecturer stayed back with me nearly every day just to go through topics that I was weak in. Knowing that I have such warm support from my lecturers really makes my journey in DBA very fulfilling.

What are some of your best experiences as a student in SP?

Audrey: One of my best experiences in SP was my internship with events company Linear Dots Production. The founder, Ms Joewin, shared her inspirational story on how she started the company and that motivated me to pursue entrepreneurship. The six-week internship may be rather short, but it gave me insights on how to plan and execute events. The company emphasises on providing excellent customer service to clients and I learned how this helps them to maintain positive relationships with clients.
The Youth Community Leaders (YCLs) Programme offers service-learners the opportunity to ground their YCLs work in Co-curricular Service-Learning activities. They will get the chance to lead the community, learn from the community, evaluate challenges and reflect from experiences.

Open to all SP FT Students

Exposure Phase

Application Phase

Youth Community Leaders

Series of Workshop & Service-learning Projects

Interested to be a Youth Community Leader? Come join us! Visit https://goserve.sg/ycl to find out more!