11 poly grads win places in local medical schools this year

AMELIA TENG

The local universities are gradually accepting more polytechnic graduates into their medicine courses.

At least 11 of them scored places this year in the medical schools of the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

These numbers have grown since NUS’ Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine took in its first two polytechnic graduates 10 years ago.

Of those accepted this year, six are from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) – the highest number from a single polytechnic to be accepted for the local medicine degree courses.

Of those accepted this year, six are from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) – the highest number from a single polytechnic to be accepted for the local medicine degree courses.

Five of them are enrolled in NUS’ Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and one went to NTU’s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

The NUS and NTU medicine courses are for undergraduates, while Duke-NUS Medical School takes in students with at least an undergraduate degree in any field except medicine.

Ms Mah Mon Moey, SP’s deputy director for the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, told The Straits Times that it “does not design courses specifically for medical school”, adding, however, that “our curricula and learning experience lend themselves well to those applying to medical school”.

Since 2010, SP has produced 27 graduates – many of whom read biomedical sciences – who enrolled in medicine degree courses locally.

Besides the five SP students, NUS’ medical school also accepted three graduates from Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), and one each from Republic Polytechnic (RP) and Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP).

To date, at least 13 NP graduates, another four each from RP and Temasek Polytechnic, and another three from NYP, have studied medicine locally.

The medicine courses at NUS and NTU admit about 300 and 120 students respectively a year, with the majority coming from junior colleges. Between 11 per cent and 15 per cent of applicants make it to medical schools here.

Ms Mah said that SP’s biomedical science and biotechnology courses cover topics such as monitoring and managing diseases, research in diagnostics and cure, and the production of pharmaceuticals.

Students learn knowledge and skills that “form a good foundation for a career in the biomedical science, pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors”, she said.

Polytechnic graduates said they knew it would not be easy to enter medical school. SP biotechnology graduate Peh Ting Yong’s application to study medicine at NUS in 2015 was rejected.

His time as a combat medic during national service, however, made him more certain that he wanted to be a doctor, so he applied again this year, and was successful.

“As a first-aider, I came across patients with severe bleeding, allergic reactions, spinal injuries, for instance... I wanted to learn more to know what to do in these situations,” said the 23-year-old.

SP biomedical science graduate Kimberley Lim said that when she chose to enrol in the polytechnic, she knew her chances of getting into medical school would be “way slimmer”.

With an O-level score of six, she was more than qualified to study in a junior college, but she wanted to pursue her interest in the healthcare sector.

“The A levels would be too general... My poly course exposed me to a lot of modules such as immunology, basic anatomy and biochemistry,” said the 20-year-old who will read medicine at NUS this month. “Of course medicine will be more in-depth, but I feel like I’ve had a small introduction to it.”
Growing up, Mr Muhammad Alifiz Kambali never took an interest in his studies. Due to troubles at home, he often found himself mixing with the wrong crowd and was a fixture in street fights during his teenage years.

“Fights over various issues were common between my parents. The atmosphere was tense at home and I sought comfort in bad company,” said the former Bedok South Secondary School student. “Street fights served as a means to channel my anger.”

Mr Alifiz, now 28, has come a long way since, emerging as one of the top graduates at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) this year.

Last week, he graduated from the integrated events and project management diploma course with a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA), and was awarded the Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal and Cityneon Events Gold Medal.

“I am not as young as my classmates, and I knew what I wanted to achieve when I enrolled in this course,” he said. “For me, I did not have the luxury of time to repeat or go back to school again. I knew that I had to put in more effort compared with my secondary school days in order to succeed.”

Mr Alifiz left secondary school with an O-level certificate in 2006, but did not fare well at the national exam. He needed to retake some subjects in order to qualify for a polytechnic course. Finding it troublesome to do so, he decided to work instead.

For two years before his national service commitment as a firefighter, he took up various jobs such as sorting letters and parcels, as well as working part-time at a coffee shop in Beach Road. After NS, he continued to work for another year.

Desiring a better future for himself and his family, he eventually decided to go back to school.

At 22, he did a Higher Nitec course in business studies (events management) at the Institute of Technical Education, where he graduated with a perfect GPA of 4.0.

Mr Alifiz was motivated to further his studies, after seeing how hard his father worked to support the family. “I thought that I could do my part and help him,” he said.

He took up the integrated events and project management diploma course at SP in 2014, at the age of 25.

Unfortunately, his father died of an illness before Mr Alifiz could begin his polytechnic education. “It did affect me, and I was not sure if I should carry on with my further studies,” he said.

"However, my family and friends encouraged me, and I carried on.”

Despite receiving offers from Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University, Mr Alifiz plans to work first before pursuing further studies. He said work experience is important in the events management line.

“Working also allows me to better utilise the skills I have picked up in the classroom,” he added.
With SP, it’s So Possible

The former Queensway Secondary Normal (Academic) student was keen to explore how business and information technology could be used to help others. He enrolled in Singapore Polytechnic as part of the pioneer cohort of the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP).

Mr Mohamed Najulah, who was born with brittle bone disease and uses a wheelchair, decided to take up a business information technology diploma instead. The programme helped nurture his speaking, writing and presentation skills. "Going through the PFP allowed me to be more confident, outspoken and articulate during presentations and group work."

The aspiring software developer will pursue an information systems degree at the Singapore Management University in August.

He had opted to do an engineering diploma, but was told during a medical screening that the course might be too strenuous for him.

Mr Mohamed Najulah, who was born with brittle bone disease and uses a wheelchair, decided to take up a business information technology diploma instead.

Since young, SP Institutional Medallist and Diploma in Computer Engineering graduate Benedict Lee was a curious boy and would take apart various electrical devices and piece them back together. During his schooling days, Benedict's family was financially challenged and his father couldn't afford to buy him a laptop. Benedict then took it upon himself to scavenge for used electronic parts and recycled them to build his own computer.

Recycling used parts to create his own computer

"Application development is not restricted by physical capabilities, and provides the freedom and ability to convert what I think mentally into reality," he said.

Mr Najulah described his poly experience as a roller-coaster ride, filled with ups and downs. But he will always remember the help offered by his peers.

"As I am a wheelchair user, I would never forget the moments when my friends and classmates assisted me to get to my lessons and lectures," he said. "It might be a simple act, but it meant a lot to me."

Benedict Lee will be awarded the Chua Chor Teck gold medal. He said he could not have come so far without the PFP, which allows students to skip the O levels to do a one-year programme that prepares them for a diploma course.

"That turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The 21-year-old is now one of the poly's top students and will graduate with a grade point average of 4.0."

Mr Najulah, who will be awarded the Chua Chor Teck gold medal, said he could not have come so far without the PFP, which allows students to skip the O levels to do a one-year programme that prepares them for a diploma course.

"It allowed me to transition seamlessly into my course," he said. "Without this alternative pathway, I would have to take my O levels, and I may not do as well to meet the entry requirements."

"That turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The 21-year-old is now one of the poly's top students and will graduate with a grade point average of 4.0."

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The former Queensway Secondary Normal (Academic) student was keen to explore how business and information technology could be used to help others. He enrolled in Singapore Polytechnic as part of the pioneer cohort of the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP).

Mr Mohamed Najulah, who was born with brittle bone disease, said the Polytechnic Foundation Programme at Singapore Polytechnic helped nurture his speaking, writing and presentation skills. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

Summary of Chinese article

Recycling used parts to create his own computer

Since young, SP Institutional Medallist and Diploma in Computer Engineering graduate Benedict Lee was a curious boy and would take apart various electrical devices and piece them back together. During his schooling days, Benedict's family was financially challenged and his father couldn't afford to buy him a laptop. Benedict then took it upon himself to scavenge for used electronic parts and recycled them to build his own computer. He scored 7 points for his O levels and decided to pursue his passion in SP. Benedict will be furthering his studies in NTU.
From Normal stream to PhD course

Two graduates share their journeys from the Normal stream to studying for PhDs

MUNERAH AB RAZAK

Mr Ernest Tan, 28, a PhD student, never thought he would get this far.

Mr Tan, who was an EM3 and Normal (Technical) student, did not bother studying much as he had no interest in the subjects he was doing.

But it all changed in his two years at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) as a student in Communications Technology.

He said: “I played a lot of computer games then so I didn’t mind learning more about computers.”

His interest pushed him to believe that he could continue into polytechnic, where he eventually earned a Diploma in Computer Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic (SP).

With a jump in the learning curve at SP, he was on the verge of failing his modules.

“I think what sustained me through these years was my curiosity in computer engineering.”

The three years of hard work bore fruit as he was accepted into Nanyang Technological University (NTU) one semester before polytechnic graduation.

Mr Tan said: “Once I was in uni, I just wanted to see how far I could go. I never thought in a million years that I would go to NTU.”

His FYP supervisor saw the potential in Mr Tan.

He is among the 9,107 students graduating from NTU this year, with more than 6,000 receiving bachelor’s degrees and 3,000 getting graduate degrees.

The first of 18 graduation ceremonies was held last Monday at the Nanyang Auditorium, with the last to be held tomorrow.

Also taking the long road to success was Mr Nigel Tan, 26, a full-time research engineer in NTU and a part-time PhD student in Material Engineering.

As part of the Industrial Postgraduate Programme introduced by the Economic Development Board in 2011, Mr Tan was able to enrol in NTU’s PhD in Computer Engineering course as well as work to gain industry experience.

He is now a research engineer at Airbus, working on improving the use of radio frequencies for aeronautical communications.

“We have to find our interest, put in our best effort and keep trying. After having come so far, it has made me believe that I can still carry on.”

Mr Ernest Tan, 28, a PhD student, never thought he would get this far.

He entered SP to pursue a Diploma in Chemical Process but, again, his journey was not a smooth one.

“I was struggling so much with poly that I felt like giving up and working. My mother encouraged me, saying that if I could top the N levels, I could do it again. I just have to continue with the same attitude I had then.”

He ended up doing well enough in polytechnic to enter university.

Mr Tan had at first wanted to work immediately after national service. However, after working for a year, he realised that he needed a degree to go far professionally.

Armed with his savings, a bank loan and a Ministry of Education bursary, he entered NTU in 2013 as a student in Material Science and Engineering.

Assistant Professor Terry Steele of NTU saw his potential and encouraged him to continue on to postgraduate studies.

Mr Tan was initially worried about funding his studies but found out that he could apply to be a Graduate Research Officer as he had attained a first-class honour for his bachelor’s degree this year.

This allows him to work full-time and study part-time in NTU.

He is grateful for the support from his family, friends and teachers.

Mr Tan said: “When I feel like giving up, I will now look at what I have been through and continue to work harder. Sometimes take a lot of time but we need to be persistent and try to achieve.”

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As a child, Ms Choy Yin Shan was always curious about ships. "How do ships made of steel float on water? Where do the goods in ships go to?" she wondered. It was later in secondary school that her teachers told her about the maritime industry and Singapore’s role as one of the world’s busiest ports.

The former Yuan Ching Secondary School student decided to enrol herself in Singapore Polytechnic’s (SP) maritime business course after her O levels, despite qualifying for junior college.

"I heard that polytechnic was more fun than junior college. My parents let me choose what I wanted to do based on interest," said Ms Choy, who graduated this year with a grade point average of 3.8.

The 20-year-old daughter of a machinist and a housewife was also the valedictorian for the graduation ceremony last Thursday. Her older brother is studying mechanical engineering at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Her three years at SP have given her an insight into the operations management that goes on at ports and taught her how container space on board a ship is managed. She also picked up knowledge in electronic commerce and maritime law along the way.

A six-month internship with a shipping registration company during her second year gave her the chance to help out with events in the maritime industry as a training coordinator.

"I am still thinking whether to study or work first. I want to gain more knowledge and further my interest in this field," said Ms Choy, who hopes to work in the oil or ship management sector.

"I think the diploma is good enough for me to venture out to work and there are many opportunities, even without a degree." I believe that skills are more important and pay will rise with experience."
Poly grads: Work first, degree later

These top students from Singapore Polytechnic’s graduating cohort of 2017 would rather gain experience first.
巾帼不让须眉! 尽管家人反对, 女生执意上理工学院念工程系, 还以近乎满分的成绩毕业, 成为状元, 考获奖学金。

20岁的林佳敏就读新加坡理工学院的能源系统与管理系, 来临的五月将以近乎满分的成绩毕业, 是本科学状元。

因为热爱物理受到毕业于电子工程系的哥哥影响, 林佳敏自中三起就认定要进入新加坡理工学院, 并修读这个课程。

林佳敏娓娓道出, 母亲和毕业于工程系的阿姨都认为女生读工程系非常辛苦, 这个课程并不适合她, 所以两人一开始不支持她的决定。“我以行动证明我的志愿。在中三和中四时, 我的物理成绩都是A, 所以成功说服母亲和阿姨让我进修这个科系。”

据了解, 和她同系的有约60名学生, 其中有约20名是女生。虽然就读以男生居多的工程系, 林佳敏并不畏惧, 她抱着对理科系的热情, 力求突破, 并且喜欢尝试解决难题。“我认为男生能完成的事, 女生也同样能够做到。我希望有更多女生报读工程系, 未来成为出色的工程师。”

获颁新加坡理工学院工程系奖学金的她, 不仅成绩优异, 也活跃于校内活动和课外活动。除了是校内的天文学会副主席, 她也是学生领袖, 课余时间也练习击剑。

7岁丧父 母抚养3姐弟
她打工减轻母负担

7岁丧父, 母亲独力抚养三姐弟, 她为减轻母亲负担打工兼职。

林佳敏认为, 母亲一人扛起整个家不容易, 因此在中四毕业后就积极打工尝试不同工作。

“我希望能够自食其力, 减轻母亲负担。她透露, 目前已被本地两所大学录取, 在等待开课之际, 她在家做微晶片的公司工作, 发挥所长。

“她希望在未来能够专注于清洁和再生能源领域, 并且为我国迈向打造智慧国, 尽一份力。”

Female student majors in Engineering despite objections from family

SP’s Diploma in Energy Systems and Management Course Medallist, Joanna Lum, chose an engineering course despite objections from her mother and aunt. Both of them felt that the male dominated industry would be difficult and tough for her. Joanna managed to convince her Mum of her choice with her passion and excellent results along the way and will be graduating top of her course in May. Joanna has been accepted by NTU and NUS and will be furthering her studies.
Smelling success

New perfumery course at S’pore Poly

By KERRI HENG

CITA-CITANYA ingin mengambil diploma perfumery. "After a few months of trials, I realized I could not pursue my career in business, so I chose the DBIT course," said Cik Azlinda. "I found the course interesting, and now I want to pursue my education in chemistry."

One of Miss Han’s highest points came when she and another course mate were selected to go to Oxford for an internship in September 2011. She was there for 1½ months, working on an organic synthesis project at the university’s chemistry research laboratory.

"I was excited and happy that we had the chance to go to Oxford. I had a lot of fun exploring the place and meeting new people," she said. She also clinched several awards, including the Chua Chor Teck Gold Medal and Procter & Gamble Singapore Award.

Miss Han will be going to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland for three years to pursue a degree in chemistry this September.

"If you love what you study, then studying wouldn’t be a chore."

– Miss Alethea Joy Han Hui En (above)

A lab to delight the senses

THS laboratory is no ordinary room.

There are dazzling blue lights and huge glass display walls filled with world-famous perfumes. Singapore Polytechnic’s perfumery and cosmetic science centre, which opened this year, wows both visitors and students.

The centre is divided into three spaces – conceptualisation, crystallisation and communication – providing an ideal environment for students to brainstorm, formulate products and showcase them.

It is also a facility specially for students from the diploma in perfumery and cosmetic science. The course, which sees its first batch of graduates this year, is the only full-time diploma in Singapore that offers training in chemistry, perfumery and cosmetic science.

Some of them have already found jobs in fragrance-related industries.

Prominent companies with a foothold in Singapore’s perfumery industry include Procter & Gamble, Johnson and Johnson, Lubrizol, Croda and Unilever.

Course manager Jessie Tong said the diploma will enable students to serve the chemical, beauty, flavour and fragrance industries.

She said: “The demand for talent is high. (We are) the only local institute of higher learning that trains students in perfumery and cosmetic science (and) our graduates are highly sought after.”

CITA-CITANYA ingin mengambil diploma dalam jurusan Pengurusan Pelancongan di Politeknik Singapura (SP) atau Politeknik Ngee Ann (NP).

Malangnya, setelah meraih hanya 16 mata untuk L1R4 bagi peperiksaan GCE ‘O’, Cik Azlinda Jumahat gigal mendapat tempat dalam jurusan pilihan penuhnya itu di kedua politeknik itu.

Atas sebab demikian, Cik Azlinda, 20 ta-

hun, terpaksa melanjutkan pelajarannya hanya dalam jurusan pilihan penuhnya itu di kedua politeknik itu.

"Peristiwa itu membuka mata saya agar bela-

i terlebih dahulu, beliau tidak serius dalam

menengah terus menghaidupi pelajaran beliau sejauh itu,” kata Cik Azlinda lagi.

Mencongak ke hadapan, beliau melahir-

kan harapan dapat menambah pelajaran dalam jurusan Sistem Maklumat di Universiti

Nasional Singapura (NUS) atau Universiti Pen-

gurusan Singapura (SMU) selepas ini.

“Open mind shows her a new path”

When Azlinda Jumahat received her 0 level scores three years ago, she could not get into her dream course of Tourism Management at SP and NP through the Joint Admission Exercise. Instead, she was offered SP’s Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT), her 3rd choice.

While disappointed, she decided to approach the course with an open mind and was soon amazed by how Business and IT modules can come together to create meaningful programmes or apps. Today, Azlinda is graduating with a GPA of 3.863 & is already working full-time as a Digital Marketing Officer at the Autism Recovery Network Singapore. Azlinda hopes to further her studies in NUS or SMU in the near future.

Summary of Malay article

Fikiran terbuka gagahi jurusan pendidikan yang ‘asing’

Berikut usaha gighnya, Cik Azlinda berjaya memanfaatkan pengajian dengan keputusan memilih dengan merah Gred Purata Mata (GPA) setinggi 3.863.

Kata Cik Azlinda lagi, sewaktu di sekolah menengah terus menghaidupi pelajaran beliau sejauh itu, akhah bongsu keularga terlebih dahulu, beliau tidak serius dalam pelajaran beliau sejauh itu.

Namun satu kejadian yang dialami ketika beliau berada di menengah tiga telah mengubah hidup beliau buat selama-lamanya.

Ibunya, Cik Marina Ahmad, 51 tahun, yang menghadap penyakit jantung kronis, mengalami keadaan darah tinggi dan keadaan darah tinggi perlu menjalani pembedahan di hospital.

"Peristiwa itu membuka mata saya agar beliau terlebih dahulu, beliau tidak serius dalam pelajaran beliau sejauh itu,” kata anak bongsu Shariful Islam dan Cik Azlinda Jumahat.

Mencongak ke hadapan, beliau melahirkan harapan dapat menambah pelajaran dalam jurusan Sistem Maklumat di Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS) atau Universiti Pengurusan Singapura (SMU) selepas ini.
Encouraging IT-savvy youth to take industry to next level

Ng Jun Sen

As a child, Emma Tan Xin Rong tagged along with her civil engineer father to his work at construction sites.

Now, 17, the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) student is following in his footsteps - but on a different path. Instead of learning the old labor-intensive methods of construction, Emma is picking up computer programming, digital design and modular construction skills as part of her civil engineering course.

“The world is changing, and I am now learning things that my dad doesn’t know about,” she said.

From young tech wannabes to women who used to shun the male-dominated construction industry, different groups are now being encouraged to take industry.

Practically all the construction workers here are foreigners, numbering some 300,000.

Most of the youth interviewed remarked how “exciting” the construction sector looks set to become, shattering their own expectations of the industry.

A task force, co-chaired by BCA, schools and industry associations, is now looking into creating a new curriculum for both students and those already working. Their recommendations are slated to be out by late next year, the BCA spokesman told The Straits Times.

One idea includes a capstone programme for current graduating students, potentially forming part of their pre-internship training.

This could take shape in the form of an advanced final-year project that uses BIM and DfMA techniques and Building Information Modelling (BIM) systems.

The construction sector ac-counts for close to 6 per cent of Singapore’s gross domestic product and employs 14 per cent of the national workforce, and 5.5 per cent of the resident workforce.

At the Singapore Construction Productivity Week trade show yesterday, 250 young people from universities, polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) visited booths, where exhibitors showcased the latest in Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA) techniques and Building Information Modelling (BIM) systems.

Encouraging IT-savvy youth to take industry to next level

IMPIANNYA menjadi angkasawan sejak kecil tidak kesampuan setelah me nyedari ia agak mustahil dicapai.

Cik Nur Irza TUtty Roslan, kemudian merubah aspirasinya untuk menjadi pegawai polis pula kereta di sekelah me- ngubah atas galakan ibunya.

Namun, selepas mengalami suatu ke cederaan serius di kaki, beliau melupa kan sahaja hatinya itu.

Walau bagaimanapun, halangan tersebut tidak menghambat semangat Cik Nur Irza terus mencari kemajuan yang sesuai bagi diri dan masa depannya.

Berkat ketekunan, beliau menerima peluang untuk pekerjaan, Cik Nur Irza, 20 tahun, be ras dirinya mungkin sudah memenuhi pekerjaan yang beliau minati.

Anak bongsu empat beradik itu akan menerima pelajaran baruannya sebagai jurutera teknikal dalam syarikat di pelbagai negara.

Beliau diberi kepercayaan memulakan pekerjaan baruannya sebagai jurutera teknikal di sebuah syarikat swasta yang khusus menghasilkan sen sor pintar, selepas mahu tamat penga jian di Polytechnik Singapura (SP) suatu.

Beliau juga berpeluang meningkat kan kemahirannya di Jerman pada Jun ini bersama syarikat tersebut.

Bagi lulusan Diploma Jurusan Me katronik dan Robotik (DMRO) itu pe luang itu datang bukan cuba memang kunjungi kursus tersebut bakal pilihan utamanya.

“Ketika baru menyelesaikan kursus DMRO saya tidak begitu meminta bantu dan tidak yakin dengan kebolehan saya dalam bidang kejuruteraan.

Namun, saya amat berterima kasih mempunyai seorang penyayang, Enchi, Ho Sion Lim, yang begitu menganjur berani dan merayakan kebolehan saya dari tahu pertama hingga kini.”

“Oleh itu saya amat beri hati apabila diberi peluang bekerja sepenuh masa dengan syarikat SICK Pte Ltd di mana saya pernah melakukan latihan amali bersama mereka dahulu,” kata Cik Nur Irza.

Ketika melaukan latihan amali, den gan syarikat itu selama 21 minggu di bawah program lanjutan latihan amali, Cik Nur Irza diberi kepercayaan meng hasilkan alat sensor. Enam daripada alat tersebut telah dihasilkan dan dirujuk ke dalam syarikat di pelbagai negara sebagai sebahagian usaha menguji alat itu.

Cik Nur Irza kini berharap dapat memperbaharui dan berharap meningkatkan pengetahuan dengan mengambil kursus ijazah pula kelak.

They find new life after family deaths

Orphaned at 18, he scores near-perfect GPA

When he was 14, he saw his mother’s lifeless body hanging by the neck. She suffered from depression and had committed suicide. Four years later, his father died of myocarditis.

Orphaned at 18, Mr Lim Bo Zhi, who is an only child, did not have any close relatives he could turn to. Despite this, the 22-year-old computer engineering student will graduate from Singapore Polytechnic with a near-perfect grade point average (GPA) of 2.24 out of 4.00 in May. He is also one of 22 Model Student Awards recipients.

Mr Lim said: “Both my parents were insomniacs and often fought with each other. My mother tried to commit suicide several times using sleeping pills... It just came to a point when she couldn’t take it any more.”

Mr Lim and his parents used to live in a shophouse in Whampoa, where his father ran a hardware shop. Poor business forced the family to shut it down and they moved to live with Mr Lim’s paternal grandmoth-er in a three-room flat in Alkimos. It was there that Mr Lim’s mother, who was then 46, committed suicide.

Mr Lim said: “I was horrified and in disbelief. I thought that I should have gone with my mother.” He also blamed his father for his mother’s death. “I resented my father... I did not talk to him for the next four years. “I was also not close to my grand- mother as she could only speak Hokkien, which I am not fluent in.”

Mr Lim, then a St. Joseph’s Institu- tion (SJI) student, stopped going to school for the next two years. Instead, he would lock himself in his room and play computer games such as Dota and Maplestory. “Computer games were the only way I could escape reality and not think about my mother’s death,” he said.

RETURNED HOME
He eventually returned to school in 2011 after several home visits from SJI teachers and counsellors. He said: “The teachers and counsellors were very encouraging. “My friends, when I play comput- er games with online, also encour-aged me to go back to school. When they were unable to play with me be-cause they had exams, it made me think that they had their whole life planned out. Not 1 didn’t.”

Despite his initial worries, Mr Lim
Many people told me I was too young... But the more we performed to sell-out crowds, the more they believed in us.

— Mr Vishnucharan Naidu (below)

Late father is his inspiration

Mr Vishnucharan Naidu was only 12 when his father died, and overnight, his life changed. His father, who was an executive at the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), was the family’s sole breadwinner.

Mr Vishnu, 20, who studied at St Andrew’s Secondary School, was put on the Ministry of Education Financial Assistance Scheme. His mother worked at an infant care centre to support him and his two older sisters.

He worked part-time as a waiter and a packer while studying applied drama and psychology at Singapore Polytechnic (SP).

In 2014, when he was in his second year, he set up theatre group Big Birds Productions. Mr Vishnu will graduate with a GPA of 3.37 in May.

Big Birds Produces now has five core members and 13 actors, most of whom are SP students. The non-profit group has staged three ticketed public shows.

Last September, the group staged the play Godfight at Goodman Arts Centre. All three shows were sold out. The play explored the idea of loss and several audience members cried during the play, said Mr Vishnu.

Mr Vishnu now lives in a four-room flat in Serangoon with his civil servant sisters, aged 23 and 28, and his mother, who is now a freelance babysitter.

He said his dad’s inspiration.

“I realized how people change and become better and stronger when they lose someone dear,” he said, adding that he has used that theme in a screenplay he wrote.

But setting up a theatre group was not easy.

BELIEF

Mr Vishnu said: “Many people told me I was too young... But the more we performed to sell-out crowds, the more they believed in us.”

His older sister, Ms Vishnualpha Naidu, said: “Initially, I wasn’t sure if my brother was ready... but he surprised me.”

Ms Angela Chua, 22, a speech and drama teacher who is also with Big Birds Productions, said its members look up to Mr Vishnu.

She added: “As someone who has been through the same school curriculum as Vishnu, I find it admirable how he juggles school demands with production work.”

Mr Vishnu, who aspires to be a theatre director, said: “I want to educate the public on topics not commonly talked about in society. I want to give a voice to the voiceless.”

was glad that his classmates accepted him and did not probe his family background.

but he was not doing well in his studies.

“I barely met the promotional criteria for Secondary 4. I was struggling in every subject except mathematics,” he said.

Six months before the O levels, SJP full-time counsellor Christina Tang-Lien, 50, arranged for Mr Lim to stay in a hostel in Catholic Junior College (CJC), an affiliated school of SJP.

Mr Lim said: “I could study better without the distraction of computer games. As the hostel housed many scholars, the environment also motivated me to study.”

It was during this time that his relationship with his father improved. Mr Lim, who is still living in the hostel, said: “I realized that I did miss him. We would talk over the phone once a week.”

In 2013, he scored 9 points for his O levels (combined score for English and four relevant subjects) in the O levels. His father was very happy with his results, he said.

But tragedy struck again.

A few days after leaving the hostel to move home, his dad, who was then 53 and had been in poor health for a long time, died of pneumonia.

Mr Lim said: “I couldn’t believe him up in the morning, I called Ms Christina immediately... I was speechless. But I was also glad that he didn’t have to suffer anymore.”

NEW BEGINNINGS

In April 2013, he started studying at Singapore Polytechnic, which he called a “new beginning.”

In his first year, he was part of the poly’s peer-counselling programme, where he coached weaker students taking the same course.

In his second year, Mr Lim organised an overseas community trip with schoolmates, where they built toilets and taught English to village children.

That year, he also volunteered for 10 months at a family care centre, giving tuition to primary school pupils once a week.

He credits his achievements today to Ms Tang-Lien, whom he regards as family.

Mr Lim said: “She taught me that whatever happened in the past is all ready in the past. I knew that I had to work hard, not just to secure my future but also to do Ms Christina proud.”

Now a senior counsellor at SJP, Ms Tang-Lien said she had a shock when she first met Mr Lim at his home towards the end of 2010. This was when he would hole himself up in his room.

She said: “When Bo Zhi walked out to meet me, I was shatton to the core. He was emaciated, pale and expressionless. He had the body of a 10-year-old boy. He feared being in public and kept imagining that people were starting at him.”

On subsequent visits, Mr Lim’s father would not open the door for her, she said. It was only a few months later that Mr Lim reached out to her.

Ms Tang-Lien convinced him to return to school.

She said: “I pointed to the rubbish piled up in his home and asked him point blank if that was what he wanted for the rest of his life. “I think that was the turning point for him.”

Mr Lim was later found to be short-sighted at about 500 degrees. He was also so skinny that clothes in the children’s department could not fit him, said Ms Tang-Lien.

“When he called me for help on the day his father had died, I thought that if this boy can survive these tragedies in his life, he can survive anything else that comes his way,” she said.

Mr Lim hopes to get a scholarship to pursue a degree in computer science.

When asked what he thinks his parents would say of his achievements if they were still alive, he said: “They don’t normally expect much of me, but I think they would be proud to see where I am today.”

“They would ask me to keep up the good work.”
From a rotating “urban farming kit” inspired by the Singapore Flyer to an alarm to deter and track bicycle thieves, more final-year projects at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) have been designed in response to requests from industry partners.

Since 2014, there has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of industry-linked projects displayed at SP’s annual engineering show, which ends today. They comprise about a third of the 94 final-year projects on display this year.

SP’s deputy principal Lim Peng Hun, 56, said: “Students will be a lot more motivated if they are solving real-world problems.”

While the students are not paid for their work, Mr Lim said he would not rule out the possibility of royalties in the future for commercialised work.

“Students will be a lot more motivated if they are solving real-world problems.”

TOH WEN LI

From a rotating “urban farming kit” inspired by the Singapore Flyer to an alarm to deter and track bicycles, more final-year projects at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) have been designed in response to requests from industry partners.

Toh Wen Li

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC’S DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LIM PENG HUN

The urban farming kit, devised by a team of four aeronautical engineering students, is a multi-tiered rotating pot holder, about 3m high, that resembles a Ferris wheel. It allows more plants to be grown in a given space.

It rotates on its own and can be paused so that the user – be it a child or an elderly person – can tend to the plants at a height he is comfortable with. It also comes with an automatic irrigation system.

Team member Chua Yong Chuan, 19, said: “We want to make farming fun... Why not explore using the ‘Singapore Flyer’ to grow crops?”

Kampung Senang Charity and Education Foundation, which signed a memorandum of understanding with Singapore Polytechnic in November 2015 for mobility-aid services, will use the farming device at one of its centres in May.

Mr Vernon Sun, 46, community partnership manager for the foundation, said: “It’s good to cultivate in youngsters a sense of community.”

Another device at the show is the “smart bike alarm”, which was requested by security company Adsec Singapore and designed by three students. It is aimed at cyclists who leave their bicycles unattended for a short while.

The alarm will sound when it senses that the parked bicycle is being moved for a prolonged period of time. Coordinates of the bike’s location are then sent to the owner.

Adsec Singapore’s general manager Geoffrey Foo, 50, who is a cycling enthusiast, said the company plans to commercialise the alarm, with modifications, by early next year.

Mr Lim added: “These prototypes need to be validated by our industry partners. We want the learning experience to be as authentic as possible, beyond the prototype.”

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Helping the blind with good vibrations

With SP, it’s so possible

Singapore Poly students develop music cart

A team of six students from SP’s Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE) and Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering developed an innovative music cart. Developed over two years, the cart was designed with meaningful input from KK Hospital and aims to improve the productivity of the hospital’s music therapists. The music cart can be expanded or collapsed, depending on the user’s needs and comes with a built-in power source and speakers. This allows the therapists to charge their laptops or use the electronic music instruments such as keyboard and drum set without the need to look for a wall socket.

Summary of Tamil article

She was rushing to school when she saw a blind man with a white cane walk into an advertisement board at Outram MRT station. While Miss Siti ‘atikah Mohd Rabai’, 25, was unable to tell if the man was injured, the incident stayed with her. It motivated her to come up with an invention to help the blind avoid such accidents.

So far for their final-year project at Singapore Polytechnic, Miss Siti and her team members, Mr Nurrizqan B Supardi, 24, and Mr Lal Yue Shan, 26, came up with the Sun Gauntlet – a pairing of a hat and glove that senses objects ahead and alerts the wearer to them. It only works with objects at waist level and above.

The hat and glove vibrate when there are objects ahead. The closer the user gets to an object, the higher the intensity of the vibrations.

The hat, which has a speaker, can even “talk” to the wearer, informing him of the objects ahead.

The Sun Gauntlet’s sleeve has an attached Global Positioning System and Global System for Mobile Communications so the wearer can inform his next-of-kin of his exact whereabouts in the case of an emergency.

Miss Siti said: “We hope our invention will further motivate the virtually impaired to be more independent and more confident with themselves.”

To ensure they were on the right track, they tested their prototype with Mr Kua Cheng Hock, 29, the first man to get a guide dog in Singapore.

Miss Siti said Mr Kua had advised them to focus on the hat because it does something that the cane is unable to do, which is to detect obstacles in front.

She said the team understands the limitations of their invention and are working to improve it.

With SP, it’s so possible

Summary of Tamil article

Tamil Murasu | 29 May 2017

The team comprises Mr Lim Lu Xin, Mr Tan Jia Jing Roy, Mr Tan Jun Ren, Mr Dylan Kevin Conceicao and Mr Theng Wen Jun Clarence, all 19.

Their mentor, Mr Iain Choe, 35, got the ball rolling by telling them about a man he knew who had been struggling with getting his wheelchair-bound mother-in-law in and out of the flat.

The man, known only as Mr Lok, who is in his 50s, used a wooden ramp over the steps but it was too much effort. The team embarked on the project to help Mr Lok and others who face similar problems.

Mr Conceicao said: “We’re very proud of our invention. Our group dynamics were very good and there was good teamwork.”

The team plans to install the lift in Mr Lok’s flat by next month.

INVENTORS:
(From left) Lai Yue Shan, Siti ‘atikah Mohd Rabai’ and Nurrizqan B Supardi worked on the Sun Gauntlet (far left).
Local innovations take flight

In-flight solutions developed by Singapore Polytechnic students picked up by Boeing

Developers: (From left) Mr Elston Cheah Kai Shean, Mr Dexter Tan Jun Yuan and Mr Hisham Bary were three of the six who won the Boeing Patent Award.

The Boeing patents are a good example of how students from various disciplines can come together to hone their skills, and use them to benefit the community. “I’m really honoured to win this award as the solution was something we worked on three years ago and now we have received recognition for it,” said Encik Zabidi.

“It was an eye-opening experience working with the world’s largest aerospace company, and also students from other disciplines, as having differing opinions made our solutions better.”

AeroHub houses the aeronautical and aerospace electronics engineering laboratories and facilities under one roof at SP.

The facilities typically found in an industrial aircraft hangar, including a flight simulator room and an engine maintenance room for hands-on training.

It will be open to the public during SP’s Open House from tomorrow to Saturday.

"We look forward to many more successes with SP students in the coming years.”

For five weeks in 2013, the six students from SP’s engineering, business and design diplomas worked with Boeing researchers and cabin crew and conducted in-depth studies and surveys to find solutions.

Ms Low Yen Ling, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry, who was the guest of honour, said: “It’s interesting to note how the multidisciplinary projects are opening opportunities for SP students to develop practical solutions for real-world problems.”

“The Boeing patents are a good example of how students from various disciplines can come together to hone their skills, and use them to benefit the community.”

“Gone are the days where we just specialise in a silo area.”

SP and Boeing have been in a unique partnership since 2011. The three award-winning solutions are part of a slew of innovations that SP students have been developing for the company’s consideration.

HONOURED

Mr Elston Cheah Kai Shean, 21, who was involved in the development of two solutions, said: “I’m really honoured to win this award as the solution was something we worked on three years ago and now we have received recognition for it.”

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Antara fungsi selamat yang dibina kumpulan itu adalah Dual Bateri dan Single Rotor Loss Backup.

“Oleh kerana kesulitan masu, kami tidak dapat memenuhi fungsi jika satu motor sayap gagal, motor sayap bertentangan akan turut berhenti supaya penerbangan UAV lebih seimbang,” kata Encik Zabidi.

Pada latihan penerbangan pertama, UAV kami gagal terbang. Namun kami pasang semula dan memperbaikinya,” Catat Mr Hisham Bary.


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Engineering real-life solutions

This drone can ‘bee’ a real help

Post control workers clearing beehives face being stung by hundreds of angry buzzing bees defending their colony, which is usually somewhere high up on a tree.

So why not by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near the hive and spray chemicals on it from a safe distance?

That was one scenario three final-year SP students worked on.

They built their Pest Controller’s Assistant UAV from scratch, envisioning it being used for beehive destruction and rooftop inspection.

Their project was one of 10 developed by 400 final-year engineering students to solve real-life problems and which were showcased at the SP Engineering Show 2016.

Pest control company Pestbusters had approached the polytechnic with the problem.

Their workers have to don heavy gear and get close to beehives before spraying special chemicals to destroy them. They also have to scale heights to do visual inspection of roof tops.

One of the developers, Mr Yan Junfeng, 23, said: “Both types of work present great risks. With this tool, the pest controller can simply choose a comfortable location and remotely pilot the flying machine to carry out the otherwise hazardous tasks.”

The team, which also included Mr Kenny Yeo Ling Zhi, 19, and Mr Andrew Teng Kai Hong, 21, took about a year to complete the project.

Pestbusters was so impressed by the prototype that it is trying to find a manufacturer to produce it.

Mr Yan said: “We just feel happy that an actual industry partner is satisfied with our prototype. If this really takes off, it’ll be like contributing to society, as we’d be making the lives of those working in the pest industry easier.”

The annual exhibition ends today.

This annual exhibition provides our final year engineering students with the opportunity to showcase their projects to fellow students, staff, industry visitors and the public. It’s also a chance for them to demonstrate their ‘tech-readiness’ in an era where technological innovation is competitive and valued.

— An SP spokesperson
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Fast-track for SP accountancy students

**TRISTAN JEYARETNAM**

The latest incarnation of Singapore Polytechnic’s solar-powered car SunSPEC5 will be competing once again in October at the World Solar Challenge race in Australia.

The car, which was unveiled yesterday and was 20 months in the making, has a carbon fibre-reinforced polymer body. It is a two-wheel drive with a 1.5-kilowatt high-efficiency direct-current motor, and has a top speed of 100kmh.

Mr Steven Chew, a senior lecturer at Singapore Polytechnic and a team manager who worked on the car, said: “It was tiring but also very fulfilling to see the students build these cars themselves, and work independently.”

SunSPEC5 will be the only solar car from Singapore competing in the biennial Australian race. It will be one of the cars from 30 countries taking part in the 3,000km race, which starts in Darwin and ends in Adelaide.

This is the third time the polytechnic is entering the race. In 2015 – its second try – the race car, called SunSPEC4, was destroyed in a fire when the internal battery pack short-circuited. Luckily, the team managed to rebuild the car in less than four weeks, and finished in eighth place.

Hopes are high that this year’s race in the advanced Cruiser Class category will go smoothly.

The polytechnic has tied up with Singapore grid operator SP Group – an electric utility firm – in a five-year contract worth $1 million. Both aim to work together to help groom students into engineers.

Former Singapore Polytechnic student Leon Wei Lin, 27, who now works for SP Group, said he had no knowledge about renewable energy when he was a poly student. After working on Sun-SPEC4, he acquired the requisite skills, thanks to the training he received from his lecturers and poly staff.

He is returning the favour by mentoring students at the poly. — tristanj@sph.com.sg

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**THE STRAITS TIMES | 22 JULY 2017**

**S’pore Poly revs up solar car for race**

SunSPEC5 will be only S’pore entrant in Australian event

**TRISTAN JEYARETNAM**

**THE NEW PAPER | 05 APRIL 2017**

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Difficult race for S’pore Poly’s solar car

Accident, rough weather thwart team’s bid to finish on time; only three out of 13 teams make it back, where temperatures fluctuate from single digits to 40 deg C within a single day, and heavy thunderstorms.

That accident, though, threw a spanner in the works. "The seat (in 2015) was just two hard carbon fibre plates. The driver had to sit on that for the entire race," Mr Fong. "But if the current trend of hybrid cars and other renewable energy sources continues, the average driver might be able to own a hybrid solar car within 10 years."

CHLOE NG

His life flashed before his eyes as he smelled smoke. A punctured front tyre sent the prototype solar car that electrical and electronic engineering student Ngah Phek Siang, 22, was in veering sharply to the right – into the path of an oncoming road train, a type of long trucking vehicle.

Fortunately, the driver of the Sun-SPEC5 car, Ms Krystal Wong, 22, remained calm and yanked hard on the steering wheel, wending the car safely to the left and off the road, but not before leaving a 200m-long skid mark in her wake. "That accident, though, threw a spanner in the works. "The seat (in 2015) was just two hard carbon fibre plates. The driver had to sit on that for the entire race," Mr Fong. "But if the current trend of hybrid cars and other renewable energy sources continues, the average driver might be able to own a hybrid solar car within 10 years."

The two Singapore Polytechnic students were participating in the 2017 World Solar Challenge, as part of the SunSPEC team, a group consisting of 50 volunteers, Year 3 students, 12 lectures, and three alumni who now work at utility company SP Group.

From Oct 8 to 12, they raced against 39 other teams from around the world along a 3,000km race course from Darwin to Adelaide in Australia.

That accident, though, threw a spanner in the works for the team, in what was already one of the toughest competitions out there for experimental solar vehicles.

In the World Solar Challenge held once every two years, besides strict car design criteria, participants must also design for the unforgiving Australian outback, where temperatures fluctuate from single digits to 40 deg C within a single day, and heavy thunderstorms.

That accident, though, threw a spanner in the works. "The seat (in 2015) was just two hard carbon fibre plates. The driver had to sit on that for the entire race," Mr Fong.

"Surprisingly, (the driver) still came back the next day. It taught me about resilience, and other points along the route. To meet their daily time goals, they ate chocolate or granola bars behind the wheel, and even skipped toilet breaks at times."

Even then, SunSPEC5 failed to arrive in Adelaide on time. Heavy rains on the third day blocked out the sun, delaying the majority of the teams’ charging time.

Out of 13 teams in the cruiser category, only three managed to finish the race within the final day’s deadline, with the other 10 automatically given a near-failing score. Sun-SPEC received a total score of 51.5, compared with the winner, Solar Team Eindhoven, with 93.4.

“We have a lot more things to improve on,” said Mr Fong. "We need to make sure everything works... Before this race, I was a bit clumsy. Now I’m more careful!"

Mr Joey Ang, 19, from the Diploma in Energy Systems and Management, appreciated the chance to interact with participants from other countries. He recounted how the Kogakuin University Solar Team’s car completely flipped over during a test drive. "Surprisingly, (the driver) still came back the next day. It taught me about resilience, and other countries’ work ethics.”

Solar cars are still some way from becoming part of daily life, said Mr Fong. "At the moment, we don’t have any automotive manufacturing industry in Singapore as a precedent, so there’s some difficulty in getting certification,” he said. "And in Singapore, we have a lot of clouds and trees that cast shadows, which affects the solar panels’ charging.

"But if the current trend of hybrid cars and other renewable energy sources continues, the average driver might be able to own a hybrid solar car within 10 years.”

chloeng@sph.com.sg
App calls for emergency aid with one click

Project to help 999 callers among student innovations at Singapore Poly showcase

Benjamin Tan

Imagine you are being chased and want to call the police for help, but you can hardly breathe, much less tell the police your location over the phone.

A new app that helps you dial 999 with the press of a button and sends your particulars and location directly to the police may be a lifesaver. It can also send a message to your family, alerting them to the emergency.

The app, Call Police, was on display yesterday at the Singapore Polytechnic’s annual Project Showcase featuring more than 200 third-year student projects.

The prototype, not yet available to the public, is the result of a six-month collaboration between officers from the Singapore West Neighbourhood Police Centre and five business information technology students from the polytechnic.

The app does away with the need for 999 callers to describe their location, which often wastes precious time if they are panicking or lost. Call Police’s other features include an alarm and an embedded camera to capture evidence at a crime scene.

One of the students who designed the app, Mr Nicolas Wee, 19, said: “Let’s say you’re getting harassed or running away from someone – a shrill alarm can be activated by shaking your phone vigorously.”

When contacted, the police confirmed the collaboration but declined to provide further details.

If made a reality, the app would be a step up from the police’s current app, Police@SG, which allows users to view police advisories and make non-emergency reports.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force also has a mobile app, myResponder, which notifies volunteers if a cardiac arrest case occurs nearby, so they may assist in first aid before an ambulance arrives.

Yesterday, Nanyang Polytechnic’s (NYP) School of Design also showcased 87 of its student projects at the National Library Building in Victoria Street. NYP’s exhibits are on display until tomorrow.

Design School exhibits at the Singapore Poly showcase will be open for public viewing from tomorrow until March 17. The rest of the showcase featuring exhibits from the school’s other faculties ends today.

Asian Festival of Children’s Content
Singapore’s The Little Durian Tree wins picture book award

The Little Durian Tree (above), winner of the Scholastic Picture Book Award. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSUS CHERN

The award, which acknowledges outstanding, unpublished picture books that incorporate distinctly Asian themes, was given to The Little Durian Tree.

Chosen from 137 entries across Asia, the book was the brainchild of a five-member team comprising students from Singapore Polytechnic and is about a durian tree’s quest for friendship despite the thorny exterior of the fruit.

Ms Soma Adari Menon, 19, a member of the group, said: “For a lot of people in our course, the dream is to get a book published so the fact that this happened to the five of us is surreal and a dream come true.”

As this year’s country of focus is Indonesia, the festival will feature 19 sessions and performances on the country’s literature and culture. In particular, visitors can expect talks on Indonesian fiction and storytelling sessions depicting traditional Indonesian folktales.

Other highlights include a Writers And Illustrators Conference, a Cross-Platform Summit and a Teachers Congress And Parents Forum, which will provide parents and teachers with tips on improving children’s literacy skills.

On the chief purpose of the festival, Ms Claire Chiang, chairperson of the National Book Development Council of Singapore, said: “We believe in the content that our authors and illustrators produce. The stories written and illustrated by Asians are as good as those from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, where there are mature and vibrant children’s publishing industries.

“We want to build our own local market as well as tap into the broader Asian market.”

From far left: Students Melodie Edith James, Kyen Ho, and Soma Adari Menon, all 19, are part of the five-member team that produced The Little Durian Tree (above), winner of the Scholastic Picture Book Award. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSUS CHERN
Poly students with a passion
Early Admissions Exercises for polytechnics open

SIM YAN LING

At his interview for a spot in Singapore Polytechnic (SP), Mr Axel Teoh, 19, performed original rap songs.

The performance landed him a spot to pursue a diploma in music and audio technology.

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduate, who studied event management, was initially clueless about his post-ITE options.

“I did not know what to do (after graduation). When I learnt of the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) through a talk, everything fell into place,” Mr Teoh told The New Paper.

“When would you have thought that I would be able to enter a course I have always wanted and show my passion through my talent rather than my (examination) results?”

Mr Teoh’s first music video was released that year, and he will be performing in this year’s SHINE Festival, a youth music event.

He said: “EAE is something unique. It is a breath of fresh air for ITE students, and it gives ITE graduates a path to go on. It is truly beneficial.”

Meanwhile, Miss Nicole Chua, 18, turned her learning difficulties into an opportunity to help others.

The first-year student in Temasek Polytechnic (TP) was diagnosed with mild dyslexia when she was in Primary 5, and she suffers from learning difficulties. During her N-level year, she enrolled into a therapy centre.

There, she met a teacher who would shape her future.

“If I did not have the same abilities as others, I would have a lot of confidence in me. The teacher who helped me was encouraging. She helped me to put (my difficulties) into a positive place, so they can be more reassuring for the students.”

Of EAE, she said: “It helps the people who need it most. Some people really have the passion for certain things. “So even when they do not get results that meet the cut-off points, EAE still allows them a place, so they can be more reassured and focus on their studies.”

Miss Chua now aspires to take a double degree in early childhood education and psychology.

The Polytechnic EAE application window for students from ITE opened yesterday. It is open until Wednesday for ITE students, and it is open from June 22 to 28 for O-level students.

The ITE EAE application window for N- or O-level students to enter ITE or Nitec students to progress to Higher Nitec is open from June 21 to 28.

LIA HNE ZAOBAO | 10 JUNE 2017

为学生开通另一升学管道
工院提前招生活动本月开展

胡洁梅 报道
okhm@sph.com.sg

自认为在工艺源流的许文祥几年前也是通过提前招生活动,报读新加坡理工学院的土木工程与管理课程。(徐颖荃摄)

他去年通过提前招生活动报读工院。他说：“新加坡工院是唯一提供土木工程与管理课程的理工学院，修读该课程的兴趣，这加深他对这方面的兴趣。”

许文祥念工教院时汲取的实习经验,加深他对土木工程的兴趣。

他去年通过提前招生活动,成功报读心仪课程。他在工教院的学业成绩不算突出,毕业时的平均分约2.8(满分为4分)。

许文祥认为,提前招生活动为学生提供另一升学选择,特别是让成绩一般的学生有机会报读心仪课程。他在工教院的学业成绩还算普通,毕业时的平均分约2.8(满分为4分)。

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At the forefront of training

The Singapore Maritime Academy provides an excellent maritime education and training infrastructure for young Singaporeans

With SP, it's So Possible

Further upgrading for professional courses such as the Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) courses for deck and engineering officers are also offered at the institution. Says Capt Mohd Salleh Bin Ahmad Sarwan, director of Singapore Maritime Academy: "The maritime industry experiences numerous regulatory and technological changes constantly, to which SMA responds by looking ahead and ensuring that its graduates are prepared for the future needs of the industry."

In celebration of its 60th anniversary this year, SMA renews its commitment to prepare the next generation of maritime professionals with technical competencies, industry knowledge, overseas exposure and character development through the purposefully designed curriculum activities beyond the classroom, he adds.

Singapore Maritime Academy has got the Special Mention Award at this year's International Maritime Awards. The institution is an invaluable training partner and in particular is contributing under the SkillsFuture and Earn and Learn programmes.

As a forward-looking institution, SMA remains at the forefront of maritime education and training through three key thrusts: leveraging education technology, building staff capability and strengthening training industry engagement.

"In keeping with technological advances in teaching and learning, SMA embraces education technology where conventional teaching methods are enhanced with e-tools and e-materials," says Capt Salleh.

To support this "blended learning" approach, SMA uses Blackboard, a learning management system where all the materials for the modules are uploaded including lecture notes, videos and power point slides) and are accessible to the students from anywhere with Internet connection at their convenience.

SMA partners the American Digital University, Inc in USA to develop and offer the Certificate of Competency (CoC) e-learning programmes. The online programmes cover the CoC courses for deck and marine engineer officers and have been designed to facilitate learning from home or work at the learner's own pace.

SMA will continue to invest and develop maritime-related e-materials to aid in the teaching and learning of maritime topics for its students, says Capt Salleh.

The experienced staff at SMA is supported by sophisticated facilities including a fully integrated maritime simulation centre and a waterfront training facility: SMA makes extensive use of technology for its students before they step out into the working world. It also embarks on various initiatives and enhancements to ensure that its students have access to the latest technology in training so that their skills are kept up to date and relevant to the industry.

SMA has been working on strengthening staff technical and leadership capability as well as enhancing industry engagement through structured training and developmental programmes. The staff are also required to go for industrial attachment at least once in five years to ensure that they are up to date with industry trends and developments.

Capt Salleh says that SMA has recently embarked on various SkillsFuture initiatives as it is the sector co-ordinator for the sea transport sector. As sector coordinator, SMA plays a central role in driving and coordinating engagements between the educational institutions and the industry for their respective sectors, to strengthen linkages and synergy between study and work.

Under the Earn-and-Learn Programme (ELP), which is a work-study programme designed to give fresh graduates from polytechnics and ITE a headstart in their careers, SMA launched the ELP for Maritime (deck officers and marine engineers) for the Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) and Diploma in Marine Engineering (DME) graduates in April 2016.

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With SP, it’s So Possible

Fancy some prata-instant noodles and chikuthe?

SAMFREY TAN

It was only a matter of time before popular late-night snacks roti prata and instant noodles got “married”.

Meet the prata-instant noodles. It is prata shredded into noodle-like strips in a cup which has a sachet of curry. Microwave the curry, pour it in, and you have “noodles” that pack a flavorful punch.

Prata-instant noodles was developed by third-year students from Singapore Polytechnic’s (SP) diploma in experience and product design course, in collaboration with the Food Innovation & Resource Centre (FIRC).

It was featured alongside other food items — such as the kaya palate and chikuteh — at FIRC’s 10th anniversary event at SP yesterday.

TASTE TEST

More than 500 students, food technologists and experts were on hand to taste-test innovative food concepts.

The students behind the prata-instant noodles said that while prata is popular among young people, some find leaving their home for it a hassle.

Another notable dish is the kaya palate. Featuring different kaya spreads packaged in paint tubes to simulate canvases to simulate paint sets.

The FIRC-developed chikuthe, a Halal version of bak kut teh, was developed to meet the demands of Muslim consumers, an untapped market for ready-to-eats foods.

Mr Tay Chiew Teck, an FIRC process innovation manager.

The pork ribs are replaced with chicken in a light and herbal broth.

Mr Tay said: “This conversion opens a pathway where foods can be converted from non-Halal to Halal.”

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Mr Tay said: “This conversion opens a pathway where foods can be converted from non-Halal to Halal.”

本地研发“胶囊食品”
鸡汤可用咖啡机冲泡

本地研制出“胶囊食品”, 只需放入家中的胶囊咖啡机, 短短几分钟内就能冲泡一碗热腾腾的药材汤或沙爹酱。（林静雯摄）

新加坡理工学院食品创新与资源中心从去年开始研究这种胶囊食品, 至今已有六种食品, 如人参鸡汤、沙爹酱以及为乳糖不耐症者调配的果仁奶类等。食品创新与资源中心的纪念成立10周年庆祝活动于昨日在SP举行。

本地研制出“胶囊食品”，只需放入家中的胶囊咖啡机，短短几分钟内就能冲泡一碗热腾腾的药材汤或沙爹酱。新加坡理工学院食品创新与资源中心于2007年成立，利用科技开发新产品或为产品增值，也推荐企业采纳合适的包装、改善工作流程、延长产品保质期等，加强中小企业的国际竞争力。

食品创新与资源中心至今已协助超过620家公司，参与1000多个合作项目，其中有超过40%被采纳，并成功商业化。
Enhanced internships for Singapore Poly students

AFIQ ROSLAN

For 18 weeks, Mr Bryan Tan was paired up with a social worker from Sheng Hong Family Service Centre. He listened in on case sessions and case conferences and went on home visits.

During his internship, the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) student was tasked to observe and give his assessment of what he felt was going on with various families, applying the psychology theories he learnt in his pursuit of a diploma in applied drama and psychology (DADP).

His opinions carried weight, even though he was only an intern.

If he suspected family violence, child protection officers would step in.

“In one case, my input prompted an intervention programme to help some unemployed people,” said the 20-year-old final-year student.

Mr Tan’s internship last year was part of a pilot programme organised by SP, which aims to roll out enhanced internships for DADP students.

SP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with six social and community service agencies yesterday.

“From now to September, we are hoping to get more partners on board the enhanced internship programme,” said Ms June Wee, the DADP course manager.

The enhanced internship will provide students with partners from agencies who will train them on mentorship.

“The students will also receive clearer learning objectives, which can be created by SP and the respective agencies,” said Mrs Sara Tan, executive director for Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services, one of the agencies that signed the MOU, at a community event in Hougang.

“I saw the beauty of the play and how it was able to make us reflect on sensitive topics,” said Mrs Tan, 58.

These students bring in a sense of energy as well as the knowledge in drama and psychology they learn from school.”

armuhd@sph.com.sg
Poly’s tie-up with RWS gives students an edge in jobs

New programme will offer internships chance to work full-time at higher position and pay scale

Ameilia Teng

Mr Seah-Khoo Ee Boon, RWS senior vice-president of human resources and communication, said they aim to have at least 20 per cent more than their peers in the programmes, or about 120 students.

With SP, it’s So Possible

Polytechnic students learn about food processing safety in Thailand

SP’s School of Chemical & Life Sciences organised a 12-day overseas immersion programme to Thailand where 34 SP’s Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) and Diploma in Health, Nutrition and Wellness (DHNW) students visited farms and factories of CP Group as well as a local university to learn more about food processing and food safety.

Summary of Chinese article

从一个鸡蛋变成一块日式照烧鸡肉,要经过几个步骤?大家平时吃的白米、喝的牛奶,又要花多长时间来生产?

上个月底,34名来自新加坡理工学院化学与生命科学系的学生前往泰国,探寻餐桌上食物的源头,从中了解最新的食品加工技术与食品安全规格。

作为本区域规模最大的食品制造商之一,CP食品的各条产品线都拥有从养殖、收成、加工再到产品包装的一条龙生产过程,这让生产过程更标准划一,也能确保食物品质。亲眼目睹食品生产过程中的各个工序,让工院学生对自身专业知识有了更深的体会。

“在养虾厂看到不同虾苗的分类养殖,然后通过科学调配饲料、隔绝外界细菌,确保虾苗健康成长,我才体会到‘养虾’不是想象中简单,而是真的像课本上所说的,每一个步骤都有严格的要求。”食品科学与科技专业学生蔡昌諹(18岁)说,在参观虾养殖厂前,他对“养虾”的印象仅限于在本地钓虾场所看到的情景,“一个大池里养了许多小虾”。没想到在参观养虾厂的“大池”时,还要经过换衣、洗手和过消毒池等多道程序,才能亲眼见到虾苗。

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Individuals should take charge of own learning journey: Iswaran

AARON CHAN

Educational institutions and industries must work closely to ensure that knowledge acquired and skills developed remain relevant to changing needs of the economy.

But even as they evolve, individuals must take ownership of their own learning journey and to forge their future, said Mr S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry). “Rapid technological advancements are fundamentally changing the nature of our economy and the work that we do. To stay competitive and continue to create good jobs for our people, industries have to restructure, business models must adapt, and Singaporeans need to acquire new skills,” he said.

This was his message to the 651 adult graduands from Singapore Polytechnic’s (SP) Continuing Education and Training courses who were receiving their diplomas and certificates at a ceremony at SP’s Convention Centre yesterday. This year, 5,600 students from SP will be receiving their full-time and part-time diplomas and certificates.

While reiterating points made earlier this week by Manpower Minister Lim Swee Say and Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office Chan Chun Sing, Mr Iswaran said: “The basic issue that we face today is not an insufficiency of jobs, we are creating ample jobs, the challenge is really in the mismatch of skills and how we can bridge that.” He said technological developments have changed the nature of Singapore’s economy and the jobs that are created. These jobs require a new set of skills and proficiencies, and a willingness by the workforce to acquire them to meet the changing needs of the industry.

Mr Iswaran added that it is the collective effort of all stakeholders, including employers, workers, government agencies and educational institutions, to work together to create a “comprehensive eco-system for the continuous development of skills”.

Citing the successful collaboration between SP Professional and Adult Continuing Education (Pace) Academy, Workforce Singapore, SkillsFuture Singapore and the industry to promote the development of a skilled and future-ready workforce, Mr Iswaran encouraged more of such partnerships.

Individuals like Mr Sheikh Harun Mohammad Rafik, 36, who made a mid-career switch and sought relevant upgrading, were commended by Mr Iswaran.

Despite having a master’s in sports science, Mr Sheikh Harun, who was a national silat coach, moved into the maritime and offshore industry as he had an interest in it and had relatives working in the industry. Last year, he pursued a Diploma (Conversion) in Shipping and Marine Offshore, hoping to gain more knowledge and interact with people from the industry. He is now a technical and operations executive with a maritime firm.

“I have always believed in continuous learning and having this diploma gives me more confidence,” he said. “It shows my bosses that I’m very serious about this industry and hopefully will be able to pick up more skills soon.”

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邓雋铧拥有南洋理工大学的信息学硕士学位，从事软件开发工作已超过12年。不过，科技资讯相关领域发展迅速，例如近年来日益盛行的手机应用知识，他却是相当缺乏。为了确保能跟上公司的业务发展，邓雋铧去年4月报读新加坡理工学院成人专业延续教育学院（PACE Academy）的手机应用单元课程。课程为期六个月，学生每星期需上一次课，每堂课时长三小时。

我国近年来吹起“持续教育风潮”，像邓雋铧这样到本地大专学府选修短期单元课程（Modular Courses）的在职人士有增加趋势。受访学府提供的数据显示，这类为方便工作者上班之余进修而设的课程，报读人数近一年来增加一到三成。校方也计划推出更多科目，以应付需求。

新加坡理工学院去年下半年起推出单元课程供工作人士修读，目前有102个科目。新工院发言人说，随着人们对单元课程认识的提升，学院预计每年将有约500名学生报读这类课程。

报读大学或专业文凭时可用学分抵消部分科目

新工院将按各领域的需求，为专业人士、经理、执行人员和技师（PMET）设计一系列单元课程，内容范围涵盖网络安全及生物医药等。提供超过260个单元课程的工艺教育学院也说，去年报读这类课程的学生人数比前年多一成。

另外，向来致力为成人学习者提供部分时间与全日制课程的南洋理工大学（Nanyang Technological University,简称NTU），又提供超过50个单元课程，供在职工作者选读。

离开校园多年后重返课堂，上班族需要重新适应学生角色。邓雋铧受访时说，他原先不确定自己是否能应付课程。“毕竟已经这么久没回学校读书了，我担心边工作边上课会应接不暇……不过还好课程晚上7点开始，我能在下班后才去学校，每星期上一次课，不至于太疲劳。”

邓雋铧说，课程让他掌握手机应用设计与开发的基本认识，对他的工作有很大帮助。“公司近年来致力开发手机应用，以改善生产力，同时为客户提供更多便利……我掌握的相关技能能派上用场，让我继续在公司发展职业生涯。”

有了半工半读经验的邓雋铧如今已报读新工院的智能城数码科技专科文凭（Specialist Diploma in Digital Technologies for a Smart City），以应付未来工作所需。除了因工作需求前去进修，也有人因为个人兴趣而报读短期单元课程。梁亚才（59岁，电子工程师）向来热爱摄影，但从未接受过正式培训。他在去年9月报读新跃大的数码摄影科技单元课程，紧接着又报读数码摄影技术科目。

他说，课程让学生透过在线教学完成部分课程，他无须从工作地点赶往大学上课。“讲师透过实时视频教学，我们也能将视频录下来，以便过后复习。这不仅能节省上学的麻烦，也能让学习进度较慢的人用视频复习。”

梁亚才说，课程除了加深自己对摄影的爱好，也帮助他更好地利用图片呈现工作报告。
With SP, it’s so possible

Talent pipeline for energy and chemicals sector

New earn and programme aims to draw polygrads to one of the ‘backbone industries’

Carolyn Knew

A scheme was launched yesterday to ensure a pipeline of talent for the energy and chemicals sector, one of Singapore’s ‘backbone industries’.

The SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme for the sector will enable polytechnic graduates to earn advanced diplomas as well as a monthly wage.

This will help “prevent leakages” in the industry, said Mr Erman Tan, president of the Singapore Human Resources Institute, referring to those who take up a polytechnic course or job in the sector only to realise it is not their cup of tea.

“The programme will provide early exposure to those who are interested in joining the industry,” he said, adding that participants get a chance to see what the industry is like, while employers can get a feel of potential recruits and give feedback to the polytechnics.

The latest earn and learn scheme adds to programmes in other sectors such as aerospace and food manufacturing. By the year end, there will be 40 of these programmes, the first of which started last year.

Those who graduate from the 18-month energy and chemicals sector scheme will be exempted from selected modules if they later pursue a related degree at the National University of Singapore or the Singapore Institute of Technology.

The new programme has signed up 26 participants already, including Ms Marysa Hashim, 20, a chemical engineering polytechnic graduate who is now a process technician with Shell Farquhar Island.

“I wanted to gain experience rather than continue my degree doing something I’m not sure about,” she said.

The energy and chemicals sector programme, which is led by Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and supported by the Workforce Development Agency, is open to those who have graduated from selected polytechnic courses. Applicants should not have graduated or finished their last day of national service for more than five years.

Participants will attend lessons at SP, get trained on the job and be mentored by their employers. They will be paid a starting basic salary of $1,400 to $2,000 a month with a shift allowance of $400 to $500.

Those who graduate from the programme will receive an Advanced Diploma in Chemical Engineering awarded by SP.

Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Ong Ye Kung, who launched the programme at Pulau Bukom yesterday, said it is important to have SkillsFuture initiatives in the energy and chemicals sector.

While we talk about disruption, technological advancement, all the current backbone industries continue to be extremely important,” he said.

Last year, output from the energy and chemicals sector accounted for nearly $25 billion or 29 per cent of Singapore’s total manufacturing output. The sector has more than 40,000 employees and is poised to grow further.

LAIYONG ZAOBAO | 23 MARCH 2017

工院和e2i合作开课培训学生及白领

新加坡理工学院与全国职工总会就业与职能培训中心合作，加强学生与白领工作者的技能培训，包括为学生而设的就业准备活动，以及为白领工作提供培训的课程。

双方昨日签署备忘录，展开为期三年的合作。其中，工会会员到新加坡工院上课可获得资助，如果累积足够学分，更可获得专业文凭。

专业人士、经理、执行人员与技师（PMET）可选择只上一些课程单元深化技能，或用三年到五年（按课程而定）完成所有单元，以获取专业文凭。

提供资助及降低门槛

工会会员可利用职总会员培训援助计划（UTAP），就未获津贴部分的学费享有高达50%的津贴（每年顶限为250元）。

如果课程在“技能创前程”课程名单上，也可用技能创前程补助金（SkillsFuture credit）抵消学费。

新加坡理工旗下的专业人士与成人继续教育学院将为工会会员增设102个课程单元，使得职总会员培训援助计划适用的课程单元共230个。

就业与职能培训中心（e2i）总裁陈财喜接受《联合早报》访问时说：“除了提供资助，我们也得降低受训门槛。"

他指出，不同年龄层的人学习方式不同，就白领工作者而言，把课程内容分成单元授课，能让他们更容易吸收。此外，课程也结合线上与线下元素，让学员容易在通勤或课堂以外的时间复习功课。

7月办职场浸化课

学生方面，就业与职能培训中心今年7月将为即将参与新加坡工院旗下在职培训计划（Earn and Learn）的学员推出一项为时一天的课程，帮助他们为在职培训做好心理准备。

这个“职场浸化课程”（Career Excellence Immersion Programme），让学员与业界人士交流，获取行业趋势的见解，并学习如何调整心态。

此外，通过就业与职能培训中心的安排，新加坡理工学院学生与校友也会有机会参与定期举办分享会，与业界领导人交流，获取与就业相关的资讯。
有兴趣投入人道主义救援工作的公众，明年可修读一项由新加坡红十字会和新加坡理工学院联合推出的人道援助持续教育和培训课程，加强对赈灾组织运作的了解，以及掌握灾区救援及善后重建等方面的知识。

新加坡红十字会学院院长菲莎（Faizah Abdul Hamid）受访时说，本地和区域救援组织目前开办的人道救助课程一般针对某个课题，例如赈灾及筹款行动等。这项新的持续教育与培训课程（Continuing Education and Training，简称CET），相信是东南亚首个从救援人员、决策者及科技应用等层面，较全面探讨人道救援课题的专业文凭课程。

这项CET课程预计明年5月开课。它让学员每完成一个单元课程获得一份证书，完成所有单元课程获颁一份专业文凭。课程预计有三至四个单元，估计要一年至一年半时间完成。

除了上述CET课程，新加坡红十字会和新加坡理工学院昨天签署为期两年的合作备忘录，也包括携手为新加坡理工学院学生开办一项“人道主义事务专业文凭增进课程”（Diploma-Plus Certificate Programme in Humanitarian Affairs），课程昨晚开课。

专业人士进修课程，是新加坡理工学院学生在自己专业文凭课程以外，额外修读的一项证书课程。这项证书课程由十数位专家教授，以及新加坡红十字会顾问和新加坡国际防灾中心的顾问教授。

120名来自不同领域的学员，经过100小时课程学习，最后参加社区服务项目，包括实际参与到一个东南亚国家的红十字会志愿者工作。

新加坡理工学院院长卢守华说，我国向来对遭受灾难的发展中国家伸出援手，这项合作肯定了工院的社区服务信念，也能进一步培养学生成为关心区域受灾人士的全球公民。

新加坡理工学院和南洋理工大学，将根据先进制造技术发展，推出一系列新兴技能课程，以协助员工掌握相关职业技能，为制造业转型做充分准备。新理工会推出超过20个先进制造新技能课程，目标是接下来五年培养6000名全职和兼职文凭的先进制造技术学员。

部长兼贸工部高级政务部长许宝琨昨天在新理工一项活动中，做出以上宣布。他说：“随着我国往先进制造领域发展，将出现许多新工作，它们都需要员工具有新专业知识。我们要提升员工技能，以胜任这些工作。”

先进制造新技能课程旨在培养拥有物联网（Internet-of-Things）和机器人管理等专业知识的劳动队伍。这支劳动队伍在未来数码科技和机器人应用领域会成为关键，能通过学习有关技能和知识，配合新加坡政府提出的‘新进制造技术’，推动新加坡未来，也能在其他国家发展，把先进制造技术带出新加坡。这些课程会提供一系列的短期课程，学员在完成课程后，将有资格申请短期文凭（part-time diploma）或专科文凭。

这些课程已获得24家中小企业和跨国公司在进行超过200小时的课程后所支持。它也得到新加坡经济发展局（EDB）和精密科技发展局（SkillsFuture Singapore Singapore）支持。
Yong just wants to go to Rio to measure her progress on the world stage

Yogaraj Panditurai

By the time Olympic windsurfer Audrey Yong’s interview with The Straits Times at the National Sailing Centre had ended at 5.15pm yesterday, she had already spent three hours chatting with the media.

Prior to that, the 21-year-old also went out to sea for an hour so that photographers could snap her in action.

She had to cram all that in before her midnight flight to Rio de Janeiro to join the Team Singapore sailors for a training stint before the Aug 5-21 Games.

Despite her hectic day, Yong did not let fatigue faze her and was chirpy when she spoke, remaining bubbly and jovial self.

The 21-year-old, who had put sailing on the back-burner since March to focus on her internship with Marina Bay Sands, said: “I can’t believe I got the news about Rio just last week – it feels like months ago. The past week has been a never-ending string of events and it feels like I haven’t stopped moving ever since.

“I had to go through vaccinations, doctors’ appointments, interviews, photo shoots, training sessions and even had a competition. Every night, I just want to sleep and try not to think about tomorrow because it’ll be another hectic day ahead.”

Yong was a late addition to the Olympic sailing contingent after she was nominated by the Singapore Sailing Federation to take up the unused women’s RS:X quota place awarded by world governing body World Sailing.

Her nomination was endorsed by the Singapore National Olympic Council last week, bringing the total number of sailors bound for Brazil to 10 across six classes.

The final-year Singapore Polytechnic hotel management student will be the first Singapore woman windsurfer to compete in the Summer Games. Team-mate Leonard Ong, the country’s first Olympic male windsurfer since 1984, also flew to Rio with Yong last night.

“The reigning SEA Games champion and 2010 Youth Olympic Games bronze medallist said: “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.”

Even though this will be her Olympic debut, Yong is not intimidated by the opposition at the Rio Olympics. ST PHOTO: SEAH KWANG PENG

Windsurfer Audrey Yong, 21, who says hers is an “unpredictable sport”, is not intimidated by the opposition at the Rio Olympics.

Audrey Yong, a late addition to the Olympic sailing contingent.

Summary of Chinese article

理工学院学生构思地下纪念堂, 让人们可在更善用土地的情况下, 追忆已故亲人。

这是新加坡理工学院毕业展上其中一名学生的参展作品。今年共有270名学生的参展作品展出。这些学生来自视觉传播与媒体设计、室内设计、园林设计等课程。

除了学生作品, 还有社区中心的参展作品, 以及学生设计的专卖店 (Games Design & Development) 等项目。

为首期间展开的社区支援服务, 该研究的学费设计将土地经济性, 是一种有效的吸引社区用家的方法。Lee说: “虽然我住在白沙, 但之前并不知道SOSN的一家分店, 所以决定去看看, 他们设计了一系列宣传短片, 提出概念, 希望可以吸引年轻人支持二手货商店。”

对土生华人文化情有独钟的建筑系学生卢全乐(20岁)则设计了融入文化特色的民众俱乐部。

他说: “其实设计建筑师非常复杂, 除了要注意外观, 内部安全措施如逃生道也必须考虑在内。”

学生作品即日起在麦士威路的市建局中心大堂展出至本月10日, 入场免费。
Youngest lab head among NHG’s Young Achiever Award winners

By CHARMAINE SOH

At 30, Ms Serene Kho became the youngest head of laboratory at National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD) two years ago.

Ms Kho, who oversees a team of 25, all older than her, told The New Paper yesterday: “Initially, I felt worried and it was challenging, especially in terms of earning the seniors’ trust and respect.

“It took time, but the effort is worth it, especially with such a great team now.”

For her work at NHGD, she was given an NHG Young Achiever Award with nine others yesterday.

Ms Kho did an internship stint at NHG while studying biomedical science at Singapore Polytechnic, and joined as a junior medical technician in May 2005.

Under her leadership, NHGD’s laboratories initiated more efficient and convenient services for both patients and caregivers.

Last August, Ms Kho set up the Home Phlebotomy team, which visits wheelchair- and bed-bound patients to draw blood for laboratory tests.

“The medical technologist also meets patients and interacts with them. She said: “Especially for regular patients, we build a bond when we chit-chat and share our life stories.”

Being able to contribute to society gives her job meaning, and she sees herself staying in healthcare for years to come.

With SP, it’s So Possible

Sped up his Diploma

By CHARMAINE SOH

Khairul found it difficult to get a job after National Service, and this led him to SP. Due to his excellent results at SP, Khairul was chosen as the valedictorian during his poly graduation and expressed his gratitude towards his encouraging and understanding parents.

For his work at NHGD, he was given an NHG Young Achiever Award with nine others yesterday.

Khairul, 28, from NUS. Khairul scored poorly in his A levels and went on to complete his National Service (NS). After NS, he did an internship stint at NHG while studying biomedical science at Singapore Polytechnic.

Under Ms Serene Kho’s leadership, NHGD’s laboratories initiated more efficient and convenient services. PHOTO: NHG

Cemerlang dek sokongan famili dan lawan rasa malu

Summary of Malay article

KEPUTUSAN peperiksaan GCE ‘A’ beliau tidak memuaskan. Ia membuat beliau malu.

Setelah menjalani Perkhidmatan Negara (NS) selepas tamat peperiksaan di Maktab Rendah Victoria, Encik Muhammad Khairul Anwar Jamil, mendapatkan sukar mendapatkan pekerjaan dengan sihil yang mengecewakan itu.

Ini membangkitkan semangat beliau mahu menggenggam diploma.

Encik Muhammad Khairul memberikan diri dan mengetepikan rasa malu untuk meneruskan pengajian di peringkat diploma.

Usaha itu ternyata berbaloi – beliau mendapat pekerjaan sebagai juicer di politeknik hingga lulus memasuki Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS) dan akhirnya lulus dengan keputusan peringkatan tertinggi, iaitu serupa keputusan keluarga.


Bagaimanapun, anak sulung dalam kalangan lima adik beliau mula menyumbang kembali kepada keluarga, beliau mengikuti pengajian kejuruteraan mekanikal di Politeknik Singapura.

Ada daripada adik beradik itu melawan perasaan malu itu dan, dengan sokongan padu keluarga, beliau mula menyumbang kembali kepada keluarga.

“Tetapi saya amat bersyukur, keluarga saya amat memahami dan sering memberikan kata-kata perangsang kepada saya sehingga saya dipilih menjadi valedictorian apabila tamat pengajian di politeknik,” kongsi anak bujang itu.

Anak pasangan pemudu teksi dan suri rumah itu sudah diterima kerja kerjaan sebagai jurutera mekanikal di salah sebuah syarikat khidmat medan minyak terbesar di dunia.

Encik Muhammad Khairul akan ke Ecuador bulan depan bagi memulakan kerjaanannya.

Beliau menasihatkan siswazah yang baru lulus daripada universiti supaya tidak putus asa dalam usaha mencari pekerjaan.

“Membangkitkan semangat beliau mahu menggenggam diploma. PHOTO: NHG

Parents support enabled his success

Summary of Malay article

Parents support enabled his success

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Parents support enabled his success
A new wave of electronic artists from Singapore is coming to the fore – not just locally, but also internationally. And they are making a career of it.

If-producer Myrne, or Manfred Lim, has just completed a threeweek club tour in North America where the crowds are already familiar with his music.

The captivating Jasmine Sokko, with her electronically-lonking tunes, has had her share of chart success, going No.1 on a streaming service Spotify's viral charts in Singapore and No.2 on MTV Asia's regional viral charts in Singapore. But two years of playing here has changed that. "I used to have the idea that you can't have a music career in Singapore is coming to the fore – not just locally, but also internationally. And they are making a career of it."

Anjali Raguraman and Eddino Abdul Hadi

He makes good, heeding mum's advice to help himself and do his best after a lacklustre PSE.

A new song will be released soon. Titled Sober, he describes it as a "fun" and "quirky" electronic pop single featuring jazz crooner and last year's Sing! China breakout star Nathan Hartono as the feature vocalist. His debut solo EP is due to be released next year.

"I have always been curious about our sonic identity, about finding a Singapore sound," he says.

"South Korea has K-pop, Taiwan and China have their own identities. I believe we have something even stronger and better, but we haven't figured it out yet.

"So by reaching out, meeting, chatting and eventually working with artists who are aligned with my vision, I'm hoping, maybe some years down the road, we can figure this out together."
With SP, it’s So Possible

Summary of Chinese article

Diploma in Music and Audio Technology alumnus Evan Loh, shared how the course equipped him with the skills and knowledge to work in the music industry after graduation. Through his lecturer, Evan also had the opportunity to work with the renowned Canadian music producer David Foster.

Summary of Malay article

Rafikah Halim, SP’s Diploma in Business Administration graduate, took part in the API World Hackathon held in Silicon Valley last year, and shared how the experience made her interested to pursue a career in business.

An eye-opening experience at the Silicon Valley

Pengalaman di Lembah Silikon merangsaing mina

SEBAGAI helasun diploma pen­ta­diban perniagaan daripada Po­liteknik Singapura (SP) yang kini mahasiswa Sekolah Per­niagaan Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS), Cik Rafikah Halim lemah kondong pada dunia perniagaan dan bukan teknologi maklumat.

Bagaimanapun, berkat kesungguhan yang menguasai ketangkasan peserta mencipta sofwe dan aplikasi dalam masa yang ditetapkan, ia menangai peraduan hackathon sedunia, API World Hackathon, di Lembah Silikon, Amerika Syarikat, tahun lalu.

Hackathon adalah pertandingan yang menguji keterampilan peserta mencipta sofwe dan aplikasi dalam masa yang ditetapkan. Ia menghimpunkan peserta kepada pengatur cara komputer, perancang antara muka komputer, usahawan muda dan mahasiswa seperti Cik Rafikah yang berminat meneliti dunia teknologi maklumat.

Pengalaman bekerja dalam suasana merangsang mina di Lembah Silikon membuka mata saya tentang proses menjana idea segar. Apabila anda dikelilingi karya yang sentiasa mencipta idea baru dan inovatif, anda akan lebih bersemangat belajar dan mencabul diri agar lebih proaktif mengemukakan idea atau membangunkan sesuatu.

"Kepada belia sebaya, usah takut menekan di luar Silikon dan bekerja keras untuk mencapai cita-cita anda. Memang ada kalanya, dalam kesibukan bekerja dan menguruskan projek, saya kurang tidur, tetapi untuk kali pertama, saya merasa lebih berupaya dan lebih bersemangat. "

TERBUNGA LALAT DUNIA: Wadah terbuka daripada peraduan mencipta sofwe dan aplikasi ini membuka mata saya tentang proses menjana idea segar. Apabila anda dikelilingi karya yang sentiasa mencipta idea baru dan inovatif, anda akan lebih bersemangat belajar dan mencabul diri agar lebih proaktif mengemukakan idea atau membangunkan sesuatu. – Foto ihsan RAFIKAH HALIM

Summary of Chinese article

An eye-opening experience at the Silicon Valley

SP’s Diploma in Business Administration graduate, Rafikah Halim, who is now a student at the National University of Singapore (NUS), shared how the course equipped him with the skills and knowledge to work in the music industry after graduation. Through his lecturer, Evan also had the opportunity to work with the renowned Canadian music producer David Foster.
Penyanyi muda mahu cipta lagu isu ‘terlarang’

BY PUTRI MARDIYAH YAZID

"SAYA nak buat lagu tabu!" Beberapahalang impian penyanyi muda Singapura Ahmadul Amin Haron.

Lebih selesa dipanggil Amin, pen-nyanyi berusia 21 tahun itu memberi-ita Buatan hati Harian bahwa beliau in-gin membeli kebijakan dalam industri muzik dengan mengetengahkan isu terlarang, atau tabu, dalam lagu yang dicipta.

Sungguhpun demikian, Amin akar isi terlarang agak sensitif bagi masyarakat Melayu.

"Ohel sehah itu, saya menghasilkan lagu ini bukan agar dapat sembarangan dengan lirik yang agak serius," ujarnya, yang sedang menjalani Perkhidmatan Negara (NS).

Seminggu kini, beliau sudah meng-hasilkan lima lagu berunsur terlarang.

Antaraannya adalah lagu bagi projek tahun ini akhir kursus diploma teknologi muzik dan seni yang dikelologik oleh Politeknik Singapura berjudul Parodi Melayu.

Lagu tersebut, yang beliau dengang-kan pada majlis tamat pengajian tahun lalu, menyentuh perhal peritarat yang sering dikanalikan dengan orang Melayu yang suka melepak dan malas bekerja.

Pada akhir lagu tersebut, beliau me-nekanlah bahawa ciri itu ada bukan sahaja dalam kalangan masyarakat Me-layu, bahkan masyarakat lain.

Antara lagu tabu lain yang beliau hasilkan ialah Baju Raya Hijau dan Bila Duh Drowas. Amin berkata lagu-lagu tersebut tercipta hasil pengalaman sendiri dan belum disiarkan.


Anak keemam dalam keluarga tujuh adik beradik itu juga mencipta lagu beliau sendiri dan belum disiarkan.

"Abapila lagu saya diputarkan, saya akan suka lebih orang dalam rumah daim selepas dengar lagu tersebut.

"Saya juga akan ngerutu mesy ke pada rakan-rakan 'Korang (dengan ra-dio) Ria, sekarang'. "Kawan saya pernah mencetakan bahawa pada suatu ketika, beliau se-dang mendengarkan lagu tersebut pada Hari Raya. Apabila saudaranya terdengar menyanyikan lagu itu, be-liau bertutup yang beliau sukakan lagu itu.

"Bila saya dapat tahu, saya rasa macam 'Wow, betul ke ni?' Rasa terharu bila orang lain yang saya tak tahu, kenal lagu saya," ujarnya.

Video musik Selamat Malam Sayang telah pun dilancar di YouTube.

Amin, yang pernah memasuki pertandingan adu bakat The Final One di Saluran 5, berharap dapat menggupai cita-cita sebagai penyanyi dan peng-gubah lagu selepas tamat NS kelak.

Walaupun pernah mendapat tentan-gan daripada kenalan rapat, beliau tetap berusaha menggaris cita-cita itu.


THE NEW PAPER | 27 JUNE 2017

STUDENTS WANT TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES THROUGH MUSIC

SP's Diploma in Music and Audio Technology alumnus, Ahmadul Amin Haron has released 5 songs to date. Currently undergoing National Service, YOUNG SINGER WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES THROUGH MUSIC

Her job not only requires her to work 10 hours daily in a 40 deg C room, but also live away from home for six consecutive months.

Miss Tan Huixian, 24, finds herself the only female seafarer among her shipmates, and she tries to deal with them by making sure I do my job well," she said.

Miss Tan spends her downtime playing games on the PlayStation 4 and jobseekers.

"Kawan saya pernah mencetakan bahawa pada suatu ketika, beliau se-dang mendengarkan lagu tersebut pada Hari Raya. Apabila saudaranya terdengar menyanyikan lagu itu, be-liau bertutup yang beliau sukakan lagu itu.

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Her job not only requires her to work 10 hours daily in a 40 deg C room, but also live away from home for six consecutive months.

Miss Tan Huixian, 24, finds herself the only female seafarer on most ships too, but her job is a "childhood dream come true."

The 4th engineer at homegrown shipping line Pacific International Lines told The New Paper: "I have always loved hands-on work since I was young, and I excelled in phys-ics and maths."

Miss Tan, who graduated with a diploma in marine engineering from Singapore Polytechnic, works seven days a week for six months straight.

She then gets two months' rest.

"Personal attacks’

I have met male colleagues who launched personal attacks or tended to be more judgmental towards female seafarers, and I try to deal with them by making sure I do my job well," she said.

Miss Tan spends her downtime like any other young person — she scrolls through social media and plays games on the PlayStation 4 she brings along.

During her breaks, she travels, plays drums and watches Korean dramas and anime.

Her job has brought her to plac-es such as India, China and South Africa. Her favourite pit stop is Wellington, New Zealand.

While Miss Tan agreed that women have the potential to go far and break new grounds in engineering and other Stem indus-tries, she cautioned that her job is not for everyone.

She said: "There are a lot of cons in terms of the physical, mental and emotional aspects, even more so for girls. But if one can overcome those, then this is an extremely re-warding career."

Women who are inspired by Miss Tan's story can get involved via the Maritime Connect Office, a central node connecting maritime employers, industry associations and the Government to students and jobseekers.

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HER JOB NOT ONLY REQUIRES HER TO WORK 10 HOURS DAILY IN A 40 DEG C ROOM, BUT ALSO LIVE AWAY FROM HOME FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.

With SP, it’s So Possible
Student wins film award

Singaporean Alvin Lee wins Best New Director Award at the China Short Film Golden Hummingbird Awards

BOON CHAN
Media Correspondent

A bitter-sweet film about organ donation by a Singaporean film student has won an award in China's first national-level awards for short films.

Titled Seed, the 16-minute film is written and directed by Alvin Lee (above), 25, who is studying directing at the Beijing Film Academy. His work beat 10,000 other submissions to win the Best New Director Award at the China Short Film Golden Hummingbird Awards. He received the trophy at an award ceremony on Dec 10 at Oriental Salt Lake City in Changzhou.

The film employed Chinese actors and was filmed in Beijing. The story is about the emotional visit a couple pays a little boy who received the donated heart of their dead son. The actress who played the transplant recipient’s mother, Qin Yu, was nominated for Best Newcomer Performance.

Currently in his third year of his bachelor's degree programme, Lee came up with the story after coming across a short YouTube clip with a similar premise.

Speaking over the telephone, he says: "There’s a saying that when a person dies, the body should be complete and intact. So it’s very hard for (the couple) to donate their child's organs."

The head of this year’s jury was acclaimed director and actor Feng Xiaogang. The China Short Film Awards are the country’s first national-level event for shorts and were first held in 2012.

Lee himself is no stranger to awards. He had won the Grand Prix Award at the 2012 Very Short International Film Festival with Timeline, which is about the relationship between an ex-convict and his mother. He also nabbed the Best Director and Best Sound Awards at the Singapore Short Film Awards last year with Bon Voyage, which is about his relationship with his grandmother.

Lee graduated with a diploma in digital media from Singapore Polytechnic in 2011 and had thought about applying to film schools in the United States after national service.

But he preferred being in a Chinese-speaking environment. "I grew up in a very traditional Chinese family, I did wushu (martial arts) and studied Chinese literature."

The fact that the Beijing Film Academy had such a stringent selection process – he was one of 26 successful candidates winnowed from more than 1,000 applicants over six stages of examinations – was also a point in its favour.

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He figured that the learning environment would be a very good one, given the quality of the cohort.

With a scholarship from the Infocommunications Media Development Authority, he signed up for the course.

At the academy, instructors and speakers include famous alumni such as Zhang Yimou, Tian Zhuangzhuang and Xie Fei, as well as filmmakers from abroad such as South Korea’s Kim Ki Duk, Japan's Yojiro Takita and France's Luc Besson.

The one who left the deepest impression was Kim, known for directing feted arthouse films such as Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... And Spring (2003).

Lee recalls: "He was one hour late because he was drunk. (But) he's a very nice and humble guy."

After his graduation in 2018, he plans to start work on a feature. As to whether he will be based in China or Singapore, he says: "I think six hours is very near for me to fly either way. But I’ll definitely come back to Singapore as that’s where my home is."
Six lauded for innovative ways of engaging students

Augmented reality, musical stairs are handy tools for top teachers

Tristan Jeyaretnam

Teachers are going the extra mile to come up with innovative ways to engage theirmillennial students.

Ms Arisna Abdul Saman, a Master Mentor at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), uses augmented reality to allow her students to visualize her engineering lessons— from gears to engines—on their phones.

Yesterday, the 37-year-old was one of six to receive the President's Award for Teachers this year, which for the first time has been extended to include educators from the ITE and polytechnics to recognize their role in technical and vocational education, as well as lifelong learning.

The other winners to receive their award from President Tony Tan Keng Yam at the Istana were Mr Jazbanger Mohamed Jabbar (Endermout Primary School), Dr Ow Young Wai Meng (Henry Park Primary School), Mr Djohan Abdul Rahman (Bishan Park Secondary School), Madam Lim Hwee Sian (Cedar Girls' Secondary School) and Ms Kwa Lay Peng (Singapore Polytechnic).

They were chosen from 4,105 teachers nominated by school leaders, teachers, parents, former and current students this year.

Asked why Ms Arisna wanted to use phones as teaching aids, she had a ready answer. She said: "Nowadays, if you ask students to put down their phones, they will moan, "I have no work. So why not use these tools and make it more fun for them?"

Her innovation has also been put to use in designing a learning lab for students. She would often shift tables and chairs around for her Mechatronics lessons at the old ITE Tampines campus to allow students to engage in group discussions.

When the college moved to its present site in Ang Mo Kio, Ms Arisna and a colleague proposed a classroom of their dreams.

The result: a jumbo-sized Innovative Lab at the School of Engineering or iLab@SEG. It is equipped with large, carpeted spaces as students prefer to study in open, informal spaces, and walls and tables that can be written on to help those who have difficulty retaining information.

“They remember concepts better when they are free to represent them graphically,” said Ms Arisna.

Madam Lim, 47, the lead teacher in music at Cedar Girls’, had a similar impact. With the help of other teachers, she rigged a musical staircase on which students can step to create tunes.

She also fabricated an escape room on campus to coincide with Singapore’s Golden Jubilee. In teams of five to seven, students had to solve puzzles relating to Singapore’s early years of independence.

They were paid $12 for their push to get everyone to appreciate the arts. She actively tries to persuade students with no formal training in music or performing to take part in the National Day Parade.

“Every child in kindergarten can sing and he or she will sing loudly. They may not be very good at it, but they all firmly believe they can sing,” she said.

“It is only when we grow older that some of us lose our voices because we become more self-conscious. It’s more an issue of confidence and encouragement. Everyone has a voice. My aim is to help each student find his or hers.”

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University scholarships for SP graduates

Over the years, many SP graduates have been awarded prestigious bond-free scholarships from the local universities to pursue degree programmes. This is in addition to the scholarships awarded by ministries, companies, and organisations that you read about in this issue of SP News. Here are some of them:

Daniel Ho
Diploma in Infocomm Security Management
Awarded the Public Service Commission Scholarship

William Tan
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Awarded the Public Service Commission Scholarship

Don Lai Xue
Diploma in Biotechnology
Awarded the A*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship

Christine Ng Li Ti
Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science
Awarded the NUS Undergraduate (Merit) Scholarship

Kwek Ai Ling
Diploma in Experience & Product Design
Awarded the Global Merit Scholarship by National University of Singapore

Lee Boon Yao
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Awarded the Renaissance Engineering Scholarship by Nanyang Technological University

Glendon Thaiw
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Awarded the Global Merit Scholarship by National University of Singapore

Emil Yong Kai Wen
Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Awarded the GSTA Undergraduate Scholarship
Beri masa manfaat

Kerja sosial banyak cabaran: Cik Noor Izzaty ishak, former SP student, now works as Beyond Social Services officer.

WANG TIANJIE

The Special Education Needs Centre at Singapore Polytechnic has a lounge area for special needs students to work on projects and socialise with one another. The centre also has a soundproof room where students with autism can rest.

With help from a mentor, she organised a drama session for students and received a good response from them.

Cik Izzaty menambah bahawa beliau turut menangis dan kekacauan dalam memandangkan kekalahan diri mereka. Saya berharap ia akan membantu bantuan ilmu yang diraja pelajar selain membuka ruang bagi pihak kekinian kepada orang lain, katanya.

Menurut beliau, walauupun tidak pernah menjalani latihan belajar sama ada bekerja yang berstruktur, pengalaman ini sangat membantu pelajar pelatih di sana. Saya mengendalikan projek sendiri dengan bimbingan mentor saya dan apabila ia menerima sambutan yang baik, ia turut meningkatkan semangat saya, katanya.

Cik Izzaty memahami bahawa beliau turut menceritakan pengalamanannya bersama para pelajar pelatih di tempat pekerjaannya.

Baginya, langkah menawarkan skim belajar sambil bekerja yang lebih berstruktur ini penting bagi orang yang menderita sosial agar mereka lebih peka melalui golongan pelapas yang akan berkhidmat dalam industri ini pada masa depan, katanya.

Cik Izzaty mengatakan bimbingan ini menjadi kepentingan kerana industri perkhidmatan sosial meru pakan bidang yang amat mencabar dan menguji kekuatan emosi.

"Saya berharap ia akan memperkayi ilmu yang diraja pelajar selain membuka ruang bagi pihak kekinian kepada orang lain, katanya.

"Saya pernah hampir putus asa, dan meninggalkan tempat kerja saya selama beberapa bulan lalu. Saya sedih tidak dapat memberi pertolonganaya kepada mereka yang memerlukan.

"Namun, saya pelajari bahawa sebagai manusa, kita mempunyai hak walaupun mempunyai hasrat yang besar. Itu membuka ruang untuk kita untuk memahami dan menghargai orang lain," ujar beliau.

Beliau menambah bahawa berhadapan dengan pelajar pelatih yang tidak mendapat bimbingan banyak membimbing saya. Namun, ada di antara beliau yang tidak mendapat bimbingan banyak membimbing saya. Namun, beliau yang tidak mendapat bimbingan banyak membimbing saya. Namun, beliau yang tidak mendapat bimbingan banyak membimbing saya.

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With SP, it’s So Possible

To welcome students back to school, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) organised a cat therapy event and adoption drive, Purrapy, as part of its four-day Distraction Arts Festival. More than 500 students and staff turned up for the event yesterday, and many queued up to spend three minutes in a room with the six cats. The community cats, aged two months to three years old, are taken care of by an independent caregiver who wanted to be known only as Mrs Wong, 76.

Event organiser Carrie Lim, a student development officer from SP’s Department of Student Affairs, told The New Paper that cat therapy can help with loneliness and blood pressure. She said: "Cat therapy has been proven to alleviate stress. (The purring of cats) has been shown to decrease stress levels and increase happy hormones in people."

Miss Lim hopes to increase students’ awareness of animal welfare and to develop a deeper sense of appreciation for community cats through this event. Students and staff can also indicate interest in adopting the cats, and SP will conduct a screening process for potential adopters. Postcards and notebooks, costing $1 and $20 respectively, were sold at the event with all proceeds to go towards helping the community cats under Mrs Wong.

Separately, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) launched a month-long campaign Inclusivity & Me, yesterday, to better integrate students with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities on campus. A Sunshine Room was launched, equipped with multi-sensorial toys such as small stones and whiteboards, for SEN students to destress. There is also a Reflect & Relax Room where peer helpers play games and study with the SEN students. Students also participated in activities like navigating a canteen in a wheelchair.

Mr Alvin Seah, 38, a wheelchair user and a member of the administrative staff with NP’s School of Film and Media Studies, said: "Awareness is very important to everyone’s understanding of the other person’s capabilities. (This activity) is a great way to gain insight."

A volunteer for SP’s back-to-school cat therapy event, Purrapy.

Purrfect start to school term

ISABELLE LI EW
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Sungei Road vendors show Singapore Poly students their sales techniques

SAMFREY TAN
Using items like Japanese banana notes and antiques, 15 vendors from the now defunct Sungei Road market have been showing off their selling techniques at the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) over the last couple of days.

Organised by SP students, the Legal Black Market at the school have seen about 40 booths set up, and the event ends tomorrow.

It was planned by three students from SP’s diploma in business administration to observe the vendors’ sales techniques, which cannot be replicated in lectures.

The 80-year-old Sungei Road market closed on July 10 to make way for residential developments. Some of its vendors now operate in pasar malams and other such events.

The chairman of Sungei Market’s association, Mr Koh Eng Khoon, 76, told The New Paper that he hoped the students would be inspired by the vendors’ resilience.

He said: "This is meaningful as students can observe the traditional way of conducting business. Though we are old, we have and will find ways to communicate with anybody, even with English and Thai speaking foreigners."

Mr Koh added: "Vendors convince customers by saying how their items are antiques and cannot be found elsewhere anymore."

He said the vendors use their experience to judge an item’s value and price.

One of the event’s organisers, Mr Vince Agcanas, 19, said the vendors’ items include second-hand goods acquired from foraging dumpsters or from karang guni men.

Another organiser, Miss Elizabeth Woo, 20, said: "We want to give business opportunities to these vendors with our event. Marketing and hustling skills are things they can teach us as well."