Check out some of our students’ overseas adventures! p.34

Meet the STAR graduates of 2019! p.04

Ever wondered what some of our alumni have been up to since their graduation? p.42
Do it for The Gram!
And take a picture while you’re at SP!

Keen to be seen? Stand a chance to be featured when you tag us and #SPeye. Don’t forget to follow us and get updates on exclusive giveaways (freebies, yay!) and latest happenings!

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THE SPIRIT TEAM

Cover Model
Top (left to right): Callista Ann, Yen Kai Rui, Songkai Ow Shiyan, Jocelyn Chong Cai Ting
Middle (left to right): Phua Shin Zert, Quek Jun Hui
Bottom (left to right): Goh Aik Lang, Ong Jun Hock, Ryan, Tan Wee Kiat

Magazine designed by Oxygen Studio Designs Pte Ltd

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Our supervisor, senior lecturer Dr Tan Hwee Siang, guided us throughout the entire process. He aided us with the sourcing and purchasing of our main drone, the Matrice 100 by DJI and the onboard computer, Nvidia Jetson TX2. The facilities here at SP have also been an integral part to the success of our project, where we were able to carry out our test-flights and filming. SP has also given us a lot of opportunities to showcase our project. In January 2019, our team was selected as one of the three projects to be showcased during our school’s annual Engineering Show. For this year’s show, SP partnered with Singtel and Ericsson to launch Singapore’s first live 5G facility, where we had the opportunity to present to esteemed guests.

“We leveraged on our skills in coding, entrepreneurship and marketing learnt in SP to create BYTE. The project has won us first place in the Smart Poly Final Year Project Challenge 2018 and also the opportunity to participate in Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) Alibaba Cloud Entrepreneurship Programme, where we received mentorship from industry partners. None of this would be possible without the support of our lecturers and SPinOFF (Entrepreneurship Centre for Singapore Polytechnic), where we learnt the different aspects and skills needed in entrepreneurship. We were also given opportunities to network with industry professionals through networking sessions and exhibitions. My team and I are currently looking to bring BYTE to other education institutions and we are now in the midst of receiving investment from a venture capitalist.”

“As the cranes are built from varying sizes of large iron pipes, this robot uses magnetic wheels to attach itself onto the metal pipes. It also uses a special joint in-between the two bodies to align and orientate, either parallel or perpendicularly, onto the curvature of the pipe. It can be controlled to traverse along or around the pipe using Radio Control and has a wireless camera system which can pan and tilt, enabling the user to view additional areas around the pipe via a mobile app. Skills and theories we learnt in SP such as Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) and Computer Aided Machine (CAM) helped in the building of this project, together with the close guidance of our lecturers.”

“With the sourcing and purchasing of our main drone, the Matrice 100 by DJI and the onboard computer, Nvidia Jetson TX2. The facilities here at SP have also been an integral part to the success of our project, where we were able to carry out our test-flights and filming. SP has also given us a lot of opportunities to showcase our project. In January 2019, our team was selected as one of the three projects to be showcased during our school’s annual Engineering Show. For this year’s show, SP partnered with Singtel and Ericsson to launch Singapore’s first live 5G facility, where we had the opportunity to present to esteemed guests.”
Nobody said the path to success was easy, but these eight Institutional Medallists are living proof that anything is possible as long as you work hard and persevere. Read how SP has shaped these top performers to who they are today.

TEAM SP... REDEFINING CHAMPIONS

CONGRATULATIONS

OUR STARS OF 2019
After landing in the Normal Technical stream due to his bad PSLE results, Songkiat Ow Shiyuan was looked down by relatives and friends. He persevered and pursued Chemical Process Technology in ITE and eventually topped his cohort with a perfect GPA. With a passion for sciences, Songkiat decided to enroll in Singapore Polytechnic (SP)'s Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE), as he was impressed by SP's well-equipped facilities.

Besides being a Model Student Award recipient, Songkiat was also the Vice-President of the DCHE Student Chapter, where he initiated a peer mentoring programme for his classmates to study together. Outside of SP, Songkiat gave back to the community as the Assistant General and Community Service Secretary of the Clementi Youth Executive Committee. Over six years, he distributed food rations and initiated various education and sports events for residents.

Songkiat also participated in SP’s Learning Express (LeX) programme to the Philippines where he worked with other students to equip villagers with business knowledge to further improve their livelihood.

For his final-year project, Songkiat worked at the prestigious Institute of Materials Research and Engineering within the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), to explore ways to improve the efficiency of Solar Cell technology. Songkiat also embarked on a 22-week internship at Nestle Singapore, where he worked on designing and proposing cost-effective solutions for the company’s production process.

The resilient individual has been offered a place to read Chemical Engineering at the National University of Singapore, as well as, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the Nanyang Technological University. Songkiat aspires to be a process or chemical engineer, and hopes to become an ITE lecturer one day, to mentor to Normal and ITE students.

Due to his straight-talker nature, Ryan was bullied for all of his secondary school days. The bullying resulted in him skipping school for almost a year before transferring to West Spring Secondary School just to complete his education.

As a result of his bumpy journey, Ryan scored badly for his G.C.E. ‘O’ Levels and could only qualify for a handful of polytechnic courses. However, Ryan saw polytechnic as a new season and wanted to contribute to Singapore’s Smart Nation.

Even though he was weak in Physics and had no background in Additional Mathematics, Ryan challenged himself and applied for Singapore Polytechnic (SP)’s Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE). It was a blessing in disguise as SP provided Ryan the right platforms to grow his confidence, character and knowledge. He learned to lead through the SP’s Leadership Programme camp in Johor Bahru and his appointment as a class leader.

Ryan was also one of the founding members and Chairman of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering Ambassadors Club, where he developed a framework to better manage the club and its activities.

He also took part in a hackathon organised by the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) and developed an innovative recycling machine prototype. The invention impressed the judges and he walked away with the top prize.

During his 22-week internship at the Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies, the SP Model Student put his engineering skills to good use and developed a unique solution to identify potential data leakage.

Ryan has already been offered the SUTD Global Distinguished Scholarship to read Engineering Systems and Design. He hopes to pursue a career as a legal tech advisor and contribute to Singapore’s Smart Nation journey.
Jun Hui enrolled in Singapore Polytechnic (SP)'s Diploma in Marine Engineering (DRM) in 2011. Instead of working hard, he found it more practical to work as it allowed him to lighten the burden on his mother who brought him up single-handedly.

That was when SP’s Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) caught his eye - he was amazed at how analytics can help improve businesses and processes - and he successfully enrolled through the Joint Poly Special Admissions Exercise by tapping on his Handball achievements.

In SP, Jun Hui rose through the ranks to become a management committee member of SP’s Handball team and participated in the POL-ITE Handball championships from 2016 to 2018, where they were the defending champions. The SP Sports & Arts scholar also represented Singapore in the International Handball Federation Challenge Trophy 2018 and Singapore Handball Open, where his team came in third and fourth, respectively. In recognition of his sports achievements, Jun Hui was awarded the Sports Award (Honours) and Sports Award (Colours) during SP’s annual Excellence Awards.

During his 17-week internship at Nufin Data as a developer, Jun Hui’s passion in analytics bloomed. His diligence and hard work paid off as he was offered a job before graduation. For his contributions, Jun Hui also received the SP Model Student Award.

With a desire to continue learning, Jun Hui plans to pursue a Maritime Business degree at the Nanyang Technological University and aspires to become an entrepreneur.
Joscelyn scored five points for her G.C.E ‘O’ levels and choosing a science-related diploma was instinctive. However, after her first year in Singapore Polytechnic (SP)’s Biomedical Science course, the Hong Kah Secondary School alumna realised that was not her passion.

Joscelyn envisioned a career which would allow her to engage actively with people. So, she started looking for other opportunities and chanced upon Human Resource (HR). After much research and consultation with lecturers, Joscelyn made the brave decision to pursue a Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRMP) instead.

As she was new to this area of study, she felt uncertain. But she pushed on to stay true to her interest.

In SP, Joscelyn not only soaked in as much HR knowledge, but she also awakened her spirit to serve the community. As an ardent supporter of the elderly and children, the SP Welfare Services Club member would organise activities for the beneficiaries. During her internship with a local organisation, Joscelyn helped to develop guidelines that affect the employment standards, and also conducted international scans and research on best employment practices. She, too, translated her HR skills into her final-year project as she developed out-of-the-box solutions to help a local bakery address its challenge in talent attraction. Her ideas were commended and adopted by the client after months of hard work.

Joscelyn’s sterling results – she will graduate top of her cohort with a perfect grade point average – have already earned her the prestigious NUS scholarship and an offer to pursue a degree in Business Administration at the NUS. She has also been offered the Nanyang Scholarship and a spot to read Business at the Nanyang Technological University.

After losing a series of solar boat competitions during his time in secondary school (in Malaysia), Shin Zert realised that the winning teams had fabricated their mechanical parts.

He started searching for ways to improve his solar boat when he chanced upon Singapore Polytechnic (SP)’s Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME). He knew that it would help him achieve his engineer dreams so he applied to SP via the Early Admissions Exercise.

The first two months were filled with excitement but it was soon replaced with grief as Shin Zert’s father was diagnosed with Stage Four lung cancer and had to stop working.

As a result, the family lost their sole breadwinner and Shin Zert had to work part-time to ease his family’s financial situation. Despite that, the committee member of the International Students’ Club still co-organised regular visits to nursing homes.

Shin Zert also did well academically and his efforts were recognised by his lecturer who nominated him as the President of the SP Student Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

As President, Shin Zert led a team of four to represent Singapore at the ASHRAE Region XIII 21st Chapter Regional Conference 2018 – Student Forum Competition in Hong Kong. The team presented their innovative engineering solutions to make buildings environmentally friendly, and clinched the 1st runner up spot – beating eight university entries. As part of his final-year project with the defence industry, Shin Zert used a Mechanical Accelerator Device (MAD) and set the world record for the fastest ping pong ball travelled at 3000km/h.

Shin Zert has already been offered a spot to read Mechanical Engineering at Singapore’s top universities, and hopes to play a part in combating climate change – by developing solutions that will reduce energy wastage – in the future.
While most students are inspired by a momentous experience to pursue their passion, Callista’s motivation was her younger sister, who was diagnosed with Dyslexia and ADHD.

Curious about her sister’s condition, Callista started reading up on mental health disorders and that fuelled her interest in psychology. The St Hilda’s Secondary alumna then applied to Singapore Polytechnic’s Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology (DADP) through the Early Admissions Exercise.

Even though Callista eventually scored six points for her G.C.E ‘O’ Levels, SP’s unique DADP appealed to her as it allowed her a platform to influence communities and raise awareness for the disadvantaged.

And she did.

As part of her final year project, Callista and her team produced an interactive theatre programme for the Community Health Assessment Team (CHAT) – a programme under the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) – to raise mental health awareness. The programme left such a positive impact that it received funding from the National Youth Council for a re-run.

However, Callista’s experience with mental health runs deeper. Back in Secondary Four, she suffered from anxiety, broke down and isolated herself often. During her second year in SP, she also witnessed her close friend – who suffers from mental health issues – attempt suicide.

The plucky teen has since parlayed her experience into giving back to the community. During her six-month internship at Halogen Foundation Singapore, Callista organised trainings and workshops to help youths develop leadership skills.

Callista also excelled historically as a member of SP’s Strictly Dance Zone (SDZ) club. She performed at various events and even co-choreographed a dance item.

Throughout the years, Callista has understood and showed true mettle. As a result, she hopes to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology so that she can give back to the mental health community one day.

As a disobedient boy in primary school, Wee Kiat did badly for PSLE and as a result, landed him in the Normal Technical stream. His behaviour did not improve and he was on the brink of expulsion when given four strokes of the cane.

The turning point for Wee Kiat came in Secondary 3 when he excelled in Mathematics as a result of close mentoring by his teacher. Realising that he could achieve what he set his mind to, he began doing well in school. Scoring four points for his N Levels, he enrolled into Singapore Polytechnic’s Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design, to hone his skills in graphic design, along with photography, film and advertising.

As an active member at SP’s The Student Agency, Wee Kiat worked with external clients on graphic designs. He also participated in the Asian Film Archive Annual Report Design Project, and the National Logo Design Competition for the National Resuscitation & First Aid Council.

Wee Kiat also interned at the Foreign Policy Design Group, an internationally awarded, design agency, where he worked with international colleagues and was exposed to a diversity of culture, language and graphic design practices.

Wee Kiat hopes to run his own design agency one day, focusing on sustainable design solutions. He plans to pursue a degree in Visual Communication and gain work experience, before making his way back to SP as a lecturer to mentor a new generation of aspiring designers.
Course Medallists of 2019

Here’s why they are all smiles! Good job to these students who topped their cohort for the year!
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING (SOC)

First Row (From left to right)

GOH AIK LANG
Diploma in Business Information Technology
Damai Secondary School

LI BEINING
Diploma in Information Technology
Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)

WEE YEE HONG
Diploma in Infocomm Security Management
Hwa Chong Institution

MEDIA, ARTS & DESIGN SCHOOL (MAD)

Second Row (From left to right)

CALLISTA ANNE YIN KAI REN
Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology
St Hilda’s Secondary School

LEE CHUN LE
Diploma in Music & Audio Technology
Hwa Chong Institution

TAN YAN LING
Diploma in Creative Writing For TV & New Media
Yishun Town Secondary School

Third Row (From left to right)

MUHAMMAD ASYRAF BIN AZMAN
Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics
Admiralty Secondary School

NG YI LI
Diploma in Game Design & Development
Bukit Panjang Government High

ONG KAH MIN
Diploma in Experience & Product Design
Tanglin Secondary School

Fourth Row (From left to right)

TAN SIHUI VICTORIA
Diploma in Digital Animation
CHIJ Secondary (Toa Payoh)

TAN WEE KIAT
Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design
Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary)
ITE College Central

WONG GUAN MIN
Diploma in Media & Communication
Chung Cheng High School (Main)
NOE NOE SU AUNG  
Diploma in International Business  
Beatty Secondary School

VANESSA THIO KUN QIN  
Diploma in Business Innovation & Design  
CHIJ St Joseph’s Convent

YOW YU XUAN  
Diploma in Business Administration  
Guangyang Secondary School

LIM JUN YING  
Diploma in Financial Informatics  
Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)

POH XIN YI  
Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management  
Evergreen Secondary School

TAN QIUYI CHARMAINE  
Diploma in Banking & Finance  
Balestier Hill Secondary School

CHONG CAI TING JOSCELYN  
Diploma in Human Resource Management With Psychology  
Hong Kah Secondary School

FOO JI GI  
Diploma in Accountancy  
Pei Hwa Secondary School
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & LIFE SCIENCES (CLS)

First Row (From left to right)
CHUA RUI FEN
Diploma in Applied Chemistry

RADHA SOUNDARARAJAN
Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science
Bukit Panjang Government High

Second Row (From left to right)
SONGKIAT OW SHIYUAN
Diploma in Chemical Engineering
Clementi Town Secondary School
ITE College East

ANG LI XIANG
Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness
North Vista Secondary School

FAN CHONGYUE
Diploma in Biomedical Science
Methodist Girls’ School (Secondary)

Third Row (From left to right)
LEUNG LEIK YU
Diploma in Biotechnology
Commonwealth Secondary School

Fourth Row (From left to right)
SHAZWAN TAN WEN HAO
Diploma in Optometry
Deyi Secondary School

YONG HON KEAT
Diploma in Food Science & Technology
Hai Sing Catholic School
SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (EEE)

First Row (From left to right)
ZHENG JINHE
Diploma in Aerospace Electronics
Orchid Park Secondary School

CHAI YU CHENG RAYNARD
Diploma in Engineering With Business
Woodlands Ring Secondary School

Second Row (From left to right)
HUBERT LEE SZE WEI
Diploma in Engineering Systems
Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

NG BOON CHYE ALEX
Diploma in Energy Systems & Management
West Spring Secondary School

Third Row (From left to right)
ONG JUN HOCK RYAN
Diploma in Computer Engineering
West Spring Secondary School

QUEK JUN HUI
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Greendale Secondary School

SINGAPORE MARITIME ACADEMY (SMA)

Fourth Row (From left to right)
MUHAMMAD AKID DANIAL BIN MASRI
Diploma in Marine Engineering
Yuhua Secondary School

QUEK JUN HUI
Diploma in Maritime Business
Henderson Secondary School

SHIVANANTHAN S/O CHANDERSEKARAN
Diploma in Nautical Studies
St Hilda’s Secondary School
(Not in picture)
If you did not catch any of the vibrant exhibitions featuring the hard work and dedication of SP students from various schools, here’s where you can get a glimpse of it.

**THE GREATEST SHOWCASE**

**NOODLE 4.0**
by See Toh Sum Fei, Muhammad Fayzan Siddiqui, Nursarah Binti Roslan, Kabara Motoki, Lim Pin and Hariharan Pillai S Subramaniam (left to right)
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering (DEEE)

Noodle 4.0 is a food ordering mobile application and automated noodle cooking robot that aims to solve the shortage of food vendors. The app allows users to order and pay for their food while the robot is able to automate the cooking process of noodles.

**TRANSFORMING KOLAM AYER ABC WATERFRONT AREA**
by Ng Jian Jun
Diploma in Interior Design (DID)
Alumnus of Fuhua Secondary School

To encourage community bonding, Jian Jun designed the Kolam Ayer ABC waterfront area in hopes to infuse nature elements back into the area. He hopes to bring back fishing activities into the community, like how it was back in the day.

**NAVIASSIST**
by Thng Wei Jian, Lim Wen Hui, Lum Woei Kiat and Muhammad Rasidi Bin Rahim
Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)
Graduate of Clementi Town Secondary School, Bukit Batok Secondary School, Bowen Secondary School and Toa Payoh Secondary School, respectively

NaviAssist is a self-navigating indoor robot that uses Bluetooth Proximity beacons to enhance the performance and accuracy of Directie – a mobile application that aids the visually impaired in navigating towards their desired destination. The team hopes to use the Internet of Things to develop various innovations such as a self-navigating and indoor delivery robot.

**SKULL & BONES**
by Leow Zi Ting
Diploma in Digital Animation
Alumna of Bukit Panjang Government High School

As part of her internship with giant software company, Ubisoft, Zi Ting designed and worked on parts of the cinematic video for the gameplay demo and the game, Skull & Bones. The pirate-themed game has been launched at the E3 Expo in Los Angeles.

**THE ROBOT DOG**
by Mohamed Umar, Ng Chong Yan and Wong Jun Heng (left to right)
Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE)
Graduate of Queenstown Secondary School, Toa Payoh Secondary School and Swiss Cottage Secondary School, respectively

With a series of sensors and cameras, The Robot Dog aims to engage the elderly and motivate them to move around more as it comes preloaded with a set of exercise routines. It can also help therapists to assess the condition of the elderly and track whether they are doing their rehabilitative exercises correctly.
THE UNTANGLING PROJECT
by Syarifah Nadah binte Azman, Ericia Yeo, Callista Anne Yin Kai Ren, Hana Kalyza Binte Taufiq, Sara Tang Shi Ying and Ho Chye Wai, Marvyn
Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology (DAPP)
Graduate of Hwa Yi Secondary School, Daumen High School, St Milda’s Secondary School, Mayflower Secondary School, Bishan Park Secondary School and Queenstown Secondary School, respectively
The Untangling Project is an interactive theatre programme that aims to increase the mental health literacy of youths. This programme was designed for the Community Health Assessment Team (CHAT) under the Institute of Mental Health. The interactive nature of the performance allowed discussion and dialogue amongst the audience.

FUTURE HOUSING FOR THE SILVER GENERATION
by Yin Pa Pa Soe, Cassandra Low, Geh Zi Jia, Shawn Lim (left to right)
Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)
Graduate of Canberra Secondary School, Tampines Secondary School, Jady Innocents’ High School and Yuhua Town Secondary School, respectively
As part of their year-long integrated project, these students investigated and defined the future needs of Housing for the Silver Generation through their designs. The aim is to achieve urban living for the aged that is palatable, sustainable and healthy.

COLORS
by Kobe Tacata and Lim Xun Yi (left to right)
Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics (DVEMG)
Alumnus of Admiralty Secondary School and Commonwealth Secondary School respectively
Colors showcases how workers are stuck in a monotonous routine before a pop-up advertisement brings life back to the office. The 3D short film aims to serve a reminder that even though a perfect balance between work and personal life is impossible, one should be mindful to not neglect either.

BUBBALL
by Christine Marie Sequerah
Diploma in Experience & Communication Design (DXCD)
Alumna of Bukit Panjang Government High School
With Bubball, users get to enhance the everyday mundane action of washing their hands as they unveil various layers with each use. This not only sparks joy in a simple way, but provides an experience of using a new soap every week.

TANUKI NO TABI
by Yuki Tan, Yeong Kao Wai Sheela, Malcolm Wong Chi Kit, Ng Yi Li, Xavier Chin Jia Le and Lee Wei Han Royce (left to right)
Diploma in Games Design & Development (DGDD)
Tanuki no Tabi is a single player game play that is set in the Japanese fantasy theme from the Edo period. The all-animal characters game follows the main character, a Tanuki – Japanese raccoon dog – as he tries to save his sister, who is kidnapped by the Fox Queen – who rules the country.
#SPEYE-D

After much spying, we round up some of the coolest #ootd shots around campus. Here’s where you can take some inspiration the next time you dress for school – You’re welcome!
POLY, I CHOOSE YOU

Not sure if a polytechnic education is for you? These students and alumni spill the beans on why they chose SP when they qualified for Junior College, and their evolution since.

NEVER HAD AND NEVER WILL HAVE REGRETS

It’s Singapore’s first polytechnic and the course covers a lot of my interests.”

This has always been my response to the copious questions on why I chose to enrol in SP’s Diploma in Media & Communication (DMC) instead of embarking on a Junior College education (Editor’s note: Melissa scored 6 points for her O-levels),

and it still stands the same. In fact, even more.

Coming from a secondary school that focuses heavily on academia, I wasn’t relishing the prospect of constantly memorising and regurgitating information. To me, A-levels is only but a more advanced O-levels and at the end of the day, I’d still be doing the same thing.

Back in secondary school, I already knew I was more of a hands-on person and had various interests such as designing, photography and videography. I took on various projects such as championing causes for Citi-YMCA Youth For Causes and participating in N.E. matter! So I decided to apply to SP’s DMC via the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE).

Besides, my dad and two elder sisters – Cheryl Anne Lim; alumna of SP’s Diploma in Business Administration; and Clara Anne Lim; alumna of SP’s Diploma in Biomedical Sciences – were previously from SP, and they strongly encouraged me to pursue my polytechnic education here.

“It has a very homely culture, a culture that will help you grow holistically” were their exact words – and I got to witness that.

You see, I was diagnosed with supraventricular tachycardia – a condition which causes abnormal heart rhythms – in secondary one, and have been experiencing attacks which cause palpitations (up to 240 beats per minute), dizzy spells and blurred vision.

Eventually, I underwent Catheter Ablation – a procedure that uses radio frequency energy to cure abnormal heart rhythm by eliminating the abnormal pathway that causes it – in my second year and had to take a week-long break from school – where I missed out on many project meetings and lessons.

But in the midst of it, I saw how supportive my lecturers and friends were. They advised me to take things easy, and willingly helped me catch up. My personal tutor, Ms Chong Li Min, was also conscientiously texting to ensure I was coping well – which I have been very grateful for.

Culture aside, I, too, enjoy the hands-on mode of learning that SP has to offer, which emphasises on building industry-relevant skills through applied learning. This helped me to numerous opportunities into the industry, providing me a head start compared to my A-level peers.

For example, one of my modules – Student Integrated Marketing Communication Agency – required my classmates and I to work in The Agency – a first-of-its-kind physical space that simulates the workings of a real integrated marketing communications agency – where we ideate, conceptualise and execute a campaign for a real-world client.

We pitched to an agency partner – who did campaigns for 4Fingers – and came up with a prototype – titled #taughednshad – to help the brand increase in-store traffic and brand awareness.

All in all, I’m excited for what’s to come in my third year, where I’ll embark on my final year project and internship. It has been such an incredible journey that I’ve never once looked back at my decision to enrol in SP.

RISING ABOVE ALL ODDS

When I was 17, I stepped into the cockpit of a Sikka aircraft, a strictly no-entry zone for most people. But that was an exclusive opportunity granted to me by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which aims to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich them with hope, strength and joy. Yes, I was a cancer victim.

My love for travelling and flying – or anything to do with aerospace – influenced my desire to pursue an aeronautical-related course after my O-levels. Though I qualified for junior college, I chose the poly route because I knew what my passion was.

I secured a place in my top choice, SP’s Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE), but had to postpone attending school because my cancer cells resurfaced.

Luckily, I embarked on my SP journey a year later and maximised my time there. I worked hard on my modules and actively participated in various co-curricular activities (CCAs). On top of being a class leader, I was also an organising member of the SP Engineering Show 2013 and the Youth Model ASEAN Conference. I, too, tried my hand at being a photographer by shooting for SPirit, the campus magazine you’re reading right now.

SP also provided me with many opportunities, such as the time when I went through a six-week industrial training programme at an aerospace company in China, and participated in a leadership camp in Indonesia as part of the SP Outstanding Talent Programme.

I also did community service by teaching English and helping a needy family build a home in Cambodia. My final-year-project, which was an informed unmanned aerial vehicle, was even showcased at the Singapore Aviation Open House 2013.

I graduated from SP in 2014 and went on to further my studies in Aeronautical Engineering at the prestigious Imperial College London with a SIA-SINDA scholarship (Editor’s note: Divesh graduated from Imperial College London with first class honours).

I’m now 26 and working at Singapore Airlines. Looking back, everything from fun times with friends to developing various skill sets, was only possible because SP provided me an all-rounded experience that enabled me to pursue my dreams!

During his time in SP, Divesh was conferred the following awards: Lee Kuan Yew Award, SIA Engineering Gold Medal, Alfred Robert Edis Prize, Mateer Mentor Award, GSCF Prize, The Institution of Engineers Gold Medal Award.
A POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION COULD BE YOUR TICKET TO A UNIVERSITY

Since young, I have always wanted to make a difference in the life of others and I feel that a career in the medical sector would help me achieve that. I worked hard on my studies because I knew that I would eventually want to pursue a degree in Pharmaceutical Engineering in university.

After my A-levels, I entered SP through the Direct Admissions Exercise (DAE). I eventually decided on SP’s Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE) as I heard from family and friends that SP is reputed for its established engineering courses.

I like that my course is versatile, which will allow me to have diverse career paths in the future. My favourite module so far would be ‘Lab and Process Skills’ as it offers a more hands-on approach towards learning, and I am able to apply concepts acquired from other modules during the practical sessions.

Having experienced education in a Junior College, life in SP definitely gave me a different perspective on achieving my dreams in the medical sector. This is in line with what my mother once said: “There are many pathways to university and the polytechnic route is one that will also allow you to achieve that success.”

Polytechnic education is not as easy as I initially thought it would be, but being in SP has taught me self-discipline and time management – especially the juggling between my studies and co-curricular activities (CCAs).

I am currently a member in the SP’s Hockey team and SP’s Malay Language Society (SPMLS). Having two CCAs is not an easy feat, but I do not regret my decision as I got to meet and interact with many new people. Each CCA also teaches me different skills.

The approach to learning in poly is also a lot more hands-on, which helps me understand certain concepts that might be harder to grasp. Each individual has his or her own approach to learning, but personally I feel that a polytechnic education is more suited for me. I want to continue improving myself, in terms of character and leadership development in my CCAs. I also hope to explore more about my course, and find out what other doors it might open for me in future.

AN INTERNSHIP STINT AT A HOSPITAL CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER

While I could have easily enrolled in a reputable junior college (JC) (Editor’s note: Yu Wah scored 6 points for his O-levels), the fear of the possibility of not doing well for A-Levels worried me. Thus I decided that a polytechnic education would be more suitable.

I was considering various options when I heard about SP’s Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS) and how it is one of the best science courses in Singapore. After much research and a visit to SP’s Open House, I decided to apply for the course.

DBS was a very good fit for me. I have a deep interest in Science – Biology to be specific – and the course fulfilled my curiosity for the subject. It provided me with foundational knowledge about Health Sciences, which proved to be useful in many aspects of my life – I understood my body better and I could use it to help others.

I also assumed the role of Vice-President for my course and often organised health screening events for the public. Outside of my course, I was an active member of the SP Canoeing Club. Canoe training kept me busy and I made a lot of friends in the process. One of my fondest memories in school was when our team won the POL-ITE championship for Canoeing in 2013. We even defended our title in the following year!

In my second year, I did a three-month internship stint with Murdoch Children’s Research Institute at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne. My role was to assist research doctors in an international study on allergies. Although I spent most of my time in the lab, the role also allowed me to observe how the doctors interacted with patients, both in and outside the ward, and I was moved by the bond that was forged. That was when something clicked in me, and I started to consider the possibility of Medicine as a career.

Thankfully, my GPA (at 3.92) and CCA portfolio qualified me for a spot in the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. It is definitely not an easy transition but I am glad SP prepared me well enough for it.

Looking back now, I am really thankful for the opportunities provided by SP. Every step I took was meaningful and it guided me towards my dream of becoming a healthcare professional.
Phoebe Tan Kit
Diploma in Interior Design

Alumna of Paya Lebar Methodist Girls’ School

MALAYSIA
A week-long trip to Malacca allowed Phoebe to visit traditional shop houses that were uncommon in Singapore. It was an annual compulsory trip for all design students. Over there, she explored places and collected research for her group project. “It was nice to discover new spaces and experiencing another culture gave me new perspectives and inspirations for my designs,” shares Phoebe.

Marcus Benedict Neo
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

Alumnus of St. Gabriel’s Secondary School

INDONESIA: During the 11-day trip to Makassar, Indonesia, Marcus worked with students from Muhammadiyah University of Makassar (UNISMUH) and Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT). At the Mandalle Village, they interviewed locals and came up with a prototype to help them efficiently cut bamboos after harvesting. Those bamboo slices are then used to make fences, chicken coops and are the main source of income for the locals. “This LeX trip has not only exposed me to a different culture but has also made me more appreciative of what we have in Singapore,” he shares.

Songkiat Ow Shiyuan
Diploma in Chemical Engineering

Alumnus of Clementi Town Secondary School & ITE College East

PHILIPPINES
Together with a team of students, Songkiat spent two weeks in Cagayan De Oro, Philippines to create sustainable solutions for business owners living in a rural village. Along with students from the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, they interacted with villagers, whom were mostly bamboo and rattan handcrafters, to gather more information before designing the solutions. Songkiat shares, “I had a glimpse of their daily lives, from the struggles they faced and the faith they had. The LeX programme has made me appreciate how fortunate I am to come from an environment that has almost everything.”

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VieTNam
What started out as a social cause to improve the lives of farmers in Vietnam—through reducing the disposal of excess fresh cow’s milk from Cu Chi Village in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam—resulted in the production of Faire’s all-natural soap. It was initially a LeX project before it was passed down to Kien and his three teammates to market and commercialise the idea. But the team wanted to gear it towards the artisanal route, so they worked with university students from Vietnam to re-formulate the soap bars, and are proud owners of these beautiful soaps today!

Kien Sieng Chun Hon (far right) 
Diploma in Business Administration 
*** Alumnus of Geylang Methodist School (Secondary) and ITE College Central

PHILIPPINES
During their 12-day trip to Batangas, Philippines, Xin Yi and her team used design thinking to help villagers at Rosario Village improve their sales of Tocino—a cured meat product native to the Philippines. They customised several marketing plans such as creating a Facebook page to link them up with Batangas State University’s Enactus Club, which helps to ensure continuous support for the villagers. The Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management student shares: “My biggest takeaway is to always remain calm, positive and flexible when I face any challenges, which allows me to see the bigger picture.”

Poh Xin Yi (second from the right) 
Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management 
*** Alumnus of Evergreen Secondary School
What do you love most about DMAT?

The collaboration between students. It’s refreshing to be in an environment where everyone is passionate about creating new works. And it’s even better when these collaborations turn into something that we are all proud of.

What is something different that you embarked on?

Film has always been an interest of mine and when I joined the SP Videography Club, I got opportunities to embark on film projects. While working on these projects, I realised that I enjoyed the process of sound editing and sound designing. I even see myself pursuing this as a career in sound editing and sound designing. I even realise that I enjoyed the process of arrangement. When I was finally satisfied, I decided to rope my close friend and classmate, Chloe, into the production process. We worked on the lyrics and the melody together. We’re both really proud of the final product and we’re glad that so many people enjoy listening to it!

You released a song? Tell me more about it!

Yeah, I recently released a song titled “Raincoat”, which is available on Spotify and Apple Music. I sought inspiration from my favourite collection of Indie Pop songs, and worked on the arrangement. When I was finally satisfied, I decided to rope my close friend and classmate, Chloe, into the production process. We worked on the lyrics and the melody together. We’re both really proud of the final product and we’re glad that so many people enjoy listening to it!

Tell me more about it!

I’m currently a graduating student from the Diploma in Media & Communication, and I have synesthesia which is a neurological condition which explains why I see numbers and alphabets in colour (this is an example of how I see things). Another fun fact is that I run a business ‘Syalamsis’, on Instagram!

Interesting! Can you tell me about your Instagram business?

The idea for Syalamsis came about in late 2017. My sister and I are design enthusiasts and saw the growing market for personalised design commissions so we just took the ball and ran with it. To me, the whole thing is like an experiment that’s bringing us many new opportunities.

Was there anything you learnt in school that was useful in running Syalamsis?

After going through a design module, that was part of my curriculum, I was inspired to pick it up and learn more during my free time. I love the vastness of my course. As someone who gets bored very easily, I appreciate the exposure to various aspects of the media industry! Not to forget, my internship with a global advertising agency like TBWA, taught me how to better manage projects and clients.

What are some things that you’ve learnt from managing an online business?

One of the biggest projects we worked on was illustrating a children’s book for local influencers. Our lack of experience taught us many invaluable lessons about work ethic, deadlines, the industry and even ourselves. My perception towards design has changed and I’m glad I got to challenge myself and develop a style unique to me.

Tell me more about yourself?

Before SP, I pursued Chemical Technology in ITE (college east) and graduated as valedictorian in 2016! Now, I’m a graduating student from the Diploma in Chemical Engineering. In SP, I’m a member of four CCAs and president of three of them. Outside of SP, I do different kinds of community work.

What kind of activities?

I volunteer with the Youth Executive Community Branch at the People’s Association and the Resident Committee. I organise get-togethers for youths and engage with residents in my area. Being active in four CCAs has taught me the importance of juggling responsibilities while learning new things. And I was empowered to pick up more skills such as hypnotherapy to help people!

Cool! How did you get into hypnotherapy?

After being intrigued by it, I attended the course and am now a licensed hypnotherapist. Hypnotherapy is to conduct therapy through hypnosis. It’s a useful self-development tool that I use to help my community.

Apart from hypnotherapy, you also hold prominent roles in your CCAs and the community. Why?

I’m a firm believer of “doing as much as you can while we’re still young.”

Aside from my CCAs and community involvement, I also hold jobs outside school – a life guard on the weekends and a camp instructor during school holidays. As long as I manage my time, it’s ok that I’m busy all the time because, in the end, they’re all my achievements!
**DID SOMEONE SAY GRAD TRIP?**

Graduation is a one in a lifetime affair and here’s how you can keep those memories alive – by going on trips and taking brilliant pictures with (or without) your squad.

**Embracing what’s to come with open arms.**

*Wakayama, Japan*

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it’s just a super bright future ahead!

*As they say, good times pass by quickly. Vroom.*

Friends are flowers that never fade.

*Langkawi, Malaysia*

May reaching out for one’s goal be like this.

*Seoul, Korea*

A new season in life? Keep calm and carry on!

*Bangkok, Thailand*

**The evident evolution.**

Don’t let challenges stop you from reaching your goals!

*Sichuan, China*

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**LIFESTYLE**

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*Sichuan, China*
TECHNOLOGY (DBIT) (Class of 2017)
Diploma in Business Information

MOHAMED NAJULAH
Secondary School
Currently: Pursuing a degree in Information Systems at the Singapore Management University

Tell us more about your background.
I was born with brittle bone disease, and have been moving around in a wheelchair after a bad fall in Primary Five. By the time I was in Secondary Four, I had already undergone several operations to either strengthen my bones or fix my injuries due to falls. Despite those challenges, I’ve always wanted to contribute to the community as much as an able-bodied person could. Therefore, after my N-levels, I enrolled in SP’s Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) via the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) as I wanted to explore how Information Technology (IT) could be used to help others.

What was your experience in SP like?
During my time in SP, I was given many opportunities to advance my skills. I took part in competitions such as the Data-Driven Innovation Challenge organised by the Info-communications Media Development Authority and the Transport and Youth Hackathon organised by the Land Transport Authority. In both competitions, my team and I developed “Happy Wheel” – an app that tapped on publicly available data to suggest wheelchair-friendly paths to various locations. We were even lauded by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in his Facebook post!

Wow, what an achievement! What is your biggest takeaway?
It was learning to be independent and not let the fear of losing employability get to me. Also, as a polytechnic education doesn’t “spoon-feed” you content, you’d always have to source and research for information on your own, and that, taught me how to survive in the tech industry as well.

What do you know and where do you see yourself five years from now?
After graduating from University (which will be in two years), I see myself working in a bank or a software company. I would like to learn about the business, utilise my skills to aid the company and expand on my working experience before moving ahead to greater plans in the future!

Where do you see yourself in a few years?
I plan to come back to SP to upgrade my licence, while still holding my position with the company. Currently I have a Certificate of Competency Class 3, which I obtained upon graduating from poly. My plans would be to complete the certification for Class 1 and 2 and my ultimate goal is to get promoted to the rank of Captain. The good thing about SMA is that even after you’ve graduated, sailed the seas and continents, you’d still make your way back!

Starting a firm overseas is a big feat! How did you achieve it?
I have always wanted to be an entrepreneur. I had interest in Architecture and I wanted to set up my own firm. My SP lecturers would share about their industry experiences and I was always thinking about how I can make it big in the industry. After graduating from SP, I did an internship with an architecture firm in Beijing for four months before pursuing an architecture degree at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia. These experiences along the way equipped me with more skills and confidence. Finally at 30, together with a partner, I founded Variation Design LLC. We met with a lot of challenges, such as legal processes and the sustainability of the business. Thankfully, with the advice given by my SP lecturers, I was able to tackle them.

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How has SP helped to get you to where you are today?
SP played a big part for my career today. The technical knowledge and skills taught in school are very relevant for the industry. The course has a project-based curriculum and we had a lot of opportunities to perform hands-on work. It was a bit daunting in my first year because we had to cover the three SMA courses and tried hands-on learning. That was when I discovered the importance of maritime in Singapore. Knowing that it will be a good industry to get into, I decided then that I want to sail the seas as a career. So, I chose SP’s Diploma in Nautical Studies and the rest is history!

How has your time in SP helped you in your course of work today?
Besides providing me with nautical knowledge in the classroom, SP also allowed me the opportunity to be attached to a ship for 12 months during my second year in Poly. I learnt a lot through ‘on-the-job’ trainings onboard the ship.

How do you overcome constantly being away at sea?
It was tough when I was away at sea during my poly days, but I’ve come to terms with it. Now it’s just part of the job. I’ll be at sea for three months, and back home for another three months. It has become the norm for my family to the point they don’t even send me off anymore! Of course I do get home sick sometimes, but I’m so busy on board that I don’t get to think about it. There’s WiFi even when I’m at sea, so I’m always in contact with family and friends anyway.

You’ve been sailing the seas with Royal Caribbean for almost 5 years now, so what’s next?
My plan is to come back to SP to upgrade my licence, while still holding my position with the company. Currently I have a Certificate of Competency Class 3, which I obtained upon graduating from poly. My plans would be to complete the certification for Class 1 and 2 and my ultimate goal is to get promoted to the rank of Captain. The good thing about SMA is that even after you’ve graduated, sailed the seas and continents, you’d still make your way back!

Where do you see yourself in a few years?
My firm currently specialises in small-scale commercial and residential projects. Moving forward, I would like to explore collaborations with technology companies to develop innovative designs. Technology is the way to go!
How did you know you wanted to become an aerospace engineer?

I was first intrigued by aircrafts when I read a “How Things Work” book when I was younger. But I never thought of joining the aviation industry until I tagged along with my older brother to SP’s open house when I was in Secondary Two. What caught my attention was the tour of the Aero labs and seeing the airplanes and engines in the school. That intrigued me and I wanted to learn more about Aero Engineering, and that was when I discovered my passion to become an aerospace engineer.

Cool! Why did you choose SP?

SP’s inventory of actual engines and aircrafts in its facilities allows the incorporation of practical learning into lessons and better understanding of the subject. Additionally, SP is known for its prestige in producing competent engineers over the past decades. The establishment of a well-rounded education gave me the confidence to pick SP.

What did you do after SP?

After SP, I graduated with a Mechanical Engineering Degree from the National University of Singapore. Then, I joined Pratt & Whitney as an engineering associate in the first cohort of the Engineering Graduate Programme. The rotational program allowed me to gain exposure by experiencing different engineering roles over a span of two years. I have since settled in the engine maintenance, repair and overhaul center and am working as a senior technical services engineer now.

What advice do you have for juniors who want to pursue a career similar to yours?

To gain as much exposure from the industry as possible through programmes, internships or aviation events. There’s a vast range of careers to choose from in the aviation industry and it is important to understand where your passion lies.

What did you do at SP?

I started working when I was in Primary Six – I would engage with customers and help with the handling of minor business issues – and helped my dad with his business. My aunt also constantly left business and accounting books around and out of curiosity, I started reading them. From then on, I knew I wanted to dabble in the business field so I applied to SP’s Diploma in Business Administration via the Direct Polytechnic Admission route (known as the Early Admissions Exercise).

Was your three years in SP what you expected it to be like?

Yes, and more! Studying in SP was one of the greatest decisions I’ve made in my life. I was given the opportunity to try out various unconventional experiences such as a six-week Overseas Immersion Programme to the Tri-city – India, Vietnam and Thailand – and a trip to Panasonic’s User Experience Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia. These experiences moulded me into who I am as a person today, and it taught me a lot about independence and communication. Armed with these skills, not only did I land a marketing assistant job with JUMBO group before graduating from SP, but it also prepared me well for the SSG-WSG Joint Undergraduate Scholarship interviews.

Congrats on receiving the scholarship! So, what are your plans now?

Thank you! I’m currently pursuing a degree in Business Management at the Singapore Management University. Currently working as an Engineer at Pratt & Whitney.

What advice do you have for future SP students and your juniors?

Always remember the right attitude will bring you far in life. Don’t forget to bear a heart of gratitude to President Halimah Yacob. Overall, stay humble but hungry, believe in hard work and remember to be grateful!

What kindled your love for digital media?

Since young, I was fascinated by how digital media, especially special effects enabled an endless possibility. I recall asking my lecturers at SP how famous visual effects movies such as Star Wars, Star Trek, and Iron Man were created. I was determined to learn more about the software the film industries were working with and my curiosity paid off!

How did SP help you develop your passion for digital media?

SP provided me with basic skills and knowledge in digital media and special effects. On top of that, I also got opportunities to take part in various national competitions, workshops and industry talks to supplement my learning and get a glimpse into the ever-evolving industry.

How has your career been so far?

I’ve been at LucasFilm for nearly five years and I’ve had the opportunity to work on many blockbuster films and Rogue One has to be my favourite. I never imagined that I’d work on a spin-off that’s related to the original trilogy, and even better yet a 2017 Oscar Nominated film for Best Visual Effects!

Cool! What advice do you have for juniors who wish to follow in your footsteps?

It’s not just about being creative, but also having the technical capabilities that will allow you to be efficient in pushing your creativity further. So always be on the lookout for the next big thing that can improve your craft. Don’t lose sight of your dream while trying to find the right specialization or the right company. As long as you have set your goals and are open to continuous learning, you’re on the right path.

How has SP helped in pursuing this career path?

SP provided a basic foundation in optometry both academically and clinically. The soft skills that I attained during various roles and appointments in SP, such as the overseas outreach trips, also played a vital role. We travelled to remote villages to perform vision testing, screen for eye disease, referred patients to hospitals for treatment and observed surgeries being performed. This has helped me adapt to the different environments and overcome challenges faced whilst studying and currently working in the UK.

Congrats on receiving the 2019 Newly-qualified Optometrist of the Year award given by the Association of Optometrist in the UK! So what’s next?

I do not have any specific plans so far, but Iaccounted for developing new skills outside the practice in Northeast England. I wouldn’t have come this far if it wasn’t for the relationships forged while I was in SP. I made lifelong friends within WSG, some of whom became my housemates when we were studying in Manchester. I cannot imagine poly and university life without them. I also had the best lecturers in SP, such as Mr Danny Sim, who has always been there for us.

What did you do after SP?

I applied to SP’s Diploma in Business Administration (Unique admission). After SP, I graduated with a Mechanical Engineering Degree from the National University of Singapore. Then, I joined Pratt & Whitney as an engineering associate in the first cohort of the Engineering Graduate Programme. The rotational program allowed me to gain exposure by experiencing different engineering roles over a span of two years. I have since settled in the engine maintenance, repair and overhaul center and am working as a senior technical services engineer now.

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CONTEST TIME!

Treat yourself to a cuppa with this $10 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD!

Simply scan the QR code, answer these simple questions and submit your responses by 30 July 2019. Don’t forget to indicate your name, mobile number and course or secondary school in the form. 20 lucky participants will be contacted by the SPirit team to collect your fancy Starbucks gift cards.

ALL THE BEST!

**Q1**
How many projects were featured in the greatest showcase pages?
(A) 5  
(B) 9  
(C) 10

**Q2**
What is the name of the student who released a song on Spotify and Apple Music?
(A) Keeron Lee  
(B) Kieron Lee  
(C) Keyron Lee

**Q3**
Name one of the countries SP students have travelled to as part of their internship, LeX programme or school trip.

**Q4**
Which film did SP alumnus Eugene Matthew Cheong work on?
(A) Rogue One  
(B) Rogue Two  
(C) Rogue Three

**Q5**
Name one of the Institutional Medallists.