

SP Alliance & Network

# SP Alumni eNews

July 2023



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:  
STARTING A SUCCESSFUL  
BUSINESS BY LEADING  
FROM THE HEART**



**Dr Patrick Liew**  
 Executive Chairman of GEX Global Group  
 Diploma in Electrical Engineering, 1978

# IN THE BUSINESS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

**Entrepreneur, business leader, and Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Alumnus Dr Patrick Liew is a firm believer in playing a supportive role to help others lead successful lives. He credits this worldview to his humble upbringing, where everything was shared amongst his large family of nine.**

## Starting Out

Growing up with financial constraints, Dr Liew's parents faced the difficult decision of choosing only one child to support through further education after secondary school.

Despite the pressure, they placed their faith in Dr Liew's abilities, providing him with the motivation to learn a hands-on skill, secure a good job, and contribute financially to the family.

"I chose to study Electrical Engineering in SP because in my mind, everything needs electricity to work well."

Dr Liew describes his time in SP as meaningful and memorable. It was on campus where he first gained exposure to different ways of thinking and read about various disciplines. This nurtured his passion for education, which helped lay the foundation for his commitment to lifelong learning.

Even while schooling, he still found time to give back and contribute to charitable causes.

"As a student, I helped to lead a youth charity with over 400 volunteers. We even had an office and hired staff to help run the organisation."

## Doing What You Love

After graduating, Dr Liew continued to reskill and upskill while furthering his education. He earned multiple degrees and professional qualifications, which helped him to become a better leader.

With more than three decades of experience and having started several successful companies, Dr Liew then went on to start his current venture, GEX Global Group. Its foundations were built on leading from the heart and showing genuine care

to people so that their lives are impacted for the better. This authenticity is also reflected in the company logo where the Mandarin character for heart is weaved in.

Now as Executive Chairman, Dr Liew and his team help to mentor the next generation of entrepreneurs and investors. They offer strategic services for boosting performance, raising capital, and globalising businesses.

Becoming a mentor seemed a natural transition for Dr Liew. He sees mentorship as investing in someone's life. His motivation stems from his belief that "the more you invest in other lives, the better the life you live. The more you reach out to bless others, the richer and better your life becomes."

## Changing Lives with Kindness

These days, he regularly raises funds for underprivileged families, worthwhile causes, and crisis relief. He hopes that his efforts to pave the way for others will help them reach their goals faster.

At a personal level, Dr Liew shares an unforgettable experience he had with a person he helped.

After coming across a former employee at Chinatown, he soon learned that she was diagnosed with late-stage cancer and was given just a few months to live. She was not employed, had depleted her savings on treatments, and had no family to help support her through this devastating time.

Dr Liew took it upon himself to re-hire her, provided her with nutritious food, and tasked her with interesting projects to keep her motivated. His team also rallied around their former colleague by spending time with her and encouraging her through treatments.

With such care, his ex-employee actually lived for a few more years than her original prognosis. Shortly before she passed, she shared with Dr Liew that the past few years had been the happiest period of her life.

"I can think of many other stories like this, where people who, through our contributions, have their whole lives changed."

## Empowering Progress at SP

Not forgetting his alma mater, Dr Liew contributes regularly to SP. He is an active supporter of the many initiatives carried out on campus.

He champions a fund to help needy students and has inspired many SP students and staff with his motivational speech at the SP 50th Graduation Ceremony and the Excellence in Teaching Convention in 2013.

## Secret to His Success

"When running a business, you must also be concerned about your social, spiritual, and environmental bottom line, not just the financial one."

He explains that consumers expect businesses to help improve their lifestyles and livelihoods, not just offer a great product or service.

Dr Liew goes on to share his personal mantra for achieving sustainable success.

"E = MC4, where E stands for excellence, M for mission, and C4 is the synergy between character, commitment, competence, and compassion. With these in mind, anyone can achieve their version of success."

## SP Alumnus and startup founder now on Forbes' 30 Under 30 Asia list for 2023

Diploma in Engineering with Business alumnus Felix Lee has been listed in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list under the Consumer Technology category. Lee launched mentoring community ADPList during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 to help people who had lost their jobs. The startup has since grown into a global community with over 14,000 mentors from 140 countries and hosts 15 million minutes of mentoring sessions on subjects such as product design, data science, and software development. In 2021, ADPList raised \$1.3 million from Sequoia Capital India.



Source: Forbes, 18 May 2023



Source: TODAY, 22 May 2023

## SP Alumnus Ken Tong honoured at NTUC May Day Awards

Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Diploma in Optometry alumnus, Ken Tong, received the Partner of Labour Movement Award at the NTUC May Day Awards ceremony. The founder of the eyesight.sg stores did not let any workers go during the pandemic despite business being bad. When business picked up, he raised their wages and provided them with training. One of Ken's employees, optometrist and SP alumna Cheryl Xie said that he provided her with guidance to expand beyond her retail role. With his encouragement, she has also created social media content for the firm's products.



Source: Channel NewsAsia, 5 Jun 2023

## The best of both worlds: Starting a career while acquiring workplace skills and higher qualifications

In August 2019, SP alumna Firzanah enrolled in the Work-Study Programme (WSP) for a Work-Study Post-Diploma (Specialist Diploma in Cyber Security) at Singapore Polytechnic (SP). Through the programme, she was hired by Thermo Fisher Scientific, where she is currently a cybersecurity analyst after graduating from the WSP in July 2020. She has been able to transition seamlessly into daily work thanks to the industry-relevant modules equipping her with the required knowledge and skills. Having attained her certification, Firzanah hopes to continue advancing in her career.

## On-Campus Privileges



Alumni access hours:

**GYM@POOL**

Weekdays : 12pm - 4pm | 6pm - 9pm

Saturday : 9am - 7pm

**SWIMMING POOL**

Weekdays : 9am - 4pm

Saturday : 4pm - 7pm

Please note your SP Alumni e-card and any form of identification is required for verification purposes. SP Sports Facilities may be closed due to curriculum or events without prior notice.



SP Alumni eCard holder is entitled to 20% off annual library membership fees.

Library membership is required to enter SP Library.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

**OPENING HOURS:**

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Off-Campus Privileges



**ARTEA**

10% discount

Terms and conditions apply



**CRISAL SEAFOOD**

15% off on LACTOSEAFOOD

Terms and conditions apply



**LOCKDOWN**

10% off the usual retail price  
1 pass for 1 gameroom discount

Terms and conditions apply



**SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES' GUILD**

10% discount for ala-carte menu at SPGG F&B outlets (SPGG Coffee Hub & The Restaurant)

Terms and conditions apply



**THE ESCAPE ARTIST**

10% discount for the entire bill

Terms and conditions apply



**TUAN YUAN PORK RIBS SOUP**

5% discount when you spend above \$50 before GST

Terms and conditions apply



**THE KETTLE GOURMET**

5% discount when you quote "HAPPY5"

Terms and conditions apply

## Let's Keep in Touch!

Stay notified on the latest alumni events by updating your particulars on the **SP Alumni Portal**.

[Click Here](#)

## SP Alumni eCard

Enjoy exclusive benefits when you apply for your free **SP Alumni eCard** via the SP mobile app.

[Click Here](#)



## Exploring new career opportunities?

Check out the **SPAN Job Portal** to discover various job listings.



[Click Here](#)



# CONNECT WITH US

Education & Career Pathways | Industry Insights | Career Coaching

Email us at [ecg@sp.edu.sg](mailto:ecg@sp.edu.sg) for an appointment

SP Singapore Polytechnic

18 JULY 2023  
12.00PM TO 1.15PM/  
7.00PM TO 8.15PM

# PATHWAYS BEYOND SP

Uncertain about the road ahead? Don't worry! We've got your back. Discover the diverse range of work or study options available to you and gain invaluable tips from the professional experts!

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY:

Education and Career Coach (ECC) Team,  
Student Services Department

SP Alliance & Network (SPAN) Team,  
Dept of Industry & Partnerships

SP PACE Academy

Register now



Session 1

Register now



Session 2

Calling all Recent SP Graduates!

## Upcoming Courses

SP PACE ACADEMY

**Calling all Graduates**  
from Class of 2018 to 2022

Looking to attain a **Specialist or Advanced Diploma** while kick starting your career?

Good news! With **Work-Study Programmes**, you can enjoy the best of both worlds!

[Click here](#)

to find out how you can achieve all these & receive **\$5,000** incentive at the same time!

## Announcements

## NEW SP UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting our Graduates beyond SP

### About the Scholarship

The Scholarship aims to support deserving and talented SP students in their undergraduate studies. We hope to encourage our academically strong graduates to further their achievements in SP and to make a positive impact on Singapore in the future.

### Scholarship Benefits

- Bond-free scholarship
- Full scholarship award of \$30,000 will be given out in three tranches of \$10,000 across three academic years of undergraduate studies.

### Eligibility

- Singapore Citizens/Permanent Residents
- Graduated from SP with a Diploma with Merit
- Demonstrate good leadership qualities and conduct
- Possess strong portfolio and CCA records
- Freshly matriculated at any of the local autonomous universities

Stay tuned to SP's website for more updates!

**Application opens: 18 - 30 Sep 2023**

Scan the QR Code for more information on the SP Undergraduate Scholarship.



For enquiries, please email [scholarships@sp.edu.sg](mailto:scholarships@sp.edu.sg).



Republic of Singapore Yacht Club  
- Karaoke Lounge

# NEW Affiliate

📍 52 West Coast Ferry Road  
Singapore 126887



## SPECIALIST DIPLOMA IN DATA PROTECTION & AI GOVERNANCE



### HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The **only** Specialist Diploma on Data Protection & AI Governance offered by SP amongst other Polytechnics/ITE
- ✓ Trains participants to be **DPO** or **double-hat** as DPO in their organisations
- ✓ Equips how to incorporate **Personal Data Protection** requirements as part of the **Design Thinking** processes for data-driven activities
- ✓ The curriculum is aligned with the **DPO Competency Framework and Training Roadmap**

**PART-TIME  
COURSE**

**HYBRID  
TEACHING**

**NEXT INTAKE IN  
OCT'23**

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE!

with

**PART-TIME DIPLOMA AND  
POST-DIPLOMA COURSES**

REGISTER FOR **OCT' 2023** INTAKE



**SP PACE**  
PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH  
DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION  
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Journeying with you beyond **SP**

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