ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: FROM STUDENT TO ENTREPRENEURIAL MAVERICK

Feb 2024
Ms Nuryanee Anisah
Founder, Commenhers
Diploma in Business Administration, Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneurial Studies, 2022

GIVING OLD CLOTHES NEW LIFE

Inspired by her father, Nuryanee set her sights on becoming an entrepreneur from a young age. Now the co-founder of Commenhers, a textile upcycling company, she aims to use her Diploma in Business Administration and her father’s business insights to reach new heights as an entrepreneur.

The Method to the Motivation

Despite creating several successful businesses from scratch, she witnessed first-hand the hardship her father went through in the process, due to the lack of structured instruction in launching businesses. Seeing these barriers, she felt that a more in-depth education would give her a leg up.

“I’m a more hands-on learner and Singapore Polytechnic’s (SP) exposure-based learning in the Business Administration course appealed to me. It stood out to me for its specialisation in entrepreneurship, where I knew topics such as accounting, the steps to set up a business, and access to various business models would be covered.”

Maximising Opportunities

During her polytechnic years, Nuryanee did it all. From maintaining stellar grades and staying on the Honour Roll from 2019 to 2022, she also prioritised giving back to the community and held various leadership positions such as the Head of the Community Service Department and the Head of the Humanitarian Department at SP Red Cross in 2020.

She also got her first taste of the business world through pitching competitions and graduated with three wins under her belt.

“I enjoyed taking part in competitions, even the ones where we only made it to the finals. The sense of achievement after overcoming hurdles was the best feeling.”

First Foray into Entrepreneurship

Commenhers was born during an assignment when Nuryanee was tasked with creating an original business concept. After watching a report on how thrift stores had to throw out mouldy clothing during the pandemic, she wanted to fuse her creativity into something meaningful. She then set up an upcycling business that turns textile waste into new products of higher quality.

At first, Nuryanee started small, creating just a few handmade pieces and selling them on Instagram, but her lecturer opened her view on the scalability of her business.

She explained that if the business wanted to generate more revenue, Nuryanee had to think bigger, start delegating the work, find a better business model and invest all available resources into it.

She then took the leap to scale up production by involving beneficiaries, primarily single mothers, housewives or elderly individuals, who handcrafted the products. Starting with a team of eight, the labour force has now expanded to 40 beneficiaries who earn a secondary income by cutting, sewing, and manufacturing the products.

Even after graduating, Nuryanee leveraged SP resources such as the SP Entrepreneurship Centre, also known as SPiNOFF. It acted as an incubator, providing support and the right platform to nurture the business. It was at the centre that Nuryanee and her team gained access to many different panel discussions, workshops, and even had the opportunity to participate in the Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology (SWITCH) festival, where they garnered interest from potential investors and organisations.

As the business grows, Nuryanee recognises that as a business founded on sustainable principles, all decisions should be environmentally friendly, down to the source of the textile waste.

“We only learnt much later that the supplier we purchased our textile waste from collected it from around Asia, transported it to Africa and then brought it back. This process increases the overall carbon footprint of the materials. If we were to take the textile and upcycle it, would it solve the problem?”

To solve this, the Commenhers team decided to collaborate with local initiatives to get textile waste from Southeast Asia instead.

Onto Bigger and Better

Commenhers has recently undergone a major transformation, revamping its business model to interact mostly with business-to-business (B2B). To better cater to corporations, Commenhers provides an avenue for big businesses to upcycle their textile waste. Their most recent customer is Decathlon, where Commenhers upcycles materials from old kayaks into products that are sold on the Decathlon website and in stores.

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Singapore Polytechnic hosts its inaugural Industry & Innovation exhibition

To celebrate its 70th anniversary, the annual Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Industry and Innovation Engineering exhibition was expanded to include all departments for the first time this year. A total of 33 projects by SP students from various faculties were displayed in this exhibition. The exhibition is divided into three categories: green technology, digital transformation, and industry 4.0 innovation, showcasing the solutions students have designed for different aspects of life using emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence Internet of Things (AIoT), autonomous and unmanned systems, and sustainable development projects, etc.

SP collaborates with ALC to prep Singaporeans better for changes in the workplace

Ms Tan Yen Yen, Senior Director of the Business and the Creatives cluster at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is one of the partners involved in the latest project as part of the national push to equip Singaporeans for changes in the workplace. She said that helping businesses unlock the full potential of their workforce is paramount to ensure that educational initiatives will have a lasting impact on various stakeholders and society. This new outfit will focus on conducting research and innovation in adult education and training. Enterprises, adult educators, and learners themselves can look forward to dedicated upskilling projects and sharing sessions at the Adult Learning Collaboratory (ALC), the newest initiative rolled out by the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL). The ALC will start by focusing on three pilot projects, where partner organisations such as SP conduct research to address relevant workplace issues.

More polytechnic graduates hired in 2023 within six months of graduating

According to the Graduate Employment Survey (GES) conducted by the five polytechnics in Singapore, fresh polytechnic graduates commanded higher salaries and had better job prospects in 2023. Results released on Jan 12 show that nearly 60 per cent of them landed full-time jobs in 2023, climbing from 59 per cent in 2022 and about 58 per cent in 2021. The median gross monthly salary among graduates in full-time jobs also grew by $200, from $2,600 in 2022 to $2,800 in 2023. Graduates from health sciences, humanities and social sciences, and information and digital technologies took home higher salaries than their peers from other courses. In a joint statement, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and the other polytechnics have said they will continue to support their graduates by providing career guidance such as job matching and personalised coaching. The institutions have also tapped their networks of industry partners for suitable job placement and apprenticeship opportunities for graduates, such as the SkillsFuture Work-Study Programme – where graduates are matched with a job related to their diplomas and undergo a 12-month or 18-month training programme.

Source: 8 World, 12 Jan 2024

Source: 8 World, 04 Jan 2024

Source: Lianhe Zaobao, 19 Jan 2024

Source: 8 World, 12 Jan 2024

Campus Updates

SP Alumni eCard Privileges

On-Campus Privileges

Off-Campus Privileges

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES’ GUILD
10% discount for ala-carte menu at SPGG F&B outlets (SPGG Coffee Hub & The Restaurant)
Terms and conditions apply

PLAY V-ROOM PTE LTD
10% off 1 VR headset per card
Terms and conditions apply

THE ESCAPE ARTIST
10% discount for the entire bill
Terms and conditions apply

LAO JIANG SUPERIOR SOUP
10% off total bill
Terms and conditions apply

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SP 70TH ANNIVERSARY 2024 MUSIC FESTIVAL
MARCH 8, 2024
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD | 5PM - 10PM

OPEN TO PUBLIC, FREE ADMISSION
Exclusive T-shirt & tote bag giveaway*
Enjoy *free ice cream, popcorn, and candy floss!

CARNIVAL
FOOD, WELLNESS, CRAFT & THRIFT STALLS
5.00PM

PERFORMANCE BY
SP STUDENT CLUBS:
DJK, STRICTLY DANCE ZONE, GARAGE BAND
6.00PM

SP 70TH ANNIVERSARY MUSIC FESTIVAL
HOSTED BY ANNETTE LEE
7.00PM

FEATURING:
EVAN LOW | RANGGA JONES | MARIAN CARMEL | CATS AMONG US SUNSET CURFEW feat. ICEBOX | NIGHT GARDE | MAMOPODA | SARCO

AND MORE
*While stocks last

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TO FIND OUT MORE

MAD GRAD EXPERIENCE 2024
CONSTELLATIONS: NEW BEGINNINGS
Deep in space, elements fuse together under the pressure of epic forces.
A speck of light, a glimmer of energy, and then an explosion.
A star is born.
We invite you to celebrate with our FIRST graduating cohort of the Diploma in Media, Arts & Design and be wowed by their works in the areas of visual, digital and experience design, media and communication, story and content creation, games and animation, sound and music, and community engagement.

8 MARCH | 3PM - 8:30PM
SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC CONVENTION CENTRE

RSVP by 23 February 2024
CLICK TO REGISTER
Sustainability Business Case and Reporting for Built Environment

Climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is a living reality affecting societies, businesses of all sizes, and, foremost of all, us as individuals.

SMEs account for over 95% of all enterprises in Singapore and over 70% of the workforce. Large businesses have begun taking committed action towards Net Zero and other environmental, social and governance targets. It is an opportune moment for SMEs to recognise the need to take action now for their survival. Join us in this event to actively step forward and learn more about decarbonisation and reporting.

Date: 06 March 2024
Time: 3PM - 5PM
Mode: via Zoom

Register here:

Dr Deven Chhaya
Partner (Infrastructure Advisory), KPMG in Singapore

Mr Sanil Yadav
Director (KPMG ESG), KPMG in Singapore

Mr Jeff Chiang
Associate Director (Product Innovation & Sustainability), Exceltec Property Management Pte Ltd

Mr Lim Chun Keat
Senior Manager (School of Architecture and The Built Environment), Singapore Polytechnic

Moderator

Advanced Manufacturing Lead (AMLead) Programme Webinar

Visit Bosch Rexroth’s State-Of-The-Art Manufacturing plants in Germany and meet their senior leaders and domain experts for deep and insightful learning on Industry 4.0 (I4.0).

Seize the opportunity to learn from an I4.0 industry leader at a highly affordable rate.
SP Alumni eCard

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

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Navigating your Career Towards New Horizons in 2024!

Part-Time Diploma and Post-Diploma

APRIL 2024 INTAKE (1 DEC '23 - 31 JAN '24)

Register your interest today

Exploring new career opportunities?

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

Click Here

Let's Keep in Touch!

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

Click Here

Members' Special Perks

SP Alliance & Network

Announcements
NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Just graduated from SP < 6 months ago and feeling like life's thrown you a curved ball?
Contact our friendly SP counsellors for short-term counselling support if you need.
Email SP: contactus@sp.edu.sg with subject 'Requesting for Counselling'