

SCHOLARS' CONNECT

A biannual publication

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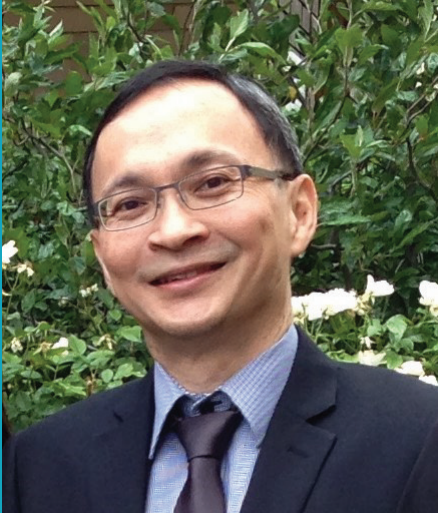
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DIRECTOR'S *Message*



Clarence Chua
Director, Student Services

Dear students

2020 has indeed been a tumultuous year for not only us in SP, but Singapore and the world at large. As we start the new academic year 2021/2022, let us hope for a smooth transition to a new normal, economic recovery around the regions, the restoration of trade ties, resumption of efforts to combat climate change and for healing in a divided world.

As we now know, working from home and attending online classes is the new norm, and we need to be very cautious wherever we go and with whoever we meet. Indeed, we have learnt that we cannot take anything for granted and the phrase, living in a VUCA world, has never held so true as we move ahead.

Yet, amidst all these uncertainties, life must go on and as the Covid-19 vaccination program gets underway and we start to reconnect with our friends and extended family in our daily lives, I am pleased to announce the launch of our bi-annual e-newsletter, aptly titled, *Scholars Connect*.

The e-newsletter will focus on scholarship-related articles and information, which I hope will be helpful and connect not only our SP scholarship community and SP students aspiring to be scholars but also SP alumni who are always very much in our thoughts.

In this inaugural issue, we will start by looking at the makings of a scholar - what are the traits, habits and qualities a scholar has or is usually associated with. Do you have what it takes? We hope that this will give you food for thought and point you in the direction to develop yourself, to build your skills and portfolio so that you can realise your aspirations.

In the process though, remember not to lose the very important values of humility, compassion and care for others and the world we live in - these inner traits will always stand you in good stead wherever you are, and will help you navigate through the vicissitudes of life.

All the best in your learning journey in SP!

ABOUT SCHOLARS' CONNECT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Scholars' Connect, which aims to provide readers with scholarships-related information and inspiration, and connect the scholar community in SP, including aspiring scholars and alumni.

In this issue, we take a closer look at what makes a scholar. Is there a defining archetype of a scholar? What does it take to clinch a prestigious scholarship? Let us demystify the stereotypes and scholarship preparation process through special features with our very own SP scholars and alumni.

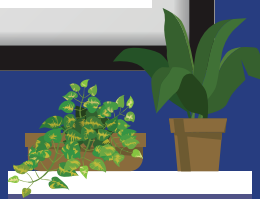
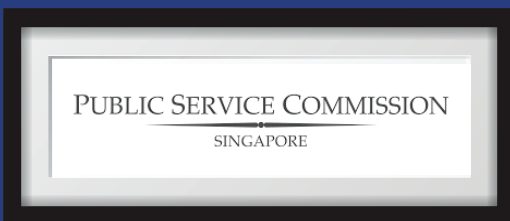
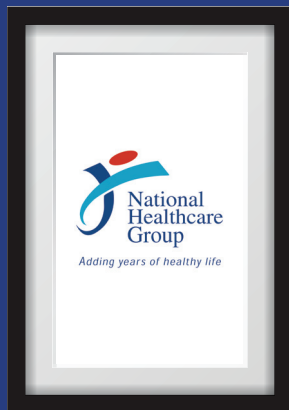
This issue also acquaints readers with the EDGE Scholars Programme, an initiative which seeks to prepare students for their scholarship journey. Find out what the EDGE students have been up to as they seek to make their mark in SP and beyond.

We hope that Scholars' Connect will prove invaluable in guiding scholarship hopefuls in their journey to realising their goals and aspirations. To this end, our very first issue connects you to Scholar-Mentors from respective schools who would be happy to advise on matters pertaining to diploma and undergraduate scholarships. Do not hesitate to reach out to them or the Scholarships Team at Student Services, for that matter.

May the sharing of stories, hopes and aspirations bring us closer as a learning community and provide a powerful platform to achieve much more together. We wish you a pleasant and insightful reading experience!



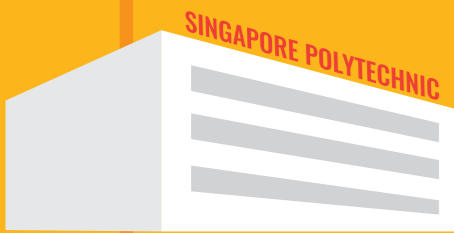
A SAMPLING OF SOME PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOLARSHIPS WHICH YOU CAN CHECK OUT ON BRIGHTSPARKS.COM.SG



A SCHOLAR'S JOURNEY

Making the transition from polytechnic to university – and planning on doing so on a scholarship?

Here's a quick guide on how you can go from "scholarship hopeful" to achieving your dream scholarship.



1

FIND YOUR PASSION & START TO BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO EARLY

- Decide on what you really want to pursue as a lifelong career
- Preferably, select a field/career that's related to your diploma
- Right from year 1, or as early as you can, start building a strong portfolio to showcase your CCA & community service involvements, leadership capabilities & other skills
- Attend workshops & read widely so as to improve your knowledge of current affairs including industry & global issues
- Build your speaking, writing, interview skills by attending relevant workshops, forums, conferences, and keeping up with the news
- Develop good habits such as self-discipline and effective time management



2

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

- Research your local/overseas university options (based on your desired career)
- Decide on your top 3 universities (taking into account industry recognition of your desired degree, and your personal preferences)



3

SHORTLIST POTENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- Scholarships may be offered by hiring organisations, universities, government agencies or ministries
- Do ample research to identify which scholarships you are keen on - check scholarship portals (e.g. BrightSparks), company, agency or relevant websites
- Talk to your seniors/ lecturers/ ECG Counsellors/ Scholar Mentors and people from the industry



4

APPLY FOR YOUR PREFERRED SCHOLARSHIPS

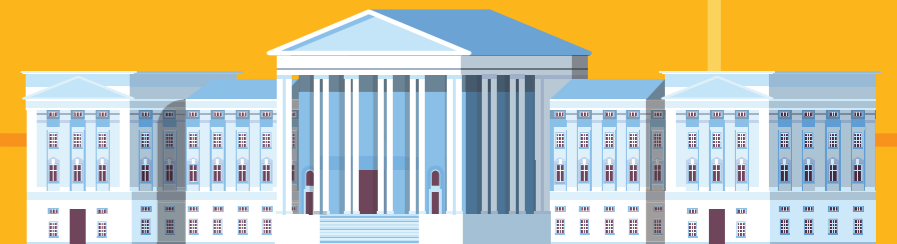
- Apply for the scholarships you want early (but ensure that you have a good portfolio in order to improve your chances)
- Be sure to apply for all the scholarship opportunities you're interested in, not just your favourite one
- Remember, the more successful applications you have, the more options you can choose from!



5

PREPARE FOR YOUR SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW

- By the time you are in Year 2 Semester 2, you should have accumulated a good CV/portfolio. Continue to build on this
- Do also refer to the *Scholar Checklist* on page 7 to see which areas you are still lacking in and need to improve on
- Check resources online to practise psychometric assessments as well as interview questions. Do check with the ECG Counsellors/Scholar Mentors if you are not sure about this to point you in the right direction



THE MAKINGS OF A SCHOLAR

Think you have what it takes to be a scholar?
Use this checklist and tick the qualities that apply to you.

MINDSET

- Positive self-belief
- Highly resilient
- Intellectually curious
- Self-disciplined
- Strives for excellence

SKILLS

- Speaks intelligently
- Writes well
- Expert time management skills
- Excellent at communicating with others

HEART

- Aspires to build a career in a field you're passionate in
- Has the heart to serve the community
- Exhibits emotional intelligence
- Possesses utmost integrity

SOUL

- Reads widely and have a good knowledge of current affairs
- Strong leadership skills (demonstrated through CCA involvement, volunteering for causes, initiating projects, and more)
- Maintains good mental and physical health

NEXT STEPS



Did you check off on all the boxes, or only a few? The good news is, regardless of your results, you have what it takes to be a scholar.

That's because **scholars aren't born, they're made.**

Now that you have an idea of what qualities you need to polish up on, read more, learn more, volunteer more, take on more leadership roles, improve your mental and physical well-being, and embrace everything about yourself that's already scholar-worthy.

TIPS FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

You've worked hard, excelled in your studies and have the results to prove it. Now, you're at one of the final hurdles before clinching that coveted scholarship – the application process.

What do most successful scholarship applications have in common? Do keep the following factors in mind.

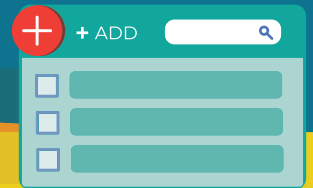
TIP 1



RESEARCH THE SCHOLARSHIPS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN

Be sure to thoroughly research the scholarships you're planning on applying for. Consider whether you want a full or partial scholarship, and if you're happy with a bonded career after graduation.

TIP 2



FEEL FREE TO APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOLARSHIP IF YOU FEEL THEY ARE A GOOD FIT FOR YOU

It's always a good idea to give yourself options. With more choices, you'll be able to select the scholarship you're most passionate about – which will set you up for a more fulfilling career.

TIP 3



GET LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Ask for testimonials/ letters of recommendations from your teachers, internship supervisors, former or present employers (if you've worked before, even part-time), or anyone else who can give you a boost. And do this early!

TIP 4

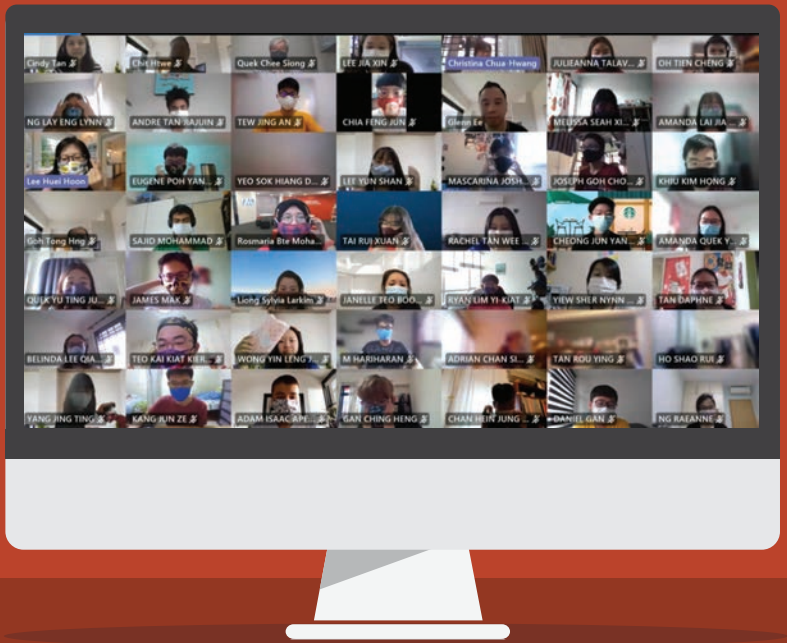


BE A GOOD STORYTELLER, SHOWCASE YOUR PASSION

Your scholarship application isn't a resume, it's a statement of who you are and why you're passionate about pursuing the scholarship. Be ready to tell them why you chose the degree you intend to pursue and how it will align to what the scholarship body is looking for.



EDGE ORIENTATION



TECHNOLOGY, START-UPS AND COMMUNITY GOOD

The morning of 12 December 2020 was no ordinary Saturday for 98 first year students who had just been accepted into the EDGE program, joining their year 2 and 3 seniors before them.

The programme, into its third year, is an invitation-only scholarship preparation programme to mentor and prepare students for their undergraduate scholarship journey. First year students are extended an invitation to the programme based on their academic results, co-curricular activities, character and interest in scholarships and personal development. Second and third year students are also accepted into the programme based on potential and recommendations by lecturers. Students go through holistic and rigorous training comprising communication skills and personal effectiveness workshops, current affairs & policy sessions and are exposed to various modes of interview and scholarship assessments. Selected students are given the opportunity to participate in external conferences and industry events. EDGE aims to complement existing talent and leadership development initiatives such as SPOT and those offered by Student Development.

Undeterred by COVID-19 restrictions, the Orientation featured a virtual tour to One North, where tour company, Monsters Day Tours got students actively exploring Singapore's Silicon Valley. Students were treated to exciting rounds of virtual Bingo to reinforce learning. Indeed, the theme for this year's Orientation, 'Technology, Start-ups and Community Good' was all the more poignant given the circumstances the world finds itself in.

The tour concluded with a sharing by Mr Tan Lee Tuan of Bekind Solutions, a social enterprise startup that develops and markets quality innovative products for the elderly. Speaking about their Smart Walking Stick collection, he stressed the need to inject vibrancy into the life of the elderly to prevent many social ills – old age loneliness, poor health and the tech gap between the young and old.

At the end of the programme, students reflected on the need to seize opportunities, develop an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset for success and giving back to society. When prompted to share their own ideas for innovation; we were heartened to hear suggestions such as:

- A device that generates Braille on the spot
- Time machine
- An easy language translator for old people
- Automatic table cleaner
- Small health check machines for those who can't afford or do not have the time for regular health checks at hospitals
- A bot that could help children who struggle with social skills due to issues like autism and anxiety

May their ideas see fruition for the greater good!

SHARING OUR STUDENTS' STORIES:

KEEPING ABREAST OF REGIONAL + GLOBAL TRENDS & ISSUES

SINGAPORE
PERSPECTIVES2021
Reset

3 EDGE final year students recently attended the Singapore Perspectives 2021 conference, which brought together international thought and community leaders to consider the challenges posed by COVID-19, as well as trends and issues in the political, social, economic, technological, ethical, and environmental domains.



VOON ZHI KAI TRISTAN (MAE)

KIMBERLY SURIYA (MAE)

CHUA YONG TAI ANTHONY (SOC)

We want to know you better. Can you briefly describe yourself and what you're passionate about?

- T** I am a semi introvert/extrovert into serious stuff like quantum physics, aerospace and fun stuff like YouTubing, gym-ing and foodie-ing... One thing that I am absolutely passionate about is supersonics and I have just built a working prototype of a wind tunnel in the lab.
- K** I enrolled into the Common Engineering Program through the PFP route and enjoy exercising, reading, watching Netflix, gaming and eating. Currently, I serve as VP of the MAE Club and was previously a Core Leader in ACERS in 2018.
- A** I am a tech cum business enthusiast who signed up for the Diploma Plus in Business, and persevered through it. In my free time, I enjoy an occasional game of badminton, going to the gym, watching Netflix as well as anime.

Can you share your aspirations with us?

- T** I hope to be able to contribute to society in an impactful way, through my love for engineering – as an engineer first and foremost, I really hope to build things that are useful.
- K** I don't have aspirations to be a particular person, but I want to be strong mentally and physically so that I will be in a position to help others. Ultimately, I aspire to be a positive and compassionate leader.
- A** I was initially thinking of going into a business-related field, however, after my internship stint with Govtech, I am leaning towards being a "techie" as I see a greater sense of purpose to use my skills to contribute to society.

What prompted you to sign up for the Conference and what were your takeaways from attending?

T As I attended last year's conference and came away with new perspectives, I wasted no time in signing up for this year's as well. What struck me most amongst the many issues discussed were those on diversity and leadership - the pandemic has exacerbated existing racial and systemic inequalities, threatening harmony due to the fracturing of societies. I was also struck by the point made by some speakers that the reason why some countries fared better than others was largely due to the leadership and policies in place.

K The prospect of being able to listen to leaders like SM Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Ambassador Chan Heng Chee speak prompted me to attend. The topics covered, e.g. on jobs and skills, strategies to reskill and promote the hiring of mature workers, climate change and sustainability were insightful and helped me to understand the issues better.

A I wanted to hear insights from experts about the direction that Singapore should take on certain issues. It made me realise that change is inevitable. As Covid-19 continues to plague us, it is crucial for us to learn to adapt quickly and prepare for structural shifts, the resetting of strategies and upskilling ourselves for the ever-changing situation and world.

What is your own philosophy on what it takes to be a scholar? What are you doing about your own preparation for scholarships? What have you have found challenging?

T Making the best of what SP has to offer; not only is it a place where we forge new friendships but also experience growth, by boosting our knowledge, attending conferences and participating in other activities. What is challenging is to ensure there is work-life balance; we can do this through good time management.

K Joining at least one CCA and attending as many school trips as I can! All these have helped me learn invaluable skills and develop my leadership capabilities. Opportunities abound and we need to keep an open mind and participate in order to improve ourselves. But of course discipline and time management are important.

A Making sure to stay updated on current affairs and learning how to network. Aside from that, I have tried to learn as much as I can so that I can grow and upskill myself, for e.g. working on side projects or internships. For instance, my year-long internship at GovTech has not only enabled me to meet people who have inspired me but motivated me to similarly want to do my best to help the community. All in all, being disciplined and having good time management is crucial for us to be where we want to be.



BREAKING NEW GROUND

Not many students can lay claim to having set up their own co-curricular club, but that is just what happened in the case of Jeremiah Tang, who spearheaded the formation of Speakers' Society. The community club, which is under the purview of the EDGE program, aims to help members speak more confidently, improve interpersonal skills, build character and nurture intellectual tenacity.

Prior to SP, Jeremiah spent four years studying at an international school in Brunei. Meeting students from different nationalities spurred him to develop a keen interest in foreign affairs, debating and public speaking, inspiring him to want to form a community of similarly-minded people.

Concurrently Secretary and Treasurer of the CLS Club, Jeremiah also volunteers with several external bodies such as the Lakeside Family Centre. Always looking for new learning experiences, in November 2020, he registered for the Young Singaporeans Conference, an event where youths had the opportunity to speak on their choices concerning life, work, home and values — and how these could impact Singapore in 2030. The discussion on the price of happiness particularly resonated with him, especially the choice between personal vs community success. Ultimately, the important thing is to take a step back and make sure that what we do is what we really want to do. This ties in with his personal ethos, “you can take everyone’s opinion into consideration, but don’t let that consideration become your opinion.”

This young man helms Speakers' Society with Vice-President, Tejpreet Kaur, an SP Scholar. A modest and well-spoken young lady who is instantly likeable for her gentle smile as she speaks and a talented artist who enjoys singing, Indian classical dance and orchestral instruments. Her art provides a form of release for her whenever she feels stressed and so passionate is she about it that she plans to teach them as her way of giving back to the community. She enjoys writing poetry, and sees Speakers' Society as a way to encourage creative forms of written and spoken expression amongst SP students.



TEJPREET KAUR

JEREMIAH TANG

Like Jeremiah, Tejpreet double-hats as Vice-President as well as Head of External Relations for the SP Institute of Public Relations Student Chapter at SB. Not surprisingly, as a business student, she has aspirations to be a successful businesswoman one day.

What advice do you have for your juniors on their SP and life journey?

- J** It is crucial to diversify your identity beyond academic results. The measure of success is not purely academic, and you would be less impacted by it if you have other things going for you, especially those where your actions can impact others and put out good into the world.
- T** There is a reason and cycle for everything. Even with stress, it comes and goes; what is important is to learn how to manage your time well, learn from mistakes and how to deal with setbacks as they come.

What are your aspirations for Speakers' Society?

- J** We hope that Speakers' Society can be a community where leaders and aspiring speakers can harness the power of speech and leverage their communications skills. We had a good turnout at our introduction session and for our parliamentary debate workshop held recently so we are inspired to organise more of such activities for our members.

There may be many students who want to hone their speaking and communication skills. How can they join Speakers' Society?

- T** Sure! There are 2 ways they can join:
 - 1) Search Instagram for [instagram.com/sp_speakers_society/](https://www.instagram.com/sp_speakers_society/) and sign up through our website link;
 - 2) If you are an EDGE student, you can speak to any of the EDGE mentors and they can connect you with the team.

LEADING A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

For third year Aerospace Electronics student, Lee Wei Jun, life has virtually been a whirlwind since he enrolled in SP. From volunteering, to participating in hackathons and competitions, to pursuing additional external technical qualifications, this young man has grasped just about every opportunity that has been presented to him. Naturally, we wanted to find out what makes him tick.



LEE WEI JUN

DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS
YEAR 3

We understand that you have participated in as many as 16 competitions and hackathons! That is certainly an astounding number. What drives you to do what you do?

3 years ago, the book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, inspired me and became my guide to living a purposeful life whilst caring for others. I do this through my passion for engineering and IT, which I discovered during my self-sourced internship in year 1. I had to learn how to solve problems on my way to programming a wireless start-time device for the Deaf Games and found that I really enjoyed the process. The project became the start of how I give back, through taking on challenges in socially-driven projects.

What are your aspirations?

I hope to be a software engineer and developer. This was sparked from my experience of working with Google engineers when I participated in the Google Computer Science Summer Institute in 2019.

Aside from competing in hackathons, what other things do you do? What do you do to relax?

On weekends, I enjoy teaching coding to children under a volunteer programme called Code in the Community. I like upskilling myself – last year, I pursued and obtained my external qualifications as an Oracle Autonomous Database Cloud Specialist and AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate (SAA). Most recently, in December 2020, I co-founded a start-up with 2 buddies to help businesses digitise. To unwind, I do a spot of rock-climbing and have been on climbing expeditions overseas to Thailand and East Malaysia.

We understand that you were a student participant in the IQ (Inconvenient Questions) Panel Discussion on University Education in December 2020 which was streamed live on YouTube. What was the experience like?

To be honest, I was so focused on the exchange of views by the distinguished panellists that I didn't even pause to think about being streamed live. The discussion reinforced my belief that learning should not stop with a degree; rather, life-long learning should be an integral part of our lives as knowledge is not static.

How do you manage to pack so many things into your schedule?

It all boils down to good time management; I plan and prioritise what needs to be done daily, right down to the hour. At the start of each week, I look at my task list and make sure that I work on them each day.

Here's a fun question - what animal would you choose to be if you had a choice?

A dolphin! They are social creatures and reminds me that life is much easier with support from friends.

Any advice for students who also want to get busy but don't know where to start?

"Start where you are. Use what you can. Do what you can."

A SERVANT LEADER AT HEART



(Gerwyn is in the back row, second from the left)

GERWYN TEO WENQIAN

*DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
YEAR 3*

Talk about helping someone and watch Gerwyn's eyes light up instantly. Indeed, at the time of this interview, he was busy preparing for yet another community service activity.

The desire to help others was one of the main reasons why he pursued a Diploma Plus in Humanitarian Affairs, which he hoped would broaden his knowledge of serving the community. He wanted to learn, for instance, the necessary steps in crisis management, how to react during emergencies and understand third world problems better.

Awarded the SP Scholarship since his first year of studies, this affable young man, who had never had a scholarship prior to SP, shares that he was shocked to learn that he had been successful in his interview. He attributes this to being authentic and honest in his answers; with little time to prepare as he had less than two weeks' notice of being notified about the interview.

Asked how his life has changed since becoming a scholar, Gerwyn answers that he feels a much greater sense of responsibility and need to understand his peers. Aside from that, the scholarship has created opportunities for him to forge new friendships with other like-minded students from across SP in GenEd classes and events. It has also opened the doors to the EDGE and SPOT programs.

In fact, he shares that one of his most memorable events was a community service trip to Bintan, organised under the EDGE program, where he was part of a team which built a wastewater treatment system (the Safe Water Gardens project in collaboration with Loola Adventure Resorts) and educated the local community about recycling and the need to reduce plastic waste. Not only did he form new friendships but he learnt how to be a more effective leader on the trip.

Outside of school, he is a key youth leader in his church, where he has helped to plan community service trips locally and overseas. For example, in 2018, he initiated an overseas 10-day mission trip to Timor Leste with a group of friends to teach children English and basic hygiene. Aside from church, he also contributes actively as a leader in the Woodgrove Youth Network, organizing community events.

So what drives him to do so much? Gerwyn simply puts it down to his wanting to lead a purposeful life which can help not only his own growth, but others.

His advice to his juniors? "Stay grounded, be happy, work hard, remember your path and try not to deviate from it."

HAVING PASSION & PURPOSE



RYAN ONG

*DIPLOMA IN AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS
YEAR 3*

Ask Ryan what drives him to do the things he does and his easy reply is “Happy Can Already”. He explains that he believes in doing things that are purposeful and which make him happy. Even if there are naysayers, he does not let them affect him as his philosophy is that there will always be people who do not agree with what you do, no matter what, so there is no need to be upset.

Awarded the SP Engineering Scholarship for all 3 years of his studies and the A*STAR Poly Science Award in his second year, Ryan exudes a sense of steadiness and calm, probably one of the qualities which helped him ace his scholarship interviews. Passionate about all things engineering, especially working on his projects, Ryan is also very caught up in his music, specifically, the piano. Piano is his go-to, in times of stress and to relax to, aside from playing badminton, basketball and running. Not surprisingly, he is a member of the SP Piano Ensemble and is in its exco, holding the office of Secretary. As exco member, he has helped to both organise and perform in a number of concerts such as the Arts Fiesta at SP, as well as in collaboration with other polytechnics and also at NUH, CGH and IMH.

As Year 2 Head of the EEE Student Ambassadors, Ryan has helped to organise engineering events such as the FOP and the SP Engineering Show. During one of the events where he was Vice Chairman of the organising committee, he had to oversee an outreach event involving approximately 700 secondary students in an activity involving robots.

Ryan admits that it came as a surprise to him when he was informed that he had been awarded the SP Engineering Scholarship in year 1. He felt that there were many students who were better than him and he did not feel particularly confident during the interview. His advice to aspiring scholars is to ensure that they know why they are applying for the scholarship and not to compare themselves with other candidates. He opines that when answering questions, they should not try to come up with responses which they feel the interviewers want to hear, but be confident enough to offer their own views on issues. Even if in the end, they do not secure the scholarship, it would still be a good learning experience – sometimes why someone is not offered a scholarship could be that they are not the right fit for it in the first place and not necessarily that they performed badly during the interview process.

Last but not least, Ryan has this to say “be happy and be kind to people regardless of their status – this is what will bring you far in life.”

ALUMNI RECONNECT



**WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY COMES YOUR WAY,
JUST SAY YES!**

We catch up with Wong Guan Min, SP alumni, to find out more about her scholarship journey, life after SP and how she deals with moments of uncertainty and doubt. A Course Medal, Asia Fund Space Prize and IMDA Gold Medal recipient, since graduating, she has added the PSC Scholarship (2019) and getting into NTU's University Scholars' Programme under her belt.



WONG GUAN MIN
DIPLOMA IN MEDIA & COMMUNICATION
CLASS OF 2018/2019

Congrats on being awarded the PSC Scholarship! Was this something you had always planned to pursue?

Not really. To be honest, I had always wanted to follow in my mum's footsteps to pursue 'A' Levels in JC and was disappointed when my 'O' Level results did not allow me to apply to the JC of my choice. After much thought, I decided on the Diploma in Media & Communications course at SP, and little did I know then that this would turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

I applied for the PSC Scholarship not knowing much about it for fear of missing out or FOMO! It was only later that I came to understand what being a public servant was all about. I was also conflicted between the benefits that the private sector offered vs having to serve a four year bond in the public sector.

What changed your mind?

After much thought and advice from my mentors, I realised that perhaps I would be a good fit for the public service due to my extensive volunteering and interest in serving Singaporeans. Also, when I saw the efforts my lecturers and mentors put into preparing resources for me, I knew I couldn't take their efforts and care for granted.

How did you decide on your choice of undergraduate study?

I'm currently pursuing a Degree in Business with a Marketing specialisation. I felt that Marketing would complement my communications background plus allow me to learn something new. This is an area I feel I can actively contribute to in the public sector.

How has life changed after being awarded the scholarship?

I am now a lot more confident about experimenting and trying out new things, such as theatre! Just like in SP where I had four CCAs, I have joined four CCAs at NTU too! Most of all however, I am very grateful for the group of friends I met and became close to during the PSC preparatory course.

What advice do you have for scholarship hopefuls?

Manage your time wisely. In SP, I was active in Leo Club, ACERS, Student Exchange Club and Ultimate Frisbee. I enjoyed all of them and they kept me going but I realised the importance of prioritising and planning so that my academics were not affected.

And take every opportunity that comes your way as they do not always come by easily!



LOW JUN JIE XAVIER

DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
CLASS OF 2019/2020

It is hard to believe that behind the humble, down-to-earth and soft-spoken demeanour of this young man is someone who has achieved so much. Coming into SP with a net GCE 'O' Level score of 12 points and unsure of what he wanted to do in life, Xavier capped off his graduation from SP last year as a Model Student, SP Sports & Arts Award recipient, a Halogen Young Leaders' Award winner, President of the SP Chinese Orchestra, an SP Scholar from Year 1 to 3, an IMDA Gold Medallist and PSC (Engineering) Scholar.

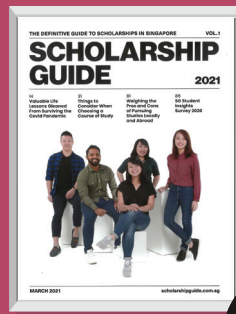
Currently a naval serviceman in NS, we asked him how he managed to achieve all this. Replying that interest had a large role to play, Xavier explained that although he was unsure initially about his choice of course, he saw the rising trend towards technology as an enabler. He decided he would try to implement what he was going to learn towards modernising his father's traditional business. Once he did that, he found meaning and interest in learning, which energised and motivated him and made him want to learn as much as he could. The result of this was that when Covid-19 hit, his dad's business was fully operational online.

On how he came to apply for the PSC (Engineering) Scholarship when he had his heart set initially on a private scholarship, Xavier shared that although his volunteering commitments made him think twice, what convinced him was a book that he read, *Singapore, Disrupted: Essays on a Nation at the Crossroads of Change*, by Mui Hoong Chua. The book covered the rising tech trend and the unseen side of Singapore and highlighted issues of inequality and the people left behind. It helped him to see things from a different perspective and made him realise that although he would be able to help and impact people wherever he was, it was in the public service where he would be able to have the widest reach. His empathetic approach to leadership and service was exemplified during his time with the SP Chinese Orchestra. To date, he still mentors juniors who approach him for guidance.

His parting advice to his juniors is to try to find purpose in what they do, and think about the people that they can help. In his own words, "if you can do this, it would help you to see things from a wider perspective and stay motivated, knowing that there are people at the end of the road who would benefit from your help."

EVERY SCHOOL HAS SCHOLAR MENTORS WHO CAN GUIDE YOU ON YOUR SCHOLARSHIP JOURNEY.

Find out who they are on the next page.



MEET YOUR SCHOLAR MENTORS



Be unceasingly fruitful.

CINDY TAN (ABE)
Cindy_Tan@sp.edu.sg



It is only by taking risks that we learn to be brave.

FAUZIAH BTE OTHMAN (EEE)
Fauziah_OTHMAN@sp.edu.sg



Overcoming challenges can only make you stronger.

FAN AY DENG (ABE)
Fan_Ay_Deng@sp.edu.sg



Grasp all opportunities that come your way.

GILLIAN LAM (EEE)
Gillian_LAM@sp.edu.sg



Scholarships open doors to countless opportunities.

GOH TONG HNG (CLS)
GOH_Tong_Hng@sp.edu.sg



Be the shining light to those in need.

TAN HAI SU (EEE)
TAN_Hai_Su@sp.edu.sg



Stay positive and learn from your experiences!

DR SOH CHAI HOON (CLS)
SOH_Chai_Hoon@sp.edu.sg



Strive for success in the face of challenges.

CHIT HTWE (SMA)
CHIT_Htwe@sp.edu.sg



Be humble and positive. Keep improving and stay healthy.

VICTOR SEOW CHIH WEI (MAD)
SEOW_Chih_Wei@sp.edu.sg



With passion and compassion, leverage on opportunities!

LEE HUEI HOON (MAD)
LEE_Huei_Hoon@sp.edu.sg



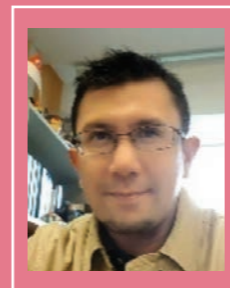
Excel in your studies but do not forget your CCAs.

CHANG YIT LOKE (MAE)
CHANG_Yit_Lok@sp.edu.sg



Be Yourself, Make a Difference.

AUDREY LOW PIN PIN (SOC)
Audrey_LOW@sp.edu.sg



Dream Big, Work Hard & Stay Humble.

NORAZHAR BIN MOHAMED SEPET (MAE)
Norazhar_MOHAMED_SEPET@sp.edu.sg



Pursuing knowledge is good, having wisdom better.

QUEK CHEE SIONG (SOC)
QUEK_Chee_Siong@sp.edu.sg



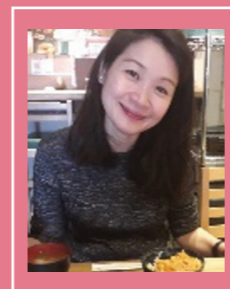
Be the change you want to see in the world!

JESSENE LIM (SB)
Jessene_LIM@sp.edu.sg



Be & do your best not only for yourself but others.

CHRISTINA CHUA-HWANG (SS)
Christina_CHUA-HWANG@sp.edu.sg



Live, love and be happy.

LIONG SYLVIA LARKIM (SB)
LIONG_Sylvia_Larkim@sp.edu.sg



Becoming is better than Being but Being precedes Becoming.

GLENN EE (SS)
Glenn_EE@sp.edu.sg



Evolve... discover the best version of yourself.

REGINA LIM (SS)
Regina_LIM@sp.edu.sg



Building self-worth is a journey. Enjoy the work in progress!

ROSMARIA BTE MOHAMED (SS)
Rosmaria_MOHAMED@sp.edu.sg



Be fearlessly authentic.

SHEENA KUMARI (SS)
Sheena_Kumari_SINGH@sp.edu.sg

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have any comments, contributions, or questions or if you would like us to feature specific scholarship-related topics, please write to us at scholarships@sp.edu.sg or scan the QR code below.



SPECIAL THANKS

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- Current students as well as alumni for sharing their photographs and taking time off from their busy schedules to be interviewed;
- Scholar Mentors from ABE, CLS, EEE, MAD, MAE, SB, SOC, SMA for their advice and words of encouragement to aspiring scholars.