

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Learning was augmented with resources provided by the Department of Educational & Staff Development, Department of Industry Services, Department of Language & Communication, Department of Mathematics & Science and the Library. Working hand in hand with the academic schools and industry, the various departments helped enriched the total learning experience of students.

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The Department of Language & Communication introduced one new module and five new General Elective Modules in areas such as interpersonal communication skills, cross-cultural communication skills, and language in the media. A 360-hour English proficiency course was also conducted for foreign students. In addition, three new teaching videos were produced, two of which won the Media Awards at the Excellence in Education and Training Convention 2005.

For the year in review, the Department's Business Communication Unit designed and conducted 15 courses for various organisations and companies such as National Council of Social Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ASEAN Training Unit, Nuance-Watson, Dresser Singapore, Reed Business Information and Sembawang Shipyard.

The Foreign Language unit offered Spanish and Korean classes for the first time and published the sixth issue of their Japanese language newsletter, Hoshi No Shinbun. Popular French films were also screened to help students and staff enhance their knowledge of the culture and country. In addition, a course on French dining etiquette was held at Café D'Amigo.



Students taking the Drama Appreciation Module demonstrated their creativity in Showtime 2005.

PROVIDING A STRONG FOUNDATION IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

The Department of Mathematics & Science launched the Diploma Plus Certificate in Software Programming & Applications course in May 2005. The course provided students with relevant IT skills to give them a competitive edge in the work environment.

In addition, the Specialist Diploma in Statistics & Information Management was renamed Specialist Diploma in Statistics & Data Mining and was restructured to give more emphasis on data analysis. This was part of the Department's continuing effort to improve its curriculum.

The Diploma Plus Certificate in Engineering Mathematics programme proved to be a success with its first batch of students excelling in their diploma course's mathematics.

A Prep Maths Programme was held for incoming students without prior Additional Mathematics background. The five-week online programme helped strengthen their mathematics foundation through interactive eLearning lessons, discussion forums and quizzes. A Maths Challenge for secondary school students was held over two days in December 2005 as part of the Career Familiarisation Programme of Singapore Polytechnic. It was designed to promote mathematics as both fun and intellectually stimulating.



Familiarisation Programme for Teachers

The Department of Mathematics & Science coordinated the 9th School Teachers Enrichment Programme (STEP) held on 21 January 2006. Keen participation from various schools and ITE testified to its popularity among educators.

DEVELOPING CURRICULUM FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The Department of Educational & Staff Development led a project team to develop a practical approach to infuse key process/life skills and dispositions into the mainstream content curriculum. Four key generic competencies - Thinking & Problem-Solving; Managing Learning; Communication & Teamwork; Professional Ethics & Values - were identified. A pedagogic and assessment approach, based on sound principles of learning and best practices, was developed to support implementation in 2006.

Consultancy services to academic schools and departments in curriculum development, improvement of teaching effectiveness, production of teaching/learning materials and assessing learning continued to be provided during the year.

PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To enhance the professional expertise of academic staff, the Department of Educational & Staff Development conducted a total of 147 workshops and courses, attracting 1,518 participants.

The workshops were organised under five main programmes:

- Certificate in Teaching (Higher Education)
- Advanced Certificate in Teaching (Higher Education)
- Certificate in IT for Teaching (Foundation)
- Specialised IT and Pedagogy Programmes
- Part-time Lecturers Training and Support

Seven Education Roundtable sessions were also organised to explore and evaluate new developments in curriculum, teaching, and assessment.

A cross-disciplinary innovation programme named MAGELLAN was started by the Department to encourage staff to break out of familiar knowledge territories and discover new ways of looking at things.



A variety of half-day workshops and expeditions were conducted, ranging from 3D digitising used in Hollywood movies, to rock climbing, to a behind-the-scenes look at the Esplanade.



Excellence in Education and Training Convention

The annual Excellence in Education and Training Convention was organised by the Department of Educational & Staff Development for all academic staff with the theme Reframing the Education Model: Integration of Domain Knowledge, Process Skills and Values. The speakers included Professor Guy Claxton of the University of Bristol Graduate School of Education, UK, as well as local speakers Dr Aaron Loh (Lenspec Technology), Mr Gene Tan (National Library Board) and Mr Michael Ma (IndoChine).

USING TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

To support technology-enabled learning on campus, the Department of Educational & Staff Development continued to provide technical expertise, quality facilities and rich media services, such as video, audio, graphics and animation, in the production of training and presentation materials, video packages and CD-ROM packages. These included the development of learning packages on Instrumentation & Control and Occupational Safety & Health.

In addition, the Department was tasked to implement the notebook PC ownership scheme. It would facilitate the purchase of notebook PCs by students to enable them to learn, interact and access resources using the campus-wide wireless infrastructure and eLearning platform. The School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering took the lead by requiring all its first-year students to own a notebook PC.

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT WITH INDUSTRY

The year in review saw a marked increase in the number of continuing education programmes delivered by the Department of Industry Services.

A total of 824 courses were conducted, a 42% increase from last year. Of these, 439 were short courses for the public and 203 were tailor-made courses for companies. The remaining courses were eLearning programmes, which have been rising steadily in numbers since 2004, and various professional examinations.

Another key role of the Department was coordinating Industrial Training Programmes (ITP) for students. The year saw 249 students going for overseas attachments in countries such as Australia, Germany, China and the UK.

Due to changes in the academic calendar, the period for ITP in 2006 was brought forward to the months of March and April. In all, 3,517 students went for attachments.

To further enhance the ITP programme, an eITP service was set up to allow external companies to make requests for students and view the allocation of students and Liaison Officers.

The Department continued to honour external trainers and partners at the Continuing Education Awards Presentation Ceremony which was held on 26 August 2005.



A total of 57 companies were presented with awards at the Industrial Training Programme Awards Presentation Ceremony to thank them for their support.

Showcasing Poly's Capabilities

The Department of Industry Services organised several events during the year in review. These included a Technology Day in June 2005 to exhibit successful R&D products and an Innovation@SP seminar to showcase the Polytechnic's developments in 3G mobile capabilities. In addition, the Department participated in exhibitions such as HR Summit 2005 and Careers 2006. The latter was in support of the Singapore Tourism Board's efforts to promote courses in tourism.

DELIVERING VALUE-ADDED LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library focused on forging stronger ties with academic schools, delivering more value-added services and improving its business processes during the year in review. These efforts paid off as visits to the Library grew 14% to 1,101,457. Loans of materials also increased 20% to 299,133, while student participation in programmes rose 42% to 10,418.

New initiatives were launched together with academic schools to create an enterprising and innovative learning culture. Collaboration with the various academic schools to enhance knowledge sharing across the campus resulted in the digitisation of student project reports for convenient online access via the library catalogue and the eLearning portal – BlackBoard.

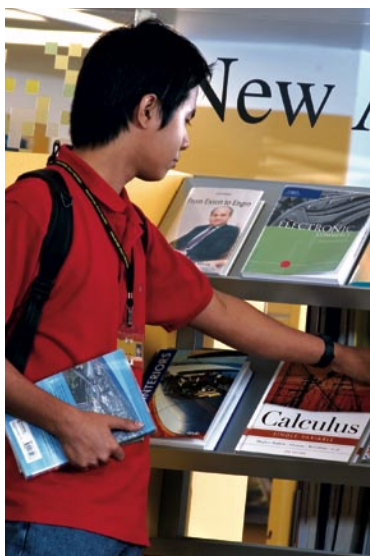
Working in partnership with the Department of Mathematics & Science, a Maths Corner was set up in the Colours Zone to make the learning of mathematics more fun and less intimidating. The Corner provided a wide variety of games and puzzles for students to develop their analytical and creative skills.

Adding vibrancy to campus life, the Library held a series of exhibitions to display students' winning works and projects including robots, art pieces, media designs and photographs.

In addition, a series of Personal Experience Talks (PETs) was launched in July 2005 by the Library to provide staff with a platform to network and share on their pet topics.



Overall, 98% of students were satisfied with the quality of library services.



Constantly Evolving Library

Among the many improvements to services made during the year were:

- A new E-Bookshelf on the Electronic Library Information Services and Resources (ELISER) webpage to facilitate online browsing of recently released titles.
- An email alert service for staff members to select suitable titles for the Library to purchase.
- An alert service to notify staff and student members on the arrival of new titles.