

SPiRIT

VOL 3 2014

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC **SP**

Celebrating



WITH SP, IT'S SO POSSIBLE



Polaris Office



App Me Please
Must-have apps make life easier.



Of Dreams

Meet the singer-composer behind the 1st ever rap song (possibly!) for a poly.

Make A Splash
We sniff out the story behind the Made-in-SP perfume.

Get Your Grades Back In Shape



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GRADE PERFECT. ACTION.

Happy or not, in our lives, we are graded in more ways than one. From our conduct to school results, we receive numbers or letters that at times seem all-important. In poly, all of us work very hard to maintain our Grade Point Average (GPA). But what happens when we falter at one stage? Can we pick it up again? **SPiRiT writer Bryan Kwa finds out.**

Gabriel Chia used to stay up till 1am to play League of Legends, a computer game. But he soon paid the piper and faced the music. While he was destroying his virtual opponents, he was – in reality – cannibalising his grades.

He had a taste of stewing in his own juice when he scored a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.385 – which was the lowest in class – for his first semester. “I felt very bad. All my other classmates were getting 3.0 and above, so I felt

very left out,” the **Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB)** student recounted.

His classmates felt he did not cut the mustard and so would avoid him in project groupings. “They would prefer certain people for projects over me,” he said. It was a challenging period for him and he found it hard to fit in. To cheer himself up, he would “slack” and talk with his friends outside of SP, whom he was closer to. “I told my friend what I got for my results. He got

super shocked. He was very surprised that I got 2.3 so he started telling me that I could do a lot better. He asked me if I was trying to be funny,” Gabriel related.

That conversation with his friend “woke” him up.

He decided to buck up. He upped his game by swapping his computer for pen and paper. From spending five hours a night playing, he now spends only an hour. “Now, I stay up to write

GPA
2.9 → 3.8

GPA
2.4 → 3.7

Alicia and Gabriel made incredible comebacks to revitalise their GPAs.

my notes. I study for about two hours per night. Before that I didn't study at all,” said Gabriel.

His efforts paid off. He emerged from the ashes to attain a GPA of 3.692 in semester two. “When I got the result, I was very happy. I had to tell everybody because it was a very big jump. I also didn't expect to get that high a score so I was very excited, very happy that at least what I did paid off,” he shared. To add icing on the cake, Gabriel was accorded a Good Progress Award as well.

“My friends couldn't believe that I could make such a big jump. They didn't even believe me until I showed them my result slip,” he added. After his improvement, his friends treated him better, involving him in more activities.

His classmate, Alicia Chong, also received the same award. Her GPA soared from 2.92 in semester one to 3.84 in semester two.

Alicia was disappointed at her semester one results but she had expected them. “It was the first semester of poly, everything seemed so laid back and I think I was more focused on getting adjusted to school,” she explained.

Alicia also had a penchant for last-minute studying. But she realised that studying for poly exams was not a walk in the park. So she pulled up her socks and started studying consistently. “I knew that if I didn't buck up and if I continued on aimlessly, then my overall GPA would go down,” she said.

When her GPA improved, she was “really happy” and “very satisfied”. “I told my parents as soon as I could and they were really happy for me,” she shared.

Both Gabriel and Alicia did not change their view of themselves when they got bad results or made improvements. “I think it's just whether you want to put in effort or not to get what you want,” Gabriel commented. Alicia remarked, “From semester one to semester two, I didn't get any smarter. My brain didn't expand. The only difference was that I put in a lot more hard work.”

Gabriel and Alicia might not have gotten off to a flying start but with determination and hard work, they have improved by leaps and bounds. Now in their second year of DEB, both aspire to attend university.

The key to improving your GPA, said Gabriel, is prioritising. “Just try to allocate more time for studying. Do what's important first and you can do the other things later,” he advised.

If his life were made into a movie, Gabriel would not omit the time he got a bad GPA. Describing that moment as “pivotal”, he said his friends told him very inspirational things. “A lot of them always think that I can do better. They have very high expectations of me and they think that I can be someone successful,” he said.

Alicia agreed. “If I didn't go through that period when I got a bad GPA, I would still be studying in the same erratic way I was studying before and I might get into a lot of trouble later,” she explained.

Gabriel has a message for those who are struggling with their studies. “Don't give up. The feeling you get when you see a good GPA on your result slip is worth putting in the effort for and it makes the holidays more enjoyable knowing that you did well,” he said.

Alicia has a similar message. “It's disappointing but your poly life is not over yet. You can always pick yourself back up. You just need to work hard, be determined. If you want it, you have to work for it. But don't wait till the final year. By then it can really be too late to do anything.”

GPA PAPER CHASE - IS IT CRUCIAL?

Academic achievement vis-à-vis success in other areas of life is a perennial hot-button issue. **SPiRiT** writer Bryan Kwa speaks to SPians to get their views on the eternal question: "How important is GPA?"



MUHAMMAD ZAKI BIN DJUANDA
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME),
Class of 2012 alumnus:
"I'm currently studying for a degree in Engineering Product Development at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). When I first applied for my course, I found that SUTD looked beyond GPA to consider other achievements as well. During my admissions interview, the panel I spoke to



SEKO AIKO
Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness (DNHW),
second-year:
"I feel that GPA is important as I'm striving

did not delve into my academics. Instead, they examined leadership skills, people management and how I would deal with situations as they arise.

Recently, I completed my internship with an IT firm. My supervisor there said something that I found very illuminating: It doesn't really matter what you study in school, because what you're studying right now could become quickly outdated. Rather than knowledge or good GPA, she said employers are looking at one's willingness to learn and diligence towards work.

to clinch a scholarship from the Ministry of Health to study a degree in physiotherapy. If I'm not wrong, one of the main things they look at is GPA, so if I don't maintain it, I won't be considered. A scholarship is really important for me if I want to ease the financial burden of university fees on my family, so I'll work hard to keep my GPA healthy."



ASHLEY LOH
Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness (DNHW), final-year:
"To me, GPA is not the most important thing. I agree that a good GPA is

needed to go to a good university. However, there are many things that require more than just good grades. My dream job is to organise events that will reach out to people and inspire them in some way, and I also hope to promote good health and give advice to those with health conditions. These goals require great people skills and experience rather than a high GPA."

MILTON TOH
Diploma in Banking and Finance (DBKF), second-year:



"I stress the point that the reason you come to poly is to study hard for a diploma. Everything that happens in between – CCAs, overseas trips – can be treated as enrichment. So studies are the main road you should be taking, though it's fine to sidetrack sometimes to other things you're interested in. I aim to graduate with a good GPA and further my studies, because I think Singapore is very competitive and I'll need a degree to be on par with the current work force."

HANNAH HOISINGTON
Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD), second-year:
"I'm in SP Design School, so I feel that building up a portfolio of good works is the



most important thing. Although a good GPA is generally required for further studies, I plan to do a degree in either media design or fine art, which means I'll be applying to art colleges where 'GPA is second to one's portfolio', or so I've heard."

As the saying goes, there are two sides – or more – to every question. How important GPA is depends on what you wish to achieve. A good GPA may open doors, but it is not the only way to success. Things like hard work, and the willingness to seize opportunities are just as, if not more, important.

Zaki puts it best: "You still have to score a decent GPA. But at the end of the day, GPA isn't everything. You need to have other skills that support you."

STAR INTERN

Elaine Soh is a final-year student in the **Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG)**. She has just completed her internship at Oak3 Films, which she scored a distinction for. In contrast, her GPA in school is usually 3.0 or 3.1. Elaine's story stands out as one where performance in school does not determine success at the workplace.

Elaine feels she did not do exceptionally well in school because her course is more about visual effects and post-production (a specific part of the video-making process), which she does not excel at. "I am better in the production process, but our focus is not there," she says.

As such, she jumped at the chance to be a production intern. "I have passion for the film

industry so I did everything as best as I could," she relates. Her supervisor, producer Hady A Hamid, was so impressed by her that in a commendation letter, he wrote: "I was so impressed by the hard work and perseverance of Elaine that I felt compelled to go on record with my praise. Despite being new to wardrobe and production coordination, she managed to quickly pick up the necessary skills needed to fulfil her duties. She also manages to stay calm and composed on set. If she keeps this up, she will rise to a favourable position swiftly."

When she learnt that she had been awarded



a distinction for her internship, she felt very happy. "I made a lot of mistakes, but my supervisors still gave me the chance to learn. I'm really glad they acknowledged my skills this way," she says.



Photo credit: Dollar Photo Club.

App-solute Essentials

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the thousands of app choices out there? If so, **SPiRiT** writer Tse Man Ka would like to give you a hand with his personal selections guaranteed to power up your phone and provide a daily dose of entertainment. (Note: Some of the apps mentioned can only be found on one platform but not others, but you can search for similar apps across the main app stores.)



FUNCTION: PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

These apps will bring out the best in your photos or creative visual ideas.

Main recommendation: InstaText – Instagram Text (Android only)

Description: InstaText lets you create inspirational quote images and upload them onto Instagram. You can choose an existing phone image, and then add text, frames and stickers to it to create a new quote image.

Best features: It's beautiful, fun and creative. And there are many different fonts, stickers and filters for you to use when appropriate.

Other recommendations:

Water Reflection (Android only) – An amazing app that creates a mirror image of an existing photo with a water-rippling effect. The reflection effect is both beautiful and realistic.

Vsocam (iPhone, Android) – This app lets you conveniently edit and enhance photos, providing greater control over photo quality than what Instagram offers. You can edit the saturation, light exposure, hue and highlights of a photo with this professional and sleek app.

Magisto (iPhone, Android) – This video-making and video-editing software lets you create or edit videos and save them on the spot. Transitions, visuals and even musical scores can be adjusted with this app to achieve a precise feel for your work of art.



FUNCTION: NOTES AND HOMEWORK

The following apps could save your life when you're in a bind at school!

Main recommendation:



Polaris Office InNote (Android, Windows Phone)

Description: This note-taking app lets users create and store notes using fun in-built functions. You can organise your notes into notebooks, and choose the cover and inside page designs for these notebooks. You can also handwrite your notes with your finger to create text in a variety of fonts and colours.

Best features: There is an option to record music score sheets, which allows music theory pros to record down musical ideas or changes when they think of something new. There are also options to type notes (if you don't like finger cordings and insert relevant pictures. InNote will give you that added boost to your efficiency at school!

Other recommendations:

CamScanner (all platforms) – This life-saving

app allows you to quickly scan any important documents on the spot and save them as pdfs. Its uses are manifold. Use your imagination.

Polaris Office (iPhone, Android) – A great release that allows you to create, edit and save Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel Documents in your phone on-the-go.

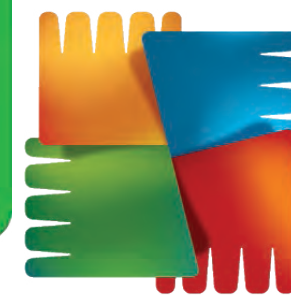


SNK

Description: A game based on the popular classic Metal Slug franchise, but which involves more strategic planning and speed warfare.

How it plays: The player and the computer opponent each have a base on opposite sides of the map. The computer sends out enemy units to attack the human player, who must tap the screen to produce units that cost certain amounts of Action Points. The round ends when either player is destroyed. After every round, currency is earned for use in upgrading player units, facilities and special abilities.

Best features: Military units have special powers that can be activated when they glow blue, and these powers are really fun and awesome to use on enemy forces. Also, there are special medals to be earned that allow players to buy more powerful units with stronger skills.



FUNCTION: PHONE CLEAN-UP

Our smartphones need cleaning too, sometimes. Who knew?

Main recommendation:

Glary Utilities (Android only)

Description: Glary Utilities primarily repairs and cleans the phone system to extend smartphone lifespans. Its cleaning function is still one of the fastest and most effective on the market.

Best features: It is simple to use, and the powerful cleaning function clears lots of unnecessary RAM usage, hence saving up on phone power, preventing battery drain and speeding up one's phone greatly.

Other recommendations:

Antivirus Security FREE (Android only)

– This app guards against all sorts of viral or malware threats to your smartphone. It also has an anti-theft function that deters thieves from making off with phones and stops them from using any stolen phones.

FUNCTION: GAMES

Here's something to help you pass your day a little quicker.

Recommendation: Metal Slug Defense (iPhone, Android)



FUNCTION: DECISION-MAKING

Why make choices in life when you have Ultimate Decision Maker to make them for you?

Recommendation: Ultimate Decision Maker (Android only)

Description: A light-hearted app that is both fun and useful. It works by letting users throw their decisions up to the hands of chance.

How it plays: Choose one of five decision-making options (Coin Flipper, Spinner, Tickets, Dices, Num Balls). Use these to decide what to eat for lunch, whether or not to study for a test or what brand of personal hygiene products to buy.

Best features: The "Dices" function is fun and adds an element of realism. When you shake your phone, the dice roll around rapidly and the phone gives out vibrations that simulate the movement of the dice. The same goes for the "Num Balls" function.



Happy Heartbeats

A grand total of 21 SP graduates, mostly from the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, received scholarships at the Ministry of Health Holdings (MOHH) Healthcare Scholarships Award Ceremony. These awards will cover university tuition fees, monthly allowances, return airfare and settling-in allowances (for overseas studies), among other benefits.

The 21 graduates have been accepted into

local universities as well as overseas ones such as Imperial College (UK), RMIT University and Queensland University of Technology (both in Australia). They will serve a bond at MOH or the public healthcare clusters after their studies. They will also get internship opportunities at healthcare institutions or MOH.

Ng Li Bing, a **Diploma in Biomedical Science (DBS)** grad (Class of 2014), is pursuing a

four-year bachelor's and master degree programme in Clinical Prosthetics and Orthotics at La Trobe University, Australia. When asked why she chose this field, Li Bing said, "My parents have always been my greatest motivation. They made me fascinated with making beautiful things with my hands, which is akin to what a Prosthetist and Orthotist does: create supports that help individuals to get on their feet." **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** grad Yvette Sim (Class of 2014), who is studying for a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at Flinders

University, Australia, gives this advice to students aiming for MOH scholarships: "Seek out new challenges and experiences to learn more about yourself and what you want in the future. Working toward your various interests will not only help you become more well-rounded, but also help you grow and show MOH you are serious about your pursuits and the healthcare sector." For the full list of recipients, turn to page 42.

Imperial Scientists

Imperial College London, one of the top universities in the world, has always been one of the preferred choices for our graduates wanting a prestigious engineering degree. But it was also the choice for some SP life science graduates too! Teresa Purnomo (**Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science – DPCS**) and Lim Yu Jie (**Diploma in Biomedical Science – DBS**) from the Class of 2014 will pursue degrees in Chemistry and Biology there, respectively.

During her time in SP, Teresa received several awards, such as the Lubrizol Southeast Asia Gold Medal and the Procter & Gamble Singapore Award, for excellent academic performance. She also completed two internships, one at the Tokyo University of Technology, Japan, and another at Johnson & Johnson, where she helped to research and develop a new concept for a baby product. Yu Jie also received multiple awards, such as the BioMedix Singapore Award and the Model Student Award. While in SP, he worked on a final-year project for inventing a rapid detection kit for Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease infections. He also went for an attachment in Griffith University, Australia, where he did cervical cancer research. Yu Jie, whose studies are funded by the Ministry of Education Teaching Scholarship (Overseas), says: "I feel really honoured to be accepted into Imperial, and at the same time I'm thankful that SP's diploma is highly recognised among the world's top institutions. One day, I hope to become a teacher and bring the many great learning approaches I experienced in SP to my students."



Left: Teresa Purnomo. Right: Lim Yu Jie.

Work It. Eat It. Think It.

The workout bug seems to have bitten us all. Here are some ways that you can exercise to look good and feel good. Say bye to diet pills and starving tummies and say hello to healthy bodies and abs that you aren't afraid to show off! Story by **SPRIT** writer Desirae Tan. Exercise demonstrations by Chen Weiming, Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness (DNHW).

FITNESS 1: Moving your legs from left to right, and then back to the starting position counts as one repetition. Increase the number of reps as your strength improves.



WORK IT! WARM UPS

Like any other workout, you have to start with warm ups. Just a short one will do but make sure to get your limbs all prepped for your work out. The stretching exercises you learnt during PE lessons should be enough to warm up your muscles.

Now onto the fun stuff! Tone those abs, legs and arms! Here's one exercise for each body part in question.

WINDSHIELD WIPERS (See Fitness 1)

Tips:

- Perform the exercise smoothly without "bouncing" out of the lower positions
- Do not arch your lower back while performing the exercise
- Work within a range of motion that is comfortable for yourself
- Concentrate on using the muscles of your torso to move your legs
- Keep your knees slightly bent to relieve the pressure on your lower back

Rest for 30 seconds before going to the next exercise.

INVISIBLE CHAIR (See Fitness 2)

Tips:

- Make sure your legs are at a 90-degree angle
- If you feel a burning sensation in your thighs, IT'S GOOD! That mean you are working the right muscles

DIPS (See Fitness 3 and 4)

Tips:

- The tip of your fingers should be facing forward. Don't twist your arms to the side or you might injure your elbows
- Don't let your shoulders roll forward. Keep your chest up and shoulders back

This is just a short intro to an exercise regime. Feel free to incorporate new exercises, or step it up by shortening the rest time between each exercise. Have fun and grab a friend to work with! You guys will motivate each other and in the end you will not give up so easily.

EAT IT!

Many of us have odd cravings for food such as chocolate, potato chips and many more! Here are some ways to curb your cravings.

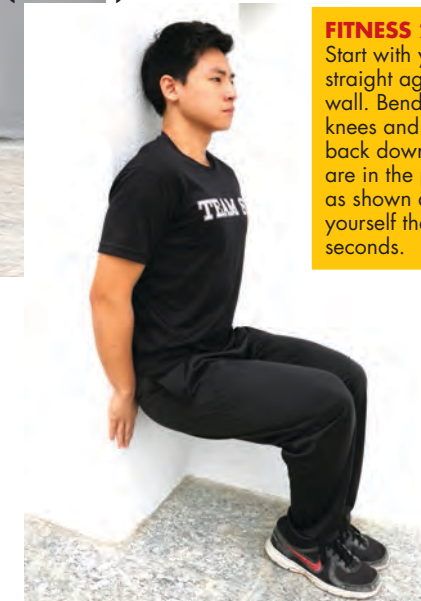
- Have fruits ready for consumption
- Have smaller meals throughout the day to ensure that your blood sugar level is constant and you don't have to resort to a quick sugar fix
- Have some carrot sticks lying around to crunch on. The chewing motion your mouth makes will quell the urge to have a candy bar

THINK IT!

Plan goals. They can be small things like, "I want to be able to do 30 pushups or crunches in a row." Write them down on your phone or use them as your screen wallpaper. Things like these will help you keep in focus.

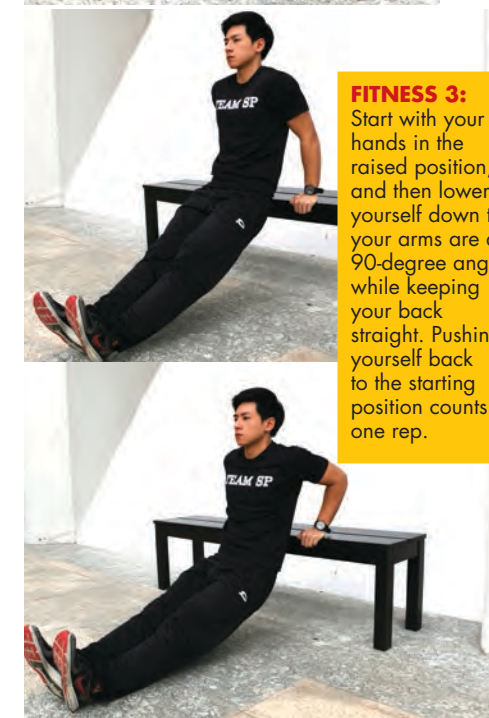
FITNESS 2:

Start with your back straight against a wall. Bend your knees and slide your back down till you are in the position as shown and hold yourself there for 40 seconds.



FITNESS 3:

Start with your hands in the raised position, and then lower yourself down till your arms are at a 90-degree angle, while keeping your back straight. Pushing yourself back to the starting position counts as one rep.



Finally, remember the reason you started, and remember your goal at the end. Always keep this in the back of your brain, and use it to kill the thought of giving up. Then remember that pain is temporary. All the best for your workout regimes and good luck!

Genies Of The Bottle

There are all kinds of labs in SP, but only one where the sensual and scientific combine to create the perfect, unforgettable scent. Recently, in the soothing blue light of the Perfumery and Cosmetic Science Centre, a new SP fragrance was born. Read on for interesting facts about it and the skill of perfume creation.



Be it a no-name bottle or a coveted Marc Jacobs or Chanel scent, every perfume is crafted by perfumers with expert noses and lab skills who create the right mix of essential oils, chemicals and plant extracts.

Bottles of scintillating scents are made at SP as well (we basically make everything in this poly – food, robots, you name it). To mark the 60th birthday of Singapore's first polytechnic, an oceanic, breezy scent called Splash was created and distributed to all students and staff.

There's no one happier about this than bottle genies and recent **Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS)** graduates Teh Ru En, Grace Khoo and Oliviana, who whipped up this iconic olfactory delight while studying in their final year. They share more about their new baby:

Hi gals. Can you describe the smell of Splash?

Ru En: Splash is oceanic, citrusy and musky, an energising fruity cocktail that captures the warm smell of the summer sun and the breezy freshness of the seaside. It's cooling, yet invigorating – a fragrance that represents youth like SP students!

How did the team decide what Splash would be like?

Ru En: In the team, I'm the one who likes beach and outdoor activities. Hence, I initiated the idea of creating a unisex fragrance that is refreshing, suits Singapore weather and is suitable for those who enjoy the outdoors.

Oliviana: We also carried out market research on current trends of perfume, the demands of consumers and popular fragrances.

What was most challenging about creating Splash?

Grace: It was weighing the raw materials

The fragrance Splash was specially created to commemorate SP's 60th birthday.



The Perfumery and Cosmetic Science Centre offers an exciting and immersive environment.

From left: Grace, Oliviana and Ru En during a holiday in Macau, China. All three are now in Australia pursuing further studies. Ru En and Oliviana are studying Chemistry at the University of Melbourne. Grace is studying Biochemistry in Monash University.

accurately. A single drop more or less than the amount needed would change the smell of the fragrance, forcing us to redo it all over again.

Oliviana: The formulation stage, where we had to perform about 30 rounds of trial and error to choose suitable ingredients to form the top, middle and base notes of the fragrance. *(Writer's note: Top, middle and base notes are the different layers of smell of the perfume. The smell of the middle and base notes becomes more noticeable as the top note ingredients evaporate over time. This means the perfume's smell begins to change the moment it is applied.)*

Ru En: Budgeting was the toughest challenge in my opinion. Creating a commercialised, mass-produced fragrance requires that the ingredients be in an affordable price range. Some natural oils such as rose oil and ambergris can cost thousands of dollars per millilitre!

Do you think Splash can stand out amongst the established names in the market?

Ru En: Yeah, we believe it can! Though of course, improvements can still be made to meet the demands of the market, which always change!

Oliviana: It's already great to know that our perfume is commemorating the school's 60th birthday, so I think if I saw Splash in a store one day, I would feel extremely proud.

What was your own unique contribution to making Splash?

Grace: I prepared the raw materials needed to the exact measurements and made sure we had sufficient stocks for compounding our mixtures.

Oliviana: I conducted a survey with perfume consumers to get a better sense of the types of smells, packaging and pricing they preferred.

Ru En: I shared with my teammates the knowledge I learnt during my internship at Symrise, an international fragrance and flavour producer.

Now that Splash has made a splash among the SP population, what's next?

Ru En: After further studies, I hope to become a perfumer and create more exciting and fascinating fragrances! I think perfumes not only make you stand out from a crowd, but also help bring back past memories and have healing effects on people. That's the beauty of fragrances that I can't wait to explore more!

Oliviana: DPCS was the only science course that attracted me to join SP, and till today the allure of designing perfumes still lingers. One day, I dream of creating my own brand of cosmetics and fragrances for the world to enjoy!

THE COMPLETE BEAUTY PACKAGE

Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science (DPCS) lecturer Ms Jessie Tong shares more about future plans for Splash and the DPCS course:

What does DPCS hope to develop in its students through the course?

We hope to teach students skills that will make them more valuable in the industry. Cosmetics and fragrance formulation skills are not taught in local institutes of higher learning, hence we are in a unique position to make students more valuable with the training we impart. We also hope to make them good presenters, as this will help them to promote their formulations. Finally, we hope to develop their ability to empathise

with others as this is key for not just working life but also creating products that will strike a chord with consumers.

What are the prerequisites for a DPCS student to do well? A good nose? An attention to detail?

The only prerequisite is for that student to have a passion for the subject. With passion, the learning will come naturally.

What are the DPCS staff focusing on currently, now that Splash is complete?

We will be working on commercialising Splash as well as other perfumes formulated by the students.

The SP Masterchef competition has the ingredients for a hit TV show: picture-perfect meals, a celebrity judge and panicked (but cute!) chefs. **SPRIT** was at the finals of this one-of-a-kind event.



Tracy Ong (Diploma in Media and Communication) (left) and Mavis Loh (Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management) can cook up a storm and smile for the camera, all at once!

SP Masterchefs

This first-ever cookout event is special for three reasons. First, it was held to celebrate SP's 60th anniversary. Second, it involved a diverse range of foodies, with participants coming from SP, university and secondary schools. Third, many of the ingredients used were actually commercialised food products created by our **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** students and staff!

Within 90 minutes, each team of two students had to prepare an appetiser, a main course and a dessert using DFST food products. Their creations would then be judged on four criteria

of presentation, balanced diet, taste and creativity, each worth 25 per cent of the total marks.

The DFST commercialised food creations used as ingredients included: Pokka Lemonsi Delight can drink, Low Salt and Low Fat Sausage, and Less Sugar XO Kaya. Many of these are collaborative projects with real food companies, so you can find many of them on supermarket shelves right now.

Throughout the event, teams could be seen scurrying around, cabbage in one hand, a

basket of spices in another. Naturally they were in a hurry: attractive prizes such as sandwich makers, toasters and espresso machines were waiting to be won. Add to that the stress of cooking three courses, and it would be easy to understand the frenzy unfolding in the kitchen that day.

Was it all a recipe for disaster, or for sizzling-wagyu-steak success? Gushcloud blogger and event judge Xavier Ong wrote the following on his blog, "Most of the contestants were around my age or younger, yet some of their food could actually be served in a restaurant. Or should I say, some of the food made me crave for more after the competition. Legit." But if you want to decide for yourself, search "SP Masterchef" on YouTube or read Xavier Ong's blog entry at www.xavierong.com.

Gushcloud blogger Xavier Ong silently thinking, "Is lunch ready yet?"



"Would the judges like pepper in their brownies?" the team wonders. From left: Sin Jia Yun, Wong Sheau Qian and Adrea Soh (Diploma in Food Science and Technology).



Competition winners Matthew Yap (left) and Wang Yi Chieh from School of Science and Technology, Singapore, won Dolce Gusto espresso machines. They made an ice cream dessert drink using the DFST-created Pokka Lemonsi Delight!



Cheryl Chong (Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media) (left) and alumna Eugenia Koh (Diploma in Business Information Technology) won second place and Tefal toast and egg-making machines. They made a brownie with a Less Sugar XO Kaya dip and a Low GI Brownie mix.



Wong Sheau Qian (left) from Woodlands Ring Secondary and Sin Jia Yun (Diploma in Hotel and Leisure Facilities Management) won third place and sandwich-making machines! They made sausage squid appetisers using the DFST Low Salt and Low Fat Sausage.



This DFST drink caught the attention of Pokka, which signed an agreement with SP to allow it to mass produce the drink for sale.

DID YOU KNOW?

Besides focusing on creating new food products, **Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST)** students have another aim: making those creations more healthy and nutritious while retaining their tastiness. For instance, there is the Low Salt and Low Fat Sausage created as an alternative to current sausages, which are high in fat and sodium (these are associated with heart disease and hypertension, respectively). Besides the role of food creation, DFST students can also serve as food safety regulators who ensure that all the sashimi, canned pork, flour and eggs shipping into Singapore are safe for us to eat.

So go to stores now and give some food products (whether SP-made or not) a try! It might make you think that food science is tasteful work, indeed!

DFST food projects are supported by the Food Innovation and Resource Centre in SP, which is dedicated to providing expertise in food product and process development to food businesses.

Congratulations to Cheng Huimin, Lu Jiale, Sylvester Wang and Muhd Taufik Bin Johari from the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** for nabbing the third prize and 100,000 baht at the Autonomous Aerial Vehicle Challenge 2014 in Bangkok!

A total of 17 teams from Singapore, Korea and Thailand participated in this event organised by the Royal Thai Air Force. The DASE team, Team SP Aero, was not only the sole polytechnic group among the teams, which were from universities; it was also the only foreign team to win an award. Their entry was a

fully autonomous quadcopter that they built to fly at 60m height, orbit around a 100m radius at



Victory Powercopter

From left: Huimin, lecturer Mr Danny Lee, Jiale and Taufik. Teammate Sylvester not in photo.

about 80km/hr, take six aerial images at given GPS waypoints and drop a 50g payload at a

designated spot accurately. Well done!

Dance Dance Robotics



From left: Winston, Boon Pin and Wilson from Team Millennium.

From left: Kok How, Nikolas and Xun Hao from Team SP-RITE.

Out of over 100 schools competing at the National Junior Robotics Competition (NJRC), two teams from the SP Robotics Innovation and Technology Enterprise club came out with top awards. The primary event had teams building and programming robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS RCX (9794), NXT (9797) and EV3 challenge kits to overcome a specially designed and challenging navigation course.

Team Millennium won the Gold for the Best Programming Award in the main event. Its members are: Winston Katugaha (**Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics - DMRO**), Poh Boon Pin (**Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering - DEEE**) and Wilson Tai (DEEE). Team SP-RITE won prizes in the Humanoid Robot Dance Competition side-event with its robot's unique Gangnam Style dance (Gold for individual performance and Bronze for

Humanoid Robot Dance Award). Its members are: Tan Kok How (DEEE), Nikolas Shivan Veera (**Diploma in Mechanical Engineering - DME**) and Yong Xun Hao (**Diploma in Engineering Systems - DES**).

NJRC is organised by Science Centre Singapore, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and DSO National Laboratories.



Team SP let the kids at Toa Payoh Hub experience being a pilot for a day.

Get Real With SP Flight Simulators

Ten **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** and three **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** fresh graduates spent eight months during their final year developing two portable basic flight simulators for the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) under the guidance of their lecturers. These simulators were a big hit with visitors when they were publicly showcased at four venues across the island during the RSAF45@Heartlands roadshows held in Toa Payoh, Sengkang, Jurong East and Yishun. Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen viewed the simulator at Toa Payoh Hub and chatted with some members of the student team. The visitors, young and old, were captivated by the realism of the simulations of fighter jets taking off and landing. The simulator allowed them to experience flying a jet for themselves so that they could develop a better understanding of RSAF's operations.

systems. The unique experience allowed them to enhance the overall look and feel of the simulator. The project has allowed the graduates the opportunity to learn about mechanical and aircraft structure design, advanced electrical systems, software development and multi-disciplinary teamwork, all of which they will need when pursuing careers in the aerospace industry.



Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen chatting with the team.



Team SP and creators of the RSAF flight simulators.

As part of the developmental process, the team had the opportunity to visit Tengah Air Base and sit in a real military aircraft to study its array of avionics systems, instrument panels and flight

DARE graduate Zachary Adam Proft shares his thoughts on the simulator's exhibition: "It was a very tough project for us as we had to sacrifice entire spans of holidays to make this happen. However, the thought of our project being of such importance that it would eventually be showcased to the public kept all of us going. Looking back, we're all extremely proud of what we've achieved."

Against The Wind

Each day, Ang Wan Ling overcomes a mountain of challenges. She cycles through her responsibilities as vice-president of the SP Aviation Club, vice-chairperson of the Clementi Community Centre Youth Executive Committee, and as a well-performing Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE) student completing her final-year project. **SPRIT learns more about this female engineer wannabe and her incredible juggling act.**

In truth, Wan Ling reveals, studies were once her weakest suit. During her Nan Hua High School days, she remembers doing “really, really badly”, barely passing or failing almost every subject. This left her in the last few positions in her class.

For someone with a bad start like this, reaching her position now [she is a 3.94 GPA student with an SP Engineering Scholarship and a Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) MDES Study Award] can only be described as “going against the wind”. These four words come from a quote by American industrialist Henry Ford that Wan Ling stands by: “When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it”.

Wan Ling shares that back then, it was because she couldn't see the point of learning some of her subjects (in particular, humanities and chemistry) that she became disinterested and ultimately discouraged during secondary school.

This changed when she read about aeronautical engineering courses in poly, which spoke to a childhood passion. “As a kid staying in the Jurong area, I would hear the roaring engines of planes flying past on almost a daily basis. This made me think how amazing it was that something so heavy could stay in the air.

“Also, every year during the National Day Parade, watching military planes flying through the sky always made me happy, because I felt our skies were well-protected. When I read about the aeronautical engineering course at SP and how well-



For her community service contributions and career aspirations, Wan Ling was featured on Humans of Singapore, a popular Facebook page highlighting inspiring everyday Singaporeans.

established it was, I was naturally interested. The cool acronym, DARE, didn't hurt either! Haha. The hope of entering DARE became my motivating force to do well in the ‘O’ Levels.”

Wan Ling did well enough in the end to join SP's most popular engineering course, and the moment she got in, she stayed on full throttle. The industrious go-getter studied for and successfully received both the SP and SAF scholarships. She also joined the SP Aviation Club, experimenting with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and radio-controlled planes there and eventually becoming the club's vice-president.

As if that wasn't enough to handle already, Wan Ling also makes time to pursue even more extra-curricular activities, which so far include climbing 3,700m up a mountain during an SP Leadership Development Programme (LEAP) trip to Nepal, building classrooms and conducting English lessons for Indonesian communities, and helping to organise activities for the Clementi Community Centre.

Honestly, this young lady might seem unrelatable to people who don't live such busy lives. Asking her the reason for her incredible drive changes this a little. “Because my family isn't well-to-do, I decided to aim for scholarships to relieve their financial burdens. It's also because of my background that I understand how it feels to not have certain things in life. This makes me empathise with, and enjoy reaching out to the less-privileged. And I love the SP Aviation Club because I love flying radio-controlled planes!

“I do things I am really passionate about, and I find the joy in them. I don't see them as a burden or chore in my life and so I'll always try to put in my 101 per cent into all the commitments I have.”



Wan Ling taught English to young children during a community service trip to Surabaya, Indonesia.

Of course, there is a minor downside to this level of time maximisation. “I don't usually have free time,” she shares. “The last drops of it are spent meeting up with my friends, and sleeping till 11 am on Sundays, haha!”

Wan Ling has already charted her flight path for the future. When she graduates, she hopes to join the Republic of Singapore Air Force as an airforce engineer. “I think it would be really meaningful to be a part of the force that keeps our loved ones safe,” she says.

The aircraft enthusiast already has some relevant experience that will help in applying for the role. She recently carried out her final-year project at Singapore Airlines Engineering Company, where she helped design solutions to problems faced in base maintenance. She also spent six weeks in an Overseas Industrial Training Programme in Xiamen, China. There, she underwent aircraft maintenance training in TAECO, a company servicing Airbus and Boeing aircraft.

Beyond that though, she feels that as a young woman in a typically male-dominated field (her class has six girls and 18 guys), she has something special to contribute. “I think that besides physical strength, there isn't that much of a difference between men and women in engineering. In fact, when doing design engineering, having a mix of both is definitely the way to go because it provides a broad perspective from two pretty different but complex minds! My personal opinion is that men tend to provide the structure of the ideas, while women are more meticulous and can provide the attention to details that men often overlook.”

She adds: “I also remember my Aircraft Maintenance Practices lecturer complimenting me and my female team mate once, saying that one of our assignments was so much more presentable than the guys! Haha. Not that we were trying to one-up anyone though. The guys in my class are generally quite nice and we're all friends.”

To other girls out there with similar dreams, she says: “Don't be daunted by the fact that there aren't a lot of girls in this field yet. Each year, at my school's open house, I see more and more girls coming to our course's booth. So don't be afraid. Just follow your passion! =)”



Wan Ling (second row, fourth from left) with the SP LEAP team on a 3,700m trek up Machhapuchhre Mountain in Nepal.

Great business ideas can't come to you if you spend all day sitting in your room. Rather, you have to go out and observe new practices and ways of thinking from beyond your shores. Such experiences were the reason why 34 Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID) final-year students went on a two-week trip to Toronto, Canada.



SP students with the lecturers and facilitators for the Design Thinking workshop.

Mists *Of Niagara*



No way they would miss a selfie at the awe-inspiring Niagara Falls in Ontario, Canada!

The main focus of their trip was an intensive workshop at Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, Canada, one of the top-ranked business schools in the world and a global leader in business design. The students took advanced lessons in a methodology called Design Thinking, which emphasises creative problem-solving approaches and empathy towards one's clients and consumers.

"My favourite lesson during the workshop was 'cross-business analysis', where we're meant to identify a useful practice in one industry, and transplant it effectively into another," shares student Tan Zhi Rong. "For instance, Subway's open kitchen concept means sandwiches are made in front of you, giving the impression of freshness. This open-creation process could be replicated in another industry, such as baby product manufacturing, to increase consumer confidence in a brand." Besides this, the students also learned techniques for improving their market research and interview research skills.

Meeting industry professionals during the workshop was another highlight for the group. Says student Trisca Tong: "We had a variety of high-ranking professionals sharing their experiences with us. One was a former director from multinational consumer goods manufacturer, Procter & Gamble. She talked to us about challenges she faced overcoming mental or creative blocks during her time there. It was great hearing such meaningful personal stories from them."

More exposure to Toronto's business culture came when the group met aspiring entrepreneurs at Toronto's Centre for Social Innovation and MaRS, a non-profit organisation supporting entrepreneurship. Says Zhi Rong: "We interacted with all kinds of people. Some of the entrepreneurs there had started their own simple businesses like tea-selling at the age of 13, and there was one man who had even designed and sold his own toy which teaches children empathy. Talking to them made me feel inspired, because from them I got to see new business models and ideas not yet present in Singapore."

It's a well-recognised truth though, that inspiration and learning come just as easily from a walk in a beautiful place as they do from a workshop. During their free time, the students left Toronto's borders for some sight-seeing. Included in their awesome itinerary were art galleries, vineyards, the Royal Ontario Museum and the world-famous Niagara Falls. "We got on a boat that sailed extremely close to the waterfalls," Zhi Rong says. "On the ride there, we were wearing raincoats, but my friend accidentally tore mine. I basically was just wearing my shirt as the chilly winds blew and watery mists sprayed over me! It was actually pretty fun without a working raincoat though, now that I think about it."

"One of my favourite memories was in a restaurant," shares Trisca. "I went to Fresh, which I think might be the best vegan restaurant on Earth! Haha. They have mock bacon made from *tempei* (fermented soybeans), soba noodles and gluten-free cakes. Everything to make your dining healthier and more guilt-free! I also met some friendly locals there who showed me around the city to interesting places like poetry reading cafes."

Zhi Rong's favourite memory of the trip comes from a supermarket: "Their canned food surprised me by being extremely nice! Haha. One day I made a trip to the supermarket and was amazed by an incredible spread of canned mussels, oysters and freshwater tuna; I ended up buying a lot! One night, I went out and sat on some rocks outside my dorm with a friend and we ate the oysters straight from the can, in the cold air and in our pyjamas!"



Meeting *Global Leaders*

When you are a youth who's barely 20 years old, it's unlikely you get to rub shoulders with Very Important People (VIP). But that was what 15 **Diploma in International Business (DIB)** students got to do. They were shoulder-to-shoulder with top diplomats, academics, politicians and business leaders from around the world at the FutureChina Global Forum (FCGF) organised by Business China. At this event held in Singapore where China's societal, economic and political evolution was discussed, they served as liaison officers and personal assistants to high-level leaders and thinkers.

Second-year student Bryant Lee served as personal assistant to Dr Orville Schell, Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S. - China Relations at Asia Society in New York. He kept track of Dr Schell's schedule and liaised with media personnel for his interviews. "What stood out for me was the attitude that these VIPs adopted," shared Bryant. "Dr Schell and the others were all really humble. As highly-regarded individuals, it would have been no surprise if they had put on a proud air. However, they were very willing to interact with others and even share their experiences."

Bryant also found that some of the habits he'd formed from being in DIB came in handy during the event. "DIB built up in me a daily routine of reading the papers. During one of our modules, we were required to be constantly updated on current affairs in order to complete our assignment. It was this knowledge that proved to be crucial in keeping up in our conversations with the speakers."

To read up on the FutureChina Global Forum, please visit www.futurechina.sg.

From left: Cheong Jun Hong (DBID), Liu Ying (DID) and Jasmine Han (DBID) scored a sweet addition to their portfolios by designing this World Cup-inspired cabin. Teammates Muhd Syahiran Bin Abdul Jamal and Jamie Chen (both DBID) not in photo.



Betting on SP Students

The ideas and designs of SP students recently appeared in one of the most public spots in Singapore: the MRT train. **SPRIT** talks to the students who helped the Land Transport Authority (LTA) create a football-themed train cabin during the World Cup season.

Who: One final-year Diploma in Interior Design (DID) and four second-year Diploma in Business Innovation and Design (DBID) students.

What: The LTA wanted a World Cup-themed cabin with design elements that would benefit commuters. Our students worked with them on these designs to help LTA achieve their "goals". (Goals. Geddit?) The resulting cabin ran on the North-South line during the World Cup on a trial basis!

HOW OUR STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED:

The team discussed ideas for the cabin, and came up with storyboards to show LTA staff their concepts. DID student Liu Ying focused more on drawing the interior look of the cabin. The DBID students worked more on understanding commuter behaviour and generating ideas that would benefit them.

One key problem in MRTs, they noted, is that commuters often crowd at the doors and don't move in to make space for others. To solve this, the team proposed placing eye-catching designs in (or leading to) the middle of the cabins. These would intrigue passengers, guiding them to instinctively walk to the middle to take a closer

look. Concepts include a grass turf or football field image on the cabin floor, "reserve" seats with soccer jersey designs and a black-and-white "goal post" handrail.

Their human-centric approach was inspired by Design Thinking, a teaching method adopted in SP (and especially for DBID students) that emphasises heavily on understanding a user's needs and behaviours in order to think of creative solutions for them. Says DBID student Cheong Jun Hong: "A traditional solution to this problem of blocked entrances may have been to widen the size of the doors, but that would have been very expensive. Instead, using Design Thinking, we imagined ourselves as everyday passengers, and thought of an effective and simple solution to influence their behaviour."

HOW IT FELT SEEING THEIR WORK IN PUBLIC:

Liu Ying: "It just made me feel that I like my course even more, haha! It's the first time my designs have been showcased in public, and a lot of friends saw pics of it on Facebook. I felt very proud."

Jun Hong: "Honestly, we didn't quite believe our ideas would be used at first. After all, it

was a student project; why would LTA listen to us? But they were very open to our suggestions; in fact some of them had been trained in Design Thinking like us, so they didn't doubt our approach. Being in the completed cabin gave us a real sense of satisfaction."

PRECIOUS TAKEAWAY FROM THE PROJECT:

Jun Hong: "Always think about aligning your ideas with a user's needs. Even if you create something that's very good, if a user doesn't want it, it's ultimately useless. You can apply this to anything and everything that happens around you."



The special reserve seats with soccer jersey print remind people to not be "benchwarmers", and to offer their seat to those in need.



The shoeprints on the floor lead to the cabin centre, guiding passengers to move into the train and not crowd at the doors.

Five SP fresh grads working at NETS, Singapore's nationwide e-payment provider, developed and implemented sales strategies for one of the company's new products, the increasingly popular YONO (You Only Need One) FlashPay card. **SPRIT** grills them for tips on marketing as well as the NETS experience.



DBA grads (from left): Wong Ping Fang, Philemon Phua, Keane Goh, Nicolas Lai, Charlene Ho. Ping Fang and Charlene are now studying business at the National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University respectively. Philemon, Keane and Nicolas plan to further their studies overseas after national service.

#YONO (You Only Need One)

Several months ago, two teams of then final-year students emerged victorious in the NETS Marketing Plan Competition, an event for Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) students to present practical marketing ideas.

Shortly after, they were invited by NETS to have full-time positions to help give a marketing push to the company's new YONO card, an all-purpose, high-convenience stored value card for youths. Impressed by the teams' proposals at the competition, NETS staff offered them the rare chance to launch marketing campaigns to the public, provided they could first prove their abilities. Five of the members agreed to join NETS for the months leading up to their university or national service enrolment.

Their first assignment was to get 9,000 people to sign up for and use the card. Using a range of skills learned during their DBA modules, the team organised a two-month roadshow in SP supported by their own social media and marketing promotions (e.g. a lucky draw with Soup Spoon and Cathay movie vouchers as prizes). The results would probably look like a net profit to NETS: the card saw a whopping 12,000 sign-ups, 33 per

cent more than the initial target.

Says DBA grad Nicolas Lai: "Compared to school projects, doing the marketing for NETS felt really different because we were actually doing it for real. Executing every single detail of our strategies, and constantly re-working our plans to make them more realistic was a breathtaking experience."

The YONO card is free-of-charge, and after topping it up with cash you can use it for payments at a wide variety of food courts, fast food chains (KFC, Subway, etc.) and supermarkets. It can also be used for public transport and taxis. And there are regular promotions for youth who use it, such as lucky draws for vacations to Seoul or Hong Kong!

To encourage users to continually support YONO, the team conceptualised several promotional ideas over the months, including YONO Line, a bingo-style promotional card, and a social media photo competition where students strike a pose while using the card at a payment terminal. Here are two tips they learned from their initiatives:

TIPS FOR CAPTURING A YOUNGER CROWD

Attracting youths:

"Make your ideas relatable to youths. For YONO, we target them by relying on the elements of trendiness and forging bonds. We believe youths today are more outgoing and tend to hang out in big groups. Thus, most of our promotions are 1-for-1, so youths can use the YONO card to treat a friend to lunch or a movie."

Useful marketing tools:

"If you're researching market data, industry-specific consumer trends, or information on companies, we highly recommend Passport, a huge business database that can be found on the SP ELISER Library portal. Photoshop is also very useful and easy-to-learn. Marketing promotions will need banners and brochures which can be done professionally using it."



Amanda Lim (left) and Kedy Lim with the central picture of their artwork, *Moments In Time*.

A common activity of working Singaporeans is said to be rushing. They're reported to be the ones that work the most hours per day compared to other nations, and in response to that workload, they often rush to get things done: rush through work, rush through meals, rush through quality time with loved ones.

Some say that behind this hurried lifestyle, there lies an anxiety about one's life or success that blinds people, making them unable to take time to notice the taste of their food, or even the voice of a loved one chatting with them. It is this choking worry that **Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD)** students Kedy Lim and Amanda Lim hope to reveal through their enchanting art installation, *Moments In Time*. Their piece was amongst many that were displayed at The Singapore Blend, a week-long exhibition by DVMD final-year students showcasing advertising campaigns and experimental visual media tackling Singaporean issues and culture. The exhibition was held at the National Design Centre in Bras Basah Road.

Moments In Time is a collection of images showing typical scenarios where Singaporeans rush through the day. Its centrepiece is a large photo with the image of a translucent man at a dining table. Near his hand is a series of red ticking clock hands moving in unison. The red lines seem messy at first, but if a viewer is willing to be still, and simply appreciate the

Rushing is a Waste of Time

ticking movements, the lines will form into the perfect image of a rice bowl with chopsticks 30 seconds later. This symbolises that the simple things in life can only be enjoyed when one slows down and appreciates his day. "We read somewhere that Singaporeans are the fastest walkers in the world," says Amanda, "so we designed our exhibit to encourage viewers to slow down their pace of life and enjoy a peaceful moment."

Another thought-provoking exhibit was #01-314 by Jeow Jia Yin and Monica Lawrence. It consists of a collection of unwanted furniture arranged to form the sitting room of an elderly grandparent. Hung on the furniture pieces are photo frames of the grandparent's children and grandchildren. When one sits down on a chair in the exhibit, the frames play a video where the children talk to the grandparent, saying things like "Pa, you're all alone at home. You want to die alone meh? Let's just send you to a home since me and the kids are migrating anyway."

This powerful audio and video experience puts the visitor in the shoes of a neglected



Jia Yin with her installation, #01-314 (teammate Monica not in photo).

grandparent, allowing him to experience some of the cutting words Singaporeans can say to their kin. "We interviewed many old folks who shared that they felt lonely and unwanted," says Jia Yin, "so we wanted our installation to help people experience this unwanted-ness and neglect and think about their family relationships. We hope that through experiencing it, they'll be inspired to say kinder words to the people that they love."

Students (from left) Christopher Pang, Hoe Jia Yi, Kenneth Teo, Addy Lau and Cid Lacuesta get fresh ideas for their games design course in this visit to the capital of K-pop!



Entering K-Pop Capital

Shopping, Korean cartoon animation, and one of the world's largest theme parks gave 18 **Diploma in Games Design and Development (DGDD)** students what was probably the trip of their lives. They were on a two-week journey in Seoul, South Korea, to visit animation studios and attend a workshop at **Bucheon University** where they were given lessons on game design and 3D computer modelling.

At Bucheon, they learnt how to use the Autodesk 3ds Max modelling and rendering software to create virtual objects. Says second-year student Addina Lee, "In the labs, we got the hang of this software that was quite new to us. During our short time there, we managed to learn how to model the features of a playground such as swings and see-saws. We eventually progressed to animating and texturing virtual character models as well." The group was also impressed by the skills of the students they interacted with. Says second-year student Christopher Pang: "Working with the Korean students was not only fun, but also very beneficial. I was astounded by their abilities in 3D modelling and texturing, and working with them shed some light on different approaches and methods that I could use in future."

They also visited animation studios that were working on popular television shows such as *Gravity Falls* and *The Simpsons*. To the group, the speed at which the animators worked on such high-quality shows was amazing.

"You hear nothing but rapid clicking and extremely quick changes to their models on their computer screens. It was kind of scary, yet impressive at the same time," shares Addina. At one of the studios, the students were taught the basics of stop-motion animation, making their own characters with clay that the studio provided.

It's hard to distinguish between what's work and what's play when your course is all about designing games, but some parts of the trip clearly provided sheer ecstasy. During their free time, the students visited some of Seoul's biggest attractions, including Gyeongbok Palace; the Seoul Animation Centre; and Everland Resort, South Korea's largest theme park!

For Chris, shopping was one of the biggest highlights of the trip: "During our free time, we visited the main shopping districts such as Myeong-dong, Dongdaemun and Itaewon. These were great places for shopping, with stores selling a huge range of clothes, food and



Addina Lee posing in front of a painting of wings in the Trick Eye Museum.

other items. One of my favourite places was a cat café in Myeong-dong, where we spent an afternoon relaxing while petting the cats curling up around us."

Addina's most memorable experience was at a bookstore: "Seoul has some really nice art books that I don't see in Singapore. While exploring the city, I found a really good book store selling what I wanted. It was so good, I went two more times with a couple of my friends. By the third time, I was such a 'regular' that when the owners saw me, they shouted, 'Hey, Singapore!' My two friends were in hysterics after they realised that this was my new nickname =/"

Diploma in Interior Design students Tricia Lee (left) and Yong Ming Jie (right) were part of a team led by Designer-in-Residence Melvin Ong (centre), whose works have been exhibited in Italy, the UK and Japan. Their exhibit, *Pleating Concrete*, contains interior and architectural designs resulting from an investigation of paper pleating. Teammates Gillian Tan, Jeraldine Toh and Joanne Chan not in photo.



From left: Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design students Edna Chew, Tang Liang Ying, Bryan Yu, Francesca Fernandez, Joy Oh, Atika Alisa Bte Mahat and Khairul Azhar Bin Ali were part of the team behind *A Seeding Wall of Inspiration*. Their piece is a depository for the exchange of creative ideas between people through posters or written messages contained in the piece's tubes.



From left: Diploma in Games Design and Development students Ng Shimin, Seet Ting Peng, Speed Chan Jun, Casper Chua, Poongundran Ranganathan and Ng Jianzhi with character models for their multi-player arena fighting game, *WarFair*. The team was led by Designer-in-Residence Don Sim. Teammate Liew Wei Chong not in photo.

Design Student's Hideout

From left: Diploma in Interior Design students Muhd Ihsan Ruzaini Bin Mohd Swandi, Muhd Alfi Bin Junaidi, Keith Seow, Ker You Quan and Lim Jue Hua with *futureTENSE*, an installation which explores perceptions of space and shape. Teammates Yong Ming Jie and Jeraldine Toh not in photo.



- ★ The new building will provide students facilities such as proto-typing labs, media rendering labs, a photo studio and a motion-capture room to develop their creative vision and design techniques.
- ★ It has a plaza, an open terrace, a rooftop social space, and overlapping classroom and recreational spaces to encourage social interaction and collaboration between students. It also has an air-conditioned Food Court 1! Nothing stimulates new ideas better than delicious *teh ping* and *nasi padang*.
- ★ The building has an open concept, with many overlapping staircases and connecting bridges where students can wave to friends in plain sight, or just have a chat while looking at clear blue skies overhead.
- ★ Besides their experienced and knowledgeable lecturers, the students can also seek guidance from their new Designers-in-Residence, industry players who are given a space within the school to co-create ideas with students. One of them is Hans Tan, an award-winning designer whose accolades include the President's Design Award, Singapore's highest design honour. Another is Don Sim, CEO of one of Singapore's most reputable mobile gaming companies, Daylight Studios.

It's finally here: the new five-storey Design School building with pristine white walls, dedicated design facilities and – maybe best of all in a student's eyes – an air-conditioned food court! **SPiRiT brings you photos of the opening night and fun facts about this elegant new home for the SP Design School.**



The open terrace of the Design School building encourages interaction among students.

★ There are exhibition spaces displaying the works of students and alumni, whose accomplishments continue to grow each year. These works have so far won top prizes in many high-profile competitions, such as first prize in the international Viope Game Programming Contest 2012, three bronzes and the top prize at the 24-Hour Advertising Challenge in the Crowbar Awards 2014, and first place in the 2012 Singapore National Games Mascot Competition (the winning mascot design is none other than Nila, the official Sporting Singapore mascot!).

Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD) final-year student Khairul Azhar Bin Ali likes this most about his new second home: "It's the open-air staircases. My friends and I like to hangout, eat together and just mingle with others there. Being able to relax with the breeze and garden-like atmosphere will



To Experiment by Designer-in-Residence for the Diploma in Experience and Product Design, Hans Tan, captures the spirit of experimentation which underlies the ethos of the school. It is a text-based work using a flip dot display that continuously articulates definitions of the word "experiment".

probably help out a lot when we're stressed with project deadlines too!" To celebrate the opening of the building, the school put up a showcase titled *Seeds: Sowing Promises*, with exhibits that document the design journey from the planting of a seed of an idea to the harvesting of its matured form. Here are photos from the opening night:





The Science of Love is 100 per cent guaranteed to pull at your heart strings.

So-*u* Nice To Watch

Amidst all the millions of YouTube videos out there, there are nonsense videos and some really good ones. Here is one channel that definitely has that little X-factor about it.

"Our brain batter of art, culture, science, philosophy, spirituality and humor is designed to open your mind, challenge your friends and feel damn good." This is the mission statement of SoulPancake, which prides itself on creating videos that make you "chew on life's big questions".

It has a range of web series such as:

Science of Love – quirky, fresh, gut-wrenchingly honest "experiments" carried out to explore facts about love, as well as push the boundaries on what our view of it really is. One video, *The Single Life | The Science of Love*, starts out with an interesting teaser: Over 40 per cent of Americans live single lives. It follows that up with what is simply an emotional cliff dive that you must watch for yourself.

Kid President – videos about a fictional USA kid president with a big heart, who gives hilarious yet piercing advice that will make viewers do a little soul-searching. One video,

YouTube review by SPirit writer Desirae Tan, **Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media – DTVM.**



Let Kid President give you a pep talk with his many years of wisdom.

Kid President meets the President of the United States of America, has the titular character meeting President Barack Obama in real life, and has over 6,800,000 views.

SoulPancake's videos will tug on your heartstrings, make you cry a little and maybe give you the courage to take that leap of faith in whichever direction you wish to go. It definitely motivated me to act on what I want, so go check it out at www.youtube.com/user/soulpancake.

Recording The YouTube FAN FEST hp SINGAPORE

Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics (DVEMG) students get great perks from their course, such as filming trips and attachments in USA, Australia and Japan. Recently added to that list of benefits: a chance to chat with Ryan Higa of the world-famous nigahiga channel!

Besides sitting in class learning videography, DVEMG students have been gaining filming experience at high-profile events. Recently, 21 of them covered the YouTube FanFest 2014 (YTFF) held at *SCAPE Park, a live show bringing together YouTube's biggest international and regional stars.

One of their tasks was filming the stars' entrance at the event's Red Carpet. Ryan Higa, comedy filmmaker and creator of one of YouTube's most subscribed channels, nigahiga; Bethany Mota, fashion and beauty YouTuber with over 7,000,000 subscribers; and Tree Potatoes, a Singapore comedy team with over 200,000 subscribers, were just some of the wildly popular YouTubers attending. The DVEMG team spent two days filming this rare event, as well as mapping

out camera floor plans (plans for camera positioning) to grab all the action. And it goes without saying that during rest breaks, the team took their shot at getting up close with the stars. Here's what they took away from YTFF:

UP CLOSE WITH THE STARS

Vanessa Ong, final-year student, shares her impression of the stars:

"Ryan Higa is actually very awkward in real life, very different from the guy in front of the camera, haha! But he's still very friendly. He and IISuperwomanII (another YouTube star) really cared for their fans. Even though the YTFF staff were signalling them to wrap up their meet-and-greet session, they still insisted on taking more photos, giving autographs, and spending just those few more seconds

with each adoring fan! They have a big base of millions of subscribers, but they didn't let that get to their heads. That's something I really like about them! We also talked with Tree Potatoes and they said tons of silly and funny things. Like how maybe Jenna Marbles was planning to dominate YouTube by teaming up with Vsauce. Haha. It was just pure nonsense and



From left: Vanessa Ong with nigahiga YouTubers Sean Fujiyoshi and Greg Saniatan.

laughter all the way."

FREE STUFF

The team scored selfies with the stars plus signed t-shirts from them as well! "My picture with Ryan Higa was easily worth a couple of days' work," says second-year student Glin Gwee.

A FANFEST FOR A CLASSROOM

Last but not least, the team got to practice their videography skills in the thick of the action during YTFF. Besides this event, DVEMG students have also gained experience working at events like the Music Matters Live festival, the World Solar Challenge car race in Australia, and many more. Who wouldn't want filming Bethany Mota and Ryan Higa as their school assignment?

KEEP STEADY!

Team lead and final-year student Alan Geoy has been actively seeking out freelance work during his free time. His portfolio includes directing a commercial for Seagate, filming a Channel NewsAsia documentary and extensive live events coverage. Says Alan: "Try to look alert and confident at any event, so that people will have confidence in you. In other words: Trust yourself and don't look like a blur sotong! Haha. People are often stressed on event days and may bombard you with questions about your skills if you look lost."



Highest of Honours

In the US system of grading, the highest honour for one's degree is known as Summa Cum Laude. This means "with the highest distinction" or "with highest praise". Three SP alumni recently did their alma mater proud, graduating from the Singapore Institute of Management-University at Buffalo (SIM-UB) degree programme with this honour. They are: Derrick Ong (**Diploma in Information Technology - DIT**, Class of 2009), Ivan Thong (**Diploma in Marine Engineering - DMR**, Class of 2008) and Ong Yong Sheng (**Diploma in Games Design and Development - DGDD**, Class of 2009).

Derrick, who completed his degree in Business Administration, said: "My information technology skills acquired in SP truly benefitted me at SIM-UB. I was able to apply much of it into my studies and synergise all my knowledge. Much credit must be given to the great education SP provided me, as well as the lecturers and friends who gave me valuable experiences. But more simply put, I'm just proud to be an SP alumnus."



Clockwise, from top: Derrick Ong, Ivan Thong, Ong Yong Sheng.



Glin Gwee with world-famous YouTuber Ryan Higa of nigahiga.



Bryan Ong puts on his rapper hat for *Of Dreams*.



SP *Be Ballin'*

When you are 60 years old, there's a whole lot of things to say about your life. SP turning 60 has inspired recent graduate Bryan Ong to write an original rap (with a music video to boot) about this first and awesome poly. **SPiRiT asks him why, and whether he was forced to do it...**

"Haters hate us, I pardon your misbehaviours
Your thinking is probably still in the beta stages
And I'm just the narrator, narrating from the paper
Painting pictures for y'all out there, drooling at the flavour
I'm doing y'all a favour, I'm your neighbour
Telling you the truth in every quaver"

- From *Of Dreams*, composed and written by Bryan Ong

My main instrument is the bass guitar. But I also spend time pretending I can sing and play keyboards and other stuff. Haha. I love writing songs as well, most of which aren't raps.

What is *Of Dreams* about? And why would SP students relate to it?

It's about SP being really kick-ass and having haters. Because everyone knows that having haters means people are jealous of you! Which means of course that SP is totally ballin'. Haha. It also talks about achieving your dreams.

How did it feel, being the main act at this year's graduation ceremony?

It felt great, for sure! I always love performing my songs. Unless I screw it up. Or if someone else screws it up for me. Haha. I kid. (*SPiRiT's note: The song was performed at all 14 sessions of this year's graduation ceremony.*)

What did you enjoy most about being in DMAT?

Coming to school in pyjamas and not caring about what the School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences people thought of me. They would come in their suits, ties, pencil skirts and up-do hairs (which look great by the way), but I chose to wear whatever I wanted, all-year round. Pyjamas are great for blood circulation, which can assist in creativity. Haha. I have no statistics to back that up but I think it worked for me. Heh. And oh, a disclaimer: There really

are some well-dressed DMAT-ers hiding around. Though you might find Atlantis first.

DMAT was also a great choice for me to develop myself musically. Besides performing, it helped me grow in areas like composing, sound engineering, and even the business aspect of music. So I'm glad it helped me develop in an all-rounded way.

By the way, did anyone force you to write this rap?

There was a competition organised to have students or alumni write a song for SP, so being someone who naturally likes writing music, I joined. There was a pretty attractive prize for the winners too which was good motivation, besides err, school pride of course. Haha. I sent

in three songs in total. *Of Dreams* won. The other two didn't get anything though. I was secretly hoping to win three prizes. Haha. I kid.

What are your future plans?

After national service, I'll probably go to university. I'm torn between going to USA in the hopes of being a songwriter, and opening a bakery in Serangoon Gardens with a sound system that blasts all my songs so I can gain some form of assurance if someone walks in and goes, "Hey this song's not too bad! Who's it by?" Haha. Or not. I clearly have not thought this through enough, right? It seems like I've a death wish on my bucket list.

Catch the *Of Dreams* music video on SP's YouTube channel. Also check out Bryan's SoundCloud and YouTube channels at soundcloud.com/bonggggggg and www.youtube.com/user/BOnggggggggg.

During his last year of school, Bryan Ong from the **Diploma in Music and Audio Technology (DMAT)** wrote a rap in celebration of SP's 60th anniversary. Titled *Of Dreams*, it's packed with rapid-fire lyrics and takes playful pokes at all the SP-wannabes out there. **SPiRiT** meets Bryan to know more about his breakout song:

Tell us about yourself. What types of music do you like? What instruments do you play?

I grew up (quite exclusively, for some reason) on Good Charlotte. Recently I've been hooked onto Carly Rae Jepsen. I do not kid.



Scenes from the *Of Dreams* music video produced by Diploma in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics students Michelle Lim, Nur Liyana, Oh Si Hui, Li Chao and Teng I-Ling.



Patrick at shop houses near his office at Balesier Road.



At 27, He Has *His Own Company*

He's well-built, trained to design buildings well, and has a winning smile that'll melt any client he meets. Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) graduate Patrick Siah seems to have it all. He's even recently started his own interior design business, W5A, named after the architecture block in SP where he spent three memorable years. Make no mistake though. What Patrick has gained, he has earned. **SPRIT shares about his journey through school with dyslexia and the ups and downs of working life.**

The DARCH graduate shares his favourite memory of SP: "My most memorable afternoon was on my 19th birthday. On the night before, my friends had told me to bring extra clothes to school, because we were going to go and work out at the gym.

"When someone says 'bring extra clothes' the night before your birthday, it's a universal sign of trouble. But sadly, I just didn't realise it. It didn't take long for them to blindfold me the next day, lead me into an open space and dump eggs, whipped cream and flour all over my body (laughs)."

Besides this, he also remembers many late nights of ordering McDonald's, and staying at a printing shop till 4am with friends to print out drawing panels for project submission. Memories like these are part of the reason why he, at the surprisingly young age of 27, named his newly opened business after the architecture block in SP, W5A.

Patrick, who completed his Master of Architecture with a High Distinction at the University of Melbourne, Australia, worked at multi-national firm JGP Architecture (S) Pte Ltd before starting W5A.

Hi Patrick, can you tell us why you started W5A, and what you're working on now?

At JGP, I was working mainly on overseas projects, but I wanted to get more exposure to local projects. Furthermore, the idea of starting my own business had always attracted me; since poly days, me and my friends would always jokingly talk about creating a business named after our architecture block (laughs). So I decided to go straight into it when the time was right and quit my job to start the firm.

Currently we're a small operation so we're working on just four or five on-going projects at once. For some projects, we're consultants, creating proposals for clients. For

others, we're part of the design-and-build teams that work with contractors to get jobs. There are a few different ways we work.

What's your typical day like?

Every day is different. Every week is different. So I can't really give you a clear idea... I can only say that it's exciting. Some days I'll be guiding freelancers on their drafting. Or I'll be meeting suppliers in the afternoon, and doing my own model renderings in the evenings. Just... everything (laughs). But I like how I can plan my own day. If I've worked late the night before, I'll just come in to work later, maybe at 9.30, maybe 10am?

Do you have advice for students on entering the workplace?

You know, if you *kay kiang* (Hokkien for "act smart"), sit down at a meeting and say, "Hey boss, I think we should do this and this —" you can expect to hear, "Nooo, Patrick no, it's not like that!" (laughs). For the first few months at JGP, I really kept my mouth shut and learned as much as I could. Really listened. There was such a wealth of experience in my team, even down to the drafter who does 3D modelling for us. He has five, six years of experience and I could be going to ask him questions like, "Why does the fire door open this way, or why is it this thickness?" You know, small questions that add up. So being proactive in asking questions helped me learn a lot in a short period of time.

How did dyslexia impact your studies when you were young?

When I was in primary and secondary school,

I had a lot of problems with it, especially for spelling. I actually dropped Chinese in primary four. A lot of people didn't understand, saying, "Why doesn't Patrick take Chinese?" When I came into SP, I found my calling in architecture. I didn't really struggle as much in school. For the first time in a really long time, I felt I was good at something.

I feel my dyslexia was actually an advantage in SP. It's said that many dyslexics have a strong ability to visualise things in 3D, and I know that personally, I was able to learn very quickly in classes involving 3D elements.

Many famous people – Richard Branson, Tom Cruise – are also dyslexics. So it's not a hindrance to success; it's just another way of doing things. Personally, one area of work I'm excited by right now is architectural design for educational facilities accommodating dyslexics.

How has being an SP grad prepared you for life ahead?

When I applied to five universities in Australia for my architecture degree, I got accepted by all of them. And all of them gave me direct entry into the third year. When I enrolled, I found that I was ahead of others who went through first and second year in the technical aspects of doing architecture. SP really trained me well in that, and it was something the undergrads in Australia lacked. Some of my peers who came from SP felt the same; we were beating everyone in construction classes and some design ones too! So I felt it was a great foundation we had at SP.





Burgers, French Fries, *Bright Eyes*

McDonald's – without a doubt, it's a household name worldwide. In Singapore, the company employs more than 9,000 people in over 120 restaurants. SP alumna Christina Ong is one of them. Working with the world-renowned fast food chain has been her passion since her SP days. SPRINT finds out why she's so endeared to the McDonald's brand.

Twinkly-eyed, warm Christina Ong hit the books hard as a youth. From humble beginnings at ITE, she joined SP and studied earnestly, graduating as the top student in the Diploma in Property Development and Facilities Management. She then joined the National University of Singapore to study project and facilities management and made it on the Dean's List for top performers. Soon after graduation, she got job offers from two well-established construction consultancy firms. But she chose to join McDonald's.

Initially, her parents were concerned. For starters, they thought she could earn much more with her qualifications in the firms that had accepted her. But more than that, perhaps, it might've been difficult watching the daughter who had fought her way to the top of the education pyramid, deciding to take on restaurant management work instead.

But Christina had thought hard about it. In fact, joining the world-famous fast food chain had been on her mind since she was 16, when she joined as a part-timer (she'd told her parents she would earn her own school fees by 16). "I'm a very chatty person, and I love interacting with people," she shares. "Working at McDonald's allows me to do that. I don't

want a desk-bound job where I can't wait for the day to pass, and I don't like office politics."

Despite her awareness of her interests, however, the decision wasn't easy. "I did struggle to make the choice to work full-time at McDonald's. It was difficult for a lot of people to accept that I wanted work there, despite having a degree. Some people even think that it's a low-end job; but to me, it's not," she says.

"Ultimately, I told my family that it was my genuine interest and that it was what I wanted to do. I wanted to start work with a smile on my face and finish work happy. Also, McDonald's gave me a good remuneration package and a long-term development plan; it was attractive enough to me."

She joined the company full-time in 2011, starting as second assistant manager at HarbourFront Centre. Now, in 2014, she is a Restaurant General Manager in charge of the Resorts World Sentosa outlet. With a bright smile and radiating positivity that co-workers feel easily, she's a perfect fit for managing the 70 crew members and 10 managers under her charge. Eventually, she aims to become a consultant overseeing between five to seven outlets. Her parents have become very accepting of her choice, even proudly telling friends about her work.

Meeting Christina in person, it's easy to feel the glow of someone who spends a lot of time, happy. She looks you in the eye with a strong yet friendly gaze, and when she speaks, she sounds bright, attentive and proactive. She was most chatty and enthusiastic when we asked about her experiences in SP and at McDonald's. Now, don't we all wish all our service staff could be as cheerful as her?



ON TRANSITIONING FROM ITE TO SP:

For the first semester in SP, my results surprised me, a 3.6 or so GPA. I realised that it wasn't impossible to do well, even though in the first sem I was actually playing more than studying. It showed me I could actually aim higher. So I gave myself this goal that I wanted to achieve something in SP. Before, I thought going to university was just a dream that was never going to happen for me, but after I began working hard, I realised there was hope.

ON CONVINCING PARENTS ABOUT ONE'S DECISIONS:

Talk to your parents about how interested you are in a particular path. I know it's very difficult to "psycho" them, haha, but I think we just

need to take the effort to tell them why we're so interested, what we can be in the future, and how we will contribute to society. Perhaps, if you cast out a five to 10 year plan for them to visualise, they might understand better the reasons for your choice.

ON THE IMPACT OF HER JOB ON OTHERS:

This job is more like "play" to me than work. I try my best to make work fun so time passes faster for my staff. I'm also a naggy person because I want to get things done, and done in a right manner. If you first learn something but also pick up bad habits, you'll continue with bad habits. So I always tell them "you always have to start things right". When it's time to be happy-go-lucky, cheer people up.

When it's time to be fierce, be fierce.

ON CHASING ONE'S PASSION:

Trying out the line you're interested in (through part-time work or internships) will help you see whether someone's career advice or even your own passion is genuine or not.

ON FINDING HAPPINESS IN WORK:

You want to be happy at your workplace. If you have to drag yourself to work, it means it's time to change your job. You can be earning a lot in a job you don't like, but if (it feels like) your life is in the deep ocean, maybe you want to think about it again. Sometimes, money is not everything. Without health or happiness, money is not going to mean anything to you.

Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)

student Vera Sng's water colour painting is now a display piece in Changi Airport! Her watercolour art piece was one of 15 winning entries in the Changi Airport Project Jewel contest.

Project Jewel is an iconic centrepiece of the airport which is currently being built. When ready in 2018, it will offer a range of facilities for airport operations, retail and leisure.

Contest participants were encouraged to share their vision of what this more than \$1.4 billion structure would look like. As one of the winners, Vera's reward was Changi Airport vouchers and the displaying of her work on an

800-metre hoarding covering the construction site. When asked about what motivated her to join the competition, the second-year student said: "Fundamentally, I wanted to get my art out there. I feel that drawing is very much like

writing, except it conveys ideas in a more visual way. Art isn't supposed to be kept in your drawer or in a folder on your computer, it's meant to be shared with everyone, so this submission was a great platform to do just that."



Presenting the final-year class of DTVM!

Feeling Rich *With So Little*

We walk along a bumpy road. At the beach, waves crash against the shore as the breeze blows through our hair. In the village, chickens roam freely and motorcycles are the main mode of transportation. Everyone we meet greets us warmly. Welcome to Lombok, Indonesia. Story by Angela Lim, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM), final-year.

This was not a beach holiday. All 40 of us final-year DTVM students were on Lombok island to complete a filming assignment as part of our "On-Location Production" module, where we had to film a documentary in unfamiliar surroundings within a short period of five days.

NEED HELP? NO PROBLEM!

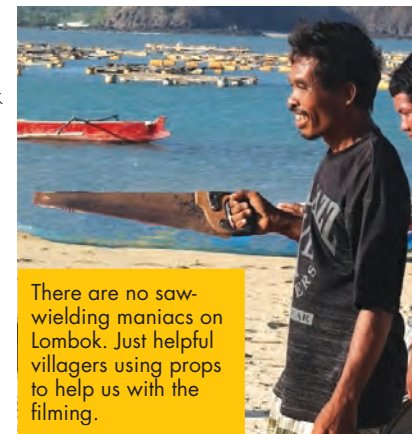
My group went to a fishing village called Gerupuk Village. We faced many problems, from being unable to find a compelling story to having difficulties filming certain scenes. However, the villagers were always willing to help. We needed to film a fighting scene, and the village chief, Haji Abdul Mutalib Alis Amak Kundi, gathered several men to be our actors.

It touched us how open the villagers were to helping us. The moment the village chief briefed them on what to do, they got up on their feet,

and searched enthusiastically for weapons they could use as props. It was a lot of fun for both them and us.

A VILLAGE OF LOVE

While taking a break from filming, we met 75-year-old Inak Janum. She cannot walk properly following a stroke. Her children, who are also not well-off, do not live with her. But Inak is not alone. She is being taken care of by her neighbours.



There are no saw-wielding maniacs on Lombok. Just helpful villagers using props to help us with the filming.



Inak Janum's story left a lasting impression on us.

her, and learn about the true meaning of compassion from her neighbours.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I had honestly dreaded this trip since the very first time I heard about it in my course. The

thought of filming in a foreign land filled with bugs and no wi-fi was terrifying. Trust me, I was still trying to figure out if I could feign sickness days before leaving Singapore.

Did I regret going to Lombok in the end? Not at all. Sure, our adventure there remains as one of the most difficult projects we've ever done, but it was also one of the most incredible experiences in my life. I've learnt to appreciate so many things I have and the people around me. It won't be anytime soon, but I'll definitely return to Lombok.

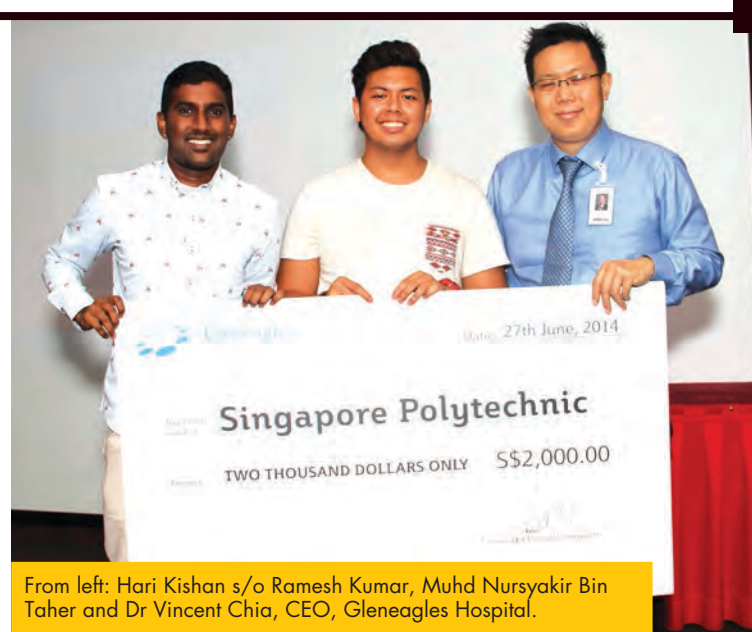
Too Busy for Mum?

In the month of May, acts of kindness to mothers typically peak. But **Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC)** fresh graduates Hari Kishan s/o Ramesh Kumar and Muhd Nursyakir Bin Taher think expressing love for our mothers should not just happen on Mother's Day. Recently, they submitted a short film to the Gleneagles Hospital's "Because You Love Me: A Tribute to Mums" video contest to celebrate Mother's Day.

Their entry, *Letter*, won third place and \$2,000, and was put up on Gleneagles Hospital's YouTube channel and screened in the hospital itself. It focuses on a young man who returns from a busy work life overseas to

find that his mother has passed away. He reads a letter she left for him that details their life story together, as well as those rare, happy moments for her when he would call home from overseas.

When asked about the video, Hari shared, "I think the main thought behind it was how, in our busy lifestyles nowadays, we tend to ignore our mothers. We can take their care and concern for granted." Nursyakir added, "For most teens, when an opportunity to study abroad or do something which takes them away from their parents



From left: Hari Kishan s/o Ramesh Kumar, Muhd Nursyakir Bin Taher and Dr Vincent Chia, CEO, Gleneagles Hospital.

comes by, they'll take it. Through this video about a mother's letter, we want to remind people that though their parents might not be next to them, they still love and care about them from afar." Both Hari and Nursyakir will study for a degree in Communication Studies at Nanyang Technology University after serving their national service.

Globetrotting For Free!

During her childhood, Amelia Sue Pickering lived in Australia, England and the Netherlands before coming to Singapore. She also travelled to Germany, Norway, Sweden and France. A privileged lifestyle? Nah... she was simply following the movements of her dad, a captain on a ship.

Currently, she is a **Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS)** second-year student following in her father's footsteps. "It was my dad who suggested that I go to sea," says Amelia. "As a kid, I followed him on his ship a few times for fun and saw how he really liked his work. So after he suggested that, I started giving it a lot of thought and finally chose to come to SP."

Her life of travel has bestowed upon her a great appetite for encountering new places and cultures. Soon, that hunger will be satisfied. She and her second-year course mates will be embarking on a one-year internship aboard cruise ships or cargo vessels to experience life at sea. These ships will sail to various parts of the world, either regionally in Southeast Asia or internationally to places like Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

Many girls dream of bouncing around so many places in the world. But they imagine doing this on an airplane, not a sea vessel rocking on the waves. Daily life as a sailor would seem tough to many girls, but if there's anyone who can handle it, it's Amelia, who's very accustomed to the water. During her Yishun Town Secondary School days, she was in the sailing club. And now in SP, she paddles furiously with the SP Canoeists. With her team mates, she collected one gold medal in the National Mid Distance Canoeing Championships 2014, two silvers in the POLITE Games 2013, and a bronze in the National Canoeing Championships.

It's likely though that her time spent globetrotting will help her even more than her incredible affinity for the sea. "I think travelling has made me more open to new experiences. I find I'm more accepting of other people and new situations, because I've seen many kinds of things out there. And though I'm really nervous about the internship, I'm excited at the same time because it's a big first in my life."

Going by her results in DNS so far, Amelia shouldn't have a problem. Even while juggling her CCA commitments, she's maintaining a near perfect Grade Point Average of 3.979. And she's enjoying the lessons taught at school, such as Principles of Navigation, which teaches how to find one's way with reference to the moon, sun, stars and planets. She also enjoys experiences such as the Maritime Experiential Learning Camp, where she and her classmates got to live aboard the cruise ship Superstar Virgo to learn more about the maritime industry.

Perhaps the only bump in her smooth-sailing journey so far has been integrating into the male-dominated DNS course (there are five girls and about 50 guys in the cohort), but even this was only temporary. "At first it was weird because most of my friends in the past were girls, and suddenly the whole environment changed. But I've found the guys in DNS to be easy to talk to, and several of them have become my good friends. I'm looking forward to seeing them in a year's time. I'm sure we'll have many stories to share!"



Amelia with a Swedish cadet aboard the Superstar Virgo cruise ship.



His Workplace, Their Home

From left: Proud SP graduates N Divya Menon (extreme left) and N Vivek Menon (extreme right) are two children of Suseela Raj and Cpt K Nirmal Raj. Among their four children, three are SP graduates.

What do an optometrist, a chemical engineer and a health and nutrition specialist have in common? In the case of the Nirmal family, it's the fact that all three are SP graduates, and children of a dad who has supported their choices and had faith in them to "walk their own path".

Of her father, Cpt K Nirmal Raj, N Divya Menon says this: "He's really involved in my life. On one hand that's bad because it means I can get dependent on him. But I know that out there are parents who give little guidance to their kids, whereas he's always teaching and guiding me. In life, he's my anchor."

"Anchor" is a fitting term for her dad, who sailed at sea for 15 years before coming to teach at SP's Singapore Maritime Academy. The poly lecturer is a father of three SP graduates: Vivek, a 2014 SP Specialist Diploma in Nutrition and Health Promotion graduate currently studying food science at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT); Vineeth, a 2010 **Diploma in Chemical Engineering (DCHE)** graduate who just received a first-class honours chemical engineering degree from SIT; and Divya, a 2014 **Diploma in Optometry (DOPT)** graduate who was the valedictorian speaker at her graduation ceremony, and who is pursuing a sports science and management degree at Nanyang Technological University. According to Divya, all of them have at some point received guidance from their dad, who would carefully explore and discuss the benefits and drawbacks of any field they expressed interest in.

Cpt Raj, an SP nautical studies alumnus himself, shares that he's talked his kids through their ideas about being chemical engineers, creators of new types of high-nutrition bread, and even air force pilots. Sometimes, after listening, he would push them to do things they were initially reluctant to do. He once told Vivek firmly to keep applying to SIT despite being discouraged by failed attempts (Vivek succeeded on his third try). Usually though, he lets them make their own decisions. "If I see that the course is generally sound," says Cpt Raj, "I will leave the choice to them. They know better than me where their passions lie. I know their life isn't my master plan; I'm just a facilitator."

As an SP lecturer, he was also confident that a poly education would be a sound choice. Although Divya had 'O' levels results that were strong enough to enter a good junior college (JC), he knew his daughter's personality would be better nurtured by the hands-on, practical teaching style at poly than the more theoretically-oriented JCs. Divya herself agrees. "I know that school programmes such as community service trips not only let me use my optometry skills for the less privileged, but also opened my eyes to the world and

allowed me to do what I enjoy most: interacting with and helping others."

The captain won't be seeing his kids around campus anymore, but he's alright with that. "They're getting bigger now, so I have to give them wings to fly and do more work on their own. One day, I know they'll be able to manage themselves and I won't be required. We're all a passing phase."



You don't need magic or dance skills to be an SP scholar. Nevertheless, if you have it, flaunt it! That was the scenario at the SP Scholarship Presentation Ceremony 2014. Our scholars, besides being smart enough to tell you why aeroplanes can fly, or explain the difference between virus and bacteria, can also show the difference between the moon walk and hip hop dance moves.



Scholars Must Score, But Not Just In Grades

Seriously though, what makes a scholar? Or more precisely, an SP scholar? A perfect GPA? An active co-curricular activities record? A heart to serve the less privileged communities? We can't speak for other organisations and institutions but here at SP, a scholar has to strike a good balance between excellence in academic and non-academic pursuits. This means, besides doing well in their course, the SP scholar has to be active in CCA pursuits and community service.



Divesh Singaraju

The scholar and dancer - Charmaine Chua



A tough call? No sweat, as former SP Engineering Scholar Divesh Singaraju will tell you. The recent graduate lives up to the title crowned on him from Year 2, and has ended the SP journey with an impressive achievement that would make other scholars envy.

In his speech to newly-minted scholars, the Singapore Airlines scholar who just started his undergraduate studies in Imperial College, shared how his journey as a SP Scholar helped him achieve his dream to study in a prestigious university overseas.

He recalled: "While many of my secondary school teachers advised me against entering a poly because they felt that I lacked the discipline to thrive in a more independent learning environment, choosing SP was the best decision I've made thus far.

"SP has developed me into a holistic individual. I was blessed with opportunities to develop my knowledge and abilities from leadership programmes, conferences, communication workshops and many other valuable experiences."

His journey wasn't smooth sailing throughout but Divesh pressed on: "Like everyone else, I also had ups and downs for my studies. However, through these, I instilled in myself the values of patience, tenacity and excellence. There was also friendship, as my success would mean nothing without my SP buddies."

If Divesh can do it, our new scholars certainly can too. While we are certain that they will



The scholar and magician – Chan Kuang Hong

become inspired learners, more importantly, we hope they will also exemplify the spirit of a caring community that will serve with mastery. And yes, these values are the ethos in the new

SP vision which the entire SP community will embrace.



Say Hello to the Latest Batch of SP Scholars!

SP SCHOLARS/SP ENGINEERING SCHOLARS

School of Architecture & the Built Environment

- Adrian Han Jiajun, Lim Hao Yang and Victoria Tan Hui Sing (Diploma in Architecture)
- Nathaniel Foo Zhijie and Pyayt Phyo Myaing (Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business)
- Rebecca Low Wan Ying (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management)

SP Business School

- Ang Hui Shi and Tan Wei Jie (Diploma in Accountancy)
- Lee Jim Seong, Oba Yoko and Pang Yuan Ker (Diploma in International Business)
- Willeen Teo (Diploma in Tourism and Resort

- Management) ■ Wong Chu Ting (Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology)

School of Chemical & Life Sciences

- Aleen Tan Yu Ling (Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science)
- Alicia Yip, Andy Su Jun'an, Angel Marie Jason, Fatin Aliyah Bte Hussin, Sharon Chan Pei Yi, and Shaun Loh (Diploma in Biomedical Science)
- Chan Kuang Hong (Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness)
- Ephraim Loh Tian En, Joey Tay Yi Qin and Liew Zheng Jie (Diploma in Chemical Engineering)

School of Communication, Arts & Social Sciences

- Carissa Chan Yin Yee and Rina Tan Yi Qian

- (Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology)
- Cheng Ker Xi (Diploma in Media & Communication)

SP Design School

- Fu Kah Deng (Diploma in Games Design & Development)
- Kwek Ai Ling (Diploma in Experience & Product Design)
- Tchea Yu (Diploma in Interior Design)

School of Digital Media & Infocomm Technology

- Adela Teo Leting (Diploma in Music & Audio Technology)
- Htet Htet Aung (Diploma in Business Information Technology)
- Koh Si Xing (Diploma in Infocomm Security Management)

School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

- Ajay Pillay, Joel Neo Jiun Hao, Pavan Singh Gill, Wilson Tan Wei Shen and Tan Hwee Peng (Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering)
- Chen Pei Yi, Kendrick Yeong Zheng Hao, Lee Wei Lin, Lye Zheng Bin, R Kumaresh and Shawn Lee (Diploma in Aerospace Electronics)

Singapore Maritime Academy

- Afandi Lee Swaleha and Cassandra Keh Xiao Ting (Diploma in Maritime Business)
- Indrasyah Putera Kudsi Bin Dulkifli (Diploma in Marine Engineering)

School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering

- Cheung Kai Hong (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering)
- Cruz Carlo Emmanuel Gonzal, Darryl Teow, Dylan Tan Ze Xin, Enver Toh Wei Ren, Jarren Koh Enrui, Jimmy Chiun Wei Ming, Kelly Tan, Kryan Seah Kai'en, Lee Boon Yao, Low Hock An, Ryan Ong and Zachary Ngooi Cheng Hong (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering)
- Gabriel Tay Wei Chern and Muhd Reeduan Bin Abdul Mutalib (Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics)
- Tan Kai Jie (Common Engineering Programme)

SP ARTS AND MUSIC SCHOLARS

- Elaine Yeow Yee Ling (Diploma in Food

- Science & Technology) ■ H Satish (Diploma in Banking & Finance)
- Ho Jun Yuan (Diploma in Optometry)
- Joel Ang Xing Zhi (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering)

SP SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

- Brian Loh Keng Chee (Diploma in Information Technology)
- Jevyn Ong Jingrui (Diploma in Business Innovation & Design)
- Joshua Matthew Lim Tze Han (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering)
- Low Ee Tuck (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering)
- Lucas Stanton Yong Zhen Huan (Diploma in Engineering with Business)
- Zoe Mui Wei Ting (Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science)

Scholarly *Harvest*

An SP diploma is already a ticket for SP graduates to make the first step in securing their first full-time jobs. But for some others, the quest to learn more takes priority. Whether it's work or university, SP has helped to pave the way for them to move a notch higher in their aspirations.

For many of them, they want not just a place in the university but a scholarship as well. Bond or no bond, regardless, they will eventually be placed in a career of their choice. So from healthcare, education, information technology, transport, defence and home security, amongst others, they have been clinching scholarships from these sectors.

SPiRiT celebrates the success of SP graduates who have clinched prestigious scholarships from public and private organisations. Here's a toast to our future policymakers!



▲ **MINISTRY OF HEALTH HEALTHCARE AWARD / SCHOLARSHIP (UNDERGRADUATE)** 21 SP graduates clinched scholarships to pursue healthcare-related degree programmes such as pharmacy and dietetics in local and overseas universities such as Queensland University of Technology, Australia, and La Trobe University, Australia. **Healthcare Merit Award:** (from Diploma in Biomedical Science) Wong Whye Yen, Lim Hui Yin, Lau Yi Yin, Ng Li Bing; (from Diploma in Biotechnology) Sheryl Ong, Leow Wen Hao, Cleon Chia, Semaya Natalia; (from Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness) Miko Yeo, Alicia Tan, Theresa Kwek, Valerie Tay, Teo Jie Ting, Yeo Jing Min; (Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science) Marcus Ng; (Diploma in Maritime Transportation Management) Timothy Tung. **Healthcare Merit Scholarship:** (Diploma in Food Science & Technology) Yvette Sim. **Healthcare Administration Scholarship:** (Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering) Sheam Kannan; (Diploma in Bioelectronics) Lee Bo Xian; (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management) Vincent Tan. **Health Graduate Studies Award:** Zeng Simin (Diploma in Biomedical Science) will be heading to Imperial College London to pursue a master's degree in Public Health.



▲ **NATIONAL INFOCOMM SCHOLARSHIP FROM INFOCOMM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** Ong Yong Lin (Diploma in Engineering with Business) is pursuing a Computer Science degree in University College London; Yeo Quan Yang (Diploma in Infocomm Security Management) and Tan Jian Sin (Diploma in Information Technology) are both furthering their studies in NUS, with the latter doing a fast-track programme where his master's degree will be completed at Brown University in the US. Bong Jun Hao (Diploma in Financial Informatics) is also on a fast-track master's programme in Information Systems Management jointly offered by SMU and Carnegie Mellon University, USA.



▶ **MEDIA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP (FILM) FROM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** Alvin Lee (Diploma in Digital Media), the first Singaporean accepted into Beijing Film Academy's undergraduate programme for Film Directing.

BCA-INDUSTRY BUILT ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

Guest-of-Honour
Ms Indraneel Rajah
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education



▲ **Built Environment Scholarships from Building and Construction Authority and sponsoring companies** Lee Mei Shuang, Alexandra Larissa, Wang Meihong, Hing Wee Sheng and Lim Jiunn Hao (all from Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business); Muhd Razmy Bin Abdul Latiff (Diploma in Property Development & Facilities Management).



◀ **SPRING Singapore Executive Development Scholarship** Wong Wei Kang (Diploma in Business Administration).



▲ **Land Transport Authority Scholarship (Local and Overseas)** Dexter Tay Hai Hong (Diploma in Media & Communication) will pursue a degree in Communications and New Media at NUS. Chee Yi Liang (Diploma in Information Technology) will pursue a degree in Computer Science at the University of Southampton.



◀ **NAC Arts Scholarship from National Arts Council** Reuben Shaun Raman (Diploma in Music & Audio Technology). He will pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Recorded Music at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, USA. Mark Ng Chung Kit (Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology). He will pursue a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Drama, Queen Mary, University of London, UK.



▲ **Defence Science and Technology Agency Scholarship** Samantha See Shu Qi (Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science) and Jeff Ying Jie Hao (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering). Both will pursue their degree programmes in NUS.



▲ **SAF Merit Scholarship** Ng Jie Ming (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering) will pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering at NUS.

Singapore Airlines - SINDA Scholarship Divesh Singaraju (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering) will pursue an engineering degree at Imperial College London.

Singapore Government Scholarship (Police) Ravin Nicholas s/o Kumalan (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering).

Spectacular Performance

Besides clinching scholarships from public agencies and private companies, SP graduates have also scored brilliantly in securing bond-free scholarships from the local universities.



▼ **Nanyang Technological University Scholarships / Nanyang Scholarship** Amanda Choo May Yeng, Heng Ching Ying and Monica Ng (all three from Diploma in International Business), Joel Lee and Neo Ting Ling (both from Diploma in Accountancy), Maybelline Lim (Diploma in Banking & Finance), Charmaine Lee, Masagoes Agoes Masayoe Nabilah and Nerissa Tiong (all three from Diploma in Media & Communication), Jasmine Er (Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science), Koh See Hui and Clara Wong (Diploma in Optometry).



► **NUS Global Merit Scholarship** Steven Ong Kia Kian (Diploma in Biotechnology)



▲ **Teaching Scholars Programme** Muhd Shafarie Bin Abdul Manan and Sylvia Tan (Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology), Lau Chin Ling (Diploma in Banking & Finance) and Nurazilah Bte Mohd Shukur (Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology).



▲ **Singapore-Industry Scholarship** Derrick Tan Chun Hong (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering), Goh Yihui (Diploma in Engineering with Business), Lee Bo Xian (Diploma in Bioelectronics), Loo Rui Yuan, Sheam Kannan, Putra Ong Jun Xiong and Zhang Zhao (all four from Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering), Poon Zhaowei and Ong Bao Xiong (both from Diploma in Clean Energy), Ang Liang Sheng (Diploma in Aerospace Electronics), John Tan Ding Hao (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering), Lionel Kok (Diploma in Maritime Transportation Management), Vincent Tan (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management), Melody Lee Huixian (Diploma in Creative Writing for TV & New Media); Poh Boon Keat (Diploma in Information Technology) and Aylward Lim Yi De (Diploma in Business Administration).



► **Renaissance Engineering Programme** Thomas Tham (Diploma in Engineering with Business).

Step Positive

Top ITE graduates and now SP students: (from left) Jeremy Lau, Muhd Asyraf and Shaun Tan.



Next Step to Success

SP graduates have done exceptionally well at the annual Ministry of Education's 2014 Special Awards. Of the 10 Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) awards given to outstanding polytechnic graduates, seven were clinched by SP graduates.

The recipients are: Bong Jun Hao (Diploma in Financial Informatics), Chua Xiu Fang (Diploma in International Business), John Ser Kok Weai (Diploma in Business Administration), Koh See Hui (Diploma in Optometry), Kristalynn Yue Suet Yan (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management), Ng Tsu Kian and Thng Kai Yuan (both from Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering). They are now pursuing degree programmes with the local universities.

The LKY-STEP Award is also given out to top achievers from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), and SP is undoubtedly the top choice for many of them. Out of 15 outstanding graduates from ITE who received the awards, eight of them are now pursuing their diploma courses in SP. All of them achieved perfect GPA scores for their Higher Nitec courses and have proceeded directly to

the second year of their diploma courses. The recipients are: Hung Chung-Yuan, Lye Zheng Bin (both from Diploma in Aerospace Electronics); Jeremy Lau (Diploma in Mechanical Engineering); Tan Jia Wei (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering); Audric Ping Wei Xiang (Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering); Shaun Tan (Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics); Muhd Asyraf Bin Chumino (Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management); Nur Muhd Bin Maidin (Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management).

Among them, Jeremy, Chung-Yuan, Nur Muhd and Shaun also received the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Book Prize which recognises LKY-STEP Award recipients who have achieved the most outstanding academic results at ITE. They clinched four out of the six awards given out this year.

The star of the ceremony would have to be Jeremy, who received three awards – the third being the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Outstanding All-Round Achievement for his academic accomplishments, as well as his contributions to the community and



John Ser, one of seven SP graduates who received the LKY-STEP Award for poly graduates.

demonstrating the spirit of innovation and enterprise.

The following students and graduates also received awards at the ceremony: Tay Jing Han (Diploma in Business Administration) received the Lee Kuan Yew Award for Outstanding Normal Course Students. Divesh Singaraju (Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering), Muhd Nur Hidayat Bin Rasiti (Diploma in Marine Engineering) and Pisigan Carlo Adrian Rectra (Diploma in Clean Energy) received the Lee Kuan Yew Award for Maths and Science.

Scholarship Partners

The latest batch of Integrated Infocomm Scholarships recipients from SP.

Bright IT Sparks

Unless you live and breathe information technology, chances are you will never know the latest developments out there. However, you can be kept in the loop of what's new in the IT world if you keep your friendship with 12 SP students from the School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology.

The dozen of future IT experts have been awarded the Integrated Infocomm Scholarship (IIS) by the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA). The scholarship enables outstanding 'O' level achievers to pursue infocomm-related diploma

and degree courses from polytechnic through to university.

As in the past, SP clinched the lion's share of the IIS. This year, of the 20 IIS scholarships awarded, 12 went to SP students. They are: **Diploma in Business Information Technology** - Elliot Chu Kin Wai; **Diploma in Infocomm Security Management** - Chang Ern Rae, Fu Dai Fa, Ignatius Hendrawan, Theodoric Keith Lim; **Diploma in Information Technology** - Azeem Arshad Vasawala, Hardy Shein Nyein Chan, Benedict Khoo Ming Wei, Lau Che Hoe, Nur

Azila Bte Azman, Mark Tan Rong Hui, Tay Hui Chun.

Besides having their SP tuition fees fully covered, the IIS will also pay for one overseas or multiple local attachments with infocomm companies. Upon graduation, they have a choice to further their studies with the local universities under the IIS track or apply for the National Infocomm Scholarship to study at local or overseas universities.

So now you know where the future IT guys all hang out!

Future Builders

The ever-growing building and built environment sector will see fresh blood from SP contributing their ideas to make Singapore an even better liveable country. Twenty-four SP students, the highest number among the polys, were awarded the BCA-Industry Built Environment Scholarship for diploma-level students.

Besides covering their tuition fees, the scholarship also provides a monthly allowance. Upon graduation, the recipients will be required to serve either the Building and Construction Authority or their sponsor companies for two years. The recipients are:

Diploma in Architecture: Aqilah Bte Alwi, Wong Chi Khay, Wang Ting, Arvin How, Adrian Han Jiajun, Jovin Tong Wei Xiang, Priya Chandru Bhojwani; **Diploma in Landscape Architecture:** Tan Wei Lin; **Diploma in Clean Energy:** Chen Jingwen; **Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering:** Ang Kai Zhi; **Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business:** Dianne Ligie Coquilla Odol, Zhong Qijiang, Chong Pei En, Gerrah Lei Montano Pamplone, Bernice Lee Ser Li, Nicole Eloise Luzzza Vale, Tang Kak Yong; **Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management:** Geraldine Ho Mei Yee, Tan Yong Da, Wong Jia Xun, Yip Xuan Zheng; **Diploma in Interior Design:** Athirah Nurin Syakirah Binte Saleh, Lau Bei En, Share Grace Cabisada.

AWARD CEREMONY
Guest-of-Honour
Ms Indraneel Rajah
State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of



Tan Wei Lin, one of 24 SP students who received the BCA-Industry Scholarship.



Koh Ke Hui (left) with Benny Tan, two out of 25 SP students and alumni who recently received the MaritimeONE Scholarship for their poly and university studies.

Photo courtesy of Singapore Maritime Foundation.

Merry Time With Maritime

What can be bigger than a lion's share? At the MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony, students and graduates from the three diploma courses from the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) at SP scored a coup with their massive haul of scholarships.

Of the 40 MaritimeONE scholarships for diploma and degree programmes, 25 were clinched by SP students and graduates. The diploma students are currently pursuing either the **Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR)** or the **Diploma in Maritime Business (DMB)** at SMA. Those selected for the degree programmes will further their studies at Plymouth University in UK, Chung-Ang University in South Korea or Newcastle University at Singapore Institute of Technology. Their scholarships are sponsored by maritime companies that include established shipping lines, shipyards and maritime ancillary service companies such as "K" Line Pte Ltd, Jurong Port Pte Ltd, Lloyd's Register Foundation and Sembcorp Marine Ltd.

All 11 Tripartite Maritime Scholarship Schemes (TMSS) were awarded to SP students taking the **Diplomas in Nautical Studies (DNS)** as well as **Marine Engineering (DMR)**. The scheme

offers scholars an early step up in the maritime career path by obtaining a seafaring education and subsequently becoming Masters or Chief Engineers of oceangoing merchant ships. This invaluable seafaring experience will prepare talented and hardworking officers for top shore-based management positions within the maritime industry.

Koh Ke Hui is a recipient of the MaritimeONE Scholarship. A cheerful go-getter, she was set on joining the maritime industry and aimed to take up the DMB course when she researched her options after her 'O' levels. "After the first month of school, I was even more convinced that I had made the right choice in taking up Maritime Business after learning more about how the maritime industry works. I know I will enjoy my future work, and I want to be part of Singapore's maritime industry in the years to come," says Ke Hui.

Full list of recipients:

MaritimeONE Scholarship 2014 Award Winners (Diploma)
Diploma in Maritime Business: Seah Zhen Rui, Tan Wei Jie, Song Pei Wei, Khin Hayman Hein, Kong Siang Sheng, Shawn Tong

Zongxian, Koh Ke Hui.

Diploma in Marine Engineering: Tomas Tay Han Wen, Muhd Haiqal Bin Nawil, Ng Jian Xin.

MaritimeONE Scholarship 2014 Award Winners (Degree)

Diploma in Maritime Business: Chong Hui Ting, Sherrie Han Kan Lin, Nurul Fatin Bte Abdul Mutalib, Lim Jia Yan, Marilyn Lim Yi Jie, Leong Shi Yi.

Diploma in Maritime Transportation Management: Shi Yiwen, Andrew See Kai Jie, Richard Tan Wei Kiat, Vanessa Lim Chu Ying, Tang Ann Feng, Dominic Yong Sheng An.

Diploma in Marine Engineering: Goh Ziyang, Liu Yongsheng, Mohd Junaidi Bin Mohd Jasni.

Diploma in Optometry: Benny Tan.
TMSS Scholarship 2014 Award Winners (Diploma)

Diploma in Marine Engineering: Lieu Jun Han, Mohd Irfan Tahir, Mohamed Naufal Firas Bin Mohamed Nahar, Mikhail Riyad Mohd Ridzuan, Muhammad Zulhilmil Bin Zainudin.

Diploma in Nautical Studies: Ahmad Azhary Bin Ahmad Tajuddin, Kanade Saiprasad Pramod, Edsel Koh Junming, Kenneth Chee Wei Tat, Mohd Alieff Bin Iskandar, Subham Singh.

Super strength and a huge jump in studies performance are actual abilities that Brent Wong and Victoria Tan gained from CCAs and class lessons during the Poly Foundation Programme (PFP), an admissions scheme that allows the top 10 per cent of the Secondary Four Normal (Academic) cohort to skip Secondary Five and enter SP directly through a one-year foundation course. **SPIRIT** speaks to these pioneer PFP graduates who are now first-year students.



PFP pioneers Brent Wong and Victoria Tan.



Happy graduates of the pioneer PFP batch!

First-Year Graduates!



MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT

Meet Brent Wong. He's the guy in the photo with biceps bulging out from beneath his blazer. Here's a fun fact about him: During his Pasir Ris Crest Secondary days, he started working out, deadlifting weights of around 80kg. Now, he deadlifts 220kg: the combined weight of three adult males.

The **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DME)** student joined SP directly from Sec Four N(A) in April 2013 to complete the PFP foundation course. He estimates that his physical strength has grown about 200 per cent since first coming to SP, which was also when he joined SP's Strongman Club, a CCA dedicated to helping its members achieve their fitness goals. In Strongman, this muscular powerhouse not only trains his physical and mental fitness; he also

participates in competitions. Brent was one of the top 10 finalists in the IOI Mall Strongman Challenge in Kulai, Malaysia. He's also had the chance to meet top athletes such as Ahmad Taufiq Muhammad, a regional strongman champion.

Since Brent started working out in secondary school, he has gone from being slightly chubby, to a human tank lookalike. He says: "I hit the gym often in secondary school but never had a purpose besides getting big and strong. After joining Strongman in SP, things really took off for me. I've formed tight friendships and reached higher and higher goals for strength. I've also had the realisation that it isn't the outside that's important; it's what you work on on the inside, the abilities you develop within yourself."

Besides life in the Strongman Club, being in PFP also gave Brent time to get comfortable with poly life. "Things are definitely different from secondary school. I can manage my time, and do more things I like while still juggling work. I think it's a good experience, trying out new things, learning from mistakes and reflecting on them." He's also warmed up a lot to his course since

joining. "Honestly, at first I was worried that engineering seemed a bit mundane. But now I find I'm learning a lot about things going on in the world, like how I need to learn programming because it's not just iPhone apps that need coding, but machines like cranes as well. And I get to learn the theory behind how computers work, which is pretty interesting."

BOUNCING TO A NEW LEVEL

Victoria Tan's true form is actually a crazy and infectious ball of energy; she just appears to take the shape of a normal teenage girl if you're not looking closely enough. This happy go-getter would often be seen during her CHIJ Katong Convent days bouncing between performing in her drama club, doing all her homework and singing randomly with her best friends. In between juggling multiple activities, she always found time to sit down and study while munching on what she terms her "brain snacks" (a.k.a. comfort food for studying).

Despite her positive attitude though, she was only in 28th place in her Normal (Academic) class of 42 people during mid-terms. Often, she would find herself unable to grasp concepts as quickly as some of her friends. Furthermore, though she was keen on entering SP directly through PFP, she did not receive the invitation letter given to good performers who were likely

to qualify for the programme.

Wanting to give her best shot, Victoria pushed herself harder, putting in extra work and seeking help from teachers. She also found support in her brother Alexander, a final-year **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** student and SP scholar. His positive stories about SP life inspired her. "My brother was definitely a source of motivation for me," shares Victoria. "He kept me going when I felt like giving up and gave me tips on how to study well. Due to his help, I was inspired to charge for the mountain! Haha." The result was a jump from about 17 points during her prelim exams to nine points for her actual 'N' levels, as well as a spot in PFP for the **Diploma in Architecture (DARCH)**.

Since then, the one-year foundation course has given her time to not only study course modules in-depth, but also explore her talents in CCAs. The first-year student has achieved the following so far: Getting on the Director's Honour Roll for top students, receiving the SP Scholarship for her good foundation course results, and becoming the President of the SP Comperes Club (a club for emcees and hosts).

To Victoria, her newfound ability to shine in her studies is owed to the emphasis of poly on practical, hands-on skills. "In secondary school there's just a lot of memorisation and words which my brain simply cannot store up, haha! In poly, there are more presentations and practical projects, which I happen to do better in," she concludes. As for PFP, she says, "I'll always treasure the friendships made, the caring lecturers who taught us, and most of all, the confidence that PFP has helped me achieve."



With SP, Life Goes on Happily



Lionel Lee came to SP for long walks before starting school to familiarise himself with the campus.



Settling in to a new home: Megan Lee has grown to like poly life after a bumpy start.

If you don't know them well enough, Lionel Lee and Megan Lee may just seem like any other full-time students in SP. Living life normally for them, as autistic youths, is not difficult. However, a lot depends on how we interact with them. **SPRIT** contributors Bryan Kwa and Jovy Sim from the Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) speak with them on their hopes and future.

AUTISM WON'T STOP HIM

Studying aerospace electronics is Lionel Lee's dream. However, unlike many others, he has to rise above his autism to reach SP. (By final-year student Bryan Kwa.)

With his lanky frame, Lionel looks just like any other student in SP. Good eye contact, friendly attitude and a tight handshake.

The second-year student from the **Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE)** has come a long way since he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism, at three. Autism is a lifelong condition that affects the way he communicates and relates to others. People like Lionel are not slow intellectually. In fact, they often have normal or high intelligence quotient.

In Lionel's own words, autism is "just a different type of brain wired into a human body." It's just a different way of thinking and seeing the world, he says. "We don't socialise the way you do."

As a child, he could repeat complete sentences but could not make his own. Instead of saying "I want water" to his mother, he would say, "Do you want water?" This was because he always echoed what adults asked him.

His mother, Mrs Lee Sok Fun, quit her job as a lecturer to devote to helping him cope. She

constantly wrote him picture stories and schedules to explain in detail how to learn, how to get into routines or how to make friends – skills that typical children take for granted. These visual methods helped her to communicate better with him.

She planned for him to enter SP, and brought him to two open houses consecutively for two years to get him used to the environment. She also walked with him around the campus to minimise his feelings of anxiety.

"I've difficulty with non-verbal communication," Lionel reveals. "I also have trouble understanding non-literal things like jokes, sarcasm, and figures of speech. I tend to be very logical and straightforward with everything."

Today, Lionel enjoys SP life. He's signed up for track and field training and runs races – not bad for someone who was "anxious and scrawny" way back to his secondary four days. So far, he has achieved a GPA of 3.9 for his freshman year and was nominated for a research programme with A*STAR. His dream? To become a research engineer or physicist. He stays close to plain-speaking friends that he

feels easy with. "I wish to be accepted for who I am with my problems not being dismissed for my autism; all humans have equal rights." He hopes to volunteer at Pathlight School, a special school for autistics, and help to integrate autistic youths into mainstream society.

"The lack of understanding is the reason for autistics being feared or misunderstood," he says. "So there needs to be more awareness. I want to embark on a lifelong mission to spread the awareness of autism."

THE BUMPY ROAD TO SP

After getting expelled from her primary school, Megan Lee joined Pathlight School, and excelled at the special school for autistics. Once featured in a local newspaper for her excellent 'O' level results, she is now a first-year student taking the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design (DVMD). Megan opens up on her past and present, and how she will rise up to meet her challenges. (By final-year student Jovy Sim.)

What are your hobbies, Megan?

I play the violin, guitar, ukulele and piano. I'm hoping to join the SP Strings Ensemble. I

also like drawing, sewing and video games. I also enjoy games that allow me to utilise my creativity, like *Scribblenauts*, or exercise my logical thinking, like the *Professor Layton* series.

What is your biggest achievement so far?

The most recent one would be YouthWrite, a national writing competition where I came in third. I got a cash prize and an iPod, so I was rather excited.

Autistics are thought to be more reserved. Is that true?

It really depends. Before joining Pathlight, I was at Henry Park Primary School for over three years. My mother said I was always running out of class. I was very quiet and was constantly getting picked on by my classmates. They would throw paper planes at me and this resulted in me being rebellious and I was subsequently expelled.

Not all of my classmates there were as quiet as I was. Some were passionate about cars or retro music and they could talk about it all day long. I stopped being shy when I found I could talk about common interests such as playing

online games. It opened me up.

Were you worried about not being able to integrate into SP?

I was quite relaxed actually. I believe that people in polytechnics are more mature so I was not too concerned.

But during my first week, I considered joining my friend at a junior college as I preferred a more serious environment. However, I found that I really enjoyed my lessons at SP and that this was what I wanted. I grew to like poly life and decided to stay. I need to know what is important. I should not let external factors hinder my education. As long as I stay grounded, I am fine.

Is there anything you wish people would do differently when interacting with you?

I wish some people can speak in a more refined manner – more politely without using vulgarities – so that they would not leave a poor impression of themselves on me. I don't like swearing. Sorry if that seems rude. It is just my personal opinion. Sometimes I speak very bluntly or directly.

The Poly Fashion Statement

Choosing what to wear to school can be one of the biggest headaches in poly, especially since we have to prepare five set of clothes each week. But do it right, and you'll be glowing confidently and turning heads in no time. **SPiRiT** writer Desirae Tan interviews two SPians for tips and tricks to lessen your morning headaches.

SHAIREL FOO

Final-year, Diploma in Creative Writing for TV and New Media (DTVM)

DOs

- Always have a basic black dress. That is a definite must-have. Dress it up with accessories, statement shoes, statement bag, etc.
- Keep things simple. If you have a multi-printed skirt, wear a white top.
- Dress according to how you feel, not how other people feel about you. As long as you are confident, you can pull off anything.
- Have a balance. For example, you shouldn't neon your look from head to toe. If you really like neon then I'd say wear plain colours to balance out neon accessories. Or maybe a neon skirt and simple top with simple accessories.

DON'Ts

- My biggest don't is clashing prints. The only prints you can match are those which complement each other, like floral prints and stripes.
- Don't wear heels if you can't walk in them. If you really want to wear heels, practice at home. Or you can opt for creepers or a really nice pair of pumps.

INSPIRATIONS

willamazing on Instagram

I don't really take inspiration from her. I just look up to her because she knows how to wear the best accessory of all: Confidence.

Tumblr

It's like a bible for inspiration. But that said, it still is only inspiration. You have to put your own style and special twist to it. So instead of copying trends, make the trends your own.

IMPROVING THE LOOK

- Makeup helps a lot because it's good to cover up blemishes to complete the whole look. If you wear a white top and jeans, then wear statement shoes.
- Wear white instead of black to instantly brighten up your look.

“I like keeping things simple.”

“I don't really have a definite style. It's more experimental, I guess?”

GOH LIANG YU

Final-year, Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)

DOs

- High-cut shoes are almost always a must for tall people like me. Generally, taller people look more proportionate in them and tend to pull them off better.
- Do have accessories, for example bracelets, necklaces, shades and hats. Bracelets and necklaces can match well with both formal and informal looks so they're highly recommended. You can wear a plain long sleeve shirt with them to instantly bring up your look.
- If you're in a rush, just put on an SP tee (it's only \$5 and dry-fit too) with berms. Better still, grab a hoodie or sweater along.

DON'Ts

- Don't have too much going on for your outfit. For example, striped top with checkered pants. You have to always find a balance.
- Don't restrict yourself. Fashion is to be played around with. You can wear black chinos, a white buttoned shirt and a necklace. Then you can explore more by throwing in a fedora and statement shoes. Layering your clothes can also make a difference.

INSPIRATIONS

iamgalla and Ootdmen on Instagram

iamgalla has more of an understated rather than out-of-the-box style. He has an everyday look but can still stand out in a crowd. Ootdmen is a collection of guys' outfits-of-the-day from around the world. These guys stand out in the Instagram fashion circle,

so if you want inspiration, this is the account to follow.

People on the street

I will observe what people wear at places like Haji Lane or Orchard Road, where people dress up more. I get inspiration when I travel too, for example in Taiwan, because locals there have different styles.

IMPROVING THE LOOK

- I would say messenger backpacks would be a great everyday bag. Some of the more well-known bag brands would be Herschel or Kanken. If you are wearing a plain graphic tee or going for a street-style sort of look, those bags would match the outfit (most of the time). Otherwise, a document bag would be a good match as well.





An enthusiast of sports photography, Jian Wei is also a student photographer for SP publications including **SPiRiT**. He enjoys taking photos at events where emotions run high because "usually there are just some significant moments in such events that make a good photo."

He intends to turn pro soon and has started offering freelance photography as well as instant printing services for events. Those interested can reach him at lee@jwleephoto.com. You can also review his portfolio of works at www.jwleephoto.com.



View From The Top

A National Day Parade (NDP) ticket is already hard to come by. But what's better than having a ticket and watching the parade with thousands of screaming spectators at the Marina Bay Floating Platform? Perhaps watching it from the roof tops of the surrounding hotels?

Impossible? Not for Lee Jian Wei, final-year student from the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)**. For two years, he has been an official photographer for NDP and has had access to document the event from the best locations, including the roof top of Ritz Carlton Hotel. The photos were shot using a Canon 5d3 DSLR camera. His favourite is the composite photo of the parade in full fireworks glory, using six shots blended together digitally.





Timeless: A Celebration of the Arts

The hidden talents of SP students come into full play once again at the SP Arts Fiesta 2014. From music to dance, drama to magic, there's certainly something for everyone. Besides performances, there are also free workshops such as Face Painting, Breakdancing and Beatboxing. Ticketed performances ranging from \$10 to \$20 will be held at venues such as the Esplanade Recital Studio, Kallang Theatre, School of the Arts Concert Hall, SP Convention Centre and the SP Auditorium. For show synopsis and details, go to life.sp.edu.sg/arts/arts-fiesta.



31 Oct & 1 Nov, 7.30pm
HOURGLASS
by SP Theatre Compass
SP Auditorium; Tickets @ \$12
This is the first-ever collaboration between SP's Theatre Compass and Ngee Ann Poly's Stage F'Actor.



5 & 6 Nov, 8pm
SEASONS OF JAZZ (IMPROVISE 7)
by SP Jazz Band
Esplanade Recital Studio,
Tickets @ \$15



7 & 8 Nov, 7.30pm
ANNA - THE TRUTH UNFOLDS (WAVES 19)
by Strictly Dance Zone
Kallang Theatre, Tickets @ \$20 (stall) and \$15 (circle)



12 Nov, 7.30pm
CARPE DIEM (VIVA LA GUITAR 2)
by SP Guitarists
SP Auditorium, Tickets @ \$10



14 Nov, 7.30pm
TIMELESS
by SP Magicians, SP Auditorium, Tickets @ \$10

16 Nov, 7.30pm
CLASSICAL RENAISSANCE XV
by SP String Ensemble
School of the Arts Concert Hall, Tickets @ \$12



19 Nov, 7.30pm
RUSSIAN NIGHT (NOIR ET BLANC II)
by SP Piano Ensemble, SP Auditorium, Tickets @ \$12

20 Nov, 8pm
FROM SCREENS TO DREAMS II
by SP Chinese Orchestra
School of the Arts Concert Hall, Tickets @ \$12



21 Nov, 7.30pm
BACK TO THE FUTURE (A CAPELLA NIGHT III)
by SP Vocal Talents, SP Auditorium, Tickets @ \$12

29 Nov, 6pm
SARMAPANAM 2014: VIDAI - THE SEARCH FOR AN ANSWER
by SP Indian Cultural Society
SP Convention Centre, Tickets @ \$10.



Fiery Water Boys and Girls



For the first time in history, both the SP Dragonboat men (left photo) and women teams clinched all three titles at the POL-ITE Games. On top of their dominating victories at POL-ITE and Sarawak, the club also claimed four championships (Men Premier Open, Women Premier Open, Men Tertiary, Women Tertiary) and one first runner-up placing (Mixed Premier Open) at the SAVA Sprints International 2014.

Not one, not two but three! For the first time in SP history, the almighty power rowers took home all three titles in the Dragonboat finals at the POL-ITE Games, an annual sports meet for all the five polys and ITE colleges. That was not all! The teams also captured the championships at the Sarawak International Dragonboat Regatta where they won the International Open 12 Crew category and the International Mixed 20 Crew category. They fought hard against 20 other powerful teams from countries like Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and Taiwan to emerge champions. SPiRiT talks to the indomitable team captains.

At the finishing point of the race held at Bedok Reservoir, you couldn't tell whether it was the salty water or tears of joy that washed the lobster-tanned faces of the SP Dragonboaters! Capturing all three cups in the Men, Women and Mixed categories at the POL-ITE Games was the most beautiful end to the months of solid training and certainly, missing out a big chunk of their social life.

Ask the SP boys and girls what was the key factor of their success and they will, in one voice, shout: "Teamwork!"

Tan Jun Xuan, the Captain for the SP Dragonboat (Men), a final-year student from the **Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE)**, said: "The journey was never easy for us, having to train almost every day under the scorching sun. Knowing that our competitors were really strong plus having to balance our studies as well, added to the pressure."

The Women's Team did not have it any easier. Said the Captain, Eunice Thiam, a final-year student from the **Diploma in Biotechnology (DBT)**: "With up to 15 training sessions a week, spending extended periods under all weather conditions, rain or shine, the journey to the top was not easy. Every session was gruelling. It tested our willpower, and challenged us both physically and mentally. Injuries were commonplace and tempers were sometimes flared, but giving up was never an option for all of us. We had our sights on a common goal – to defend our title."

Both teams credited their coach, Mr John Goh, who always made time for them despite having to oversee other teams. One important lesson he imparted to them was not about winning but the importance of character which is what builds a true and respectable winner. Coach John did not start out with a champion team, but he built a champion team.

Some people think they are crazy, others think they were wasting time. But to the SP Dragonboaters, it's commitment, dedication and desire. Three months of hell-training, two minutes of rowing, one moment of glory. Would they do it again? Absolutely.



More Success In The Waters

SP water polo (bottom) and canoe polo boys in action.

The SP teams had an excellent run in water sports this year. Besides Dragonboat, the Canoe Polo and Water Polo teams also fought the waves to clinch medals at both the POL-ITE and Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Games. The Water Polo team clinched the silver medal after three wins, one draw and one loss at the POL-ITE Games which was played among the polys and ITE. The Canoe polo team fought a respectable match but narrowly lost the gold medal at the IVP Games.



Magical Winning



SP magician Chan Kuang Hong.

Engineering – DCPE, Class of 2014 alumnus) – First Runner Up in Stage Category and The Most Outstanding Stage Magician Award.

Kuang Hong, who is also an SP Scholar, said entertaining others is what he enjoys most about magic: "The fun factor of magic for me is not really how many tricks I can accumulate, but what the reactions of my audience are. I enjoy seeing people being happy or laughing during my magic shows. After all, magic is about entertainment and giving people an experience that is out of the ordinary." Both he and Jun Yuan agree that their mentor and club founder Cassidy Lee was a key reason for their success. Said Jun Yuan: "Cassidy guided me very patiently throughout my one year of playing magic, staying up with me till 3am to help me with my competition routine and collecting the props I needed. We couldn't have done it without his help."

The SP Magicians recently pulled out their best tricks to win top spots in two magic events. At the Fantabulous Magic Challenge organised as part of the Singapore Street Festival, Chan Kuang Hong (**Diploma in Nutrition, Health and Wellness – DNHW**) won first place, and Goh Yin Xian (**Diploma in Mechanical Engineering – DME**) won runner-up. At the Stars of Magic competition organised by nEbO Enigma, the club's members won the following prizes: Ashten Saw (**Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology – DHRMP**) – The Most Promising Magician Award; Wong Jun Yuan (**Diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management – DEPM**) – The Most Outstanding Close-Up Magician Award; Cassidy Lee (**DME, Class of 2014 alumnus**) – First Runner Up in Close-Up Category; Lim Chung Zheng (**Diploma in Computer**

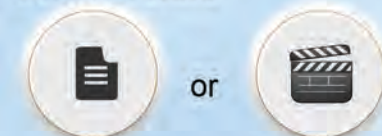


Magic competition winners (front row, from left) Chan Kuang Hong, Wong Jun Yuan, Ashten Saw and Lim Chung Zheng. In the second row are members of the SP Magicians.

Be Money Sensible MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Over **\$2000** in Cash Prizes to be won!

Submit a short:



Article (< 300 words) or Video (< 2 mins) on Being Money Sensible



Sep 2014 to Jan 2015 Open to SP Staff and Students

For details, visit <http://finlit.sg/be-money-sensible/>

B-box Brilliance



He can create the sounds of helicopter rotor blades, booming bass music or even a drum set using only his mouth. This type of sound is called beatboxing, and **Diploma in Computer Engineering (DCPE)** second-year student Shaun Goh isn't too bad at it, to say the least. He and his club, **SP Vocal Talents**, won first place (Beatboxing category) and second place (College category) respectively at the **A Capella Championships in Singapore**. **SPiRiT** gets to know them.

Shaun is part of the SP Vocal Talents team, D'Stellers.

I first got into beatboxing in primary two. I was always on my iPod back then, but during exam time, my parents would forbid me to use it, saying it would distract me. I was bored. So I started making music with my mouth, imitating sounds from the various parts of a drum set. The first song I did was *Billie Jean* by Michael Jackson, and I thought I was really cool!

At that point I felt I was pretty skilled. Then I went to watch YouTube and I realised there were pros out there doing the same thing. The first beatboxer I watched was Felix Zenger, who did a lot of nice effects. After that, I watched videos and practiced with friends to improve.

Helicopter sounds, robot sounds, laser beams... Almost any kind of sound effect can be produced. Personally, I like making more electronic or music sounds.

I like the freedom of making stuff. If you want to try a guitar instrumental, you still need a guitar, and just the right kind of

guitar for a specific sound. But beatboxing can be done anywhere, and you can change your type of sound on the spot.

When our favourite artist, Little Mix, retweeted our cover of their song, *Little Me*, our club was shocked. Getting acknowledged by them and getting 26,000+ views for our video just made us really happy.

The type of music we make is mostly mainstream, like R&B songs. Sometimes we do a few oldies to show people we can be versatile. For the A Capella Championships, we sang *Little Me* and *How Ya Doin'?* by Little Mix, and a mashup of *Back At One* by Brian McKnight, *Because You Loved Me* by Celine Dion, and *Dark Horse* by Katy Perry.

We wondered if we were good enough for competitions before our wins at the A Capella Championships. Now we know a little better where we stand in Singapore.



The D'Stellers team.

SP VOCAL TALENTS

SP Vocal Talents is SP's a capella music club. Besides singing and beatboxing at live performances, the club also does YouTube covers of songs by stars like Rihanna, Destiny's Child, Lorde and Little Mix.

The Vocal Talents team that won second place at the A Capella Championships is called D'Stellers (search "d stellers" YouTube channel). Their members are (from left): Rosanna Junita Togatorop (**Diploma in Business Administration - DBA**), Humaira Bte Mohd Rafee (**Diploma in Accountancy - DAC**), Siti Nur Afiqah (**Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management - DTRM**), Wong Yao Xing (**Diploma in Food Science and Technology - DFST**), Farah A'tikah Bte Abu Bakar (**Diploma in Media and Communication - DMC**), Shaun Goh (**Diploma in Computer Engineering - DCPE**).

The 60th Birthday Run



Winners of the three categories at Poly60 (from top): SP Track and Field (Student), Tietans (Staff - Technology Innovation Enterprise), SP Track and Field (Alumni).



The roads were a little slippery after a cool afternoon shower. On the brighter side though, the weather was, in today's youth jargon, "so cool". The most ideal condition to run 60 rounds around the campus.

That was Poly60, an extension of the original Poly50 to celebrate SP turning 60 this year. The original Poly50 campus relay has been a long tradition since the days in Prince Edward Road campus in the 1960s. The annual event aims to instil both fun as well as the spirit of camaraderie, teamwork and a healthy lifestyle amongst students, alumni and staff.

When Poly50 first started, participants had to run 50 rounds along the classroom corridors and on muddy tracks and turf around the Prince Edward campus. When SP moved to Ayer Rajah, the race took place around the workshops. This year, the run consisted of a relay race of 60 laps of 600m each around the Dover Road campus, starting and ending at elevenSq.

SPiRiT brings you in photos the fun and excitement of the race.

The Roots of SP

Six hundred students, staff and alumni were soaked in sweat and SP history during a 16km Heritage Trail from Raffles Place to Dover Road. It was a literal walk down memory lane. **SPiRiT** has the details.

In the beginning, SP offered courses such as Malay Local Trade Navigation and Secretarial Classes in Shorthand. Such were the skills needed then to build a career in those days. About 60 years on, the variety of courses taught at SP has changed and increased significantly. Fields such as design, IT, business, life sciences and social sciences have been introduced into SP's curriculum, joining the original architecture, accountancy, engineering and maritime courses offered from the 1950s.

To accommodate new spaces and facilities for these courses, SP has shifted and expanded its campus several times. These were the iconic places visited during the trail:



PRINCE EDWARD ROAD CAMPUS

SP's first official campus at Prince Edward Road was officially opened on 24 February 1959. On that day, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, arrived amidst great fanfare at the campus. His visit marked SP's importance as a key institution for Singapore's education and industry.

Diploma in Materials Science second-year student Haw Chee Yeng (above) recounts his experience walking through the halls of the ex-campus site (now known as the Bestway Building):

"I was told by one of the lecturers (a former SP student in the 1960s) that back then the poly at Prince Edward Road had only one main indoor venue – the auditorium – where large-scale lectures could be taught. And there was only a blackboard and chalk in place of our projectors used today. The canteen was a small area by the side; the students then didn't have Thai food, yoghurt or the Korean food that we eat now. Comparing the old campuses to the current Dover campus with the modern features we have such as the air-conditioned lecture theatres, e-learning and wi-fi, I realised that we have gone through so much in 60 years! The walk made me proud of SP's blazing stages of evolution."

DOVER ROAD CAMPUS

The group finally entered the gates of their sweet home, the current SP campus, and were treated to a buffet lunch. Sixteen kilometres in under five hours. Certainly an accomplishment for all the SP folks! And a nice moment for selfies!



BANK OF CHINA

The tour started at the Bank of China building near Raffles Place because SP's first Principal, Mr David J Williams, had a temporary office set up there during the school's construction.



LABRADOR CAMPUS

After 9.5km of walking from the starting point at Bank of China, the group became larger because students joined in mid-way through the trail. This campus was a temporary site used by SP Business School students while the T19 to T22 blocks we know today were being built.



AYER RAJAH CAMPUS

After an additional gruelling 5km walk from Labrador, the group was greeted by a cool, shaded foyer at the Ayer Rajah campus. More nostalgic moments filled the air as photos of the good old days were displayed in an exhibition. There were pictures of young men in short-sleeved shirts and dress pants with young women in wide, ankle-length skirts and buttoned blouses. There was one with groups of guys singing loudly for their freshman orientation camp forfeits. Another had girls in cheerleading outfits with blue, orange and red pom-poms. It seems that the moms and dads of the current generation of students had plenty of fun when they were kids themselves.

THE FIRST POLY WITH A MCDONALD'S

One of SP's most beloved upgrades took place in 1993 with the opening of the first-ever McDonald's outlet in a poly. In celebration of SP's 60th birthday, the No. 1 fast food outlet is giving you a special treat. Simply cut out this coupon and redeem it at the SP outlet.

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Free Vanilla Cone for Every Extra Value Meal™ Purchase

- TERMS & CONDITIONS
- Valid from 20 Oct - 19 Dec 2014
 - Only at McDonald's® Singapore Polytechnic after breakfast hours
 - Only one redemption per coupon, while stocks last
 - Not available for McDelivery® and other offers

The Collared Kingfisher with its regal blue and white plumage at the Eco Oasis.



The Eco Oasis near Food Court 2 is home to kingfishers, monitor lizards, and gorgeous flora.



So Green That *We Make Others Envy*

In richly forested SP, birds are so comfortable that they'll even make their nests in fake potted trees! Watch the QR code video on the right if you don't believe it. This green habitat filled with exotic birds, butterflies and fruit-bearing gardens is the result of 60 years of commitment to green living. We're so green, it makes everyone else greener with envy!

A Crimson Dropwing Dragonfly on a stalk of Coat Button Daisy.

To celebrate SP's 60th anniversary, a 120-page coffee table book was launched to document (and show off!) some gorgeous photos of the campus's almost 230 plant species, over 50 bird species, insects and reptiles. If you're a nature lover, you won't be able to resist the book's grand overview of SP's cornucopia of diverse wildlife. And if you're not, well... there're still lots of pretty pictures.

Fun facts in the book include:

✿ SP has 11 community gardens around the campus which grow fruits such as papaya, jackfruit, custard apple, banana, lemon and durian. They are looked after with tender loving care by the various schools and departments. These gardens also have vegetable patches with tomatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, French beans and radishes.

✿ The school is home to several varieties of kingfishers, parrots, and even the strange and mysterious-looking Oriental Pied Hornbill. It's likely that they pass by, or build homes in SP because it is a natural linkway between Singapore's central forested regions (Mandai, Bukit Timah) and Southern Ridges (10km of green open spaces connecting to areas like Kent Ridge Park).

✿ Tall trees, flowering plants and thick foliage are some features common throughout the school which attract all the different species. Tall trees, for instance, attract birds to nest in them. And some butterflies are selective of the types of plants where they lay their eggs.

✿ In SP, there are more than 2,300 trees.



A passion fruit hanging in the School of Communication, Arts and Social Sciences community garden.

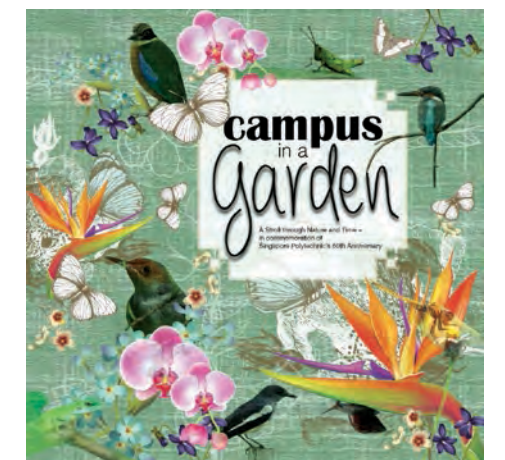
SP's commitment to eco-friendly design and green practices has earned it several awards such as the President's Award for the Environment, the highest honour in Singapore given for achievements in environmental sustainability; and the Community in Bloom Platinum Award given by the National Parks Board. More than that though, it's given all of us a peaceful, oxygen-rich place to study, play, and go on intimate moonlit strolls (at the Eco Oasis, maybe?). And don't forget the custard apples.

✿ In Singapore, there are only 10 Brown Woolly Fig trees. Four of these are in SP, and they have all been classified as Heritage Trees by the National Parks Board.

✿ Birds feel so at home in SP that they'll even nest in fake trees! Staff and students went to Level Two at T4A one day and found a nest with two baby Yellow-vented Bulbuls inside a small, fake potted tree! Scan the QR code to watch a Bulbul adult feed and raise its two growing children!



Campus in a Garden can be read online at www.sp.edu.sg/publications/campusinagarden.pdf or in the school libraries.



Celebrating



AMANDA CHIA
Final-year, Diploma in
Nutrition, Health & Wellness.
SP Sign Language Club

ANDY ONG
Final-year, Diploma in
Engineering with Business.
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