

Alumni@SP

SP ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER | APR 2016



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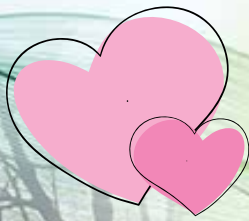
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& ALUMNI RELATIONS

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Alumni in the spotlight

Contrary to popular belief that interracial marriages are challenging, two pairs of SP alumni couples proved that love is more than skin deep. We also spoke to another two pairs of SP alumni couples who shed insights on how they keep love and romance alive in their marriage.

FITRI & SANDY (F&S)

Back then, Fitri and Sandy were course mates of Diploma in Media & Communications in SP's School of Business (now known as SP Business School). They first knew each other while leading the Freshmen Orientation Camp. After what seemed like an endless courtship of 9 years and 6 months, they finally tied the knot.

Tell us more about your love story. Any challenges that you faced?

F&S: It was love at first sight for us and we got together within a month.

S: The biggest challenge was when my father found out that the person I was dating is a Malay. He advised me to break up with him but I loved him too much at that time to want to end things. So, we dated secretly. One day when I was sick, he visited me and brought me yong tau foo and mushroom soup. My mother was touched by his gesture and told my father about it. Subsequently when my parents got to know him, they accepted him.

What are your secrets in keeping your marriage blissful and fulfilling?

F&S: Communication and trust. Do show love for your other half in your own ways. Share your thoughts and feelings with each other and always make decisions together.



Alumni in the spotlight



KIAP YONG & SYAZA (KY&S)

Kiap Yong and Syaza came to know each other at a School of Chemical & Life Sciences (CLS) event in 2004. The platonic friendship soon developed into mutual attraction. Reflecting on their seven year courtship, they mentioned that 'there are many challenges in a Chinese-Muslim relationship, but it is also through overcoming these difficulties together that their relationship became stronger'.

Tell us more about your love story. Any challenges that you faced?

S: We were friends since our Polytechnic days. Both of us graduated with Diploma in Chemical Process (Food Technology); KY in Year 2006 and myself in Year 2007. We only kept in contact occasionally after graduation. Years later, we started to get closer and sparks began to fly. Because of the differences in cultural background, our journey together was not smooth-sailing due to the many disagreements that we often had. But, we are glad that we managed to overcome the odds to be where we are today.



What are your secrets in keeping your marriage blissful and fulfilling?

KY&S: There is no real secret. We consider our marriage as an endless journey of courtship because things are the same for us before and after marriage, except for the change in status. Creating more shared experiences through activities have certainly helped in making our marriage life more fulfilling. We also try to iron things out immediately whenever we are faced with issues. It is also important to keep reminding ourselves the reason why we chose each other in the first place.

Alumni in the spotlight



MR LIM CHUN KEAT & MS CHUA YINA (CK&Y)

Both Chun Keat and Yina were former students of SP who returned to their alma mater years later to serve as lecturers. Chun Keat graduated with Diploma in Architectural Technology in 1997 while Yina graduated with Diploma in Civil & Structural Engineering in 2004. Both of them met each other while they were working at Surbana International Consultants before they left to join SP. After four years of courtship, they eventually got married. They are now the proud parents of an adorable two year old boy, Aders.

Tell us more about why both of you decided to return to your alma mater to teach?

CK&Y: We believe in giving back to our alma mater, hence we are back as lecturers! Also, we find teaching a very fulfilling career where we mould the next generation.

How does it feel to be together almost all the time, both at home and at work?

CK&Y: Many colleagues and friends do ask if we are tired of seeing each other at home and at work? For us, being together most of the time has in fact brought us closer together in more ways than one. And that, to us, is a real blessing.

What are your secrets in keeping your marriage blissful and fulfilling?

CK: Patience and dedication to each other. Yina is patient with me. For me, I show my dedication by following her whenever she wants to shop. I never find it tiresome and boring to shop with her in the women's section. Likewise, Yina will do the same for me.



Alumni in the spotlight



RYAN & TAY LI YING (R&LY)

Both Ryan and Li Ying graduated successfully from SP with Diploma in Marine Engineering. Ryan first caught Li Ying's eye while he was sitting around Foodcourt 2, playing a card game with his course mates. When they met each other again at the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) clubhouse, there was instant chemistry and love blossomed between them. They are now happily married and have three young girls who fill their days with laughter and joy.

Any unforgettable episode of your courtship while in SP?

LY: SMA organised a captain's ball competition and Ryan took part along with me. He was never into club events, so I would like to think that he became a sporty guy because of me.

Tell us more about your family?

R&LY: We live in our HDB flat and are the proud parents of our three princesses, Natalie (5 years old), Nicole (3 years old) and Naomi (6 months old). As a family, we enjoy going to East Coast Park for cycling.

What are your secrets in keeping your marriage blissful and fulfilling?

R&LY: We make it a point to go for holidays together. It helps us to bond well as a family!



Inbox

SP MEMORIES

Some of our SP alumni wrote in to share on their most memorable venue and /or experience in Singapore Polytechnic.

“ Throughout my educational years, Singapore Polytechnic is the place that I have the most unforgettable memories. I spent most time in various laboratories, workshops, foodcourt 1 and Macdonalds. My two favourite lecturers are Mrs Tan and Mr Ho.

Phan Li Chuin
Class of 2000/2001

“ My friends and I have always been singing in the Moberly because it's super cheap!

Grace Yeo
Class of 2012/2013

“ After school, the clubhouse will be the place for hangouts with friends from other courses for sports or games. Freshmen orientation camp was also one of the event that we look forward to as we start to foster friendships with the freshmen.

Ling Ming Jie
Class of 2002/2003

“ The library is the most memorable place as my classmates and I will study there together before the examinations. We studied from morning to evening before we call it a day.

Khoo Say Yang
Class of 2005/2006

“ One of my best memories was taking part in Poly 50 as an alumnus and running alongside current students. Running past the labs and canteens where I spent most of my three years evoked strong emotions. Memories to keep for a long time.

Jonathan Foo
Class of 2002/2003

“ I have always loved the swimming pool and gym. Up till now, if I have time, I will go back.

Kelly Teo
Class of 2011/2012

“ My most memorable time was during my Final Year Project (FYP). I spent a lot of time in the labs.

Tim Ye Gao Ming
Class of 2012/2013

JOKE OF THE DAY

What has made you laugh recently? Heard a great joke and will like to share it with your friends from SP?

Receive a memento from us when you submit your entry here before 29 April 2016. Note that we will only publish selected entries.

- Your contribution should be previously unpublished
- Note that we cannot return submissions
- We will not give feedback or acknowledge receipt of the submission
- All submissions become our property in the Alumni@ SP E-newsletter. We reserve the right to edit and publish submissions.

Click [here](#) to submit your entry now!

Giving Back



REMEMBERING THE TIME

Mr Wellon Chou is a founder and principal trainer of Memory Ark Pte Ltd. His company is committed to help people harness the potential of their brains through memory techniques. Mr Chou discovered his talent and interests while he was a student at Singapore Polytechnic (SP). He graduated with the Diploma in Engineering with Business. He has since given many of such memory talks and workshops to train lecturers from SP and employees from DBS Bank. In December 2014, he was appointed the President of the Singapore chapter by World Memory Sports Council. Alumni@ SP caught up with him to find out more on his journey in building up his business in Memory Ark and his dedication in giving back to his alma mater.



At a memory training workshop



Giving Back



How has your alma mater, SP, impacted you?

SP has provided me with a holistic education in engineering and business.

The three years spent in SP shaped me into a more analytical and resourceful individual.

Besides, SP has taught me the importance of giving back to society whenever opportunities arise.

Has SP equipped you for your career?

Certainly, SP has given me the opportunities to enter this industry, as well as equipped me with the necessary engineering and business management skillsets to excel in this industry. SP Enterprise Centre gave me a platform to realise my business idea. Through engaging external vendors to evaluate my business idea, I was able to solidify my business plan and was eventually awarded the ACE start-up grant by Spring Singapore.

How are Memory Ark workshops useful?

The workshops equipped participants with fundamental memory techniques which help them improve their memorising abilities. Memory abilities include speed of memorisation, retention of information etc.

What are the motivating factors for you to give back to SP?

SP has helped me tremendously along my entrepreneurial journey. In fact, I am very appreciative of my course manager, Mr Chee Choong Yang and Human Factors lecturer, Mr Roger Chiun for their relentless support and guidance. They were always ready to share with me ideas on expanding Memory Ark and providing me with assistance whenever I needed. The genuine assistance which they offered to me, in my initial phase of this start-up, motivated me to give back to SP.

Any future plans for the Memory Ark?

Memory Ark aims to benefit as many individuals as possible through creating awareness on importance of memory sports; mental fitness is as important as physical fitness.



Continuing Education and Training



Leonide Chang graduated with a Diploma in Business Administration course. Currently a Project Manager at Jabil Singapore, she continues her lifelong learning journey with a Principles of Business Analytics course at the SP Pace Academy in 2015.

How has SP education equipped you for your career / further education?

SP education is very relevant and practical. The project and presentation-based curriculum also equipped me with the necessary skills for workplace. It taught me how to lead, present and work with a team.

What makes you decide to take up this Principles of Business Analytics course?

I am keen in Principles of Business Analytics as it is applicable everywhere. It enables me to understand more on how business analytics works and the many topics covered in the course is very relevant to my day to day life.

How has this course benefitted you?

It helps me to understand more about business and appreciate more how the whole end-to-end process works.

Would you recommend this course to your friends? Why?

Definitely! It is relevant and very interesting. The useful theories and analytical tools that we have been introduced with, as well as, the lively interactions made learning so much more fun and meaningful.

Now that you have successfully upgraded yourself, is there a clearer dimension to your future career goal?

Although it is not directly related to my current work, it does provide me with certain insights on how the world is evolving and what is the current trend and how I can leverage on my newly acquired knowledge at work.

Click [here](#) to find out more information on the Principles of Business Analytics course.



Upcoming Courses



PACE Academy Courses

Advanced Business Analytics	23 JUN – 24 JUN 2016
Big Data Analytics : A Primer and Practicum	10 MAY – 13 MAY 2016
Class 1 Boiler Attendant Course	9 JUL – 13 AUG 2016
Events Management	27 SEP - 28 SEP 2016
Import/Export Business and International Trade	11 APR – 12 APR 2016
Import/Export Business Contract and International Trade Practices	25 APR – 26 APR 2016
Import/Export Practices and Effective Uses of Letter of Credit	16 MAY – 17 MAY 2016
Infocomm Security for Non-IT Professionals	7 SEP – 8 SEP 2016
Introduction to Survey Methodology: Sampling and Factor Analysis	19 MAY – 20 MAY 2016
Personal Financial Fitness: An Introduction	10,12,17 MAY 2016
Principles of Business Analytics	21 APR – 22 APR 2016
Preparatory Mathematics for University	26 APR – 16 JUN 2016
Preparatory Physics for University	25 APR – 20 JUN 2016

Upcoming Courses

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www.sp.edu.sg/schools/dmit/pdc-sweb/form

By 22nd April 2016

Entry Requirements

Polytechnic graduates, from the Polytechnics in Singapore, who have graduated from a relevant IT polytechnic diploma course for at least 2 years.

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www.sp.edu.sg/schools/dmit/pdc-sweb

Happenings@SP

DNS alumni provided students with insights on their personal experiences at sea.



SMA ALUMNI GAVE INSPIRING TALKS

On 25 November 2015, Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) was very pleased to welcome Dato' Ramasamy Ramesh back to his alma mater to share with a group of sixty Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) students on his experience when he started off as a nautical student forty years ago. He spoke about his career transition to the aviation industry before establishing his business in the maritime sector. "Nothing is certain in life. To achieve your goals, you will need to work hard for it and seize any opportunities that comes your way," Dato' Ramasamy asserted. He also emphasised on the importance in giving back to the society.

Mark Koh, Milli Koh and Alex Fung, who are recent graduates from DNS, also shared about their

respective experiences at sea. "Be matured with your decisions and actions because your life and other lives are at stake," Mark reminded the students. Both Milli and Alex are currently pursuing their Class 1 and 2 Certificates of Competency (CoC) at SMA. "A good officer needs both knowledge and values. Go out to sea with knowledge and come back with values," Alex remarked. Milli also gave a piece of good advice for the students "No matter the weather, you should stay strong, stay focus and persevere on. As long you're able to brave the stormy seas, you are bound to succeed one day."

The students were much inspired and motivated after gaining first-hand insights of the exciting sea careers and useful tips from their seniors.

Happenings@SP



DHLFM graduates gathered for a group photograph with their lecturers



DHLFM ALUMNI NIGHT

The first two batches of Diploma of Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management (DHLFM) graduates were invited to the Alumni Night which was held on 11 December 2015 in the Hotel Splendour Learning Lab, a familiar ground where they had spent three years perfecting both their soft skills and technical skills.

It was gratifying for lecturers to hear of their graduates' progression into diverse careers in the

civil service, hotels, facilities management, as well as, for those who chose to further their studies. This was perfectly exemplified by Mr Iskandar Bin Ishak, who shared that he is currently with the Housing and Development Board (HDB) and is also pursuing a part-time degree with UNISIM. "I am so glad that my lecturers prepared us well to cope for the challenges ahead. I am now confident to do well in whatever I am tasked with!" Mr Iskandar remarked.



The dialogue session with two successful alumni who inspired more than 120 students

THE INSPIRING DIALOGUE

On 20 January 2016, the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (SEEE) organised a dialogue session where two successful alumni shared with more than 120 current student leaders on their life experiences, with a focus to inculcate resilience to them.

The two speakers are Dr Patrick Liew (a Managing Partner of Global Enterprise Exchange) and Mr Jimmy Lim (President of Singapore Polytechnic Graduates' Guild and Chairman of SPGG Endowment Fund). Their respective life stories of the various struggles in overcoming failures and disappointments to become whom they are today truly captivated the attention of the audience!

SMA students and lecturers performing at the event



More than 130 SMA alumni attended the homecoming reunion

SMA ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2016

More than 130 Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) alumni from various cohorts returned to SP on 28 January 2016 for a homecoming reunion. Captain Mohd Salleh Ahmad Sarwan, the Director of SMA, updated everyone on the recent developments of the institution, as well as, SMA.

The evening ended on a high note with musical performances put up jointly by two talented SMA

students Ammar Bin Abdul Rahman and Nur Qhumairah Binte Johani, as well as, their SMA lecturers Captain Frederick Francis, Captain Savio Coutino and Captain Paul Ezekiel.

It was evident that all the attendees enjoyed catching up with their friends and making new friends at the event.

Happenings@SP

SP alumni volunteers
and elderly participating
in the lo-hei



A group photo with the volunteers taken at the end of the event

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION WITH THE ELDERLY

More than 35 SP alumni and students celebrated Lunar New Year early on 30 January at the **“Chinese New Year Celebration with the Elderly”**. It was an event jointly organised by the Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations (DSA) and mycentre@moulmein to promote intergenerational bonding and more importantly, to spread festive cheers to the 60 lonely elderly who mostly have little income.

The elderly were guided through a fun-filled terrarium-making session before being treated to wonderful performances put up by the students from SP Harmonica Ensemble and SP Chinese Music and Cultural Club (CMCC). They were then

served a sumptuous buffet lunch by the alumni volunteers. Each of the elderly also received a \$10 shopping voucher and two goodie bags packed with necessities.

From the wide smiles of the elderly, it was evident that they have thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the event. “I still could not believe that I have won this great hamper!” exclaimed an elderly who is a winner of the terrarium-making competition.

Volunteers busied themselves at the event, with a common aim to bring joy to the elderly. “It is fun and meaningful, and I will definitely like to join in for future community service events,” Jun Yuan said readily.

Register your interest [here](#) if you will like to be notified for **future community service programmes**.



Mr Jimmy Chan Siew Meng, a SP alumni, sharing the realities of the working world with students



A group photo taken at the inaugural DES day

INAUGURAL DES DAY

The inaugural Diploma in Engineering Systems (DES) Day was held on 12 February 2016 at LT6. Mr Jimmy Chan Siew Meng, who is currently a senior manager with Broadcom Limited (Asia Test Operation), returned to his alma mater for a sharing session with more than 120 DES students.

The sharing session proved to be insightful. Mr Jimmy Chan provided much useful information on the 'realities of the working world' to the students. One of the students, Nur Farzana remarked, "Mr Jimmy pointed out that social networking is important as it

could open doors and new opportunities. The talk sets me thinking in depth about what is next for me and my future. I am grateful to get the chance to hear his thoughtful advice for us – the graduating students."

From many other graduating students that we spoke to after the session, it is apparent that Mr Jimmy has inspired his juniors to be better prepared for the working world. The event also provided a good platform for DES students across three different cohorts to interact with each other, as well as, with their lecturers.

SP Lion Dance, SP Dancesportz and SP Chinese Orchestra performed enthusiastically at the Alumni Appreciation Dinner



All in laughter during the Prosperity Toss



More than 100 SP alumni and staff gathered at the hall to bond over the buffet dinner and entertaining performances

Mr Kelly Lee, Director of DSA, was presented a gift by the SP Lion Dance

ALUMNI APPRECIATION DINNER

19 February 2016 marks a special evening for more than 100 SP alumni and staff who gathered at the hall to bond over a delectable buffet dinner and entertaining performances. The Alumni Appreciation Dinner is an event organised by the Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations (DSA) to express its gratitude towards alumni for their unwavering support and selfless contributions to the institution.

Most of the attendees arrived early to mingle over

cocktail and took group photos at the photo booth. As soon as they settled down at their seats, they were treated to a series of entertaining performances put up by students and alumni from the SP Lion Dance, SP DanceSport and SP Chinese Orchestra.

Many alumni were happy to return to their alma mater to meet their fellow friends and lecturers. On this note, we hope that our alumni will continue to return to SP, contribute to the vision of the institution and forge a stronger alumni community.

Guest-of-Honour Mr Tay Kheng Soon, SP Management, ABE key staff and the student team for Epilogue posed for a group photograph on the opening night



Mr Tay Kheng Soon, the guest-of-honour, addressing the audience at the opening night of Epilogue



Alumni from various cohorts posing for a group photograph next to the W5A sign, a place which brings back many wonderful memories for ABE alumni



A graduating student explaining his project proposal to industry visitors



A visitor immersed herself in a Diploma in Architecture Year 3 exhibit

EPILOGUE

Epilogue is an exhibition of architectural and landscape architectural works organised by the School of Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE), Singapore Polytechnic (SP), showcasing final year projects of graduating students from both Diploma in Architecture and Diploma in Landscape Architecture.

More than 100 alumni from various cohorts returned to SP to visit the exhibition which was held from 7th to 11th March 2016. Mr Tay Kheng Soon, who graduated from SP in 1963, was delighted to return to his alma mater. He said, "I am proud to be invited back to SP as the guest of honour for Epilogue's opening." The exhibition presented a perfect platform for alumni

to gather and catch up with one another. Besides connecting and bonding with their old friends and lecturers through this event, the alumni were able to forge new friendships. Many of them also took the opportunity to capture memories of W5A before it undergoes renovation. W5A is a memorable place for ABE alumni who spent most of their three years there.

An ABE graduate of Class 2014, Shatha, remarked that, "This event is certainly a big hit! It is way better and complete than graduating shows of previous years. Well done to ABE!" Such words of encouragement will certainly motivate the school to continue their good efforts in engaging its stakeholders.



Group photos taken by graduating students, staff and alumni who attended the DEB Graduation Party on 16 March 2016

DEB GRADUATION PARTY

About 100 graduating students, staff and alumni attended the Diploma in Engineering with Business (DEB) Graduation Party on 16 March 2016. Alumni from the previous cohorts were invited to network with the graduating students.

Mr Lee Chee Whye, Deputy Director of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE), shared some useful tips with the students on what they should do to survive well in the competitive and fast-paced world. There was also a presentation to inform the alumni on the

availability of Continuing Education and Training (CET) courses, as well as, some possible avenues for them to seek for upgrading through courses conducted by the SP Professional & Adult Continuing Education (PACE) Academy.

The alumni were thereafter treated to a sumptuous buffet meal, musical performances by their classmates and interesting party games. They also took many photographs to capture the beautiful memories of the night.



SP ALUMNI STAFF FRUITS PARTY

More than 60 SP alumni staff were treated to a fruits fiesta at the SP auditorium on 22 March 2016. Organised by the Department of Student Development and Alumni Relations (DSA) for the first time, the Fruits Party was welcomed by the attendees. The event started with a presentation by Mr Ho Thiam Aik, manager from the alumni section

of DSA, who shared briefly on the alumni initiatives and activities. Thereafter, the alumni mingled with each other while they enjoyed the nine varieties of tropical fruits. Ms Zhuo Peifen, a business development officer working in the SP Pace Academy, remarked "It is certainly fun getting to know which other colleagues are graduates of SP!"