

SP Alliance & Network

# SP Alumni eNews

August 2022



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:  
MABEL LOW  
TURNS PAPER  
INTO ART**





Founder of Papersynthesis

## Ms Mabel Low

Diploma in Experience and Product Design, 2012

# DISCOVERING HER PASSION FOR PAPER AT SP



**Meet Ms Mabel Low, a Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Alumna who married her love of paper and florals to launch a successful business in the midst of the circuit breaker.**

**Graduating in 2012 with a Diploma in Experience and Product Design (DXPD), SP Alumna Ms Mabel Low is now the founder of paper floral studio, Papersynthesis.**

After struggling to keep her houseplants alive, Ms Low experimented with paper plants and shared the beautiful results online. As public interest in her artwork steadily grew, it gave her the confidence to make designing paper florals her full-time business. Now an entrepreneur, Ms Low expands her horizons by venturing into teaching and brand collaborations. As an adjunct lecturer at SP, she shares her experiences and expertise with future designers.

### It All Started at SP

Looking back, Ms Low explained how a school project sparked her love for paper. Students had to replicate any electrical product with paper and Ms Low decided to replicate a hair straightener, complete with an open and close function and a locking mechanism. Her final project impressed her lecturer, which led her to experiment with paper across her academic career and become an entrepreneur in paper crafts.

When asked why she kept returning to paper as an art medium, Ms Low shared, "I really enjoy working with paper. When I work with paper, I can feel and understand it simply by touch."

### Highlights of SP

Ms Low shares how internship opportunities and overseas exchanges were the highlights of her time at SP.

During an overseas internship to Milan, she met several renowned designers and learnt exhibition management first-hand. Through her experience in managing the large-scale event, she discovered

her joy in leading her peers to achieve a successful outcome.

On another student exchange to Dalian, China, Ms Low improved her Adobe Illustrator skills. Ms Low credits her lecturer, Mr Winston for being patient and showing her the ropes of the programme, which gave her the skills she now uses to design her paper florals.

### Campus Culture of Care at SP

Ms Low reminisces about the unique learning environment at SP and how it allowed her to flourish.

"One thing that stood out to me was the amount of peer learning. Even if we were working on individual projects, our lecturers encouraged us to work in groups. This way we got different perspectives on our work and learned from each other. The lecturers were also always ready to help us. Whenever we wanted to consult them, they happily heard us out and helped develop our ideas."

As students with little access to the product design industry, Ms Low credits her adjunct lecturers for sharing their real-world experiences and for being the best sounding board to discuss ideas.

"I really admired these lecturers as they had a lot to offer. They were experienced in their own fields and offered different perspectives; it was just so amazing to be learning from them. Till today I remember all of my lecturers. What's more, after graduation, my lecturers eventually became my colleagues."

### Challenges of an Entrepreneur

Ms Low also gives us a peek into the entrepreneurial world and how it may not be as easy as it's portrayed on social media.

She made it clear that running your own business does not equate to having more free time. As a craftsperson, the time taken to craft varies from job to job. "If you want to be a maker and start a business, consider it properly. That's because if you work for someone, you get scheduled leaves and weekends off. With my own business, I provide for these myself. I get tired from the work and stress involved so be aware that starting your own business is a huge decision to make."

### Advice for SP Alumni

When asked to give advice to graduating students, Ms Low shares the importance of not being afraid to fail. She encourages students to step out of their comfort zones to gain new and exciting experiences.

"I step out of my comfort zone to hold workshops, to become an adjunct lecturer and teach so that I can have that experience. So, if you decide to pursue a new direction, don't be scared to try it out for a few months. There's no harm even if it fails. If you don't try it out when you're young then when are you going to do it? So don't be afraid. Just do it."





## SP Alumna Hazel Lim carves a new pathway in her tech career within the banking industry

Having gotten a taste of the banking world through her one-year apprenticeship with JP Morgan Singapore, SP Diploma in Financial Informatics alumna Ms Hazel Lim now works there full-time as a business manager, where she analyses data to drive sales. She is also pursuing a four-year business degree at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

## Continuing Education and Training (CET) market is booming due to high demand by working adults for further education

Continuing Education and Training (CET) has gradually developed into a flourishing market, with a focus on providing various learning and training opportunities for adult learners. SP's Professional and Adult Continuing Education (PACE) Academy director Wong Jian Chang said that attention is paid to continuous professional development for their teaching staff to ensure that PACE Academy's curriculum remains highly relevant for CET learners. In addition to conducting regular reviews of their teaching performance, seminars and workshops are organised to help them adopt the latest technology and CET pedagogy. To further support the upskilling of staff, SP collaborates with Bosch Rexroth to jointly establish a training centre in the Jurong Innovation District.



## SP Alumnus John Alicante Embile makes his international floorball debut

SP Diploma in Architecture alumnus John Alicante Embile makes his international floorball debut for the Philippines against South Korea in the Men's World Floorball Championship Qualifiers. He will be working in Singapore for three years before pursuing tertiary studies overseas.



## SP Alumnus Cheong Yuan Rong was part of the team that pitched a winning idea during the Sustainability Exchange 2022 youth-mentorship programme

SP Diploma in Banking and Finance alumna Cheong Yuan Rong was part of a team comprising of NUS undergraduates that pitched a winning idea during the recent Sustainability Exchange 2022 youth-mentorship programme. Presenting a vending machine that rents reusable items, their team is one of five selected by OCBC Bank to receive funding support for the implementation of their winning project.

## SP Alumnus Samadi Abdul Ghani breaks stereotypes to continue making traditional Malay confectionery for community

SP Diploma in Business Administration alumnus Mr Samadi Abdul Ghani is the owner of The Kuihmaker, which opened last November. The former Malay part-time teacher of 14 years and former real estate agent for 15 years was willing to abandon his career to uphold and continue the traditional Malay confectionery heritage for the community.



## SP Alumna Sarah Sharieff is part of the first batch of MaritimeSG Youth Ambassadors (MYAs) to share knowledge about the industry

As one of the 18 representatives of the Maritime and Port Authority's pioneer batch of MaritimeSG Youth Ambassadors (MYAs), SP Diploma in Maritime Business alumna Sarah Sharieff hopes to reach out to secondary school students to explain more about the different ways to improve efficiency in shipping through digitalisation and the concept of decarbonisation.





## SP Alumnus Lawrence Kim diversified operations to keep maritime company competitive

Ebenezer Group CEO and SP alumnus Lawrence Kim has managed to turn the company around despite his father's wishes to close it down due to poor business. He has diversified the company's operations to enable it to survive economic challenges throughout the years and more recently, the pandemic. His foray into business started when he was studying at SP, where he was assisting a church with its publicity efforts. He then went on to start a printing business on his own.



SP Diploma in Civil Engineering alumnus Chia Way Seng became the first Singaporean to receive a Dutch knighthood in recognition of his work in raising awareness of the polder technique. The polder technique is where a tract of low-lying land is reclaimed from a body of water, often the sea, by the construction of dikes roughly parallel to the shoreline, followed by drainage of the area between the dikes and the natural coastline.

## SP Alumna Qis Maraj stars in "Anak Metropolitan 4.0"

SP Diploma in Music and Audio Technology graduate, Qis Maraj, was given the main role as Abil in the drama called 'Anak Metropolitan 4.0'. Produced by Eaglevision Productions in collaboration with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), 'Anak Metropolitan 4.0' tells the story of the emotional upheaval of youths from family and school pressures that causes them to get caught up in gangster activities. It was broadcasted via the meWATCH app, TikTok 'live' and Suria.



## SP Alumnus is the first Singaporean to get Dutch knighthood in recognition of his work in raising awareness of the polder technique

## Transforming the Future of Built Environment Together

Singapore Polytechnic @ International Built Environment Week

**Date:** 6 - 8 Sep 2022

**Time:** 9am - 5pm

**Venue:** Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Level 1 Hall B, Booth B06

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## MOE Teaching Scholarship Information Sessions

AUG 2022

Sciences

20 Aug 2022  
10am - 11.30am

Humanities

27 Aug 2022  
10am - 11.30am

SEP 2022

Art and Music

3 Sep 2022  
10am - 11.30am

Chinese Language

3 Sep 2022  
1.30pm - 3pm



RSVP at [go.gov.sg/moe-ts-info](https://go.gov.sg/moe-ts-info)



Teaching Scholarships Website: [moe.gov.sg/tss](https://moe.gov.sg/tss)

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