

SP Alliance & Network

SP Alumni eNews

June 2024

A photograph of a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue blazer over a dark t-shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is standing in a brightly lit hallway with colorful wall panels in shades of green, blue, and yellow. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in the distance.

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
(CYBER)SECURING
A FUTURE
FOR HIMSELF**



Emil Tan

Head Crew & Co-Founder,
Division Zero (Div0)

Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (2009)

CRACKING THE CYBERSECURITY CODE

The road to success is paved with education, mentorship, and the right attitude. Emil Tan’s story proves that with passion, dedication, and continuous learning, anything is possible.

Unlocking a Passion for Cybersecurity

Growing up, Emil had a natural affinity for mathematics but struggled with other subjects. His interest in IT and cybersecurity was sparked by movies and TV shows about hackers and digital forensics. This passion led him to pursue a Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM) at SP, a decision that profoundly shaped his future.

“My journey to DISM was driven by my organic foundational interests and strengths in maths and technology. IT stood out because it seemed more forward-looking, especially as our lives are increasingly intertwined with technology.”

A Valuable Experience at SP

Emil recalls his time at SP as being filled with enriching experiences and invaluable mentorship. His lecturers provided crucial support and early industry exposure, including attending conferences, participating in competitions, and planning his educational path after SP.

“They were deeply invested in our growth, not just academically but also in terms of our careers and education beyond SP. This encouraged me to think about my future and career prospects.”

One of Emil’s most cherished memories was participating in Capture-the-Flag (CTF) competitions in Singapore and Malaysia. These experiences fostered a proactive and entrepreneurial mindset.

“We were exposed to various competitions that involved hacking and defending systems. We often competed against professionals, which was both challenging and exciting. The competitions taught me to seize opportunities and think beyond fixed curriculums.”

FYP: The Game Changer

Emil’s Final Year Project (FYP) was another significant milestone. He worked on a project related to Honeypots, which are

systems designed to attract and study attackers’ behaviour to develop defensive countermeasures. This project, inspired by his internship at DSO National Labs, allowed him to transition from being a student to applying his knowledge in a practical setting.

“It was a humbling experience, but it taught me valuable project management and teamwork skills. Working on the FYP with my peers and supervisor was instrumental in shaping my approach to the industry.”

Higher Learning, Higher Achievements

After graduating from SP, Emil pursued further studies at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he obtained a BSc in Computer Science and an MSc in Information Security. SP’s practical curriculum had sparked his curiosity about the underlying maths and science powering technology, which prompted him to deepen his knowledge.

Emil’s time at Royal Holloway also nurtured his entrepreneurial spirit. He founded the university’s Computing Society, leading it to win several awards. His efforts were recognised when he was invited to meet Queen Elizabeth II.

“My university experience at Royal Holloway was probably some of the best years of my life. The academic environment expanded my mind to other disciplines beyond Computer Science.”

Wearing Many Hats

Emil’s career in cybersecurity has been dynamic and evolving. At DSO, he developed proof-of-concept solutions to emerging threats. Then, as a Security Operations Centre (SOC) analyst at MINDEF, he gained hands-on experience defending against real-world cyber threats.

As his career progressed, Emil moved towards shaping the broader cybersecurity landscape. Recognising the need for capacity and talent development, he co-founded Division Zero (Div0) and Red Alpha Cybersecurity to bridge the skills gap in the industry.

“My career has been driven by a deep interest in all facets of cybersecurity. I have pursued various roles because I see it as an interconnected ecosystem where each facet influences the others.”

Giving Back, Looking Forward

Emil’s commitment to giving back is evident in his role as an adjunct lecturer at SP’s School of Computing. Sharing his experiences and knowledge, he aims to inspire and equip the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

“The lecturers at SP had a profound impact on my personal and professional development. This is my way of giving back to the institution that played a pivotal role in my career.”

He also co-founded Cyber Youth Singapore (CYS) and other initiatives to foster a collaborative environment and drive industry innovation. His proactive and entrepreneurial mindset, cultivated at SP, continues to guide his efforts.

Tips for Tomorrow’s Tech Leaders

Emil advises future SP alumni to embrace continuous learning and adaptability, engage actively with the industry, and explore different facets of their field.

“Stay curious, be proactive, and remain adaptable. These qualities will prepare you for a dynamic and fulfilling career.”

For Emil, success is defined by the positive impact he has on others and his contributions to the broader community. Looking ahead, he hopes to continue contributing to the evolving cybersecurity landscape, seizing new opportunities, and driving positive change.



Source: The Straits Times, 19 May 2024

SP Graduate, 56, Among 600 Mature Students Graduating from Polytechnics

Among the approximately 25,000 students who graduated from polytechnics in 2024, 600 were over the age of 40, according to the Ministry of Education (MOE). This number has remained consistent over the past few years. The MOE hopes to see “greater training participation among those aged 40 and above” with the newly announced SkillsFuture Level-Up Programme, which includes a SkillsFuture credit top-up of \$4,000 for mid-career Singaporeans starting in May. One notable graduate from SP is Mr Mohamed Nazri. Almost 30 years after obtaining an Industrial Technician Certificate, Mr Nazri returned to the classroom. Encouraged by his daughter, whom he had urged to pursue a master’s degree, the 56-year-old technical officer in the rail industry accepted her challenge: “I’ll do it if you do it too.” They pursued their studies together, and after more than two years, Mr Nazri graduated with a diploma in engineering, specialising in rapid transport technology.



Source: Berita Mediacorp, 21 May 2024

An SP Alumna’s Journey to Valedictorian

Fatin Nur Syaza Rosli’s fascination with the maritime sector began when she heard captivating stories from her senior at SP, which eventually led her to pursue SP’s Diploma in Maritime Business. Throughout her studies, Fatin consistently excelled academically, achieving the highest GPA and earning multiple awards. Among these accolades was recognition from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), which honoured her as one of the top three students in her cohort. Recently, Fatin was awarded the prestigious Gold Medal by the MPA for her outstanding achievements. Her determination and dedication culminated in her selection as valedictorian at her graduation. Reflecting on her success, Fatin shared, “Every day I spend at least two hours reading my notes to remember what I learned in school.” She plans to further her studies at Plymouth University. Fatin is among the more than 5,400 diploma, advanced diploma, and specialist diploma graduates from SP this year. With this cohort, SP’s alumni network has grown to over 235,000 former students, making it the largest among polytechnics in Singapore.

SP’s Maritime Students Share Their Academic Journeys and Aspirations

SP continues to nurture exceptional talent in the maritime sector, with students excelling in various disciplines and overcoming unique challenges. SP Diploma in Nautical Studies student Joline Lee Rui En shared her 12-month sea internship experience, embracing challenges in a male-dominated field. She noted that her leadership skills as vice-captain of SP’s Handball girls’ team enhanced her maritime journey by improving her communication and emotional management during high-stress situations. Meanwhile, SP Maritime Business student Fatin Nur Syaza discussed her prestigious Gold Medal award from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and her passion for sustainability and operational efficiency in the maritime sector. Fatin’s dedication to these principles is evident in her academic and extracurricular pursuits. Additionally, Javeed Shah Halith, a Specialist Diploma in Maritime Superintendency student, talked about the challenges of juggling work, studies, and family life. As a father of two, Javeed pursued his part-time studies while working, emphasising that adult learners can effectively manage the demands of further education alongside family responsibilities by creating strong familial bonds and ensuring mutual support at home.



Source: MaritimeONE, 5 Jun 2024

On-Campus Privileges



Alumni access hours:

GYM@POOL

Weekdays : 12pm - 4pm | 6pm - 9pm

Saturday : 9am - 7pm

SWIMMING POOL

Weekdays : 9am - 4pm

Saturday : 4pm - 7pm

Please note your SP Alumni e-card and any form of identification is required for verification purposes. SP Sports Facilities may be closed due to curriculum or events without prior notice.



SP Alumni eCard holder is entitled to 20% off annual library membership fees.

Library membership is required to enter SP Library. [Click here](#) to find out more.

OPENING HOURS:

[Click here](#) for more information.

Off-Campus Privileges



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES’ GUILD

10% discount for ala-carte menu at SPGG F&B outlets (SPGG Coffee Hub & The Restaurant)

Terms and conditions apply



THE ESCAPE ARTIST

10% discount for the entire bill

Terms and conditions apply



PLAY V-ROOM PTE LTD

10% off 1 VR headset per card

Terms and conditions apply



LAO JIANG SUPERIOR SOUP

10% off total bill

Terms and conditions apply

SP PACE
PROFESSIONAL & ADULT
CONTINUING EDUCATION
ACADEMY

Reimagine Your Future with our Part-time Diplomas & Post-Diplomas



October 2024 Intake
Now Open for Registration!

Stand a chance to receive additional benefits with the SkillsFuture Level-Up Programme:

SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career aged 40 and above)
Top-up of **\$4,000** & UP TO 90% Course Fee Funding

Click to find out more >>>

New and exciting!

- Round campus relay (the whole campus will be closed for the event)
- More exchange zones
- Running with a cause



THE RACE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
31 JULY 2024

Registration now open!

<https://for.edu.sg/poly50reg24>

Registration closes on 19 July 2024.



For more info

<https://shorturl.at/4MmDb>

SP PACE
PROFESSIONAL & ADULT
CONTINUING EDUCATION
ACADEMY

Calling all Graduates from Class of 2019 to 2023

Work-Study Programmes

Looking to pursue a Specialist or Advanced Diploma and get a head start on your career?

Click Here

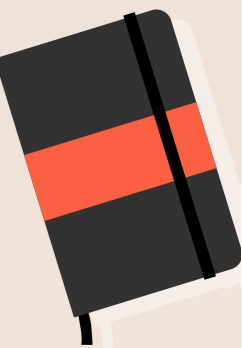
to find out how you can secure good job opportunities and receive **\$5,000 incentive** at the same time!



Let's Keep in Touch!

Stay notified on the latest alumni events by updating your particulars.

Update Here



SP Alumni eCard

Enjoy exclusive benefits when you apply for your free SP Alumni eCard via the SP mobile app.

Click Here



CELEBRATING 70 Years of Memories: Call for Contributions

START SEARCHING FOR:

1 PHOTOGRAPHS:

Your snapshots from the 1950s to the early 1990s, capturing moments of triumph, camaraderie, innovation, and daily life within SP.



Submit using: Our SP Memories Contribution Form

2 MEMORABILIA:

Objects associated with SP life, such as mementoes of significant events.

Send email with a photo of the object(s) to SP_Memories@sp.edu.sg. We shall contact you to arrange submission.

Thank you for your contributions that will add to the stories and memories of SP's journey over the years.



Exploring new career opportunities?

Check out the **SPAN Job Portal** to discover various job listings.



[Click Here](#)

Announcements

NOW OPEN AT SPGG



SPGG
Girl Connected. Stay Connected

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Just graduated from SP < 6 months ago and feeling like life's thrown you a curved ball?

Contact our friendly SP counsellors for short-term counselling support if you need.

Email SP: contactus@sp.edu.sg with subject 'Requesting for Counselling'



Journeying with you beyond **SP**



Stay Connected @SPANalumni

Interested to partner SPAN? Reach out to us at SPAN@sp.edu.sg.

SP Singapore Polytechnic



FIRST POLY
FUTURE INSPIRED
EST 1954