TP takes on New York
CMM and Visual Comm students go on study trip

Design graduates' short films make it to Cannes Festival

By: Juliana Chia

A part from Ilo Ilo's film debut by home-grown director Anthony Chen, two other films by Temasek Polytechnic (TP) Design students also made its debut at the recent 66th Cannes Film Festival in southern France.

Cake and Café Je Vous Amie were the two short films screened at the festival's Short Film Corner. They were directed and produced by a team of aspiring film-makers from the Diploma in Moving Images: Benjamin Low, Alistair Quak, Cheryl Tan and Jufri Husne. All four graduated from TP in May this year.

Cake and Café Je Vous Amie were shot on a budget of more than $9,000 and about $500 respectively, as final-year projects. According to the team, Café Je Vous Amie, directed by Alistair, was shot in one day and was the least expensive film to be made in the cohort.

Cake was eventually granted full funding by the Media Development Authority (MDA) through their short film scheme, explained Benjamin, 21, who served as writer and director for the film. Both short films are also available on Singapore Airlines’ in-flight Krioworld entertainment system.

Said Benjamin, who is currently serving NS, of their film debut at Cannes: “It was co-director and cinematographer Alistair’s idea to send it to Cannes. We both knew it would be a long shot but we did it for fun anyway. Since we’ve spent half a year thinking and creating our films, we thought, why not try to enter it to festivals like Cannes?”

In total, four out of the seven Singaporean films at this year’s Cannes Film Festival came from TP. Design School alumni Ray Pang’s Closer to Me and Christina Choo’s 3D short film Silent Sins made their debuts as well. Ray’s short film was shortlisted for the People’s Choice Award and Jury Award under the Louis Vuitton Journey Award.

The other three Singaporean films that debuted at the Film Festival were Tay Lide’s Staring At The Sun, Edwin Ho’s El Gris Perfecto (The Perfect Grey) and Anthony Chen’s Ilo Ilo.

Ms Yvonne Tang, course manager of the Diploma in Moving Images (recently renamed as the Diploma in Digital Film and Television), said that TP Design School has done Singapore proud at the festival.

“This shows that not only are TP’s works of good standard and quality - although very few people know about us - our works are also comparable to those from overseas,” she said.

Clearly, this experience is one the aspiring film-makers are not going to forget anytime soon.

“We never imagined that we would be sitting in the small theatre watching our films in Cannes.”

- Benjamin Low

Bigger and better courses in April 2014

By: Siti Munira Komari

Two new courses would be launched come April 2014 to reflect the recent developments in their respective industries.

These are the Diploma in Communication Design (CMD) and the Diploma in Game Design and Development (GDD).

CMD is the evolution of two current courses - the Diploma in Visual Communication (VSC) and the Diploma in Interactive Media Design (IMD).

Under the new course, Students will be undergoing an extensive curriculum to expose them to various media platforms, from traditional to interactive media.

Course Manager for VSC and IMD, Mr Soh Yong Hern, said: “The key reason why the two courses are coming together is because we have become so similar.

“The web people are learning the print stuff, and the print people are learning the web stuff.”

In their first year, students of the new course will undergo Foundation Studies.

It will cover everything from basic visual literacy and image-making to technical skills in web and print.

In the second year, students are then allowed to specialise in an area of their choice – Branding Design, Digital Design, Design Illustration or Photography.

Another course that would be launched in April is GDD, which was previously known as the Diploma in Game Entertainment and Technology (GET).

Course Manager for the diploma, Mr Jonathan Pillai, said: “The games industry has moved beyond the creation of games for entertainment to the creation of games for teaching in areas such as the fields of medical, military, education and the use of games in advertising.”

Modules for the course would remain the same.

However, prospective students could expect a more refined and thorough introduction to concepts in the curriculum.

Subjects such as Game Production and Publishing give students a chance to publish a game during their final year.
TP students organise Senior’s Week for charity

By: Hamizah Salikimen

The Dikir Barat girls giving an unpbeat, feet-tapping performance for the elderly at the Bukit Batok East Social Service Hub.

TP students organise Senior’s Week for charity

The Dikir Barat girls giving an unpbeat, feet-tapping performance for the elderly at the Bukit Batok East Social Service Hub.

TP Silat team also entertained the seniors with their energetic synchronised martial arts movements

Performing for them, really puts a smile on their faces and it’s nice that we made their day.

-Farah Atikah

Pottery show by Iskandar Jalil and his students

By: Hamizah Salikimen & Natalie Chew

I wish they would not imitate or copy my style. But that’s the danger they always work with me, they always see what I make, there is a tendency for them to be influenced by my style.”

The 73-year-old Cultural Medalion recipient added that although his students had organised the exhibition, he did not consider himself a mentor to them, insisting: “I just help them.”

He added: “It can only reflect on the person who obviously guided them, who is no less than Iskandar Jalil himself. You can see the guidance and the knowledge behind his teaching.”

Farah Atikah, a committee member of TP Silat said: “Performing for them really puts a smile on their faces and it’s nice that we made their day. Nothing beats that sense of personal achievement and you will feel good about yourself. It is a win-win situation where you get to give back to the society as well.”

Siti Nur Diyanah said: “We all, especially the youths, should try to give back to the community not just for money, but for a sense of goodwill.”
Two diplomas go on study trip to United States

CMM and Visual Communication students meet in New York City

**By:** Cherylaida Baharuddin

Students from the Diploma in Communications and Media Management (CMM) left on Oct 2 for a media study immersion trip to the media capital of the world, New York City.

The group of 16, consisting of third-year students, a lecturer and a tour guide wasted no time upon reaching New York and went straight to the Columbia Journalism School after checking into their hotel.

Their next stop was touring the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest art museum in the US, which holds art collections from all over the world. This was one of the three museums they visited; the others were the Museum of Moving Images and the Museum of Modern Art.

During their NBC Studios tour, the students got lucky as they witnessed Miley Cyrus rehearsing for her cameo on Saturday Night Live. They even got to see her famous tongue-wag and twerk combo.

“I will not forget seeing Miley Cyrus twerk. It’s the weirdest experience for me”, said Rashid Abdul Rahman, 23, a third-year CMM student.

A group of 15 second-year students from the Diploma in Visual Communication was also in New York at the same time. They were on a study trip to learn and experience the art and design culture there.

Elyssa Liz’Anne, 19, a second-year Visual Communication student said: “I was genuinely surprised to meet people from other schools from my polytechnic.”

The group of 16 third-year CMM students visited Columbia University, during the trip which also covered museums and news organisations just makes you feel that the sky's the limit”, said Rashidy.

Elyssa was inspired by all things architecture: “I love skyscrapers and urbanised architecture, so seeing the tall buildings first hand instead from a book is really surreal. I paid close attention to details of the buildings, that I know how Art Deco has influenced the architectural traits of buildings like the Empire State Building.”

Volunteering with Loov

**By:** Siti Munira Komari

A team of TP students created waves at the recent Singapore Computer Society (SCS) Splash Awards 2013 by emerging winners in their category with a mobile app that aims to create a more compassionate community by encouraging youths to come forward and volunteer.

Known as ‘Loov’, the app was developed by three second-year students from the Diploma in Business Intelligence and Analytics (BIA) – Eddie Chew, Koh Chin and Darren Ng.

It was an exceptional win for the team which was up against stiff competitors in their Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) category.

Eddie Chew, 18, said: “I think the simplest word to describe it would be we were very happy, there is no better word to describe it.”

Into its 10th year, the competition focuses on innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. Teams had to come up with apps that would benefit the community by utilising government data from data.gov.sg.

Loov, which was derived from the word ‘love’ and ‘volunteer’, takes an unconventional approach by incorporating social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to ignite the spirit of voluntarism in youths.

Through the use of social media platforms, the team hopes to tackle the problems faced by youths such as not having like-minded friends whom they could go with to volunteer.

Darren Ng, 19, explained: “We included social media so that you can find a community of people that has more or less the same interest as you.”

Another highlight of the app is its ability to recommend volunteering events which best match the user’s profile, as youths are normally faced with a problem of not knowing where to volunteer based on their interests.

17-year-old Koh Chin said: “It is difficult to find organisations to volunteer at because we would not know when and where there will be an event.”

Paws up for TP’s animal lovers

**By:** Tan Pei Yu

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened,” declared French poet Anatole France. Are you someone whose soul has already been touched by animals, or are you hoping to open up your soul to these animals?

Well, you need not look any further. TP’s very own Temasek Polytechnic Animals Web (TPAW) is here to facilitate and guide animal-lovers on how to care for them the right way.

Established in Nov 2012, TPAW was set up by a group of animal lovers for animal lovers.

“It was set up because we wanted to raise awareness on animal conservation. We also hope to educate the student body about issues related to animals, such as how to take care of their pets and raise awareness on animal cruelty,” explained Roy Haiqel B Sa’addi, the current president of TPAW.

“Our motto as an interest group is to educate, conserve and provide such a service, in order to play a part in animal conservation and welfare.”

“We help out by educating the student body with talks and provide our service to animal organisations,” said the student from Veterinary Technology.

He added that TPAW hopes to arouse people’s interest in animals and conservation by getting their members to volunteer for meaningful and enriching programmes.

One major organisation TPAW has worked with is the aquarium located in Resorts World Sentosa. TPAW recruited volunteers and provided them with the necessary training to become student ambassadors of the Marine Life Park. These students were given the opportunity to learn more about marine life conservation and spread their knowledge by educating oceanarium visitors.

Another significant event organised by TPAW was during Campus Care Network (CCN) Day, last year. It was TPAW’s first event as a club and members gathered to make and then sell dog and cat treats.

Roy said: “There was a lot of trial and error involved when we were making the treats but it was all worth it since it was all for a good cause.”
Growing up fast, shaping her own future

By: Tanya Kneale

The future is in your hands,” is a piece of advice most children would grow up listening to. But how many actually have the courage to take charge of their life and actively make changes?

Syasya Firzanah, a final-year student from Gerontological Management Studies, is one good example of a brave leader.

As the oldest of three children, Syasya held responsibilities and gained independence at a tender age. Having to fill in for her parents and act as a role model for her younger siblings, she matured much faster than her peers. Knowing that her siblings were impressionable, the East Spring Secondary alumna has always been mindful of her actions.

Taking charge of the household while her parents were at work to fend for the family was pressurising for her – but the virtues instilled in her helped mould her into a loving and caring individual.

It has been nearly three years since graduating from secondary school, but she insists on contributing back to her alma mater whenever she has spare time. “They’ve done so much for me while I was there, so I feel like I should do something for the school too.”

Being an active sportsman, Syasya pays special attention to the school’s fitness events, such as sports day. She makes her contribution by handing out drinks to spectators and helping out with the school’s netball team.

Age isn’t an issue where Syasya is concerned. As a teenager, the athletic young lady already has more sporting experience under her belt than some people in their whole lives.

She has already triumphed in kayak, netball and football.

Most recently, Syasya has led the TP female soccer team to the championships in “Diva La Futbol” two years in a row, coming in top eight position.

Despite injuring her right shoulder in an accident, Syasya did not let adversity stop her. Instead, she compensated by training up her left arm. Such a positive disposition and a strong resilient mind have enabled her to excel in sports.

“All I hope for, is to make a positive impact on someone’s life.” With a heart of gold, Syasya actively does her part to make the world a better place.

Earlier, she took part in an OCIP mission to Cambodia where she taught the native children proper hygiene care, songs and dance.

During the mission, she gained a deeper insight into the sufferings of the less fortunate, which powered her drive even further.

The all-rounder believes in giving her 110 per cent in life. “I want to live with no regrets”, she firmly states. Her role models include other sportsmen who have dedicated their lives to perfecting their game, such as Michael Phelps.

By: Leck Kai Sen

Taking things one step at a time

Soh Si Min from the Diploma in Retail Management (RMT) had the chance to take up her internship in Shanghai, China.

“It’s a blessing as the teachers acknowledge me as someone who could perform overseas,” said the 19-year-old.

But the stint was not smooth sailing for Si Min, who is RMT’s top student. Communication proved to be a problem for her over in Shanghai. “The reports had to be typed in Chinese, so I downloaded a special software just for that sole purpose.”

“Living overseas helps to cultivate a sense of responsibility and independence. When you’re overseas you need to adapt to the culture,” she added.

Aside from her academic achievements, Si Min is also actively involved in TP Cliquers, the polytechnic’s outreach ambassadors. She has a strong flair for public speaking.

“I’ve done hosting of events during the course of my study. The first event was the junior’s scholarship ceremony and my biggest one so far is the National Retailing Competition.”

So how does she cope with her studies alongside her commitments?

“Time management for me is important as I am involved in a lot of things. My priorities are not just studying but also making the time I spend in TP worthwhile,” said the all-rounder.

“The important values I learnt at TP are perseverance and self-discipline. It’s easier said then done and takes a lot of determination to stay on the right track,” shares the CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls’ School alumnus.

But she admits that her ambition is to pursue fashion. “I initially wanted to go to Parsons (A design school in New York) to study fashion management. But right now, I just want to take things one step at a time and graduate from TP.”

His hobby takes him places

By: Victoria Chua

Muhammad Muhajir’s photography passion has taken him places.

One of which was the 2013 HSBC/NYAA (National Youth Achievement Award) Earthwatch Research Study Trip to Nova Scotia, Eastern Canada.

The 21-year-old was chosen by NYAA to represent the school and document the trip. The purpose of the trip was to study the mammals of Nova Scotia and the nature of the environment.

“It was a mixed feeling of honour, pride and gratefulness to be part of the Singapore team. Initially I was afraid and I did not feel confident enough, but I decided to give it a shot,” he said.

He adds that if another opportunity to travel overseas to pursue his hobby ever presents itself, he would not hesitate to accept the offer.

“So, what inspires him? He explains that inspiration can be drawn from almost anything around him.”

“Being a photographer has taught me to have a mind of my own and that was what attracted me the most about this hobby,” he elaborates.

Yet, he remains humble and admits that there is still room for improvement in his work.

He adds that if another opportunity to travel overseas to pursue his hobby ever presents itself, he would not hesitate to accept the offer.

“This trip to Nova Scotia has allowed me to rediscover myself. It made me realise that I should appreciate my life more and I was also able to view things from a different perspective.”
She's small but has big dreams
By: Laetitia Wong

With her petite size, you would never have expected this wispy child-like girl of having such a vibrant personality.

Hanni Chen, a half Shanghaiese half Japanese 21-year-old, was presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award for her perseverance and dedication towards helping others in need.

Participating in the Youth Empowerment Symposium (YES), a 10-week community project organised by YOUTHsync of Metropolitan YMCA Singapore, Hanni and her team emerged as the Top 5 in their category. However, they were initially faced with difficulties in forming a team.

"It wasn't easy because my course mates were soon starting their internship and were only free on weekends. Many didn't have the time or dedication for this project. Nonetheless, we were lucky enough to end up with four very diligent members in our group."

Paired with the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), the team approached the project with an open mind as well as a thorough plan to integrate the skills they learnt in their course.

"We taught 10 students, all of whom were See 1 to 5 students of CDAC beneficiary families. The goal was to teach these students how to create apps using a software called App Inventor. Personally, I didn't want people jumping to the conclusion that creating a good app is difficult, or requiring intensive programming skills. It's actually very simple!"

Hanni's determined personality shone through her reticent façade when she talked about her work, as she elaborated on the difficulties faced throughout the duration of the project. "Given only 10 weeks, we were running on a tight deadline. An enormous amount of dedication was needed, as we met up with our partner organisation CDAC to discuss and review our projects on a weekly basis. When that was done, we had to go home and revise our entire workflow and start from scratch, which was very tiring."

The third-year Diploma in Mobile and Network Services student is currently working at the National Institute of Singapore (NIE) under Temasek Polytechnic's Student Internship Programme (SIP).

"I want to be the CEO of Google. I know it's a big dream, but it's really not for the money. I really like mobile developing. I am not smart, but it's really not for the money. I truly like the work."

"Hanni's infectious laugh made it impossible not to crack a smile as she animatedly talked about her childhood. "I want to be the CEO of Google. I know it's a big dream, but it's really not for the money. I really like mobile developing. I am not smart, but I am hardworking and I have to work very hard to achieve the things I want."

Hanni is also exceptionally independent for someone of her age, as she lived alone since she was 13.

"I am living in Singapore alone now as my parents live abroad. Before coming to Singapore, back in 2009 when I was 17, I was enrolled in a Canadian International boarding school located in Tokyo."

Something people don't know about Hanni, is that despite her low profile, she has a quirky personality. You get to see this especially after she warms up to a person.

"I had 4 dogs back in Japan, along with a rabbit and a rooster. They all lived with us, in our backyard. I used to dig up earthworms from our garden and feed it to our rooster. That was his name, 'Rooster.' We ate Rooster the rooster eventually, though!"

Young environmental activist
By: Joceline Loo

On the surface, 20-year-old Adrian Khoo looks like any other student but deep down, he is a passionate youth who aspires to do his best to care for the environment.

"I have always admired the pristine beaches in places such as Mauritius. When I compare these places to our beaches in Singapore, I thought why can't ours look the same as theirs?"

This thought was what pushed Adrian to embark on a 6-month long project of creating green building materials, under the support of the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy (BYEE) programme.

His innovative eco-idea earned himself an opportunity to meet overseas experts in the field when he, as the co-winner of the local leg, together with the other top envoys, went on a week-long study trip to Germany sponsored by Bayer in November.

He said the trip was extremely enriching, with sharing sessions by various speakers from different backgrounds. They shared on a myriad of environmental topics like water, energy, and preventing food loss.

"We also got to see first hand the amazing sight of the Cathedral in Germany and had a tour guide to explain to us its significance. On the side note, every meal that we had there was delicious and left us craving for more," said the well-travelled envoy.

Adrian hopes to keep in contact with the friends he had made through the programme and looks forward to future collaborations.

His supervisor, Dr Yong Sook Fun, whom he met while on his envoy experience, fuels Adrian's passion in what he does.

"Her passion on environmental protection involving materials is really something that really inspires me to continue to play a part and do something for the environment."
CCN Day
A Caring Campus

More than 120 stalls were set up at the Plaza and along the school concourses areas on Nov 15. There were food, fun, games and performances all lined up to raise funds for the less fortunate students in TP. The event was also to create a meaningful bonding time for the various Care Groups. Many came down to give their support and even had fun while they’re at it.

Henna painting booths attracted many customers.

TP’s first batch of Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) students designed their own badges and stickers for sale.

The boys from Engineering School moving around promoting their brownies.

Design School lecturer Wei Lieh Lee raised a total of $610 in the span of 90 minutes.

A stall selling pre-used items had this child-sized teddy bear.

These furry twins are just one of the “props” at the photo booth run up by the Student and Alumni Affairs department.

The photo booth in Engineering School was crowded with people wanting to take group shots.
Social media conundrum
Networking is fine, but keep the nitty-gritty out

By: Josiah Ang

Apathy: a word that has been thrown around a lot, most often used to describe Gen Y, or the millennials. Being one of the people born in this category, I abhor the label because I believe that my generation is not apathetic, we are just moulded by the world that we were born into.

We were born in the information era where technological advances has made it so easy to get news at our fingertips, so much so that we’ve become desensitised to the horrors of the world.

I was seven when I first saw something that I would eventually be desen-
One of the best open-world games

By: Koh Bon

Grand Theft Auto V - the mission-based game that introduces amazing aspects of gaming no other open-world game has attempted before.

The 15th title in the Grand Theft Auto series, the game is developed by Rockstar North, and published by Rockstar Games, and was highly anticipated ahead of its release.

The innovative features that the virtual, vast, varied and beautiful world has to offer are endless.

These include the ability to switch between three independent characters any time you deem fit, the different side missions available at your disposal, or even the fact that what may start as a normal day walking down the street may turn into a full-fledged high speed police chase.

Players who love a good cinematic crime raid are definitely in for a treat.

The game allows you to vary perspectives between the three protagonists Trevor, Michael and Franklin.

The player is given the opportunity to live the lives of either a methamphetamine entrepreneur living in a desert (Trevor), a former criminal who is constantly unhappy even with his current state of comfortable privileges in life (Michael), or Franklin, a talented young African American, who, unlike Michael, does not have opportunities in life presented to him on a silver platter.

The main events in the game are the heist missions, planned by Michael and gang. The missions are mostly complex, often involving multiple stages of preparation.

When a shootout ensues (and they ensue frequently), the player has an arsenal of weapons to choose from, all easily customisable with in-game add-ons.

GTA V has set the bar for open-mission game design with its beautiful depiction of Los Santos.

In comparison to the older games, many people in the community agree that the fifth instalment in the 16-year-old series has taken the game to the next level.

However, there are also critics saying that Los Santos does not have the same amount of realism that its predecessors had, for example, Vice City.

As amazing and detailed a gameplay as it is, a downside to the game would be the fact that GTA V portrays women as second class.

They are often depicted in the game as prostitutes, strippers, suffering wives, and even feminists meant to be made fun of.

The absurd and unnecessary misogynistic element within the game reinforces sexism.

Despite the evident rampant misogyny, the game is a must try.

The possible death of disc drives

By: Josiah Ang

In October, Apple unveiled its updated version of the MacBook Pro with Retina Display.

The main change revealed was Apple cutting the disc drive from the body of the laptop, hinting at the fact that they are heading in a direction where disc drives will be a thing of the past.

Some of the measures introduced included the feature allowing Air users to tap into working disc drive from another computer.

Another feature used to help ease people into a disc-less world was offering its OS (Operating System) recovery tools on a USB (Universal Serial Bus) drive.

Users of the Air were also given the option of purchasing an external CD drive for an additional US$79.

Though the exclusion of disc drives from a machine wasn’t unique or new, Apple’s plan to remove it came during the time when Blu-Ray was just getting popular and Apple’s PC competitors were trying to upgrade their DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) to Blu-Ray compatible drives.

In retrospect, the conversion to a disc-less machine seems to have benefitted both Apple and its consumers immensely.

One perfect example of this would be the fact that removing the disc drives has allowed for a lighter and slimmer machine to many of its customers’ delight.

In providing the lighter and sleeker machine for its consumers, the cutting of the disc drives also allows Apple to ship more units in one shipment, which helps Apple to save more money.

As Cloud technology, which allows people to save their information and files securely on a virtual server online advances, it is inevitable that more and more companies will host their programs online.

Because of this, disc drives becoming obsolete is just an eventuality and it seems like the gamble Apple made three years ago has paid off.

As Cloud technology, which allows people to save their information and files securely on a virtual server online...

The only question left is whether Apple’s PC competitors will continue on their trend of continually upgrading their disc drives to the latest machine.

Or will they follow the lead of Apple in doing away with the disc drives for machines.

It seems Apple products are clearly heading towards a disc-less world and the disc drive may well be going the way of the floppy disk: towards extinction.
**2013 POL-ITE Games**

**Soccer ITE Games**

Soccer team scores gold after 5 yrs

**By: Joseph Dimmick**

After 5 years without winning the POL-ITE Games, this year Temasek Polytechnic's soccer team beat the Institute Of Technical Education (ITE) 's soccer team 5-1 in the finals.

With many of this year's squad busy playing for S-League clubs, training was only able to kick into full gear barely a month before the games. Time was clearly not in their favour.

The start of school training meant that there were simply no rest days for the players. On top of their existing five-day training regime with their respective clubs, the two days left were occupied with school training.

The high level of intensity and commitment that each player put into honing themselves as a footballer was certainly admirable.

With little time spent training together, one could only imagine the difficulties they faced while training for this year's tournament.

Self-belief and the fostering of a strong bond was their answer claimed Mahd Safwan, a third-year student from the Diploma in Mechatronics.

"Every year we believe in ourselves and that we have the best players but somehow we don't do well," he said.

"This year, the bonding was a lot stronger as a team. I think that made the difference."

The games saw Temasek Polytechnic conceding only three goals as compared to their tally of 18 goals scored.

Despite their massive showing during the tournament, Muhammad Haziq Bin Azman, the team captain, claimed that it was no easy feat.

"Having a team of stars, complacency was something to be tackled.

"The thing that we had to take care of was our egos. Most of us are club players, like I play for Home United, and others play for clubs like Geylang International and Balestier Khalis and so on. So we have our own ideas on how to play the game.

"That was something we had to manage. I believe we did that very well as we eventually managed to sort that out and worked together toward our common goal, which was to win every game we played in," said Haziq.

The satisfaction and accomplishment that we experienced cannot be expressed in words. But don't get me wrong; we are not satisfied and we are still hungry for more. I'm positive that next year's performance would be even better than this year's," said the Accounting & Finance student.

With the training conducted supervised by coach Adzran Low, it is not difficult to believe Agil's claim. Mr Low only started coaching the Dragonboat Team in the beginning of the year, but already has impacted the team greatly.

"Ever since (he) came in to coach us, no training was considered usual; for me, personally, the training we went through dwarfed whatever we've gone through previously. It required a tremendous amount of mental focus to get through, because it was the most challenging training we had ever experienced," Agil shared.

Each training session combines crossfit and power exercises that help stretch the limits of the team's physical strengths. One such exercise is the "pyramid" set of pull-ups, which includes weights. Each team member starts with a 25kg set of weights, and slowly builds his way up to 45kg. This method gives the exercise its name.

It seems that the new training regime and its results have not only surprised the TP Men's Dragonboat Team. Other competitors who were caught off guard, have billed the team a dark horse.

However, ending the "curse of a no-podium finish", as Agil puts it, has not gotten to the heads of the dragonboaters. While they are elated with their win, the team understands that to continue feeling this happiness, they would have to work just as hard for next year's competition. The team has already started training for next year's POL-ITE.
A cheaper splash of colour

By: Christabel Png

The rainbow hair trend is on the rise amongst the youth in Singapore – especially here in Temasek Polytechnic. Go on, take a look around our campus and keep an eye out for students sporting outrageously coloured locks.

So let’s say you love the idea of having candyfloss hair with a pink and purple mane, but you aren’t sure if you really want to jump straight into spending lots of money dying your hair because you could potentially look like a Jigglypuff.

A cost-effective alternative would be to colour your hair temporarily to test the waters.

Hair chalking allows you to easily change your hair colours often, and it comes off easily with washing.

“Hair chalking allows you to easily change your hair colours often, and it comes off easily with washing,” says Desiree Lim, a 19-year-old student from Republic Polytechnic. “It might stain your clothes though, so make sure that you wear something you don’t mind getting dirty when applying the chalk,” she suggests.

Lydia Teo, a second-year student from Temasek Polytechnic’s Diploma in Visual Communication, adds: “It can stain your clothes if it rains, so I usually advise people to wear black.”

The 18-year-old is a veteran at temporary hair colouring, and uses hair chalk to experiment with multiple colours at a time (twelve different colours is the highest number she has tried). “Don’t do it too often though,” she says. “Hair chalking dries up your hair. It makes each strand weaker and your hair becomes more brittle.”

The last method of temporary hair colouring is one that you might not have heard of before. Lydia uses food dye to colour her hair when she wants a strong solid color just for the day. This is ordinary food colouring that can be purchased at the supermarket under the baking section.

“Food dye stains skin, so I thought of using it for hair to create a less damaging dye,” she says. So far, she hasn’t seen any side effects from it. Food dye creates a stronger and brighter colour in comparison to hair chalking. According to Lydia, it’s easier too.

“I just coat a brush or sponge with dye and dab it onto my hair. After that I use a toothbrush to fine-comb it. Then dry your hair using a hairdryer and you’re done.”

Don’t use a hair straightener or a curling iron on your hair when using this method though. “The heat will make the food dye sizzle and your hair will burn!”

Music for lunch

By: Sim Yu Xiang

It was lunchtime, but students streaming out of lecture theatres, classrooms and labs did not head towards the canteens.

Instead, they seemed to indulge in a different kind of meal – bobbing their heads to the performances outside the library and enjoying food for the soul.

For three consecutive weeks from 13 Nov, bands from Temasek Polytechnic’s Music Vox performed outside the library during lunch break.

It was part of the Lunchtime Performance Series Mid-Week Madness organised by the Temasek Arts Centre.

A total of 11 bands brought popular songs from the likes of Beyonce, Green Day and Jessie J, which drew crowds of students.

Charles Loh, 20, the Vice-President of Music Vox, said: “It felt very nice, knowing that the students enjoyed our performances. It gave us the extra boost to give 110% for our set.”

The event was launched as an arts initiative by the Student and Alumni Affairs Department to promote appreciation towards the arts.

Mr James Lye, 24, the Student Development Officer in charge of this initiative, said: “I’d like youths in Singapore to start by questioning the definition of art.

“Is art a tangible thing or is it something which cultivates one’s thoughts, emotions, character and outlook?”

Even though the event featured only the Music Vox, plans are underway for future instalments to include more arts groups.

New chorale conductor

By: Joceline Loo

A decade is a long time and it was a time for a change for the Temasek Polytechnic (TP) Chorale. Ms Ong Chiak Yin, 38, took over the baton from the founding conductor Mr Darius Lim, and is now leading the 85-member strong choir.

Member Pat Yuan Teng, 19, believes that having a good conductor is important, as she will have the ability to share her knowledge and groom her students well.

“A mentor has to be able to not only demonstrate well, but also use words to explain, ensuring that the mentees understand and deliver similar sound quality.”

Having been a teacher for over 15 years, one of the first improvements Ms Ong made was to discipline the sound quality, and make the choir more aware of each other’s singing techniques.

“She introduced everyone to music theory so that people without music background can read and play notes so they can learn the songs by themselves,” said student conductor and section leader Victor Tan.

Having been an alto voice in choirs back in her schooling days, Ms Ong can relate to her students who are juggling between school and passion. She believes that how the students cope with the different demands and responsibilities will shape the student into the person they will become.

“Everyone juggles between life’s demands and responsibilities and none of these that we need to do are any less important.”
Mata Mata comes to Temasek Polytechnic

Lily: Tanya Kneale

The cast of MediaCorp’s hit television series Mata Mata made a special guest appearance at TP Rawks, Temasek Polytechnic’s biggest annual outreach party for Sec 4 students.

Singapore’s favourite contractor, Phua Chu Kang, joined in the surprise visit by the four Mata Mata actors – George Young, Paul Foster, Adam Chen and Nadiah M. Din – for an afternoon of fun and games.

“I can’t believe the cast of Mata Mata came to TP! I love watching the show and I’m a huge fan of all of them. This is like a dream come true!” exclaimed Rawker Maddie Chen, 16.

Phua Chu Kang was the first on stage to greet the Rawkers. He warmed up the crowd with his humorous antics and even engaged in some light banter with the audience.

A short game of music and dance followed, where the winner was awarded a pair of tickets to the screening of the Mata Mata finale.

The cast of Mata Mata then came on and reached out to the Rawkers with a group photo-taking session in order to get TP and MediaCorp trending.

They later engaged the Rawkers in a friendly competition, playing games such as “chapteh” and the highlight was when a Rawker was paired up with a celebrity as a team to compete. The endearing personalities made the Rawkers hold them in high regard and it resulted in resonating cheers as the afternoon event drew to a close.

The #tprawks trending tag was raving when Rawkers began posting their excitement in a huge wave of tweets and Instagram pictures. Many Rawkers expressed their enthusiasm with tweets such as: “Only need one word to describe my experience at TP: #tprawks”.

Eudora Tan, TP’s Corporate Communications Officer and the leader behind TP Rawks said: “It’s a very family-like culture here, we care for the Rawkers, we go through thick and thin with them and I think that’s something that TP is.” She hopes that the takeaway for every Rawker is “Coming to TP is like coming home”.

Every year, TP Rawks is organized for prospective students to personally experience TP’s vibrant culture and exuberant energy. Over three days, various activities such as the highly anticipated Jam and Hop, takes place. This gives Rawkers a chance to know the poly and its courses.

“TP Rawks has really opened my eyes to the Polytechnic culture. I love the sense of support and community here. I’ve had a great time and I wish this never has to end!” said Jaslyn Koh, a 17-year-old TP Rawker.

Catwalk to glory

TP students make it to the finals of Teens Magazine’s Teen Model Search

Inqa Widu Ayu, and alumnus Novell Tan made it to the finals of the nationwide competition. Novell was the first runner-up and also clinched the Miss Congeniality award, while Dominic was the second runner-up.

The final showdown among 24 hopefuls, ranging from 15 to 21 years old, was on Nov 23, at the atrium of Bugis Plus. It was hosted by popular radio presenter Boy Thunder and graced by other celebrities like former MediaCorp actress Dawn Yeoh and singer Derrick Hoh.

The theme of the competition was Colour My Life, focusing on giving to others, having a healthy lifestyle and caring for the environment. In the spirit of giving, the finalists also raised over $5,000 for Club Rainbow, a charity committed to children suffering from chronic diseases.

Finalists put on a fashion show, performing several catwalks, a Korean-Pop dance item, and they were interviewed on the competition theme. There were also performances by singer Derrick Hoh and students from Celine Jessandra School of Performing Arts.

For 20-year-old Novell, who has won various beauty pageants, this was her first modelling competition. She said: “Modelling and pageants are very different. You have to smile all the time in a pageant, but we were not supposed to smile in some parts of the modelling competition. It was fun though, we felt like real models, with so many outfits to change into and personal assistants to help us.”

There were various opportunities for students to participate in the competition, both in the modelling and pageant segments. TP students Dominic Wong, Inqa Widu Ayu, and alumnus Novell Tan made it to the finals of the nationwide competition. Novell was the first runner-up and also clinched the Miss Congeniality award, while Dominic was the second runner-up.

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18-year-old Hospitality and Tourism Management student Dominic was nudged to join the competition by his elder sister Amelia Wong. She is also a TP student and was a winner in the Teens Model Search in 2011.

Dominic said: “I seriously did not think I would win. When all the subsidiary prizes were given out, I thought it was over for me, I was really surprised when it was announced that I was second runner-up!”

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Novell Tan, first runner-up

From left: Inqa Widu Ayu, Dominic Wong and Novell Tan, TP’s Teen Model Search finalist

By: Sim Yu Xiang

I started with over 50 contestants, with countless more not making the cut during the auditions.

Everyone gave it their all to outshine the others in a battle of body and soul which lasted for weeks, all to become the champion of Teens Magazine’s Teen Model Search 2013.

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