Find out about our awards and exciting achievements

Meet some of our students, alumni and staff who have made their mark

Discover more about our study trips, projects, community service and industry speakers
Director’s Message

Once the imagination is stretched through learning, it extends well beyond its original dimensions. At TP School of Business, we create a meaningful buzz through activities that expand creativity and learning, extending student engagement in myriad ways. We present problems to solve via industry projects, rather than dry facts to memorise. We provide overseas study trips, internships and field trips for students to step into the insightful classroom of real-world experience. We engage students in competitions to pitch them against the best so as to enhance their learning and confidence. We keep in close touch with our alumni and celebrate in their successes. Our lecturers, too, are constantly engaged in learning to grow in capability. We open the doors of learning, through which we hope you will enter to experience the business buzz.

BIZ Perks

"We are grateful for the grant that will help us further explore commercialisation through product development and marketing."  
Teo De Zhao (Team Leader)

What we need to learn to do, we learn by doing. At School of Business, we offer our students many perks. They get to participate in competitions to sharpen their skills, and work on projects to ignite the imagination.

Explorer-Entrepreneurs extraordinaire

To bring learning to life, Diploma in Business Information Technology (BIT) Seniors formed a start-up to extend classroom knowledge, and made history. The students, Teo De Zhao, Darren Teo Wei Jie, Sah Wei Jun Fabian, Liu Liyao and Ryan Ashneil Sarjeet Singh impressed the judges at the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) Innovation Centre with their project, LifeAtEvent, an entrepreneurship venture.

With this with this, they became the first polytechnic team to be awarded the prestigious 2011 Explorer Grant award of $50,000.

LifeAtEvent is a unique project aimed at tracking attendance at events, among other things, using mobile and online applications.

The selection committee also noted the strong staff support given to the team of students mentored by Section Head, Phua Tijhai That.

The Innovation Centre creates a positive environment for entrepreneurship to develop, providing business expertise and networking opportunities with the venture capital community, both locally and overseas.

Saluting special retailers

Bringing kudos to the Diploma in Retail Management (RMT) were three graduates who were awarded the National Retail Scholarship 2011 at the Annual Singapore Retail Association Awards Ceremony on 18 August 2011. The scholarships were given out by Guest-of-Honour, Minister of State for the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Teo Ser Luck. Of the six award winners currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Retail Marketing, three are Diploma in Retail Management graduates. Former Capitalmalls Scholarship winner and graduate 2010, Eve Lim again proved herself worthy when she was awarded the scholarship and a two-year career with Cortina Watch. The other award recipient was Tan Chek Meng, whose award came with a two-year executive management career with NTUC Fairprice. Award winner Er Tse Haw will embark on a career with Wing Tai after his graduation next year. Observed Samuel Tan, Course Manager, Diploma in Retail Management, “There were six scholarship awards, and we’re happy to have bagged fifty percent of the awards and honour.”
Our students, past and present, are our focus. The education we provide aims not at the mere transmission of facts but on the transformation of the individual to develop character, confidence and competence. Our staff, too, are dedicated professionals who extend their own learning in myriad ways to benefit their students.

Propelled to heights by passion

Quiek Junwei, Diploma in Accounting & Finance graduate, 2008, set himself the sky as a limit and distinguished himself by graduating with a First Class Honours Bachelor of Accountancy degree from Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Junwei is also the recipient of the $5,000 grant from Mrs Chng Siew Li, Senior Lecturer, Communication Skills, who in turn was conferred the special honour by NTU for her inspirational mentorship of another School of Business alumnus, Zhang Fangfang.

A focused student, Junwei found that studying in TP had other perks, too, as it gave him the opportunity to explore both Accountancy and Finance.

His diligence paid off when he secured a number of book prizes, graduating with Merit in the Diploma in Accounting & Finance.

In particular, his student internship with PriceWaterhouseCoopers helped him to discover his passion and increased his desire to enter the audit profession.

Junwei is starting on his audit career at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and for him a promising future awaits.

University scholar with more than charisma

Diploma in Business Course Silver Medalist 2011, Charis Mah Ching Jee feels that there is much to learn from being fully engaged in learning and industry projects that connect people to a global community. Charis was admitted to the prestigious University Scholars Programme at the National University of Singapore and offered a place in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She was also a recipient of the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship To Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) Award, conferred every year to outstanding polytechnic graduates pursuing full-time undergraduate degree programmes at the local universities. Conversant in French and Japanese, Charis’s passion for cross-cultural issues stood out during her studies in Temasek Polytechnic and helped to forge a mature appreciation of languages and cultures. As Honorary Secretary of the Temasek Polytechnic Japanese Cultural Group, Charis organized events to promote Japanese culture among the TP students. Charis revealed, “My experience at TP helped me work towards becoming a more empathetic group leader in group projects, and I learnt to see cultures in a very different light.”

A dream comes true at TP

Ng Hui Wen, Diploma in Communications and Media Management graduate, 2010, found her dream course during Temasek Polytechnic’s Open House. Wooed by the polytechnic’s vibrant student life and up-to-date facilities, the aspiring journalist counts her internship with MediaCorp Press as a highlight of her experience. Together with four course mates, she conceived, from scratch, the National Day Special issue of TODAY. Hui Wen, a recipient of the Singapore Press Holdings Journalism Scholarship, is now studying at the National University of Singapore’s Arts and Social Sciences Faculty where she intends to major in Political Science. Pondering on her experience Hui Wen shared, “At CMM, being grounded in both theory and practice, I saw the interconnectedness of everything I learnt. The essence of what TP is — “bringing education to life and life to education” — truly resonates with me.”
Energetic multi-tasking scholar

Freshman Sharon Chua Shuang Rui took a different path but arrived at her destination, with special honours. She bagged the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) for outstanding academic and co-curricular achievements when she graduated from ITE College Central Bishan in 2011. While studying, Sharon worked at various food and beverage outlets for experience, and even found time to serve at the St John’s Ambulance Brigade as General Secretary. Last year, she was also a pavilion guide for a month at the World Expo in Shanghai. Sharon chose Temasek Polytechnic’s Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management as she intends to pursue a career related to travel and tourism. She believes that through perseverance and hard work, she will achieve her goals.

Sharon Chua Shuang Rui

Sailing on the SHIP of innovation

Diploma in Business Section Head Philomena See got special mention for bringing innovation to education. Philomena conceived of and coordinated a unique learning programme integrating classroom learning with student internship in collaboration with a key industry stakeholder- the Singapore National Employers Federation. She worked on the project with Pearl Chong-Lee, Assistant Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

For this novel approach to student internship and learning, the Structured HR Internship Programme (SHIP), Philomena was awarded the Temasek Polytechnic Education Innovation Award in 2011.

SHIP revolves around the teaching and learning of the subjects in the Human Resource Management elective by creating a strong alignment with industry practices through a carefully managed internship.

Philomena See (Section Head)

First-class legal eagle

Since secondary school, Shannon Quek has had a burning desire to be a legal counsel. However, the 2006 Diploma in Law and Management graduate confessed that he started getting serious about school work only in his second year. During his Internship at Infineon Technologies, Shannon cultivated an interest in intellectual property rights. This propelled him to pursue his studies at Leicester University in the UK, where he obtained First Class Honours in Law. Shannon credits Problem-Based Learning for his ability to excel during his time at university. Shannon reflected, “The core subjects at Diploma in Law and Management gave me a good foundation.” Shannon hopes to specialise in intellectual property and international arbitration with a multi-national corporation.

Shannon Quek at his graduation ceremony

I know I’ve chosen a different route but at School of Business, I am confident of reaching my goal.”

Sharon Chua Shuang Rui

“SHIP has made participating students taking the Human Resource Management (HRM) elective in the Diploma in Business better appreciate learning. They gain a deeper understanding of tripartism and how it helps maintain harmonious industrial relations in organisations.”

Philomena See and Pearl Chong receiving their award from TP’s Principal, Mr Boo Kheng Hua
**“Great Woman” culinary record-maker**

Culinary Instructor Jasmine Ng is a veteran and a record-maker—26 culinary awards and achievements in the 26 years she has been in the industry. This includes clinching a gold medal for Singapore at the prestigious Expogast Culinary World Cup in 2010 as team coach. In October 2011, Jasmine was officially dubbed one of the “Great Women of our Time” by The Singapore Women’s Weekly, in the Design & Style category. This is an annual award that celebrates inspiring women, with nominees selected for outstanding leadership and performance in their professions and in public service.

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**Walking on Happy Feet with Grace**

Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management lecturer Grace Chia Bee Leng has indeed taken the road less travelled. Grace has brought much-needed help and funds to the young by co-founding Project Happy Feet, an organisation committed to improving the lives of underprivileged children and youths in developing countries, and empowering them through education and training programmes. Fully run by volunteers since its inception in 2008, Project Happy Feet has raised S$180,000, so far. To date, the organisation has provided school supplies, built a library, funded more than 100 scholarships and fed more than 3,000 children in Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia.

My future plan is to put my best foot forward in grace, continuing the good work in the lives of underprivileged children and youths in developing countries for years to come.

Grace Chia
(Lecturer)
Our learning package takes the form of attractive offerings: projects, field trips and overseas study trips galore. We even take inspiration from industry to extend our students’ learning. While building the future of our youth through what we teach, we also build our youth for the future through community service.

"Students learnt a lot from the exchange, and there was positive feedback from students on ideas given by the forum panelists."

Gan-Lee Yat Sum
(Senior Lecturer)

For students from the Diploma in Logistics & Operations Management, lessons on how firms can innovate and increase productivity in a challenging global economic climate took a special form. They took part in the eye-opening Productivity and Supply Chain Innovation seminar on 13 October 2011. The industry experts included keynote speaker, Ms Jayashree Sadanandan, Deputy Director, Logistics, Economic Development Board. The seminar also provided a discussion forum for the exchange of ideas. The panelists were Kelvin Wong, Anbu Chezhian, Head of Solution Design & Engineering, DB Schenker Logistics (Asia Pacific); Kwan Kin Keong, Managing Director, Neville Clarke Singapore; Han Kian Kwang, CEO Gurusoft; and Mr Selwyn Lim, Section Head, Diploma in Logistics & Operations Management. The industry guests who attended the seminar also provided ample networking opportunities for both staff and students.

Where is the only wild game farm in Singapore? To make learning memorable, Diploma in Culinary and Catering Management Juniors undertook field trips on 24 and 25 August 2011 to understand game bird farming and to observe airline catering operations. William Ho of Lian Wah Hang Farm, the only game bird farm in Singapore, hosted an enjoyable session on game bird farming at Farmart Centre in Sungei Tengah. Students savoured exotic crocodile meat and each went home with a dozen quails’ eggs. Changi Airport’s SATS Kitchen hosted a tour of different kitchen facilities. Students witnessed first-hand the various catering stages: from the delivery of raw ingredients, to cooking of different meal types, and finally to the loading point of inflight meals onboard aircraft.
Shining with passion through project-work

How do you brand BRANDS? Students from the Diploma of Marketing got a chance to use their imagination when their promotional idea for BRANDS products was featured on the shelves of supermarket stores. As part of their subject Creative Campaign Project, students were challenged to work with client Cerebos Pacific on BRAND’S Innershine. So impressed was Cerebos Pacific with the students’ effort that it adopted and executed the ‘Sunday’s On Us’ promotional idea. From the students’ perspective the project paid dividends. Said student Tan Kim Hock, “The BRAND’S Innershine project injected realism into our learning and developed us into marketers, capable of evaluating and delivering integrated, all-round solutions to our client’s business.”

Loving green, learning retail management

How do you learn about the emerging trend of mall-initiated events to draw more shoppers? Diploma in Retail Management Seniors gleaned some answers to this question when they organised ‘Love Green’, an eco-retail event, at VivoCity, on 16 and 17 July 2011. Related to the subject Retail Practical 3, the project enabled the 93 students to be assessed in the varying roles in retail events management. The event was supported by Olive Ventures, Singapore’s first Eco-Store. Environmental-friendly products were promoted according to four themes: “Greener Homes”, “Eco-Fashion”, “Energy Range”; and an “Eco-Tips Corner”. A satisfied Mr James Low, Managing Director of Olive Venture remarked, “We’re happy to engage Diploma in Retail Management students in future retail events management jobs.”

Refurbishing with head and heart

How do you transform a retail outlet and transform your inner self in the process? An overseas community project took 23 Diploma in Retail and Management students, Course Manager, Samuel Tan and Lecturer Wee Tee Yong to Lombok, Indonesia, for a week in June 2011.

The group embarked on a good cause: to refurbish a retail outlet of Djiraf, a gift shop chain, in Mataram Mall.

The Lombok trip was part of an overseas community project that students undertake within their diplomas to learn values such as compassion for others, leadership initiative, and paying back to the community at large.

The students worked hard to overhaul the store and provided the outlet with a new lease of life, a fresh lick of paint and eye-catching visual display.

An added bonus for them was that they got to put their retail knowledge into action so as to ensure a renewed customer experience. They enthusiastic students also went the extra mile to give the store a new, more prominent logo.

The change in the store was a heart-warming experience for the students said judging from the comments of Cheryl Ang one of students, “When the previously run-down shop re-opened, customers actually thought a brand new shop had replaced it entirely!”

James Low
(Managing Director)
Olive Venture

We’d be happy to engage Diploma in Retail Management students in future retail events management jobs.”
Playing ambassadors with a mission

How do you play service ambassadors with a special mission? Diploma in Leisure & Resort Management students found out when they participated in the Show Ambassador Programme organised by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). Students were involved in the organisation’s trade show and conference, and networked with international industry players through the event and the Young Professionals’ Night reception. Their hard work paid off when they were rewarded with surprise passes to Universal Studios. Andrew Lee, Executive Director of IAAPA—Asia Pacific, observed, “IAAPA introduced the Show Ambassadors Programme for the first time in Asia. Temasek Polytechnic’s Diploma in Leisure & Resort Management students displayed helpfulness and enthusiasm and this won praise from many at the event.”

It was a very enriching experience because we saw first-hand and were led to understand the struggles faced by orphans.

Divya Jeya Balan

Giving help, taking home heart-warming learning

They gave, but the 20 Diploma in Communications and Media Management (CMM) students took home valuable lessons as well. In April 2011, 20 Diploma in Communications and Media Management students and lecturer Pauline Lau volunteered their time and services for a three-day Overseas Community Involvement Programme (OCIP) in Bintan, Indonesia. The focus of the trip was to help: build roads, plant a vegetable garden and spend time with children at an orphanage. To raise funds, the students sold fried seaweed, muffins and cookies. Lecturers from the Communications and Media Management Division also chipped in, buying food, stationery and school uniforms for the orphans. Junior Divya Jeya Balan reflected, “It was a very enriching experience because we saw first-hand and were led to understand the struggles faced by orphans.”

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