2004
30 April
Book launch
The School of Film & Media Studies launched For the Love of God, a 376-page anthology, and its accompanying audio book, One for the Love of God.

29 May
Supership win
Project Proteus, comprising five Ngee Ann (NP) graduates, came in 2nd at the 5th Start-Up@Singapore National Business Plan Competition and Forums 2003/2004, with its reconfigurable superchip.

5 June
NP grads win Green awards
NP graduates T Ramanathan and Ng Wai Ling clinched the HSBC/NYAA Youth Environmental Awards 2004.

18 June
Kilimanjaro conquered
The Adventure Seekers (TAS) club reached the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, South Africa.

29 June
Ministerial visit
Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education, visited the Polytechnic where he toured the facilities and met up with students.

9 July
WorldSkills win
NP clinched three Gold awards and three Diplomas of Excellence at the WorldSkills Singapore competition.

13 July
RoboCup win

11 August
Ngee Ann Learning Model (NLM)
NP unveiled the new phase of NLM, which empowers students to choose from eight learning pathways for a total learning experience.

2-3 September
Biotechnology Fair
The School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology (LSCT) co-organised a Biotechnology Fair with Singapore Science Centre.

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1 November
Engineering Week
NP hosted the opening ceremony of Engineering Week, an initiative by the five local polytechnics to highlight course and career possibilities of engineering. Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, was the Guest-of-Honour.

21 November
Double win in Japan
Ngee Ann topped the micromouse - expert class (professional category) and the micrincipper events at the 25th All Japan Micromouse contest.

2005
6 January
New Diploma in Product Design & Innovation
NP introduced a new Diploma in Product Design & Innovation, which fuses engineering knowledge and design skills, and integrates the artistic, scientific and business aspects of product design.

Common First Year Pathway
NP launched its Common First Year Pathway (CYP) programme, which allows engineering students to decide on their course only in the second year. Common modules taken in the first year will ensure they gain a solid Engineering foundation.

19 January
New Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing)
NP announced a new Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing), aimed at producing professionals for the life sciences, healthcare and biomedical sciences industries.

New Diploma in Chinese Studies
NP signed an MOU with the National Institute of Education to co-offer a new Diploma in Chinese Studies, aimed at producing quality Chinese Language teachers.

Collaboration with Zhejiang University City College
NP announced a new collaboration with China’s Zhejiang University City College, to run immersion programmes in China for NP students taking the Diploma in Chinese Studies.

6 October 04
8 October 04
1 November 04
21 November 04

19, 20 & 22 January
Open House
NP’s Open House drew 16,000 visitors with “That Something X’tra”. Highlights included the Grand Olympiad, Engineering Fair and Parents Forum.

26 January
Singapore Youth & Media Conference
The School of Film & Media Studies hosted the inaugural Singapore Youth & Media Conference, which saw a turnout of 1,000 participants. Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, was the Guest-of-Honour.

15 February
MOU with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
NP signed an MOU with the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, aimed at integrating art and technology in the two institutions, and promoting innovations in design.

5 March
IT Youth
ICT graduate Aaron Tan clinched the IT Youth award, conferred by the Singapore Computer Society for outstanding IT accomplishments and creativity.

13 March
Unbeatable Force
NP cheerleading team Magnum Force won the national Cheerobics competition for a fifth consecutive year.

28 March
Double slat win
Two LCST students clinched gold medals at the 4th Shijin Pencak Silat Championship.
Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) is the 1st local polytechnic that plans to offer diploma courses in China. Our 1st Overseas Education Centre is slated to start operation in Shenyang in 2006. We are also the 1st polytechnic to offer a Diploma in Chinese Studies, aimed at producing quality Chinese Language teachers, and a Common First Year Pathway (CYP) programme which allows Engineering students to decide on their course only in the second year.

Full-time diploma courses offered by Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Our wide range of courses gives students a balanced and broad-based education.

Modules offered by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, under the categories of Communication, Life Skills, Media & the Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Science & Technology.

Percentage of our student cohort who will head overseas for community service, attachment, leadership development and exchange programmes by end 2005. The countries include China, India, Finland, and the United States. Participation is expected to hit 100 per cent eventually.

The amount donated by Ngee Ann Kongsi to the Polytechnic in October 2004. This record donation will enable NP to continue promoting student innovation and enterprise, offering local and overseas student development programmes, and providing interest-free laptop loans to needy students.

The height of the mountain that a team of 12 students scaled in Tanzania, Africa. The Adventure Seekers conquered Mt Kilimanjaro in June 2004, and bagged a Special Achievement Award at the Student Excellence Awards.
Mobile e-Learning (MeL) has been an integral part of the NP learning experience since its launch in 1999. With a wireless campus and more than 900 teaching modules on its e-learning platform, NP offers students a borderless learning environment.


The number of times NP’s cheerleading team Magnum Force has won the national Cheerobics competition. It clinched the latest championship in March 2005. Magnum Force will be cheering the Singapore athletes at the SEA Games in November 2005.

Academic schools in NP. They are School of Business & Accountancy, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of Health Sciences, School of InfoComm Technology, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology.

Clubs and societies in NP that students can choose from.

The size of the Ngee Ann campus. Located at the fringe of the upmarket Bukit Timah residential district, its facilities include a two-storey Convention Centre, a Teaching Hub, a Lifestyle Library and an array of sporting amenities including an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

NP’s student population, which includes 14,000 full-time students and 1,600 part-time students.
Roll of honour

March 2005 brought joy to the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT) when one of its graduates, Aaron Tan Wei Cheng, won the prestigious National IT Youth Award 2005. This is one of the IT Leader Awards given annually by the Singapore Computer Society to honour individuals for their IT achievements and contributions in Singapore.

The whiz kid, who started immersing himself in computer programming at the age of 13, started eShock Web Solutions to market his Web design and development services online. Over 90 per cent of his customers are from the United States.
Aaron was also one of those who brought glory to Ngee Ann at the WorldSkills Singapore 2004 Competition in July, which saw the Polytechnic clinching three Gold awards and three Diplomas of Excellence. Of the Gold awards, two were won by students from the Electrical Engineering (EE) Division. The third Gold award was won by Aaron. All the Diplomas of Excellence were won by EE students.

WorldSkills Singapore is a biennial competition for youths to compete in technical skills. Selected gold medallists like Aaron and Muraliraj s/o Rajoo, from the EE Division, had the honour of representing Singapore at the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki, Finland in May 2005. Aaron won the Bronze medal in Web Design.

ICT is also home to other “stars”. In the Microsoft Office Academic Skills Challenge 2004, for instance, two of its students, Lee Chee Yuan and Low Yi Yang, emerged as the Asia Pacific champion and first runner-up respectively in the MS Word category. Chee Yuan brought more glory to Singapore when he was declared the World Champion in August.

On the robotics front, the School of Engineering continued to demolish its opponents in the international arena with its excellent skills and wealth of experience.

A team of four students made a clean sweep in the sumo category of RoboGames 2005, grabbing all the prizes.

The competition, billed as the world’s largest robot competition, was organised by the Robotics Society of America in March 2005 at San Francisco State University. More than 200 teams from 13 countries participated in eight categories.

To quote the post-event report on the Web, “this is the first time a class has been swept by a single country”.

Quality films that made waves in local and foreign shores. Books penned by our very own staff and students. And a long list of awards in various fields. These achievements reflect the wealth of talents, and spirit of innovation and enterprise pervading the Ngee Ann community.
Our micromouse team was also squeaking in glee when it scored a double victory at the 25th All Japan Micromouse Contest in November 2004. The team grabbed the championships in the micromouse - expert class (professional category) and the microclipper events. The victory was extra-sweet as it was the first time that Ngee Ann clinched the first place in the microclipper event. The competitors hailed from Japan, Korea, Singapore and the United States.

But that's not all. Four students from Ngee Ann also won the third place in RoboCup 2004 Small Size League, held in Portugal from June to July 2004. A total of 21 teams from more than 10 countries took part in this competition aimed at encouraging research in robotics development.

In another field, Hu Yibo and Zhang Jing Xuan from the Mechanical Engineering (ME) Division walked away with the Overall Winner's Trophy in the Creatively Mine Show, a TV programme shown on MediaCorp's Channel 8.

Their project? A fuel cell-powered bicycle, a green electric bicycle which runs on fuel cell, which converts hydrogen and oxygen electrochemically into electricity and pure water.

The School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) also had a successful year, walking away with one silver and three bronze awards at the Students' Creative Awards, also known as The Crowbar Awards, in September 2004.

The annual event was organised by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents Singapore (4AS) to promote young and creative talents in the advertising and media industry.

The School of Business & Accountancy (BA) had its share of the limelight when its two teams managed to grab the second and merit prizes at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) National Management Competition 2004 in August.

Jean Wong Ji Zia gave the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) much reason to cheer when she was awarded the 13th French Alumni French Language Award in November 2004. The Business Studies student was nominated from among a group of 20 students taking Intermediate French. Such awards are given annually to outstanding students learning the language.

The School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology (LSCT) also held its head high in November 2004, when its Horticulture & Landscape Management (HLM) students received the biennial Creative Award for their design of the Butterfly Trail at Labrador Park.

Ngee Ann's emphasis on developing all-rounders also paid off when five students and graduates received the North West Community Development Council's Outstanding All-Rounder Students' (OARS) Awards in July 2004. The awards are aimed at inspiring students to pursue a total education and to maximise their potential to the fullest.
Talented filmmakers

The School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) lived up to its reputation as an excellent film school when it won nine awards under the Media Development Authority (MDA) Media Education Scheme. Our students impressed their interviewers with their passion and outstanding show reels.

Among the recipients was Daryl Yap, the top graduate for Film, Sound & Video (FSV) in 2004. He won a scholarship of $75,000 to study for a degree in communication studies in an overseas tertiary institution.

Another FSV graduate, Anthony Chen, even got a chance to work with director Lin Cheng Sheng in his award-winning movie, The Moon Also Rises. Anthony bagged the role of second assistant director in Lin’s film, which won for Best Leading Actress and Best Screenplay Adaptation at the 41st Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan in 2004.

The talented Anthony chalked up another victory when his graduating film, G-23, was named the national winner in the Kodak Filmschool Competition 2004. G-23, which focuses on emotional suppression in urban Singapore, was also screened at the Singapore International Film Festival 2005 in April.

The Advanced Diploma in Film Production (ADFP) students also performed well. ADFP’s first attempt in an advertising film competition saw student Danny Leong winning the Special Prize at the Porsche International Student Advertising Film Festival in April 2004. The international competition attracted 61 entries from countries like Germany, the United States, Australia, Singapore, Nigeria, Italy, France, Slovakia and Ireland.

Danny’s commercial, entitled Red Fur Dog, was described as a particularly original effort in communication. Besides an all-expenses-paid trip to Germany to receive his award,
this former lawyer-turned-filmmaking-student also landed a plum job as assistant director on a future Porsche public relations film. Another ADFP film, The Postal Rule, won a jury prize called the Organisation Prize at the Algarve International Film Festival in Portugal in May 2004. The Postal Rule was directed by Kong Wai Jong and produced by Sharon Phuah.

Authors with flair

For The Love Of God. That is the heavenly title of an FMS book featuring the works of 35 world-renowned contributors, such as Arundhati Roy, alongside those of 35 Mass Communication (MCM) students.

A limited one-time edition of 1,000 copies, with an accompanying audio book was printed. The book was the creative product of FMS’ Book Writing & Publishing class, a graduating specialisation offered in the MCM programme.

The writing bug was also alive and well at the School of Business & Accountancy (BA), with Mr Lai Yuen Poh, a senior lecturer, writing a book entitled Franchising: A Fast Startup Guide. Launched in January 2005, it offers a quick, reader-friendly guide for anyone who’s new to the game.

Ms Michelle Lim, a lecturer at the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS), has also written a book. Entitled Sense Of The Inevitable, it is a collection of eight short stories. Love, jealousy, insanity, death and memories are skilfully woven together into a poignant yet light-hearted work of literary fiction.

Expert insights

Representatives from the advertising, marketing and media sectors were all ears as BA presented the results of its survey on Singaporean women in August 2004.

Favourite brands were revealed, as were key perceptions and values on important issues like relationships, dating, working environment, family planning and children.

Conducted by BA’s Marketing Section, the study was part of a series of annual surveys that provide reliable information on various topics. They are followed not just by businesses and decision makers but also the general public.

A team of four lecturers from the School of BA has also come up with an index to gauge the level of customer satisfaction for Singapore’s retail industry.

The Retail Customer Satisfaction Index (RCSI), as it is called, is aimed at providing a means of tracking retailers’ performance in the eyes of their customers. Surveys will be conducted every six months to determine the RCSI.

Enterprising students

The Office for Innovation & Enterprise (OIE) approved and co-funded 13 projects in FY2004/05 under the EnterpriZe! scheme, an incentive funding initiative to help students start up their innovative business ideas. Students receive a grant of up to $3,000 per project to bring their products or business ideas to the market.
The five-man Project Proteus team led by Darran Nathan, a graduate from the School of Engineering, had the distinction of being the first recipient of the ETDF among the polytechnics.

Ten of the 13 projects have registered their businesses in Singapore, reflecting the strong entrepreneurial spirit in NP. One such venture is Y2Y Training Enterprise which conducts training programmes for students from primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and polytechnics to nurture the spirit of innovation and enterprise.

Ngee Ann also capitalised on the launch of the Entrepreneurial Talent Development Fund (ETDF) by SPRING Singapore to support the development of innovative business ideas initiated by our students and graduates.

The five-man Project Proteus team led by Darran Nathan, a graduate from the School of Engineering, had the distinction of being the first recipient of the ETDF among the polytechnics. Their business includes the use of hardware and patent-pending solutions that can offer data processing capacity equivalent to 140 computers. Proteus received $50,000 from the ETDF.

Project Proteus has already set up a company called Progeniq Pte Ltd to market its product line. The team enjoyed an auspicious start by clinching the second prize at the Fifth National Business Plan Competition and Forums. The team walked away with $10,000 at the Finals and Prize Awards Ceremony, jointly organised by NUS Entrepreneurship Centre and NUS Business School Alumni Association in May 2004.

Distinguished alumni
The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Economics and Commerce awarded two of its Whitlam Scholarships to Teoh Rui Yi and Tung Ter Soon, graduates from NP's School of Business & Accountancy (BA). The university also awarded an International Undergraduate Scholarship to another BA graduate, Wang Miaoshe Daphne.

Yet another BA graduate, Neo Aiwei, was awarded the ACCA-ICPAS (Association of Certified Chartered Accountants-Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore) silver
medal in ACCA’s June 2004 examination. Aiwei, who
graduated with a Diploma in Accountancy in 2002, was also
ranked 10th in the world for this achievement.

Former engineering student Heng Wee Loon chalked up a
commendable achievement in August 2004, winning the
Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship To Encourage Upgrading (LKY-
STEP) Award to further his studies in Nanyang Technological
University (NTU). The Electrical Engineering graduate was
awarded the Singapore Power Gold Medal in 2003. Other
engineering graduates also continue to shine after leaving
the Polytechnic. They include:

- Chang Kok Leong who graduated from NTU with a
  Bachelor of Engineering, Electrical & Electronic
  Engineering (EEE) (First Class Honours) in 2004. Kok
  Leong, who graduated from Ngee Ann with a Diploma
  in Electronic & Computer Engineering (ECE) in 1999,
  has received a scholarship from NTU to do a PhD there.

- Goh Young Koon and Lim Soon Koon who obtained
  first-class honours from NTU in 2004. Soon Koon
  graduated from Ngee Ann in 2000 while Young Koon
  graduated in 1998. Each received a Diploma in Quality
  Assurance Engineering from Ngee Ann.

Exemplary staff

Leading the list is Dr Sushila Chang, Senior Director and
LSCT Director who made it to the 22nd edition of Who’s
Who In The World, which features the biographies of 50,000
of the most accomplished people around the globe in all
fields of endeavour.

Two other directors also made their mark. They were Director
of FMS, Dr Victor Valbuena, who was awarded the National
Day Public Service Administration Award (Bronze) and Mr
Foo See Meng, Director of the ME Division, who was elected
as a member of the Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)

ICT lecturer, Mr Terence Choo, won the PS21 Star Service
Award in July 2004 for excellence in teaching. He was the
only polytechnic lecturer to receive the honour.

Mr Choo scored another triumph when he and fellow ICT
lecturer Charles Keck captured the third prize at the
SG@Home Ideas Competition in November 2004.

Their winning idea, which uses grid computing to predict
the spread of forest fires, was among more than 700 entries.
The national competition aims to elicit innovative and creative
ideas to harness spare cycles of computing resources in
homes, schools and organisations.
March 2005 brought more joy when Mr Sreeram Ramachandran, an ICT lecturer, finished fifth in the Google India Code Jam programming contest. The competition, which was open to residents of India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand and the Maldives, tested the participants’ skills in writing and testing software.

BA lecturer Jonas Lee was awarded the Supportive Teacher award by the Asian Women’s Welfare Association’s TEACH ME Services in July 2004. This was to recognise his dedication in helping Jan Lee, a wheelchair-bound student who graduated with a Diploma in Accountancy in 2003. Mr Lee had gone out of his way to help Jan not just in his school work but also in other ways. He had, for instance, initiated the idea of installing a lift at The Atrium to enable Jan to access the Lifestyle Library on the second floor.
Jason Mak was attending a school convention on 26 December 2004 when news of a devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean broke. He immediately sprang into action.

“There was no way I could access the area so the only way to help the victims was to send cash or supplies,” said the Business Studies student. Jason, 21, spearheaded, planned and co-ordinated much of Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s efforts to help the tsunami victims. These included flyers and mass emails to current and former students.

In the early stage of the massive relief effort, Jason and fellow student Mohamad Izhardi Bin Misram practically stayed awake for 48 hours at a stretch.

“We knew we were racing against time - the affected areas needed help urgently. We worked through the night to collect as much supplies and raise as much funds as possible,” recalled Jason.

In six days, the volunteers collected enough supplies - including rice, blankets, canned food and water purification tablets - to fill 300 boxes. These were sent to the Singapore Sinhala Buddhist Association, which was co-ordinating aid efforts to Sri Lanka.

It was a time of relief and anxiety, recalled Jason. “When the Association finally received the goods, there was a sense of satisfaction but we also wondered whether the goods were sufficient and if they would reach the needy in time,” he said.

Jason attributed his tsunami collection efforts in part to leadership skills and organisational qualities he picked up as Vice-President of Ngee Ann's Outward Bounders. The massive humanitarian effort has, in turn, reinforced in him the power of faith and hope. “I learnt there really is nothing we can't do if we put our minds to it - it is a matter of getting started. Even if it is one person’s idea, it can become a common vision,” said Jason.

“When disaster strikes, it does not matter where and who you are. As long as you are human and committed, you can face and conquer it.”
Jonathan Yong

Excellence Driven By Passion
Jonathan Yong has all the makings of a successful inventor and entrepreneur. He won a silver award at the prestigious Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors Awards for his unmanned aerial vehicle, which uses a wireless radio controller for safe take-offs and landings.

Besides winning national robotics competitions, book prizes and awards, the Mechanical Engineering graduate also represented Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) in the WorldSkills Competition for Engineering Drawings. With teammate Tan Tein Hau, he also designed an innovative aerial vehicle with three main rotor blades. The project helped to earn the duo places in local universities.

Jonathan’s love and passion for research and development stemmed from robotics, a childhood pastime. “I believe passion is what makes a good student and sportsman. Be it studies or tennis, it is the passion in me that drives me to do what I do,” said the graduate.

While serving as President of NP’s Mechanical Engineering Society, office bearer for the Alpha Club and a volunteer peer tutor, Jonathan got to hone his leadership skills, understand difficult organisational problems, and create innovative solutions. Communication and presentation skills learnt in NP, said Jonathan, also came in handy when applying for scholarships and presenting projects.

The Polytechnic also instilled in him a love for the community. Jonathan devoted time and effort to helping underprivileged children, and helped out in the campus-wide tsunami collection drive. “Seeing an event run smoothly and everyone enjoying it gives me a sense of satisfaction. Knowing that I have helped someone at the end of the day makes my day too,” said Jonathan.
Media partners

Students from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) made their presence felt – in The Straits Times no less – through articles published in the newspaper’s weekly Youthink pages.

This collaboration, which began in November 2004, speaks volumes for the calibre of these budding reporters and the quality of training they receive at the Polytechnic.

FMS also collaborated with Radio Singapore International from October to December 2004 when FMS lecturer Danny Yeo scripted and produced four programmes for overseas broadcast. They were aired over MediaCorp channel Capital Radio 95.8 FM a week later.

The School also had the distinction of organising the inaugural Singapore Youth & Media Conference in January 2005.
Student bylines in the top English newspaper in Singapore. An overseas education centre in China. And diplomas that continue to be sought after not just locally but also abroad. Here, in a nutshell, is why the Ngee Ann brand is synonymous with quality.

Attended by over 1,000 participants, it offered youths a vibrant platform to share their views on issues affecting their generation. The guest of honour was Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, the Minister for Education.

Two lecturers from the Multidiscipline Engineering (MDE) Division, Mr Lee Ching Kee and Mr Lim Ching Kwang, enjoyed a taste of journalism when they penned a Maths series for The New Paper. Billed as the Get Smart at Additional Maths for Poly series, it ran from April to September 2004. The series was aimed at helping students who wish to study Engineering but have no background in Additional Mathematics.

Technology tie-ups

Over at the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT), Macromedia was welcomed as an eGarage industry partner to collaborate in user interface design and mobile application development using Flash with Action Script. eGarage is a state-of-the-art technology showcase and living laboratory open to Ngee Ann staff, students and industry partners.

Staff from the School of Engineering and ICT joined forces to develop a smart vending system (SVS) that makes shopping even more convenient while improving the operating efficiency of suppliers.

Developed for QCS Marketing & Trading (S) Pte Ltd, SVS is composed of multiple cashless vending machines at different locations connected to the company’s computer system. Thanks to the auto-tracking mechanism, the company is able to track the inventory levels and replenish stocks when necessary.

Three lecturers from the Electronic & Computer Engineering (ECE) Division, Ms Eva Rosdana, Mr Chua Beng Koon and
Ms Chai Kwee Siew, completed a Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) project in collaboration with Aberdeen University and Essex University of the United Kingdom.

The project involved configuring DVB transmission systems for data insertion and transmission, broadcasting of SMS, and analysis and measurement of the DVB transport stream. This collaboration was conducted under the auspices of the Higher Education Link Programme sponsored by the British Council and Ngee Ann Kongsi.

Overseas Education Centre

Ngee Ann signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with G&W Group (Holdings) Limited in October 2004 to set up an Overseas Education Centre (OEC) in Shenyang. This will make Ngee Ann the first Polytechnic from Singapore to offer full-time diploma programmes in China. The OEC will serve as a strategic platform to provide in-depth immersion programmes for the Polytechnic’s staff and students.

A key feature of the curriculum is a fully integrated student exchange programme that will enable students from both countries to develop a bicultural perspective in education and future work.

The joint venture leverages on the synergistic expertise between Ngee Ann and G&W, a subsidiary of Koh Brothers Group Limited, to start the OEC to offer diploma courses in Engineering. A joint venture company, OEC Investment Pte Ltd, has already been formed and courses are expected to start in 2006.

Other key partnerships

A green ice-cream machine and a portable refrigerator powered by energy from the sun. These are the cool products to be developed by the School of Engineering and Danfoss, the largest industrial group in Denmark, under an MOU signed in March 2005.

Both parties also plan to jointly organise public technical seminars, workshops and courses to promote the development and applications of air-conditioning and refrigeration technology to the industry.

An MOU was signed with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in February 2005 to capitalise on each other’s expertise. Besides providing a framework for the integration of art and technology in the two institutions, the collaboration also promotes innovations in the area of design.

On the cards are joint projects between students from Ngee Ann’s School of Engineering and NAFA’s School of Visual Arts. Staff from both institutions will also attend each other’s classes and share pedagogic experiences.

Also included in the MOU is cross-training for staff. The collaborations will benefit NP students in the existing engineering courses as well as the new Product Design & Innovation (PDI) course.
FMS also collaborated with Radio Singapore International from October to December 2004, when FMS lecturer Danny Yeo scripted and produced four programmes for overseas broadcast.

In January 2005, Ngee Ann signed an MOU with the National Institute of Education (NIE). This is to allow graduates from the Polytechnic’s new Diploma in Chinese Studies (CHS) keen on a teaching career to earn a Diploma in Education (Chinese Specialisation) from NIE in only one year. They will then be deployed as primary school Chinese Language teachers.

To enhance the learning experience, students will also undergo an immersion programme in Zhejiang University City College (ZUCC) during their second year. A co-operative agreement was signed by Ngee Ann and ZUCC in January 2005 to facilitate this.

Ngee Ann signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Franchising & Licensing Association (FLA), Singapore in September 2004 to jointly offer a new Specialist Diploma in Franchise Management.

The Polytechnic also obtained a franchise from Denford Limited to run the popular Formula One (F1) in Schools competition in Singapore under an MOU signed by the two parties in October 2004.

Denford Limited, a company in the United Kingdom, is one of the founding partners of the hit competition which has thrilled students in more than 25 countries around the world. Ngee Ann will host the inaugural competition in 2005.

Ngee Ann also signed an MOU with GasHub Power Pte Ltd, a local fuel cell company, in July 2004 to seal a partnership on future fuel cell applications development and commercialisation activities.

Both parties have already jointly developed a clean and green fuel cell-powered personal transporter. FOX, as it is called, incorporates the latest technology in green energy solutions and is a modern mode of personal commuting over short distances in today’s fast-paced world. In addition,
three LOAs were signed with the following parties in December 2004:

- Premas International Ltd to conduct the Certificate, and Specialist Diploma in Facility Management.
- Marina Mandarin Singapore and Hotel Plaza Ltd to conduct the Diploma in Hospitality Management.
- Social Service Training Institute and SSA Management Consultants Pte Ltd to conduct the Certificate in Management of Non-Profit Organisations.

Accreditations and advanced standings

Ngee Ann continued to receive new accreditations and advanced standings in the year under review.

(i) Full-time courses

Logistics Management graduates will enjoy direct entry to the final year of the Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree programme at the Northumbria University in Britain.

Aerospace Technology graduates also stand to gain, enjoying advanced standings for the Aerospace Engineering courses at the University of New South Wales and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Graduates with the Diploma in Aerospace Technology and the Diploma in Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering specialising in Avionics will also be granted credits against the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer examination subjects by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

Good news is also in store for holders of the Diploma in Business Information Technology (BIT), Diploma in Banking & Financial Services (BFS), and Diploma in Business Studies (BS). They will enjoy advanced standings for relevant courses at Murdoch University.

Advanced standing has also been awarded for the Diploma in Business Information Technology (BIT) course to help those who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Information Systems (BIS) course at the University of Melbourne.

Over at the University of South Australia, advanced standings have been awarded for relevant diplomas from Ngee Ann.

In the field of Engineering Informatics, advanced standings have been awarded for Nanyang Technological University (NTU)'s B.Eng (Computer Science) and B.Eng (Computer Engineering) courses.

Our FMS graduates will also enjoy a credit transfer of up to one year in the Communications, Business, Arts & Social Science courses at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU).
Ngee Ann continued to receive new accreditations and advanced standings in the year under review.

Accreditation has been awarded by the Professional Engineers Board (PEB) for 24 of our part-time courses under the Continuing Professional Development Programme of PEB. Participants will gain Professional Development Units (PDUs) upon completion of these courses. PEB requires all professional engineers to acquire enough PDUs to renew their certification to practise.

In addition, the Diploma in Technology (Electrical) has been accredited by the Energy Market Authority (EMA) in Singapore. Graduates from the diploma programme will be eligible to apply for a licence as an Electrical Technician after acquiring at least two years of practical experience relevant to the electrical work to be performed by a licensed electrical technician.

The Diploma in Technology (Building Services) is also now accredited under the Accredited Training Institute (ATI) of the Singapore Civil Defence Force for the Fire Safety Manager course. Students from the diploma programme can therefore practise as Fire Safety Managers upon graduation.
Anthony Chen
"As a director, the most rewarding part is seeing my vision take shape."

"I became interested in the arts and theatre while in primary school," revealed Anthony Chen. That interest has since evolved into a career in filmmaking. The Film, Sound & Video (FSV) graduate started contemplating a career in film directing in secondary school, where he honed his love for drama and theatre. After his "O" Levels, Anthony chose to switch from the Science stream and joined Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP).

"NP provided me with a very well-rounded education – my lecturers were a great source of inspiration. They got me to see why I wanted to go into filmmaking and do it with great passion," said Anthony, 21. "Some of the staff were very insightful in the way they presented the lectures and gave me fresh perspectives on life. The FSV course changed the way I look at life and made me the way I am."

Answering his true calling has proven to be the right instinct - he won the Cathay Organisation Gold Medal (for Best Film Production) and the Shaw Foundation Silver Medal (for outstanding graduate), a Media Development Authority award, and secured an internship at Central Motion Picture Corporation, the largest motion picture company in Taiwan.

Another high point was when he was hired as second assistant director in the award-winning film, The Moon Also Rises. The movie clinched awards for Best Leading Actress and Best Screenplay Adaptation at Taiwan's 41st Golden Horse Awards in December 2004.

"It was a big honour to be part of this award winning movie," Anthony enthused. "It was a great experience to work with such an accomplished director and cast."

He even got to share a room with director Lin Cheng Sheng. "He was very amiable. At night, we talked about politics, filmmaking and so on. He's a very bubbly and friendly person with no airs whatsoever," Anthony recalled fondly.

The graduate co-ordinated the major project, conveying Lin's instructions to the entire crew. Lin also involved him artistically in several scenes, and the sequence and planning of shoots.

We can expect even greater things from Anthony, whose script has been awarded a grant by the Singapore Film Commission. Filming will commence when he finishes his National Service in 2007.

"As a director, the most rewarding part is seeing my vision take shape. There is no such thing as perfection but the beautiful part is charting into unknown waters," he said.

You read it here first!
Mohammad Zaki B Jurani

Undaunted By Difficulties
Mohammad Zaki B Jurani's body is stuck to a wheelchair. But that is all.

As far as the second-year Information Technology student is concerned, his dreams are free to soar to the heavens.

"After my 'O' Levels, my friends and family told me to pursue whatever interests I had. There was no need to hold back," said Zaki, 18, who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a weakening of the muscles.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) fully supports Zaki's dreams and does its best to accommodate his special needs. Lecturer Lim Fang How, Zaki's mentor from the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT), helps with his schoolwork and projects, and sees to his personal needs. Zaki's classmates also help in whatever way they can.

"Most of the facilities are easily accessible. Mr Lim makes sure that most of my classes are held on the ground floor for my convenience," said Zaki. Thanks to NP's online student portal, Zaki can access his homework and lectures anytime, anywhere.

Zaki relishes being in school and enjoys the challenge of project work. "Since joining Ngee Ann, I've been doing computer programming, especially Java and Visual Basic," he enthused.

In overcoming his difficulties, Zaki has come to harness special qualities that will help him realise his dream.

"I am positive in my outlook on life. I don't let something as small as my handicap affect me," said Zaki, who plans to set up a business with his ICT friends upon graduation.

"I have special needs friends who are afraid of going to the Polytechnic but I tell them to be positive and they will pull through," he said.

"Not being afraid to ask for help is also a strength because it is how I can receive support."
Ngee Ann Learning Model enhanced

Ngee Ann went a step further in nurturing and encouraging innovation and enterprise when it unveiled a plan to challenge students to choose their own learning pathways in the Innovation & Enterprise (I&E) in Action module, and exploit their resourcefulness and creativity.

This is the crux of the enhanced learning model, which is a follow-up of the successful broad-based Ngee Ann Learning Model (NLM) launched in July 2001.

Different I&E in Action pathways are available for students to work on: Community, Environmental, Health & Lifestyle Management, Events Management or Entrepreneurship.
Unlike conventional projects, the evaluation of I&E in Action will not focus too much on the outcome but on the process and demonstration of selected I&E traits.

**New courses unveiled**

Three new full-time courses slated for Academic Year 2005/06 were announced in the year under review. They are the Diploma in Chinese Studies (CHS), Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing) (HSN), and Diploma in Product Design & Innovation (PDI).

- **Chinese Studies (CHS)**
  Ngee Ann is the first Polytechnic to offer the CHS course to train Chinese language teachers for Singapore’s primary schools.
  
  No effort was spared to add as much value as possible to this course. Thanks to a tie-up between Ngee Ann and the National Institute of Education (NIE), CHS students who are keen to join the teaching service need to spend only one more year in NIE to earn a Diploma in Education (Chinese Specialisation). They will then be deployed as primary school Chinese language teachers. In the course of their study, students will get to participate in an immersion programme at the Zhejiang University City College (ZUCC) in China. The final-year programme will include an NIE attachment and a teaching practicum for students on the teaching career track.

  Those who do not wish to pursue a teaching career can opt for a career in the Chinese media industry instead.

- **Health Sciences (Nursing) (HSN)**
  The HSN course is designed to meet the rising need for nursing professionals in the life sciences sector such as clinical trials and project management, and research to support the healthcare and biomedical sciences industry.
The curriculum will prepare nurses for a larger professional role, thanks to a life sciences slant that provides a holistic view of the whole process from drug development to intellectual property issues and ethics.

Graduates can also look forward to many opportunities beyond nursing. These include health promotion, disease prevention and rehabilitation, drug development and pharmacology.

• Product Design & Innovation (PDI)

The PDI course is aimed at preparing graduates for exciting design career opportunities in the manufacturing and engineering services industry.

The PDI course curriculum is designed to integrate the arts, science and business aspects of product design. The students will learn to design products that are novel, practical and marketable. In other words, products that look good, work well and sell well.

While some existing local design courses concentrate on industrial design or the arts aspects of design, our PDI course aims to provide an optimised balance of the arts (e.g. product aesthetics and styling), the science (e.g. detailed design and engineering analysis) and the business (e.g. market research, business planning and entrepreneurship) of product design. PDI students are constantly encouraged and challenged to explore creative concepts and design innovative products.

The PDI programme is very practice-oriented. A considerable amount of class time is devoted to hands-on design work. Final-year students will spend several months on industrial attachment.

• Part-time courses

Six new part-time courses have also been introduced at the Centre for Professional Development (CPD).

Of these, two are part-time Specialist Diplomas which offer diploma or degree holders more opportunities to upgrade themselves by enhancing their knowledge in niche areas or gaining additional qualifications. The remaining four are certificate courses designed to meet the training needs of working adults in specific fields.

These part-time courses are the Specialist Diploma in Franchise Management, Specialist Diploma in Facility Management, Certificate in Spa Supervisory Management, Certificate in Franchise Management (Business Issues), Certificate in Franchise Management (Marketing), and Certificate in Franchise Management (Finance & Operations).

School of Engineering restructured

The School of Engineering, the biggest School in the Polytechnic, was restructured in June 2004. This is to enhance not just the quality of the engineering courses but also the students’ overall learning experience.
The School now comprises the following divisions: Building & Environment, Electrical Engineering, Electronic & Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Multidiscipline Engineering.

The courses offered by the five divisions are grouped into four clusters – Built Environment, Electrical & Electronic, Mechanical & Manufacturing, and Engineering Applications.

**New pathway for Engineering courses**

Another new initiative is the Common First Year Pathway (CYP), which enables first-year engineering students to defer choosing their courses till the second year.

The CYP route applies to the four core engineering courses at Ngee Ann, namely, Electronic & Computer Engineering (ECE), Electrical Engineering (EE), Mechanical Engineering (ME) and Mechatronic Engineering (MTE).

Students share a common Year 1 curriculum, whether they opt for the CYP route or any of the four core engineering courses. The curriculum has been strengthened and aligned to reflect the multi-disciplinary approach while ensuring that all the four engineering disciplines are adequately covered.

**Better curricula for students**

Several steps were taken by the Schools in the year under review to improve the programmes offered to our students.

The School of Film & Media Studies (FMS), for instance, has revised the curriculum for its Diploma in Film, Sound & Video (FSV). Previously, students chose two streams out of four choices of film, video, audio or animation at Year 2, and then further specialised with one stream at level 3. In the revised curriculum, all students will acquire the core film and video production skills throughout levels 2 and 3, and choose either audio or animation as complementary skills.
Over at the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT), the Diploma in Multimedia Computing (MMC) course has been enhanced to include new modules. Students will enjoy more elements of art and creativity, and be exposed to interactive animation and game development.

A new module, Fundamentals for IT Professionals (FP), was also launched in Academic Year 2004/05 to provide all first-year ICT students with a broad introduction to the field of IT. Students learn valuable lessons in various areas like self-motivation, problem-solving, interpersonal relationships and teamwork.

Changes are also afoot at the School of Engineering, which will see the Multidiscipline Engineering (MDE) Division employing problem-based learning for three modules, namely, Automation Technology, Quality Management and Manufacturing Processes. This is to develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

The Building & Environment (BE) Division has also taken steps to enhance its programme, revamping the Diploma in Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE) to provide comprehensive training in three areas – Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Environmental Management. The environmental content has been increased and two distinct elective paths – environmental and civil/structural – will be offered.

Besides providing greater employment opportunities for graduates, these curriculum changes will facilitate their certification as Construction Supervisor by the Building & Construction Authority, Environmental Control Officer by the National Environment Agency, and Noise Monitoring Officer and Safety Officer by the Ministry of Manpower.

The Diploma in Real Estate Business (REB) has also been revamped to incorporate real estate finance and investment as core modules of study, in recognition of the use of real estate as a new form of business financing and investment option.

The School of Business & Accountancy (BA) has also improved its curricula, developing more flexible course structures to accommodate different student interests.

Business Studies students, for instance, can now choose any of the three pathways in addition to the common modules in the final year. This means they can specialise in any of the five options offered in the third year, take an option in the first semester followed by a six-month industrial attachment in the same option, or take the core modules of two options.

Accountancy students will also enjoy more choices in their final year. They can opt for a specially tailored six-month professional mentoring programme where they will receive training from practitioners or opt for four finance modules in the final year. Final year students can also opt for a new elective in International Business to gain an awareness of global events and the institutional framework that shapes business opportunities.
Mobile e-Learning (MeL) has been an integral part of the learning experience in Ngee Ann since it was rolled out in 1999.

Online initiatives

Mobile e-Learning (MeL) has been an integral part of the learning experience in Ngee Ann since it was rolled out in 1999. In July 2004, all Year 1 and 2 students became part of the own-a-notebook scheme, bringing the total number of student notebook owners in campus to 11,000. The only exceptions are those from the Horticulture & Landscape Management (HLM) course and Early Childhood Education (ECH) programme.

First-year ECH students, however, had already taken part in a MeL pilot run, bringing them a step closer to online learning.

More than 900 teaching modules are now available on Blackboard, Ngee Ann’s e-learning platform.

The wireless infrastructure has also been enhanced to support the higher bandwidth required in e-Learning. With this, students owning newer models of wireless accessories and notebooks are now able to enjoy faster speeds of up to 54Mbps, compared to 11Mbps previously.

Over the year, the Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC) has also been collaborating with the various Schools and Divisions to make learning fun for our students.

One of the fruits of this labour is the Real Estate Entrepreneurship Game, the product of a collaboration between TLC and the BE Division.

This educational multi-player game is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship through gaming techniques. The simulated business environment is based on familiar local business activities and the main theme of the game is based on the concept of Learn, Earn, Save and Invest. The game is used by the BE Division to teach students in all its courses.
Norishah Bte Anwar & Mohammed Syahril B Ramli

Double Winners
Two Life Sciences & Chemical Technology (LSCT) students who took up pencak silat as a recreational sport are now reaping gold medals at international competitions.

Norishah Bte Anwar and Mohammed Syahril B Ramli made Ngee Ann (NP) proud with their double gold at the 4th Sijori Pencak Silat Championship finals in March 2005. Norishah topped the artistic single section while Syahril aced the artistic doubles section.

The athletes also did well in juggling schoolwork and sports, with the School's full support. In fact, as the Sijori finals clashed with the School's exam schedule, the course manager and module leader reset the exam papers just so the duo could focus on the competition and sit for their exams after their return.

The duo's commitment to studies and sports is steadfast. "On regular days, we practise two hours daily. When competitions draw near, we train four hours daily at least five times a week, and hold gym training thrice weekly," said Norishah, 18, who has been in the Singapore national team since 2001.

Norishah, who took up the Malay martial art at the age of 11, recalled: "I saw my siblings practising and realised I was the only member in my family without a sport, so I took it up as well."


In spite of the gruelling schedule and challenge, the duo has been spurred on to reach even greater heights. Norishah has been shortlisted for the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in November 2005.

"If you have the passion for anything, you go for it and you will do your best," said Norishah.
Haseena Begum

Pay It Forward

Early Childhood Education Programme
Haseena Begum was roped into the kidsREAD programme by a friend in June 2004. Since then, it has been a rewarding journey in volunteer work and reaching out to children from lower-income households.

Haseena, 21, spends almost two hours weekly reading to 4 to 8-year-olds in this volunteer-driven programme started by the National Library Board in April 2004.

The Early Childhood Education (ECH) student revealed that her own family background inspired her to volunteer. “Growing up, my dad was the sole breadwinner and my parents were not aware of whom to turn to for help,” she said.

“When I joined Ngee Ann, I had to take a student loan. The student counsellors helped me tremendously, and strengthened my belief in helping people. I wanted to give back to society by helping the children, especially those from families in the lower income bracket.”

Haseena has done that and more. Initially, many of the children had problems reading and pronouncing, and lacked confidence and self-esteem. The dedicated volunteer applied knowledge from the ECH curriculum to kidsREAD’s dramatisation and lesson planning; she also applied her skills in observing and evaluating children’s reading abilities. “Some of the children needed to work on their phonics and vocabulary. We worked to create positive reading attitudes so as to give them the confidence and optimism to read,” said Haseena, who has previously volunteered for art appreciation programmes.

Haseena was pleasantly surprised at how easily she could adapt her ECH skills to kidsREAD. “I could apply my observation and evaluation skills in various ways to reach out to the children,” she said.

Haseena went further to propose and introduce a parents’ workshop conducted by a trained family counsellor. “Parents are the first teachers of the child so I believe in involving them in the process,” she added.

For Haseena, kidsREAD offers endless satisfaction in seeing joy and confidence in the children’s faces. She also takes immense pride in developing their potential.

“It gives parents confidence that they too can contribute to their children’s upbringing and education whatever their position in society. When parents come up to tell us their kids have started to read at home, it gives me a sense of achievement,” she added.
Sporting heroes

To recognise the achievements of our sports and cultural achievers, and to inspire students to lead balanced and fulfilling lives, a total of 92 awards were given out at the Student Excellence Awards.

Wushu exponent Jennee Sae Tang clinched the Outstanding Sportswoman Award for winning the silver medal in women’s taijiquan at the SEA Games 2003. Alumna Jennee, who holds a Diploma in Horticulture & Landscape Management, also won the coveted Chairman’s Award.
The Outstanding Sportsman award went to Leong Kok Seng, who holds a Diploma in Electrical Engineering. Kok Seng represented Singapore at the Fencing Singapore International 2004; he was part of the team that came in 1st in the Epee team event, and 3rd in the Epee individual event at this regional meet.

Koh Shu Yong, who holds a Diploma in Marine & Offshore Technology, won the Outstanding Contribution to Ngee Ann award. Shu Yong was the President of the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Students’ Union (NPSU) and the Outward Bounders Society, besides holding other leadership positions.

A team of 12 students won the Special Achievement Award for conquering Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa. The group from The Adventure Seekers (TAS) reached the summit of the 5,895m mountain in June 2004. Besides setting a new TAS altitude record with its Mt Kilimanjaro climb, the group found time to undertake community service at a local secondary school, using funds they had raised in Singapore.

Ngee Ann’s thrill-seekers continued to make the world their playground. Six students and staff joined some 300 participants from around the world in the first ever Action Asia Challenge (Extreme Sports Race). The team completed the 59-km race in about eight hours, completing events like mountain biking, ocean kayaking, rock scrambling and abseiling. A School of InfoComm Technology (ICT) team scaled Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South East Asia.

Our mighty Magnum Force proved unbeatable, winning the National Cheerobics Competition for a record fifth consecutive year. The cheerleading team beat four teams to clinch the championship in March 2005. As the Champion, the Magnum Force will be going to the SEA Games in November 2005 to cheer the Singapore athletes on.

New Revolving Age (NRA) proved to be small but mighty, clinching the Funkamania championship in January 2005. The hip-hop dance club, in only its second performance at this annual competition, broke the universities’ stranglehold with its pulsating routine and raw energy.
The Ngee Ann Dragon Boat team garnered four trophies at the Pesta Penang Dragon Boat Race in December 2004, including 1st for the Under-20 (20 crew) race. The triumphant team doubled their medal haul from the year before at this meet. Its success tasted even sweeter in the presence of the Singapore national team and some of Malaysia's top teams.

Noretta Muhd Ibrahim Jacob, a third-year student from the Early Childhood Education Programme, won an All-star Award for Best Goal Keeper at the Floorball Asian Pacific Floorball Competition 2004. The national floorball team, of which Noretta is a member, came in 2nd at the championship. Noretta has been selected to play at the Women's World Floorball Championships in mid 2005.

Shao Biao Ming, from LSCT, won the Gold medal in the 800m men race at the 12th Ho Chi Minh City track & field championships. David Chen Chien-Yuan, also from LSCT, was ranked 6th at the Fencing Competition at the University College London, UK. Oku Keita, from the Building & Environment Division (BE), came in 2nd at the 37th Singapore Bowlers Open.

In FY2004/05, the Student Development & Alumni Relations Office added five new electives to the Sports & Wellness programme – squash, hip-hop dance, canoe polo, taekwondo and table tennis. This brought the buffet of choices for our students to 21. Classes for hip-hop dance and canoe polo were expanded to meet the enthusiastic demand.

Recognition for our achievers

Ngee Ann Polytechnic garnered 28 gold awards under the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) scheme. The winners, comprising current and past Ngee Ann students, received their awards from President S R Nathan in October 2004.

The Gold winners included Song Rui Sheng Julian and Goh Pei Ching from the School of Business & Accountancy (BA), Virson Chen Jia Jun from BE, and Koh Shu Yong, Tang Poh Seng, Ramanathan s/o Thurairajoo, Wong Png Leong, and Chua Hui Zhen from the Mechanical Engineering (ME) Division. Chua Xiao Ying, from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS), clinched a Bronze award. The NYAA scheme pays tribute to youths who demonstrate qualities of self-improvement and reliance, and recognises their contributions to society.

Chen Xiang Hao, from BE, was awarded the President Scout Award in October 2004. Now the Vice-Chairman of the Rover Scouts, Xiang Hao proved his first aid and survival skills over a four-day trek around the island and sealed his prestigious win.

A campus for the community

Ngee Ann continued to be a firm supporter of the Singapore International Foundation’s Youth Expedition Programme. In FY 2004/05, 198 students and 12 staff experienced community work and cultural exchanges throughout Asia, including Sabah, India and Laos.
The Ngee Ann Dragon Boat team garnered four trophies at the Pesta Penang Dragon Boat Race in December 2004, including 1st for the Under-20 (20 crew) race.

A BE team headed for Laos to help construct a village library using mud bricks. The library will be used by English-speaking backpackers in the area to teach children from three nearby villages. An ICT team visited Calcutta, India – the volunteers donated six used personal computers, taught basic IT skills and PC care to a group of young children.

A multidivisional team from the School of Engineering went to Yunnan in November 2004, where they channelled their engineering skills and knowledge into helping the local community. The group helped villagers in Xie He Chuan to build a biogas tank system, providing them with a renewable energy source that will improve their lives.

The December 26 tsunami was the worst physical calamity to strike in recent times, with an impact that continues to resonate throughout the world. The entire Ngee Ann community responded immediately with compassion and generosity. The Polytechnic, including 330 students, rallied to raise funds and collect necessities, pulling resources together and working round the clock to ensure the much-needed resources reach the stricken countries promptly. ICT students initiated a fund-raising car wash, while a BA group worked on New Year’s Eve to help volunteer organisations pack donated items. FMS, working with industry partners, offered the use of a Satellite News Gathering kit to the Singapore Civil Defence Force to help relief efforts. In total, Ngee Ann raised more than $58,000, which was then given to the Red Cross Society Tidal Waves Asia Fund.

On the local community scene, BA students and staff accompanied 60 teens from the Muhammadiyah Welfare Home on three enjoyable and spirited walks from MacRitchie
Reservoir to Rifle Range Road in 2004. The School also organised a Christmas Party programme to reach out to needy families in the Queenstown constituency, and a newspaper collection drive in aid of Sree Narayana Mission Home. BA and ICT joined forces in Project Clementi Online (COL), a community project to help retailers and hawkers in the Clementi constituency understand IT and its benefits. The COL project made it to the finals of the e-Society Awards 2005. The Electrical Engineering (EE) Division organised a swimming outing for the residents of Tampines Home (West Coast), while Multidiscipline Engineering (MDE) Division students raised funds and brought gifts for the Canossaville Children’s Home.

Care for the environment
Ngee Ann is firmly dedicated to doing its part to help protect our environment.

Our students are the best ambassadors of our green commitment. In November 2004, they walked the talk by clinching the 2nd, 3rd and merit prizes in the Tertiary category of the Sembawang Shipyard Green Wave Environmental Care Project competition organised by Sembawang Shipyard. The winning projects included a water-saving hot water system, and an efficient kitchen sink water discharge device.

One of the Green Wave winners was Ng Wai Ling, a Civil & Environmental Engineering graduate and Shell Gold medallist. This environmental activist also clinched the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation/National Youth Achievement Award (HSBC/NYAA) Youth Environmental Award in June 2004, and the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Award three months later. For inspiring others with her impressive academic and CCA record, Wai Ling was awarded Ngee Ann’s National Achievement Award. Her achievements attest to the rich environment Ngee Ann provides so students may blossom to their full potential.

The Polytechnic further sealed its commitment to the green cause in April 2004, when it officially adopted Hindhede Nature Park under the National Parks Board’s Adopt-A-Park scheme.

Culture vultures
Ngee Ann’s cultural landscape remained lively, with performances and festivals dotted throughout the year.

Virtuoso XI, held in April 2004, saw the NP Stings performing a varied repertoire that included movie favourites and Luigi Boccherini highlights. Following the success of the drama double-bill, Bottled Dreams and Hide It, in June 2004, the
The Polytechnic further sealed its commitment to the green cause in April 2004, when it officially adopted Hindhede Nature Park under the National Parks Board’s Adopt-A-Park scheme.

Poly Stage Factor held another run three months later. In July 2004, the NP Concert Band played to a crowd of 350. From classical favourites to soundtracks to J-Pop, the band proved versatile and thoroughly engaging.

The Charity Concert, held in September 2004 in support of President’s Challenge, saw a strong turnout of 600. De Dolce Luna, which means “graceful moon” in Italian, was a showcase of talent and finesse, where 10 groups including Magnum Force, Hip Hop, NP Strings, Concert Band, Harmonica Troupe and the Song Composing Club, chipped in to do their bit for charity.

The Concert Band showed its versatility again in December 2004, with Rondeau XIX held at the Victoria Concert Hall. The 600-strong audience lapped up the classical, pop and Christmas offerings.
Eunice Choo

A Love For Lifelong Learning
Switching from publishing to supervising childcare centres was not an easy move for Eunice Choo.

But a love for children and a burning desire to make a difference in their lives inspired the 34-year-old to carve out a new career. Eunice was also encouraged by her son’s childcare teacher, who helped him cope with a period of domestic turmoil.

“She helped my son become more confident and calm,” recalled Eunice. “I was deeply touched and wanted to be like her - a positive influence in children’s lives.”

In 2003, Eunice took the plunge and joined the PAP Community Foundation as a childcare teacher. The same year, she signed up for the Specialist Diploma in Early Childhood Education course at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP).

“It was an entirely different experience - while publishing could be measured by tangible results, childcare offers intangible benefits in the form of fulfilment,” said Eunice, who graduated in March 2005.

Eunice, whose course included project work and hands-on training, lectures and workshops, credits NP’s lecturers with understanding her circumstances and special needs as an adult learner. “They were very accommodating in allowing us more time to complete our projects,” she said.

Her husband James, who works in the multimedia industry, was fully supportive of her decision to make the career switch and pursue her studies. “We often discussed issues relating to early childhood. Real life experiences added to what I’d learnt in the course,” she said.

He helped further, quipped Eunice, by doing most of the housework.

Armed with her hard-earned Specialist Diploma, Eunice is now actively working to raise PAP Community Foundation’s standards and quality. She is also continuing her own learning, viewing it as “a life-long journey”.

Eunice summed up her new personal slogan: “Be reflective of what we do each day and ask how we can further improve.”
Record of excellence

Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s proven record of accomplishment as an institution of excellence was re-affirmed on three important fronts. Firstly, it was successfully recertified to the ISO 9001:2000 standard in March 2004. Secondly, it renewed its Singapore Quality Class (SQC) status in January 2005. This renewal attests to the Polytechnic’s commitment to business excellence in providing students with an enriching learning experience. NP has been an SQC organisation since 1999. Thirdly, it garnered the Public Service Award for Organisational Excellence in 2004. NP has received the award annually since 2001.
Continuing its planning and implementation of key Polytechnic initiatives, the Organisational Development (OD) Office formalised the 3rd Ngee Ann Strategic Plan (3NPSP) at the Corporate Round Table (CRT) conference on 24 September 2004. A total of 134 staff reflected collectively on the impact and implications of issues affecting the Polytechnic at the CRT, which also saw ideas mooted being prioritised for implementation.

One key highlight during the financial year was the record donation of $16.1 million by the Ngee Ann Kongsi on 8 October 2004. The Kongsi’s contributions to the Polytechnic have enabled the latter to continue promoting student innovation and enterprise, offering local and overseas student development programmes, and providing interest-free laptop loans to needy students.

In March 2005, the OD Office spearheaded a pilot Learning Experience Survey (LexS) involving 35 per cent of the student cohort to improve the Ngee Ann Learning Experience. The survey included Teaching & Learning, student services and learning support services. The findings and recommendations will be released in August 2005.

**Creating an inspiring environment**

The Estate Management (EM) Office oversees estate maintenance and physical development of NP’s environment and facilities.

Breathing new life into the campus is the Teaching Hub (Block 56). Opened on 28 June 2004, the Hub offers students and staff a serene and inspiring environment. A picturesque pond and surrounding greenery form the green lung of the campus.

The School of Film & Media Studies and the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology, and three Divisions in the School of Engineering were relocated to refurbished
premises, to cater to increasing student enrolment and curriculum needs. It also improved accessibility and utilisation of shared resources such as laboratories and studios. eGarage, located in the School of InfoComm Technology, was expanded to five times its original size to accommodate more activities. It boasts a new industry technology showcase, living laboratory and networking centre. The second phase of development work for the Aerospace Technology Hub, aimed at accommodating the increasing number of aerospace students and modules, was completed in March 2005.

Canteen 2 underwent a two-month facelift in 2004 – the refurbished canteen now boasts greater seating capacity, better lighting and ventilation. In addition, more study areas are now available to promote student interaction and enhance the overall learning experience in campus.

Improving services

An equally important part of student life, the academic library was renovated and re-opened on 28 June 2004, with more storage space and an enhanced layout to better meet users’ needs.

This was matched by improvements in service, including a virtual “Ask a Librarian” reference service, a Discussion Room booking system, and the Readers’ Choice web log. Talks by invited speakers on topics including travel, financial planning and fengshui, also kept reader interest alive – circulation transactions totalled 317,136 for the year. The Library withdrew 26,714 outdated volumes and added 8,685 volumes, bringing its collection to 224,783 book titles, 1,056 current periodical titles, 23,241 audiovisual titles, 2,663 software titles, 26 CD-ROM and database subscriptions, and 286 ebook subscriptions.

In September 2004, the Computer Centre launched a new Student Intranet to provide integrated and convenient access to various electronic services, and a new online forum.

Harnessing the human resource

In recognition for its pro-family efforts and innovative employee “work-life friendly programmes”, Ngee Ann Polytechnic was given the Singapore Family Friendly Employer (SFFE) award (Certificate of Merit) in 2004. It also clinched the Singapore Health Award Silver for a third consecutive year.

For its strong support and significant contributions towards National Service and Total Defence, the Polytechnic was presented with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Commendation for Employers Award on 23 July 2004, and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Award for Employers on 20 August 2004. NP Family Day, held on 7 August 2004 in conjunction with the National Day Observance a day earlier, saw a healthy turnout.
Ensuring our students’ welfare
To give parents a glimpse of Ngee Ann’s “Total Learning Experience”, the Student Services (SS) Office organised a special forum in June 2004, attracting 670 participants. A two-month e-Career Fair, which ended on 12 April 2005, saw 51 participating companies, 1,200 job offers and 1,534 applicants. Its Job Placement Service attracted 686 registered applications, while the Student Counsellors assisted 450 students. The SS Office also gave out 148 scholarships, 255 bursaries and 26 Ngee Ann Co-operative grants amounting to $515,600 to deserving students.

A cohort of international students further enlivens Ngee Ann’s vibrant campus life. To introduce them to Singapore and polytechnic life, the International Students Centre (ISC) organised an orientation programme in June 2004. It included talks by staff members and a tour of Singapore.

Throughout the year, varied activities and programmes kept our overseas students plugged into the scene, including visits to the Istana, the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, the Chinese Gardens, and the NEWater Plant. ISC also held its inaugural ISC extravaganza in July 2004, and organised a visit to the Singapore River HongBao in February 2005 so they could join in the Chinese New Year festivities.