2005

31 May • Career portal
Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) launched its online job portal (http://np.jobsfactory.com/) to help students & graduates find part-time & full-time jobs.

1 July • Venture Incubator Programme
NP launched the Venture Incubator Programme to support budding entrepreneurs, in association with the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (ASME). The programme is supported by SPRING Singapore.

12 July • President’s Man
NP graduate Lee Zai Yong received the President’s Award of the Boys’ Brigade from President S R Nathan.

28 July • Defence Partner award
NP received the Meritorious Defence Partner Award at the Total Defence Awards, for its support towards National Service and Total Defence.

11 August • F1 race
NP hosted Singapore’s first-ever F1 model car racing competition for secondary schools. A total of 150 competitors put their super engineered model cars to the test.

21 August • National broadcast
Two video clips produced by a team of students, alumni and staff from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS), were shown during the 2005 National Day Rally to illustrate the general standard of Singapore’s service industry.

30 August • Innobiz win
NP students came in tops in two of the three categories at the Mayor’s Innobiz Award Competition organised by the North East Community Development Council.

9 September • Centre of Innovation
NP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AEM-Evertech Holdings Ltd to set up a $3-million Centre of Innovation. The Centre will focus on applied R&D to develop cutting-edge technologies for the manufacturing sector.

29 September • Kongsi donation
The Polytechnic received a generous donation of $12.1 million from Ngee Ann Kongsi, a philanthropic foundation that set up Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

4 October • Glovology win
Two School of InfoComm Technology (ICT) students won the Samsung DigitAll Hope 2005 Award with their final-year project, Glovology. The mobile assistive application enables hearing-impaired persons to bridge the communication gap.

6 October • Health award
NP received a Gold award at the Singapore HEALTH (Helping Employees Achieve Life-Time Health) Awards, for its efforts in promoting health at the workplace.

10 October • Poly Forum
NP hosted the 10th Polytechnic Forum, attended by more than 300 students. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth & Sports, graced the event.

26 October • Skyhawk “lands” in NP
The Republic of Singapore Air Force donated a A-4SU Super Skyhawk to NP, giving Aerospace Technology students a chance to get up close and personal with the design and structure of a military aircraft.
10-22 October • FMS students conquer Big Apple
A group of final-year Mass Communication students got the chance of a lifetime to learn from top American newsrooms, including The New York Times, Dow Jones Newswires, and The Boston Globe.

27 November • Micromouse might
Electronic & Computer Engineering students Tan Zhi Ping and Liu Qi clinched the top spot and set a new record at the 26th All Japan Micromouse Competition.

26 November • National StriTwise™ Challenge
ICT co-hosted Singapore’s first National StriTwise™ Challenge with IBM Singapore. Some 270 students from 27 secondary schools demonstrated their creativity and IT skills in three exciting categories.

27 November - 5 December • SEA Games
Horticulture & Landscape Management graduate Goh Qiu Bin bagged a gold in taijiquan at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Manila, the Philippines. Electrical Engineering graduate Dennis Leong won a bronze in fencing, while Norishah bte Anwar from the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology won a bronze in silat.

3 December • River adoption
NP adopted a 2km stretch of Sungei Ulu Pandan in Clementi, in support of the Public Utilities Board’s “Our Waters” Programme.

7-8 January • X!capade
NP held X!capade – a celebration of youth and talents – in the heart of Orchard Road. Audiences enjoyed the varied performances by NP students and alumni including Jean Danker, Derrick Hoh and Daphne Khoo.

13 January • New Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management
NP launched its new Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management course with a cruise aboard the SuperStar Virgo.

14 January • Meet the Parents
The Parents’ Seminar attracted a record 1,200 participants, who got a glimpse of polytechnic life and NP’s exciting courses.

23 January • RHyMeS Centre
NP signed an MOU with Symbol Technologies, Sun Microsystems and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, to set up an RFID Hospitality Management System (RHyMeS) Centre. RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification, involves the use of radio frequency communication.

25 January • Record run
NP runner Raihan Mohd Dzuleghram reset a 33-year record with her timing of 25.8sec for 200m race at the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic Track & Field Championships.

27 January • New Diploma in Pharmacy Science
NP unveiled its new Diploma in Pharmacy Science course, aimed at addressing the growing need for qualified manpower to serve the healthcare sector.

2-4 February • Open House
Some 14,500 visitors visited NP to check out its exciting courses, facilities and activities, and to experience that something extra for themselves!

13 March • Smell of Rain
Film, Sound & Video graduate Gloria Chee’s debut film, Smell of Rain, premiered at the Picturehouse.
The cohort of graduates in 2005. It comprises 4,143 full-time students and 497 students taking part-time, specialist and advanced diploma courses.

Number of full-time diploma courses offered by Ngee Ann, including the newly launched Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management course, and Diploma in Pharmacy Science course.

Total number of awards Ngee Ann students and graduates won at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and Singapore Robotics Games (SRG) 2005. The Polytechnic won three medals at the SEA Games for taichi, fencing and silat, and four prizes in the Robot Sumo and Micromouse Open categories at SRG.

Cost of setting up the Centre of Innovation. A collaboration between Ngee Ann and AEM-Evertech Holdings Pte Ltd, the Centre will focus on developing cutting-edge technologies for the manufacturing sector.

Total donation for the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Student Aid Fund from staff, students, alumni and industry supporters. The Fund is aimed at helping needy students meet their financial needs.

The number of academic schools in NP; the newest being the School of Health Sciences and School of Humanities. The others are School of Business & Accountancy, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of InfoComm Technology, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology.
The number of paper hearts that Ngee Ann students folded in contribution to the SingTel Touching Lives Fund.

The length of Sungei Ulu Pandan, which Ngee Ann adopted in support of the Public Utilities Board’s “Our Waters” programme.

The student population at Ngee Ann, which comprises 13,715 full-time students and 1,265 part-time students.

Attendance at the Parents’ Seminar, entitled “Getting a Diploma & Beyond”. The seminar provided parents with information on Ngee Ann’s courses, career, and further education opportunities.

The number of circulation transactions at the Ngee Ann Library. It withdrew 29,949 outdated volumes and added 15,835, bringing its collection to 212,949 volumes.

The number of electives students can choose under the Sports & Wellness module, including new additions: archery, hip-hop dance, canoe polo, taekwondo and fencing.

The number of paper hearts that Ngee Ann students folded in contribution to the SingTel Touching Lives Fund.
winning talents

01
From national honours to creative acclaim, Ngee Polytechnic students and staff came out tops in National and international acclaim. Leading the list of proud achievements by Ngee Ann Polytechnic students and staff is the production of two video clips entitled Taugay Not Enough and Taugay Never Enough.

The two clips, produced by a team of students, alumni and staff from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS), were broadcast during the 2005 National Day Rally speech. Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong used the clips at the rally to illustrate the general standard of Singapore’s service industry. The clips, appreciated for their light-hearted but astute portrayal of service culture in Singapore, sparked a national debate on the topic.

In a letter to Ngee Ann Polytechnic Principal, Mr Chia Mia Chiang, PM Lee thanked the Polytechnic: “The video clips were a great success. They captured the key messages I wanted to convey in stories that struck a chord with all Singaporeans. Many people I talked to after the rally told me they enjoyed the videos. It was a quality production, with a talented cast.”

Other cinematic works by students and alumni from FMS also won critical acclaim in the international arena. Eric Lim, an Advanced Diploma in Film Production (ADFP) student, won the Best Direction and Best of Show (South East District) awards at the Canon DV Festival in September 2005. The second-year student wrote, produced and directed the winning short film, Who Say I Can’t Play. Fellow second-year ADFP student Alex Tan won the 2005 Kodak Filmschool Competition with his short film, 10 Mins Later.

FMS alumni made their mark at the 18th Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF) in April 2005. Boo Junfeng and Sharon Loh won the Best Film and Special Achievement Awards for their short film, A Family Portrait, at the SIFF’s Silver Screen Awards. Han Yew Kwang won The Audience Choice HIP Film Award for The Call Home, while Tzang Merwyn Tong’s A Wicked Tale was part of the Asian Cinema showcase.

At the 26th All Japan Micromouse Competition in November 2005, Ngee Ann Polytechnic continued its winning tradition. Not only did Electronic & Computer Engineering (ECE) students Tan Zhi Ping and Liu Qi top the Microclipper category, their robot even set a new record by flipping 26 out of 32 cans.
Inventions with a difference

Ngee Ann students continued to use their passion, knowledge and skills in tandem to improve lives. Indeed, their passion to make a difference in society in real and meaningful ways will set them apart as graduates and global citizens.

At the Mayor’s Innobiz Award Competition organised by the North East Community Development Council, Ngee Ann students came in tops in two of the three categories. Third-year Building Services Engineering student Leung Chi Lam bagged the first prize in the Innovative Product Award (Open category). Clipper, a unique page finder that doubles up as a bookmark and note holder. The simplicity and adaptability of Chi Lam’s idea won the judges over.

A team from the Electrical Engineering (EE) Division took the second spot in the same category with their Emergency Traffic Light. The portable and flexible traffic light so impressed the judges the latter urged them to collaborate with the Land Transport Authority to implement it. EE also topped the Innovation for Physically Challenged Award (Open Category) with the Touch-n-Drive Wheelchair. Another low-cost wheelchair enables the physically challenged to control the movement and direction with their heads. This invention clinched the first prize (student category) at the Assistive Technology Invention Competition in April 2005.

In February 2006, the Mechanical Engineering (ME) Division also hit the winning trail, with the Gold Award in the Design Competition of Devices for the Elderly and the Handicapped organised by the Institution of Engineers Singapore, with the Adaptive Wheelchair. The invention comes with a suspension system, an electric massage cushion, and a transfer board for boarding and alighting. The well-received wheelchair was later donated to a handicapped client-user.

The Polytechnic continued its wins at the prestigious Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Awards 2005. The winning inventions included a radio-controlled aerial vehicle, a dengue pre-empt detector which helps in the control of dengue fever, an intelligent one-stop car park management, and a space-saving shoe cabinet system.
EnterpriZe! Scheme continued to fuel the spirit of innovation and enterprise in Ngee Ann, with several unique ventures taking off in the year under review.

In September 2005, Ng Yun Chi, Shaun Khoo and Benjamin Lim, from the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT), won a $3,000 grant to produce customised compact AMD gaming desktop PCs. Within six months of receiving the grant, they had clinched sales worth $9,000. Clipper inventor Leung Chi Lam was granted $2,000 to market his prize-winning product.

Charlene Wong, from the School of Business & Accountancy (BA), was also awarded $2,000 to start her business, CJ Professionals, which provides comic design and animation courses for primary and secondary school students. Banking & Financial Services student Alvin Lim Shan-Jia won $3,000 to start a business specialising in financial literacy board games for youths.

Ngee Ann staff also upped the tally of accolades for the Polytechnic.

FMS lecturer Michael Kam’s short film, Twilight Rose, was screened in competition at the 20th Odense International Film Festival in Denmark in August 2005.

In April 2005, FMS lecturer Anita Kuan was one of only 12 winners at the Shine International Student Awards, a scheme funded by the British Council recognising achievements by international students studying in the United Kingdom. She attained a Master’s degree in Radio Production with Distinction from the University of Bournemouth in December 2005.
Taking research and implementation to a higher level of recognition, ECE lecturer Johnny Chee’s Personal Cardiac Telemonitor became the first project to clinch the Economic Development Board’s Proof-of-Concept Grant. The $300,000 grant supported Ngee Ann’s efforts to translate its research work into a commercial invention. The telemonitor allows for convenient data transmission and server upload without human intervention. The invention also won the Technology Team Award at the Staff Excellence Awards in August 2005.

EE lecturer Marek Kubis was presented with the prestigious “LabView Champion” title by global instrumentation company National Instruments. This was in recognition for his contribution to the field of virtual instrumentation.

Pride of a nation
At the national level, Ngee Ann Principal Mr Chia Mia Chiang was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) at the 2005 National Day Awards. He joined 10 other staff members receiving National Day Awards, including Mr Chan Chee Meng, Adrian, Director, Student Development & Alumni Relations; Mr Foo See Meng, Director, ME Division; and Mr Mun Kwok On, Deputy Director, BA, who won the Public Administration (Bronze); Mr Tan Hin Teck, Henry, Deputy Director, Organisational Development Office, who won the Commendation medal; and Mdm Leong Miew Cheng, Corporate Support Officer, Finance, who received the Efficiency medal.

To cap our staff achievements, ECE lecturer Eric Soo Weng Kiong received the PS21 Distinguished Star Service Award in February 2006, for his dedicated mentorship of student Jason Ong Ming Jen. Eric was the only polytechnic lecturer from the tally of 77 winners to be chosen for this distinguished accolade, which recognises civil service officers who display exemplary service quality and spirit. The lecturer customised a home study programme to ensure that Jason, who is paralysed from the neck down, could complete his diploma successfully.
Linguists and scribes

For the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, March 2006 brought good news, when second-year student Le Goff May Lin Charlotte received the 15th French Alumni Language Award. The annual award recognises excellence in the knowledge and learning of French language in Singapore.

May 2005 saw School of Humanities lecturer Danny Yeo’s Speaking in Volume hit the bookstands. The Chinese book, a collection of 20 interviews that the popular radio show artiste conducted with leading artistes, was launched with much fanfare at the World Book Fair 2005.

“In order to be clear about your goals, you need to be passionate about what you want to do.”
At 21, Penny Tan Yihui has defied all odds. The Biomedical Science (BMS) graduate has rewritten history – she is the first polytechnic student in Singapore to be selected into a medical degree programme without obtaining a biomedical science degree first.

“This is like a dream come true!” exclaimed Penny, who is set to matriculate at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. She was selected from a shortlist of 200 applicants.

Penny, who is Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s top graduate in 2005, and the winner of the Lee Kuan Yew Award, Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal, and NUH Gold Medal, also won a $250,000 Ngee Ann Kongsi scholarship to pursue her medical degree.

Penny’s winning attitude stems from an unshakable belief in pursuing her passion, and a willingness to defy convention to do so. After a three-month stint at a junior college, she decided to join Ngee Ann, finding the polytechnic’s hands-on learning style and two-year attachment programme more to her liking.

“I realised that simply learning theory and hard facts was not enough. I preferred Ngee Ann’s curriculum, which included a lot of practical exposure with attachments in hospitals, polyclinics and research laboratories. The training has made me more mature as an individual, aided in character building, and taught me the importance of people and life skills,” she recalled.

“It was a decision that needed lot of courage because I would be steering away from my peers (in junior college) and I would be on a totally different route from them.”

Penny had another epiphany during her attachment programme – her first-hand experience with patients convinced Penny she could help save more lives by practising medicine.

Courage to tackle the unknown – this is pure Penny. In February 2002, she deferred her studies for a year to get a taste of life in Japan, when she won a Japan-Asean Exchange Programme grant. “I felt that I was still young and should go and try new things,” said the bubbly adventure lover.

Throughout her studies, the Polytechnic fully supported Penny’s pursuits, including waiving fees for the year she was in Japan. Lecturers from the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology were a source of motivation and inspiration for the go-getter.

As Penny looks ahead at the challenges of a tough medical programme and life abroad, she remains a shining example of determination and courage for taking the road not taken. “In order to be clear about your goals, you need to be passionate about what you want to do,” she said.
To produce global-smart students, Ngee Ann partners the best from around the world. Media collaborations
Ngee Ann Polytechnic continues to partner the best in its pursuit for world-class industry links and collaborations.

On a 12-day study trip to New York, 15 Mass Communication students from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) got the chance of a lifetime to learn from some of the best American newsrooms. These included The New York Times, Dow Jones Newswires, Conde Nast Traveller and The Boston Globe. In line with the School’s strategy to incorporate more practical experience into its curriculum, the study trip also included a press club networking session, and visits to Columbia University and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Upon their return, the students delivered features, profiles and photographic spreads commissioned by local magazines like Lime, SNAG, Telescope and Teenage.

FMS teamed up with the Media Development Authority (MDA) and the National Youth Council in January 2006 to co-organise the annual Singapore Youth & Media Conference (SYMC). The tie-up showed quick results when MDA agreed to sync SYMC with other industry events like Broadcast Asia 2006, a prestigious international media event.

Radio Heatwave collaborated with Radio Singapore International to organise a forum with the Royal MultiMedia University in Malaysia. This was recorded for broadcast in November 2005.

The School of Humanities partnered Colorwise and Besta International to organise the inaugural Chinese Creative Tile Genie Competition in February 2006, which attracted 92 participants from 16 secondary schools. The participants pitted their skills against each other in the locally-invented Chinese word game, which helps students learn Chinese in a fun and creative way.

In March 2006, five Chinese Studies students joined the student editorial team of Campus Express, an i-Weekly feature. They got a slice of real-life journalism with all its pressures as they proposed and pursued feature stories for the monthly feature.
Technology tie-ups

A significant partnership for the Polytechnic was sealed with the establishment of the Centre of Innovation in September 2005. Ngee Ann and AEM-Evertech Holdings Ltd collaborated to set up a $3-million R&D centre that would serve as a focal point for developing cutting-edge technologies for the manufacturing sector.

A breakthrough partnership between Ngee Ann and industry associates, Symbol Technologies, Sun Microsystems and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels brought radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to the Polytechnic for the first time. The partners, who signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 23 January 2006, will explore and develop RFID and complementary applications for the lifestyle and hospitality management industry. They will also jointly set up a RFID Hospitality Management System (RHyMeS) Centre in eGarage, located at the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT). In an equally exciting tie-up, ICT signed an MOU with SingTel to collaborate and enhance students’ knowledge of telco technologies, and one with the National University Hospital to develop medical informatics solutions.

Technology and research went hand in hand in Ngee Ann’s MOU with the Postgraduate Allied Health Institute of Singapore General Hospital Pte Ltd in February 2006. The MOU aims to foster cooperation in related teaching activities and promote joint research projects, particularly in biomedical applications.

In a move that will add further realism to Ngee Ann’s learning environment, the Republic of Singapore Airforce presented the School of Engineering (SOE) with an A-4SU Super Skyhawk in October 2005. The donation gives Aerospace Technology students invaluable access to the design, structure and system of a military aircraft, and complements the Cessna light aircraft and Wing-in-Ground aircraft currently at the Polytechnic.

Leveraging on technology with the help of the Teaching & Learning Centre, Facilities Management for Business (FMB) students from SOE produced an educational video on designing accessible buildings. The video stemmed from a project the students undertook with the Singapore Institute of Architects and the Handicaps Welfare Association, to audit buildings and facilities for accessibility and ease of usage by the elderly and the physically handicapped.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE), a group of Mechanical Engineering students developed a low-cost digital visualiser. The low-cost visualiser enables text and images from books or magazines as well as short movie clips to be displayed directly on a standard LCD. MOE endorsed the device as an asset for classroom teaching and communication. In a pilot test, 60 units are being installed in primary and secondary schools.
Industry mentorship
Together with the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME), with the support of SPRING Singapore, Ngee Ann started the Venture Incubator Programme on 1 July 2005. The MOU signing ceremony was presided by Mr. Heng Chee How, then Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development.

For current and past Ngee Ann students alike, the Programme offers a formidable combination of the School of Business & Accountancy’s expertise, ASME’s resources and mentorship facilities.

Global alliances
One highlight was the Polytechnic’s tie-up with world-renowned luxury car manufacturer Rolls Royce International. Under the agreement, selected Aerospace Technology students from SOE will undergo a six-month attachment programme at the Rolls Royce site in Derby, United Kingdom.

The Polytechnic reaffirmed its long-standing and growing relationship with Zhejiang University City College (ZUCC) in China. The fourth batch of ZUCC exchange students commenced their stay in Singapore in October 2005. During their stay, they got an exciting taste of life at Ngee Ann.

Ngee Ann got a global leg-up in the research arena in October 2005, when the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology collaborated with Tianjin University on fuel ethanol production research, putting it at the forefront of bio-fuel research in China. The partnership harnessed the best of both worlds, and gave Ngee Ann invaluable access to the Tianjin R&D Centre for Petrochemical Technology.

The Venture Incubator Programme gives young entrepreneurs the right platform to brainstorm and refine ideas and inventions.

A partnership between Ngee Ann, Symbol Technologies, Sun Microsystems and Millenium & Copthorne Hotels brought Radio frequency technology to the Polytechnic for the first time.
“Ngee Ann has always encouraged not only academic results but also results from other fields. (This helped to make) me an all-rounded person.”
Ngee Ann Polytechnic graduate and wushu exponent Goh Qiu Bin has attained the success that many yearn for and few ever reach.

Not one, but three gold medals at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games – the latest being the 2005 Games in Manila, the Philippines. In recognition of this amazing sports feat, Qiu Bin, 21, was named Sportman of the Year at the 2006 Singapore Sports award.

The icing on the cake? Qiu Bin is widely regarded as one of Singapore's best bets for the 2008 Olympics Games. The Horticulture & Landscape Management graduate, who took up taijiquan and taijijian at the age of 13, said of his latest SEA Games medal: "I'm happy and excited about this win. The standard has gotten increasingly higher at each Games, thus making it tougher to win."

Success has required many sacrifices on the pugilist's part. Recalling borrowing notes from classmates when he had to miss classes to train, and deferring National Service, Qiu Bin said: "A lot of discipline is needed and you must put in some sacrifice as well. You do not have time to hang out with friends and you spend most of the time juggling studies and training."

The sacrifice was well worth it, especially when he had the full backing of the Polytechnic and the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology (LSCT). From providing special tutorials to guidance on managing school work, LSCT lecturers supported him all the way. "Ngee Ann has always encouraged not only academic results but also results from other fields. (This helped to make) me an all-rounded person," said Qiu Bin.

Fellow SEA Games medallist, fencer Dennis Leong, also found Ngee Ann's faith in students and support for their passion a key factor in his outstanding success as a sportsman.

Dennis, whose bronze medal made the Manila Games one of the best SEA Games outing for the national fencing team in over a decade, said Ngee Ann provided all the right opportunities and encouragement. The polytechnic's steadfast commitment to Dennis' total development convinced the Electrical Engineering (EE) graduate he had made the right choice to join Ngee Ann.

Not only did the Polytechnic allow him to train and go for overseas competitions, EE lecturers helped him with his coursework, and channeled his interest in marketing. Dennis even got to start Ngee Ann's Fencing Club in 2002. "I was given the chance to organise the whole club. This helped me to understand what it takes to set up a club and get sponsorship… which helps me in my current job," said Dennis, 24, a marketing and communications executive with Fencing Singapore.

As Qiu Bin and Dennis both train hard for their next goal – another stellar performance at the Doha Asian Games in December 2006 – they will take with them Ngee Ann's best wishes, not to mention its winning attitude!
product of distinction
Ahead of the curve

Ngee Ann Polytechnic retains its excellent reputation, with new courses meeting the evolving needs of the economy.

It was the first polytechnic to announce the launch of a new Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management (TRM) course, to meet the demands of the upcoming Integrated Resorts (IRs) and the expanding tourism industry in Singapore. It was full steam ahead as the full-time course was launched on 13 January 2006 with a cruise on board the SuperStar Virgo.

The three-year, full-time course, run by the School of Business & Accountancy (BA), holds immense potential for building the skills and talent needed for the Tourism Industry. It has drawn the support and partnership of organisations like Star Cruises and the Singapore Tourism Board. The TRM course, with an intake of 80 students, will provide on-site learning and local or overseas six-month attachment programmes at hotels, airlines and events management companies.

In an effort to meet Singapore’s shortage of healthcare professionals, Ngee Ann also unveiled its new Diploma in Pharmacy Science course, to commence in April 2006 with an intake of 40 students. The three-year, full-time course will educate students in various fields including medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, clinical biochemistry, and pharmacy management. Graduates will be empowered to integrate areas of life sciences, chemistry and pharmaceuticals. The course will also offer options like Complementary Medicine & Traditional Chinese Medicine, following the current trend of merging traditional and Western medicine.

The Diploma in Multimedia Computing course was revamped and renamed Diploma in Multimedia & Animation (MMA), to provide a stronger grounding in the knowledge and skills required of interactive media professionals. The course will balance training in the creative and technical aspects, with specialisation in the emerging fields of interactive media development, interactive 3D animation and casual edutainment game development. The School of InfoComm Technology (ICT), which runs the MMA course, also reviewed its Diploma in Information Technology and Diploma in Information Technology (Mobile Computing). The revamped curricula introduced interactive and problem-based modules.
With the upcoming IRs, facilities will play a crucial role in maintaining Singapore’s reputation as a world-class destination. The Diploma in Facilities Management for Business (FMB) course, run by the School of Engineering (SOE), was therefore revised to enable its graduates to efficiently manage facilities within this new landscape. New core modules such as Interior Design, Lighting & Acoustics Design, Advanced Building Technology, and new elective modules such as Hotel & Recreation Facilities, Healthcare & Business Park Facilities and Landscape Management were added to the curriculum.

SOE also revamped its Diploma in Engineering Informatics course. The new curriculum was consolidated and streamlined to better match IT applications in engineering, as applied to mobile technology, web and information security. Core engineering modules were also reinforced to provide students with a stronger foundation in mathematics, mechanics, electrical circuit analysis and digital electronics.

The Centre of Professional Development (CPD) also revised its Diploma in Technology (Logistics) course, to commence in April 2006. The course aims to meet the manpower upgrading requirements of the logistics industry. The broad-based training in integrated logistics processes will provide graduates with key logistics management and analytical skills.

On 28 October 2005, CPD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a full suite of environment-related courses. Other partners in the MOU include the National Parks Board, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Public Utilities Board, and the Singapore Environment Training Institute.

The following month, the Centre launched a Logistics Certificate Programme for the School of Logistics, MINDEF. The programme aims to train and equip participants for the commercial logistics industry.

**State-of-the-art facilities**

Various improvements were made to enhance the facilities and provide a more conducive and dynamic learning experience at Ngee Ann.

On 23 January 2006, the Polytechnic signed an MOU with Symbol Technologies, Sun Microsystems and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, to set up an RFID Hospitality Management System (RHyMeS) Centre at the eGarage. RFID, or radio frequency identification technology, involves the use of radio frequency communication to automatically identify, track and manage entities. Slated to open in July 2006, the new facility will also provide a platform to showcase RFID technology and applications, and engage industry partners in RFID projects and technology exploration.
As part of the campus development master plan, work on the Student Plaza and bus stop along Clementi Road has also commenced. The Plaza will boast multi-purpose courts, shower and changing facilities and kiosk. As part of Ngee Ann’s efforts to promote entrepreneurship, the kiosk will be run by students.

In November 2005, work began on the Green Mall at Blocks 23, 27 and 31. The Mall, slated to be completed in May 2006, will form part of the green lung of the campus. It will be a cool hub for students and staff, boasting a water feature, timber-decked linkages, al fresco dining facilities, and a small amphitheatre for performances.

New facilities were added to the Schools of Health Sciences (HS) and Film & Media Studies (FMS), including eight wards similar to actual hospital wards for HS and two editing rooms, a TV studio and a sound stage for FMS.

Improving student services
To better serve the student population, the Student Services Office (SSO) was revamped into three sections with the following core functions – Student Care, Student Relations & Discipline and Student Services. The International Students Centre (ISC) was subsumed under the SSO. SSO’s and ISC’s over-the-counter services are now centralised at the Atrium, offering local and international students alike a wide range of services.

In addition, the introduction of Student Relations Officer (SROs) in FY2005/6 saw a new approach towards education and counseling. Greater efforts were also made to maintain a smoke-free campus and improve response to medical situations. In May 2005, a Career Portal was launched to help Ngee Ann students create resumes and apply for jobs online. About 800 companies posted more than 2,500 job vacancies online. The portal saw more than 4,000 students and graduates registering and over 7,800 job applications.

The Library also enhanced its services – a Chinese Studies Collection was set up, and further strengthened by a donation of about 1,000 books and DVDs from Zhejiang University City College in February 2006.

The Polytechnic’s wireless system was extended to support organised student activities. To enrich student learning experiences and enhance collaborative courseware development, the Learning Content Management system was rolled out in 2005. The new system allows students and staff to manage and share their work with greater efficiency. The eMail system was upgraded to deliver more user-friendly email management. In March 2006, an eEnrolment system was launched, providing 4,310 freshmen with the convenience of online enrolment and payment.
making a difference

“If you don’t dream you don’t get ideas.”
- Aloysius Goh Kun Yi
Both ideas started with listening and observing... And evolved into prize-winning inventions that made a real difference to people’s lives.

There’s Glovology, a mobile assistive application that enables a hearing-impaired person to communicate with a hearing person. The device – essentially an electronic data glove connected to a PDA – won Ngee Ann Polytechnic alumni Aloysius Goh Kun Yi and Wong Fu Yau the top prize at the 2005 Samsung DigitaIl Hope Awards.

The inventors, both Mobile Computing graduates from the School of InfoComm Technology (ICT), first got the idea for their final-year project from a hearing-impaired student in March 2005. "He said it would be great if there was a device that could help (hearing-impaired persons) bridge the communication gap. We decided to improve on his original suggestion of a mobile phone camera to capture signals, by using a special glove and a PDA," said Aloysius.

Working on the project, the inventors tapped on their respective strengths and personalities – it turned out to be a perfect fit.

Aloysius is the Thinker. Attracted to the imaginative and creative aspects of invention, he enjoys the challenge of discovering something novel and individual. "I really think I am a dreamer because if you don’t dream you don’t get ideas," he said.

Fu Yau is the Doer, focusing on the practical aspects. "When I invent something or achieve something, it must be special... (and) actually benefit people, especially the disabled who are usually forgotten," he said.

Another project that started simply is Money Sense, a board game that imparts financial management skills. Created by Banking & Financial Services students led by Alvin Lim, it has clinched a string of awards, including the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation’s Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Programme, the Big Invention Slam, and the Mayor’s Innobiz Award.

"In 2005, there were several bankruptcy cases in Singapore. Many were due to excessive use of credit cards and several bankrupts were very young. I thought a game that helps one to develop financial management skills would be useful," said Alvin.

The young entrepreneur said strong staff support has also played a huge part in his success and drive to excel in his new business, T-Cube. From brainstorming to giving advice on the right channels and avenues, lecturers from the School of Business & Accountancy have given their full endorsement.

"Many lecturers and staff have helped me reach where I am today – they are truly very sincere in trying to build on whatever I have," said Alvin.
The winning spirit
Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s winning attitude was encapsulated in the sporting achievements by its students and alumni.

At the 23rd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in November 2005, Ngee Ann students and graduates did Singapore as well as the Polytechnic proud.

Horticulture & Landscape Management graduate Goh Qiu Bin clinched the gold medal in taijiquan, making it his third SEA Games gold medal. Qiu Bin is widely regarded as one of Singapore’s best bets for the 2008 Olympics Games. Electrical Engineering (EE) graduate Dennis Leong clinched Singapore’s first SEA Games medal in fencing. His bronze medal contributed to the overall performance of Fencing Singapore at the Games, and made it one of the best SEA Games outings for the national fencing team in over a decade.

Mass Communication student Ng Xin Ni wowed the judges with her mastery of wushu, winning her a bronze medal in the dual event. In silat, Biomedical Science (BMS) Norishah Bte Anwar won the bronze medal in the artistic single event. BMS student Ma Jia Jia came in 4th in softball, while Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering student Guan Ying Li represented Singapore in volleyball.

Ngee Ann’s Dragon Boat Club clinched gold and silver medals at the Penang Open Women’s Dragon Boat Race held in December 2005. The Club, which also clinched the Outstanding Society Award at the Student Excellence Awards in August 2005, came in 1st at the Temasek Poly-InterPoly Bedok Race, and 2nd at the River Regatta Men Tertiary, amongst other wins.

Ngee Ann students were equally triumphant at the inter-tertiary level. On 14 January 2006, super runner Raihan Md. Dzuleqram broke the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) 200m record with a timing of 25.8sec. At the IVP finals on 21 January, the Accountancy student clinched gold medals in the 100m, 200m and long jump events, and silver medals in the 100m and 400m relay events. Raihan’s athletic prowess also won her the Outstanding Sportswoman Award at the Student Excellence Awards.

Biotechnology (BIO) student Amanda Lee swam her way to victory in January 2006, winning gold medals in the 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle and 4x50m mixed relay events at the IVP swimming championship. Ngee Ann came out tops at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Biathlon in February 2006. Chow Sheng-Ren Clement, a Business Studies student and member of Ngee Ann’s biathlon team Tri Elite, came in 2nd in the swimming competition, which featured teams from tertiary institutions in Singapore.

At the NUS Invitational Archery Championships in February 2006, the Standard Men’s team took the gold and bronze medals, while the Standard Ladies’ team won a gold medal.
On the national platform, Ngee Ann students did the Polytechnic proud. At the National Cheerobics Competition held on 16 March 2006, Ngee Ann’s Magnum Force bagged the second position in its sixth outing. The cheerleading team also represented Singapore at the 23rd SEA Games in Manila to cheer on Team Singapore.

The Polytechnic’s Dance Sports Club swept the Singapore Lion City International DanceSport Championships in December 2005, taking the top three positions. The NRA Hip Hop Club won the inaugural My Life, My Copyright Freestylin’ Dance Challenge in September 2005, and came in 2nd and 3rd at the FunkaMania competition in January 2006.

Striking out overseas
As part of the Polytechnic’s efforts to give students a global perspective, over 3,000 students ventured abroad. From work attachments to exchange programmes to community work, they got to enrich their learning experience in cities like Chicago, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Shenzhen. A total of 545 students went on 29 community service expeditions organised by the various Schools.

One group comprised 27 students from the Electronic & Computer Engineering (ECE) and Early Childhood Education (ECH) courses. Along with two faculty members, the volunteers travelled to Hue, Vietnam, to carry out much-needed repairs and teach English to children. Meanwhile, a team of 18 ECE, ECH, EE, and Marine & Offshore Technology (MOT) students undertook an expedition to Sabah, Malaysia, where they helped to build a clinic and organised fun educational activities for the children.

Another group that ventured abroad in the spirit of volunteerism was the Adventure Seekers Club. In March 2006, 10 members combined a trekking trip to Sikkim, India, with six days of community service – they helped to refurbish a school, and taught the local students English and Health Education.

To raise funds for the victims of a devastating earthquake which hit Pakistan, 20 EE students made and sold Christmas cards in December 2005.

Serving the local community
On the local community stage, students from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) organised the HIV/AIDS Youth Convention in August 2005, in collaboration with World Vision International. The guest of honour was Dr Balaji Sadasivan, then Senior Minister of State for Health and Information, Communications and the Arts. The event, which was supported by the Health Promotion Board, attracted 250 participants from polytechnics, junior colleges and universities. Besides hearing personal accounts from activists Ms Princess Kasune Zulu and Mr Christo Greyling, the youths also got to share their views in a panel discussion that included Dr Sadasivan and Ms Elim Chew, the Managing Director of 77th Street.

In its second collaboration with World Vision, the Polytechnic also hosted a 30-hour famine camp in June 2005. The event, which aimed to inspire the youths and mobilise them on global issues like hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS and the environment, attracted about 800 youths.
Ngee Ann students continued to support worthy causes. These included 20 EE students who organised regular swimming trips for 40 intellectually disabled residents of Tampines Home (West Coast). In December 2005, BIO student Hu Zhen You galvanised the Ngee Ann community to organise the first-ever MEDALS Games Carnival for halfway houses in Singapore. The residents of the houses took part in futsal, 3-on-3 basketball, netball and a treasure hunt.

In June 2005, FMS came to the help of its graduate, filmmaker Bertrand Lee. Bertrand had lost a leg in a tragic accident while filming in India. FMS screened three of his movies, Sojourn, Trishaw and Birthday, and raised more than $3,000 to help meet the cost of his medical treatment and rehabilitation.

Green revolution
Leading the Ngee Ann green bandwagon in promoting environmental awareness was the Building & Environment Division’s Green Volunteers (BEGV) group. It adopted a 2-km stretch of Sungei Ulu Pandan in Clementi in December 2005. Other than monitoring the area, BEGV will undertake river patrols, conduct water quality testing and organise activities to create environmental awareness. The Polytechnic launched this project in support of the Public Utilities Board’s “Our Waters” programme, which aims to inspire Singaporeans to play an active role in caring for Singapore’s waterways, reservoirs and reservoir parks.

In April 2005, the Multidiscipline Engineering (MDE) Division kicked off its Beautifying the Environment Project. Aimed at cleaning up Singapore’s parks and nature reserves, it attracted 1,207 participants. The huge success convinced MDE to make the project an ongoing part of its student development and outreach programme. Funds raised will be donated to the charity group, Movement for the Intellectually Disabled (MINDS).

The Environmental Rangers Society also organised eight projects in partnership with the Singapore Environmental Council, National Environment Agency, South West Community Development Council, and Nanyang Technological University Earthlink.

Ngee Ann students continued to display characteristic ingenuity in coming up with ideas to help protect our environment and improve lives, thereby garnering several awards. Their efforts paid off at the Greenwave Environmental Competition organised by Sembawang Shipyward. They clinched numerous awards, including 2nd in the tertiary category for the Human Powered Exercise Machine by EE Division, 3rd for the Renewable Energy Fuel Cell Application System by the Mechanical Engineering Division, and 3rd for the Rapid Arsenic Removal System by the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology.
In September 2005, three Ngee Ann students, Teh Ling Ling, Effendy and Chua Wei Jian, did the Polytechnic proud at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation/National Youth Achievement Awards (HSBC/NYAA). Wei Jian was also selected for the Earth Watch Programme in Chengdu, China. The environmental conservation project cum study trip looked at the habitat and habits of the endangered Asiatic Bear.

Oliver Goh Koon Jeow won the 2005 Bayer Young Environmental Award, as well as a one-week trip to Germany in November 2005. Teh Ling Ling, from the School of Business & Accountancy, won the merit award in the same competition.

Enlivening student life
The year in review saw the set-up of new clubs and an array of cultural and musical performances that brought vibrancy to student life.

To add to Ngee Ann’s tantalising smorgasbord of over 100 clubs and societies, four new clubs were formed – the e-Gaming Club, Cycling Club, First Aid Club, and Student in Free Enterprise.

In particular, the e-Gaming Club caters to the burgeoning interest in cyber and multimedia gaming, while the Student in Free Enterprise body was set up to guide members in setting up a business and to encourage the spirit of free enterprise.

The Ngee Ann Concert Band participated in the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Outreach Programme in July 2005. Band members gave a melodious performance at the Singapore Botanic Gardens and interacted with fellow performers from Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United States. The talented band ended the year on a high note, with its 20th anniversary performance on 26 November 2005.

In July 2005, the Chinese Orchestra held its 7th bi-annual concert at the Singapore Conference Hall. About 700 people attended the performance which saw the orchestra putting an Eastern spin on Western pieces like Mambo No 5 and Mission: Impossible.

The Poly Stage F’Actor held Singapore’s first-ever musical rendition of William Shakespeare’s play Julius Caesar in August 2005. The Ides of March featured 30 cast members and attracted a turnout of 800. In October 2005, the Klavierensemble Club became the first Ngee Ann club to hold its inaugural concert at the Esplanade. About 150 people attended the recital, which also featured well-known local pianists Timothy Ku and Soon Liok Kee, and vocalist Leona Quek. An all-arts competition organised by the Indian Cultural Society in November 2005 attracted 25 secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

To provide students overseas exposure, the Student Development & Alumni Relations Office (SDAR) organised a cultural trip to Malaysia in April 2005. A contingent of 68 students from the Chinese Orchestra, Choir, Dance Group, Harmonica Troupe, Malay Cultural Club, NRA Hip Hop, and International Students Club visited and performed in three schools in Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur. SDAR organised a similar trip to Australia in May 2005. A group of 33 Chinese Orchestra, Dance Group, NRA Hip Hop and NP Strings members visited and performed at several high schools and universities in Perth and Freemantle.