Keeping her dream afloat | Making a global mark | Cracking da Google code
Cool ideas to protect the environment

Ngee Ann will collaborate with Danfoss to develop environmentally friendly products

Ngee Ann (NP) is set to develop an environmentally friendly ice-cream machine and a solar-powered refrigerator.

On 10 March, the School of Engineering signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Danfoss, Denmark’s largest industrial group, to develop these green machines.

In addition, Ngee Ann staff and students will benefit from industrial training and attachments in Danfoss’ local and overseas facilities. The Polytechnic’s staff will also collaborate with Danfoss to undertake industrial consultancy projects in Singapore.

Mr Tan Hang Cheong, NP’s Deputy Principal, said: “We both share the same goal of protecting the environment. It is therefore only natural that we join hands to develop products that will reduce ozone depletion and global warming.”

“Danfoss has always been passionate about technological advancement,” said Mr Abou Mahaman, Vice-President of Danfoss’ Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Division.

“By sharing our knowledge and latest technology in the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry with Ngee Ann, we believe that we would be able to help strengthen the technical and developmental proficiency of the industry.”

Life-saving device

The School of InfoComm Technology (ICT) made a splash at the Splash Awards – Wireless Jam 2005 on 14 April.

Students Ang Thiam Guan, Law Kay Hui, and Lim Hang Loon bagged the Most Popular Application (Audience Choice) award at the event. Their Life Saving Net, a mobile application that employs GPRS and SMS technologies, aims to simplify and speed up the process of blood donation.

Fourteen out of 43 projects submitted by Ngee Ann Polytechnic made it to the finals.

Winning concept

Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s Business and Accountancy (BA) students were placed second in the Young Entrepreneur Challenge 2005 finals.

The Concept Studio project, comprising Esther Teo Lay Hoon, Jean Lee Wan Yi and Michelle Lin Yiyiing, attended a four-day planning workshop organised by the National University of Singapore’s Business School.

Ten teams, selected from more than 80 participants, presented their business plans. Two other teams from BA made it to the finals on 28 January.
Making a global mark

GE Ann Polytechnic (NP) graduate Tzang Merwyn Tong made the School of Film & Media Studies proud, when he was selected for the 3rd Berlinale Talent Campus.

The event, held in Germany from 12 till 18 February, received 2,500 applicants. Tzang was one of the 500 selected from 105 countries.

“Being there made me realise how global filmmaking is possible. We’re always griping about the lack of funds in Singapore but people in Kenya can produce films within their means. It was very inspiring,” said the 1999 Mass Communication graduate.

Tzang, 26, said he was particularly thrilled that the camp was held in Berlin.

“My film, A Wicked Tale, was adapted from The Little Red Riding Hood, a classic written by the brothers Grimm – they were German so it felt like I was taking the film back to the source,” he said.

A Wicked Tale, an experimental psychological thriller, involves a little girl and a mysterious stranger caught in a game of manipulation. It premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival, and was screened in Berlin as well as the recent 18th Singapore International Film Festival.

Boo Junfeng (Director) and Sharon Loh (Director of Photography) won both the Best Film & Special Achievement Award 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.

NP grads triumph at Singapore International Film Festival

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Scientific exposure

Two Ggee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students gained high-level exposure during their Industrial Attachment Programme at the National Neuroscience Institute.

Constance Chew Li Ching and Eng Pei Woon, both third-year Biotechnology students from the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology, got to work on cutting edge research on the Parkins gene last December.

“We were very happy because only three out of 10 teams who went for the interview were selected,” said Constance, 21.

They also got to contribute their findings to the Journal of Neurochemistry, working with researchers and students from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National University of Singapore.

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Making $ense of money

Secondary school students can now acquire money management skills through an interactive CD-ROM developed by a team of lecturers from the School of Business & Accountancy (BA) together with IT service provider, Yolk.

The CD-ROM is a supplement to the book, Making $ense of Money, which is designed to give students a head start in managing their money. The CD-ROM includes e-learning activities like personal budget and saving goal worksheets, personality tests on spending habits and credit knowledge quizzes.

This project is a Citigroup Foundations in Finance (FIF) programme in collaboration with the Learning Society aimed at increasing the financial literacy of the young.

Students participating in the Making $ense of Money seminar will receive the free CD-ROM and book.
Keeping her dream afloat

No sight of human beings for weeks on end. Winds that howl and beat body and spirit. Cold, dry food. Worse, no laksa.

Welcome to Ngee Ann graduate Elaine Chua’s office. Make that mobile office. Elaine, who graduated in 1997 with a Diploma in Business Studies, is a full-time sailor and the first Singaporean to complete the British Telecom Global Challenge, touted as “the world's toughest yacht race”.

Elaine is now set to make history – as the first Asian female competitor in the Mini Transat, an arduous solo yacht race across the Atlantic Ocean.

She shares her dream in this exclusive email interview with NP News. See exciting shots as she fights battles with elements and competitors, and support this admirable cause. Log on to http://www.elainechua.com/mtsponsorship.html! Check out her blog at http://www.elainechua.com/ and send her an e-encouragement at info@elainechua.com!

Hi, Elaine! How’s life at sea? How’s the prep work for the Mini Transat coming along?

I’m in Villefranche for my first race, the Odyssee D’Ulysse. I’ll rest for a few days before sailing my 1000-nm qualifiers. If I finish my qualifiers early, I’ll sail against other minis for fun and to exchange ideas. The scene is really close-knit and like a family, so it’s gonna be great! In June I’ll head across to the Atlantic coast for the Mini Fastnet. Once that’s done, I’d have qualified for the Mini Transat!

Phew! That’s a lot going on! From then on it depends on budget to enable me to partake in more races; I may have to find work, and train on weekends until the race starts in September.

We know you’re very involved in raising funds for your race. How much have you raised so far?

Back home, I was looking at $100,000 - I’ve raised about $25,000 so am still short by a fair bit. It’s difficult for me to be here in Europe, train, race and raise funds at the same time. Everyday I dream of companies, which had sponsored Ellen MacArthur (renowned British sailor) saying “we’d like to help you to progress in your journey”...

Has your diploma helped in any way?

Many people have commented that my work does not go with what I studied. In fact it is so relevant – I’ve applied my knowledge to my sponsorship proposal, which is like a business proposal. Ultimately, companies want to know what it will cost them and what they will get in return. There’s also accounting, logistics and management involved, so the diploma has been useful.

Coming from sunny Singapore, is it tough adjusting to the cold waters?

The Mini Transat starts in September so it will be a little warmer but by Asian standards it’s still cold. When at sea no matter what season, it still can get very cold. Thus you have to be prepared with gear – the trick is to try and stay dry inside. Also, keep your head, ears and feet warm.

What is sailing like? Spare no details!

Hmmm… Tough question, would you like to come sailing?
Basically the natural forces of nature are powering it. You come really close to it, the wind fills you sails and whoosh, you’re moving along without the noise of any mechanical engines or smelly fumes. Peace.

You watch over the side of the boat and watch it cutting thru the waves, creating no two similar wakes. Amazing how fast (relatively speaking) you can go when the wind is right. When the weather and wind get rough, that’s when you remember to be humble as human beings coz when it really blows, no amount of money or technology can help you.

You learn to respect nature and remember how tiny you are compared to the big blue sea – it’s very humbling. I always look forward to a brilliant sunrise and sunset, and the countless stars; the dolphins swimming and playing alongside; whales breathing through their blowholes and splashing their tails – these are priceless! Those are the nice bits. Also, when you hit really rough weather or it’s been a really long trip, and when you finally arrive at port, you feel this incredible sense of accomplishment and go “wow, we made it!”

I could go on and on really, but one has to experience it to know what I am saying!

Here’s a riddle for you:
Singapore is an island. Why do we have so few sailors?
We do have sailors, but in the dinghy fleet. In my opinion, sailing is seen as an elite sport. To a certain extent, that’s true but hey I come from an average family living in a three-room flat. There’s also too much emphasis on making a living; I am glad that Singapore is beginning to recognise that to excel in sports you’ve to train a lot and that may mean less time for school and work. Also, sportspeople earn smaller paychecks compared to some professions – I think this is a chicken and egg thing.

**You are lucky to have sponsors at least, you reckon?**
I am very lucky to have landed myself the initial sponsorship by Neptune Orient Lines. But I’m still struggling to get sponsors for upcoming races.

When there are good sailors, sponsors come in to get the exposure, but to be a good sailor one needs time and funds to train and compete.

What do you do think about being called a “hero” (by Dr Khoo Ih Chu, commodore of the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club, who sponsored her boat Feng)?
I don’t think I’m a hero, I just took a different path from the norm. I see myself as a small Singapore company – I found a niche for myself, bid for it, sourced for and found a sponsor, and am working on the project. My goals are realistic – I’ve only sailed for seven years and am up against people who have sailed from young, and medal holders. This would be my first time sailing alone as well.

What do you hope to achieve in this race?
My first aim is to finish the Mini Transat, and the second is to come in the top half of the fleet.

For more adventures about Elaine’s sailing expedition, watch out for eXtra, the electronic version of NP News at www.edu.sg.

Photo credits: Ho Shu Fen (Republic of Singapore Yacht Club)
WO Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students got a rare chance to experience South Africa's natural beauty and cultural delights.

Outward Bounders Kenny Koh and Ivan Ong visited George, South Africa for 26 days of unforgettable adventure and community service. From 7 November till 3 December 2004, they lived with and helped the locals, even picking up some local phrases along the way.

For Kenny, 20, the once-in-a-lifetime experience has changed his worldview. “It was a new experience. When I was there, I had to be very independent. I learnt the value of teamwork and came to appreciate the simplicity of life,” said the Real Estate Business student.

Ivan, 20, was struck by the difference in living standards. “We saw the situation of poverty first-hand. My South African friends’ parents would wake up at 5am to walk over two kilometres just to get to work. They are very determined and hardworking people,” said the Information Technology student.

In true Singapore fashion, the NP team chose food to introduce their country. Ivan whipped up local favourites chicken curry, nasi lemak and fried mee, after some trouble locating the ingredients in the market.

Community service left an indelible impression on the Singaporean youths. To touch up a primary school located in a defunct railway station, the group tiled the floor, repainted the building, and mended the fence.

Ivan summed up their experience: “The feeling is indescribable. We camped in the school after we had finished restoring it. To wake up and see the smiles on the children’s faces and to see them so happy, it was amazing!”

When Singapore met South Africa
LEEP in a ger (traditional Mongolia tent) in the Gobi desert, hunt for dinosaur fossils and horse ride across the grassland.

It’s all part of Toh Poo Joh’s job scope. The Ngee Ann (NP) graduate heads MPX Adventure, a travel agency specialising in adventure tours to Mongolia. Since July 2004, he has introduced 34 Singaporeans to outer Mongolia.

“Travel business is my passion – it stems from my great love for Mongolia and its warm and generous people,” said Poh Joo, 29. “I target travellers hankering after exotic locales, and hope to send Singaporeans to Central Asia and South America soon.”

Poh Joo graduated with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and was one of NP’s top graduates, winning the Lee Kuan Yew Award and the Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal. He went on to pursue his studies at the Imperial College, UK, and graduated with an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering.

However, Poh Joo has no regrets foregoing lucrative opportunities in the corporate world. “The degree helped to develop my mind and maturity, but it was primarily for building up my network. I prefer to chase my dream of being an entrepreneur and introducing people to Mongolia,” said the energetic man who is also the director of MXP Enrichment Centre, a tuition and enrichment programme centre.

Graduate Toh Poh Joh (L) hopes to introduce more Singaporeans to explore the beauty of outer Mongolia
IN future, diabetics may do away with painful insulin injections and use oral medication instead.

Currently, insulin cannot be consumed directly as it gets digested quickly and increases blood sugar level. Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students Geraldine Lee Cailing and Lionel Chung Wee Kiat have developed a method using a pH-level sensitive carrier for insulin, meaning it will only be digested upon reaching the intestine.

The duo, guided by lecturers from NP and the Nanyang Technological University, was one of the top six teams awarded at the Polytechnic Student Research Programme on 9 March. The project is being considered for further development and commercialisation.

Lionel, 20, a third-year School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology (LSCT) student, said: “I have family members who are diabetic. It’s good to know that their suffering can be reduced with this new method.”

Two other winning NP projects were the treatment of industrial waste water containing toxic textile dyes submitted by students from Civil & Environmental Engineering and the reduction of DNA needed in forensics and diagnoses submitted by LSCT students.
**Engineering better lives**

How can we improve Singapore’s transport system? That was what the Land Transport Authority (LTA) wanted to know at the 7th LTA Project cum Exhibition, an annual collaboration between LTA and the five local polytechnics.

Third-year Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Mechanical Engineering students, Misson Stuart Joshua and Sharril bin Mohd. Sharhan, created a multilingual MRT signboard that provides information in the passengers’ preferred language with the push of a button. This final-year project was one of the four winning projects at the event held on 9 March.

Stuart said: “Singapore is a multi-racial society so we wanted to create something that caters to all the races. At the same time in a modernised city like Singapore, people will want things to be functional and aesthetically pleasing.”

The other three NP entries were an intelligent MRT location display, a solar-powered pedestrian lighting system and MRT facilities for the disabled.

**HDB’s shining star**

Ngee Ann (NP) alumnus Wendy Chua Yen Yen has received the PS21 STAR Service Award for her excellent customer service as a Housing & Development Board (HDB) estate officer.

An Ang Mo Kio resident had complained about a leak from his ceiling. While searching for the root of the problem, the resident’s direct neighbour gave her a lot of trouble.

“Each time we tried to enter the flat, the lessee would chase us away in a hostile manner. I was helpless and fearful as I didn’t know when he would lose his patience with us,” said Wendy, 29, who joined HDB in 1997 after obtaining her Diploma in Building & Services Engineering from NP.

She later learnt that the lessee was mentally unwell. Fortunately, Wendy managed to obtain his sister’s contact number and with her help, entered the flat. Upon entering the flat, Wendy saw the lessee’s 68-year-old mother, an amputee, crawling on the floor. The flat was inhabitable, with most of the interior falling apart.

“My colleagues and I felt very sorry for them. As HDB employees, many cases such as these are not controlled by us and therefore don’t come to our attention,” she said.

Determined to help, Wendy then approached various organisations to arrange for the lessee to stay temporarily at the Institute of Mental Health and his ailing mother to live in an old folk’s home. Then Wendy roped in the Ang Mo Kio Town Council and some volunteers to help clean up the flat.

“To know that I have improved life for our residents has made this one of the most satisfying cases to date,” said Wendy.
Cracking da Google code

N GEE Ann Polytechnic (NP) lecturer Sreeram Ramachandran came in fifth at the regional India Code Jam competition.

The School of InfoComm Technology lecturer won Rs50,000 ($1,900) at the computer programming contest organised by Google in March.

Coming in fifth out of 14,000 participants across Asia is no small feat, but a modest Mr Sreeram simply said: “I didn’t expect to win, but it’s a good feeling knowing that I’m up there with the best.”

“NP was very supportive and understanding. The preliminary results were revealed late and the flight to India was at the last minute. My experiences here also played a part in my performance.”

Mr Sreeram, who holds a Master of Science in Computing degree from the National University of Singapore, joined NP as a lecturer two years ago.

The programming enthusiast revealed that he got his first taste of competitive programming as an undergraduate at the Nanyang Technological University.

He joined the Association for Computing Machinery’s International Collegiate Programming Contest in 1997, and his team came in 12th out of 1,500 teams.

Mr Sreeram said he signed up for the India Code Jam after reading an email from the organising committee, Top Coder.

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“When you want to achieve something, you must put in 100% effort – if you do it half heartedly, you will achieve only half of what you aspire to do.”

ICT lecturer Sreeram Ramachandran came in fifth at the regional India Code Jam competition

Winning inventions

IMAGINATION, creativity and perseverance.

These are the values that helped final-year Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students, Joyce Teo Huang Jie and Lock Wern Huei, secure awards at the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Awards.

Joyce Teo and Lock Wern Huei with their Dengue pre-empt Detector

The Polytechnic won a silver award in the Defence Science category, and a merit and two commendations in the Open category.

Joyce and Wern Huei, both 21 and studying Mechatronic Engineering, were commended for their Dengue pre-empt Detector.

Their project allows researchers to study the number of mosquitoes caught in one location over time. A sudden or large increase indicates a greater risk in that area and would help determine the action needed. It can also identify the types of mosquitoes around the particular area.

Joyce was inspired by her personal experience to help prevent this serious problem. At 17, she contracted dengue fever and was hospitalised for five days. “I felt very weak and lethargic. My whole body ached and I didn’t have the energy to do anything,” she said.

They hope to test their device more thoroughly and introduce it to the Ministry of the Environment and other companies.

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The other winning inventions are a space-saving shoe cabinet, a one-stop intelligent car-park management system, and a radio-controlled aerial vehicle.

The Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Award, first given out in 1986, seeks to stimulate creativity among youths, and promote scientific and technological research in Singapore.
IMAGINE rubbing shoulders with famous director John Woo, in exciting Hong Kong no less, as part of your course work.

Lucky Danny Leong Chi-Keong. The Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) student was of only two Singaporeans who attended this master class in November 2004. Danny, who quit his law profession to enrol in NP’s Advanced Diploma in Film Production, joined participants from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong for this directing workshop.

John Woo’s directing credits include Hollywood blockbusters Mission: Impossible II and Face/Off.

“I was pleased and surprised as I didn’t apply for this. NP nominated me. It was an enlightening experience because we gained insight into the mind of a great director, his philosophies and struggles,” said Danny, 32.

Besides this unique opportunity, Danny also got to attend the Berlinale Talent Campus 2005, held in Berlin, Germany.

“Being in NP opened a lot of avenues for me. What distinguishes a school is not only the training but also the opportunities and platforms schools give their students,” said Danny.

NP conquers Funkamania

NEW Revolving Age (NRA) has emerged champion at the Funkamania competition on 28 January.

The Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) hip-hop dance club, in only its second performance at this annual competition, broke the universities’ stranglehold with its pulsating routine and raw energy.

NRA President Samantha Lee Qian Hui, 19, said: “NP is one of the few polytechnics to win Funkamania, so the win is considered quite a breakthrough.”

The Nanyang Technological University won the competition last year.

NRA, whose membership grew from 10 to 70 members in four years, fielded three teams for Funkamania.

Sharlene Ann Poh Su-lin of team Altitude said: “The training took up a lot of time and we had to make certain sacrifices, so it’s good to see our effort was not wasted.”

There are plans to bring 10 NRA members to Hong Kong for training, and open the club to the public.
Historical clean sweep

NGEE Ann Polytechnic made history in the United States recently.

A team from the School of Engineering made a clean sweep in the sumo category of RoboGames 2005, by winning all nine prizes in that event.

The competition, billed as the world’s largest robot competition, was held at San Francisco State University from 25 till 27 March. More than 200 teams from 13 countries participated in eight categories.

An online post-event report said: “Singapore did an amazing job of sweeping the entire sumo class – all nine medals! This is the first time a class has been swept by a single country.”

Double silat gold

NGEE Ann Polytechnic (NP) scored a double gold whammy at the recent 4th Sijori Pencak Silat Championship 2005.

Norishah bte Anwar topped the artistic single section, while Mohammed Syahril B Ramli aced the artistic doubles section at the finals, held in Tanjung Pinang on 2 April.

The School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology (LSCT) students had to put their studies on hold as the competition clashed with their examinations. The School fully supported the athletes’ dreams – the course manager and module leader reset the papers so the duo may have a retest after the competition.

“It was tough balancing school and sport as we’d to train every night – the last month before the competition was especially gruelling, but it was well worth it,” said a beaming Syahril, 19, who picked up the sport in 1999 for self-defense.

For Norishah bte Anwar, 18, this is her fourth gold in international competitions since taking up the sports seven years ago. “I saw my brother practising and I became very interested. I really enjoy silat – it has strengthened me, both physically and mentally,” said Norishah.

The silat champions are now in the tryouts for the upcoming SEA Games, to be held in Manila in November.

“I hope to represent Singapore in the SEA Games this year and if I can make it to the top four placing, it’ll be even better,” said Norishah.
campus
with a heart

Sweet
Hearts

A Wealth of Love from Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) to the Spastic Children's Association of Singapore.

This was what student volunteers and members of NP's Leo Club wanted to share when they raised a total of $24,705 for the association.

The Club collaborated with Leo Club of Raffles City and Lions Club of Raffles City to sell packaged sweets throughout the island on 27 February.

The student committee started preparing for the event last October, packing candies into miniature boxes and recruiting volunteers.

NP's Principal Mr Chia Mia Chiang said: “It's a commendable effort especially with different tsunami donation drives going on at the same time. I'm glad the students were not discouraged and pressed on so they may help the beneficiary.”

Said President of the Club, Ng Meiqi: “We were a little concerned about it as we didn't know if people were willing to donate to us but we went ahead with it. Fortunately, the response was good.”

This is the fifth time the Leo Club has organised the Wealth of Love Project, a sustained local community service project that raises funds for various beneficiaries.

E-filing at the Society for the Physically Disabled

Seah Wen Sheng, a student from the School of Business & Accountancy, recounts his experience at the Society for the Physically Disabled.

visited the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) for the first time on 16 March. Seven other accountancy tax students and our tax lecturer, Ms Cindy Yuen, were at SPD to assist the disabled to e-file their taxes. In turn, they would help a group of IT illiterate taxi drivers to do the same.

The SPD was established 40 years ago by a group of individuals who believed that those with physical disabilities should not be sidelined by society, but be given the opportunity to be trained and integrated into the society.

As we interacted with about 10 physically disabled, we discovered most of them were fairly competent in IT skills ranging from MS Office to Adobe Photoshop. They were friendly and eager to learn e-filing so that they could play their part to help others later. We sat down with them individually and went through My Tax Portal system for them to better understand the e-filing method and Singapore taxation.

This is an invaluable experience as it has enhanced our knowledge, applying what we have learnt into practice. I am also impressed that the physically disabled are so determined to make use of what they have despite their disability and do their part to contribute to the society.

It was a privilege to help the disabled so they can be self-reliant and teach others in return!
HOW do you teach a non-English speaker the rules of Captain’s Ball? How do you brainstorm, innovate and solve problems together?

That was the challenge for Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) participants at Camp Eureka. With 30 youths from Beijing, Seoul and Singapore coming together to hone their skills in innovation and enterprise (IE), conversation was a natural obstacle. Throughout the camp from 4 till 7 April, the mixed groups relied on translators, diagrams and much sign language to communicate.

Beijing participant Zhang Zhao Yuan, 17, said: “The American accent I can understand, but the Singapore accent is so different, but we found ways to communicate.” NP participant Sanjeev Raj had similar problems. “The Koreans don’t understand any English, so we used drawings and hand signals to explain things to them during Captain’s Ball!” he exclaimed. Indeed, the committed students even managed to plan and present their business ventures at the IE Challenge finals. The winning concept was an office massage chair that improved blood circulation.

Camp Eureka was the first event that Singapore hosted as a member of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC 21). A total of 23 NP students helmed this youth-to-youth programme, held at the National Community Leadership Institute.

Language no barrier at Camp Eureka
Zesty citrus preserves your bread

N ATURAL preservatives like lemon and orange extend your bread’s shelf life. This discovery led four Dunman High Secondary School students to win the first prize of $1,000 at the Life Science Product Business Plan Competition 2005.

Chua Si Hui, 15, a Secondary 3 student from Dunman High, said: “We experimented with the effects of natural food substance on the growth of bread mould to see how we can reduce the use of chemicals in food. We believe this has business potential because people are eating more healthily.”

The school tied with Hwa Chong Institution for the top spot. The latter investigated the removal of nitrogenous waste by denitrifying bacteria. The third prize went to Singapore Chinese Girls’ School for their soya-based lotion with insect-repelling properties.

Ngee Ann Secondary, Raffles Girls’ School and Tanjong Katong Secondary shared the merit prizes.

T his year, 55 teams from 37 schools participated in the annual competition organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s Schools of Business & Accountancy and Life Sciences & Chemical Technology to cultivate budding bioentrepreneurs. The event, held on 15 February, was sponsored by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Olympus Singapore Pte Ltd.

NGEE Ann Polytechnic (NP) students can look forward to even more Sports & Wellness choices.

Five new electives—squash, hip-hop dance, canoe polo, taekwondo and table tennis—have been added to this compulsory first-year module, bringing the buffet of choices up to 21.

Sports & Wellness Manager, Mr. Thomas Tan, 40, said: “We have to keep up with the times. Now students have more choices. We started off with 10, then 14. Now we have over 20 electives. With more variety, students are better taken care of.”

Sports & Wellness is a key component of the polytechnic’s holistic and well-rounded education.

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NGEE Ann Polytechnic (NP) devoted an entire day to teamwork, fun and sweat.

The annual Project Nutz Campus Road Relay was held at the NP sports complex on 10 March.

This year, we invited secondary schools to join in the fun,” said Lin Yi Feng, 19, student chairman for the event.

The School of InfoComm Technology (ICT) fared particularly well, with the staff team coming in first and third.

This long-time NP tradition saw over 500 staff and students in cool action. “It has been passed down from our seniors and their seniors.”

Students can select from 21 sports and games with addition of new electives in the Sports & Wellness programme.