



REPUBLIC  
POLYTECHNIC

DISCOVER. TRANSFORM. ACHIEVE

# Alumni Together



Lifelong learning  
with RP



Alumni events



Our success  
stories



RP gives back



# Diana Gloria Sangari



School of Applied Science alumna, Diana Gloria Sangari, from the Diploma in Biomedical Science, is currently working with Doctor Anyway as a Manager at Network Management. Hear from Diana how her diploma and her continuing education experiences with RP through the Alumni Skills Advancement Programme have helped her in her current work.

- 
- Q** What are your roles and responsibilities at work?
- A** My roles and responsibility as a Manager at Network Management is to engage the Specialist/Physiotherapist/Psychologist to join our panel. During the onboarding process we will conduct training for providers in our panel and hold on any external meetings if required. At times if there is case escalation, will step in to assist and manage the providers expectations.



**Q How is this diploma helping you in your current work and career development?**

**A** The in-depth learning in this course eventually allows me to explore healthcare not only in a conventional approach but in the telehealth industry too. Especially when I meet the doctors or psychologists across the speciality, I can understand the core concept of their practice. This allows me to explain better to the doctors & psychologist before joining the panel. The Biomedical Science course has also honed my critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills, and allowed me to grow broader in my professional network and resources to explore the healthcare industry confidently.

**Q What was it like being a student again?**

**A** Attending the ASAP courses has allowed me to enrich further and use them wisely at my work. Especially using data analytics is necessary at work.

**Q How are you balancing work, studies, and family?**

**A** Time management and support from my family are the key factors. Follow by setting time to do some voluntary activities at a grassroots organization allows me to release my stress. It gives me internal happiness and allows me to visualize different perceptions of life. To have proper communication especially with your loved ones around you will understand what is going through you.



RP has enhanced its **Alumni Skills Advancement Programme (ASAP)** to include stackable Skills-Based Modular Courses (SBMCs) from RP's Specialist Diploma programmes. Under the **Enhanced ASAP**, RP alumni enjoy complimentary enrolment into their first three (3) SBMCs or SkillsFuture (SF) Series courses offered by RP. The **Enhanced ASAP** scheme is valid from **1 June 2020 to 31 May 2022**. To find out more, visit <https://www.rp.edu.sg/ace/enhanced-alumni-skills-advancement-programme>

# Ace Your Virtual Interview

Virtual interviews have become a new norm for companies seeking to hire. Here are some of the dos and don'ts to help you navigate your virtual interview and (with luck!) land a job.



## Test the video platform's audio and video functions

Whichever the platform your interview will be hosted on, make sure you can log on with ease. Do a quick test of your audio and video functions to ensure they are both working well. This allows you to troubleshoot any issues before the actual interview.



## Check your Internet connection and camera settings

Make sure you have a strong Internet connection. A spotty Wi-Fi could cause your replies to be half-delivered. Set up your camera so you can be seen from the waist up and look straight into the camera so that you appear to be addressing the interviewer directly.



## Be strategic about where you conduct the interview

Find a private space where you can chat quietly and without distractions. Make sure the lighting is good and have a clean, presentable backdrop.



## Look and sound the part

Dress professionally and speak with a calm, pleasant tone. Let your personality shine through by smiling and being amiable.



### Go in unprepared

Like any other interview, don't go in without doing your research. Doing so shows your interest in the company and helps to make a more meaningful connection.



### Be too casual

You may be in your comfort zone but don't lose sight of the fact that it's a job application. Avoid being too relaxed, which may give you the impression that you don't care.



### Read off your screen

Reading out answers is not okay even if interviewers can't see you. You'll probably sound awkward, so use cue cards instead to act as reminders.



### Lose focus

Make sure to turn off the TV, silence your mobile phone and close the window or door to reduce any noise. Take steps to avoid any potential interruptions.



Looking for career guidance? Find out more about how Workforce Singapore's Career Matching Services and how our professional career coaches can help you in your career journey. Visit [go.gov.sg/rp0720](https://go.gov.sg/rp0720) or scan the QR code to register your interest.



VOUCHERS WORTH \$1200 UP FOR GRABS!

CALLING ALL EX-DIEM STUDENTS

**DIPLOMA IN INTEGRATED EVENTS MANAGEMENT (SOH)**

**ONLINE ALUMNI MEET 2020**  
*Let's come together*

DATE: 19 JUNE 2020, FRIDAY  
TIME: 6:30PM  
PLATFORM: ZOOM

NETWORK, FIND OUT ABOUT SOH INITIATIVES AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

Kindly confirm your presence: <https://tinyurl.com/diemns2>  
rp.edu.sg/soh  
rpsoh  
rp\_hospitality

DIPLOMA IN RESTAURANT & CULINARY OPERATIONS (DRCO)

**Let's Ketchup!**

CALLING 2018 & 2019 DRCO Graduates!  
ONLINE ALUMNI SESSION

June 18, 2020 (Thursday)  
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Platform: Microsoft Teams

NETWORK, FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SOH INITIATIVES FOR GRADUATES & SHARE SOME LAUGHTER!

Kindly confirm your presence: <https://tinyurl.com/DRCOAlumni>

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY  
Partnering your dreams

**DIPLOMA IN HOTEL & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT**  
#STAYHOMEWITHUS: VIRTUAL REUNION

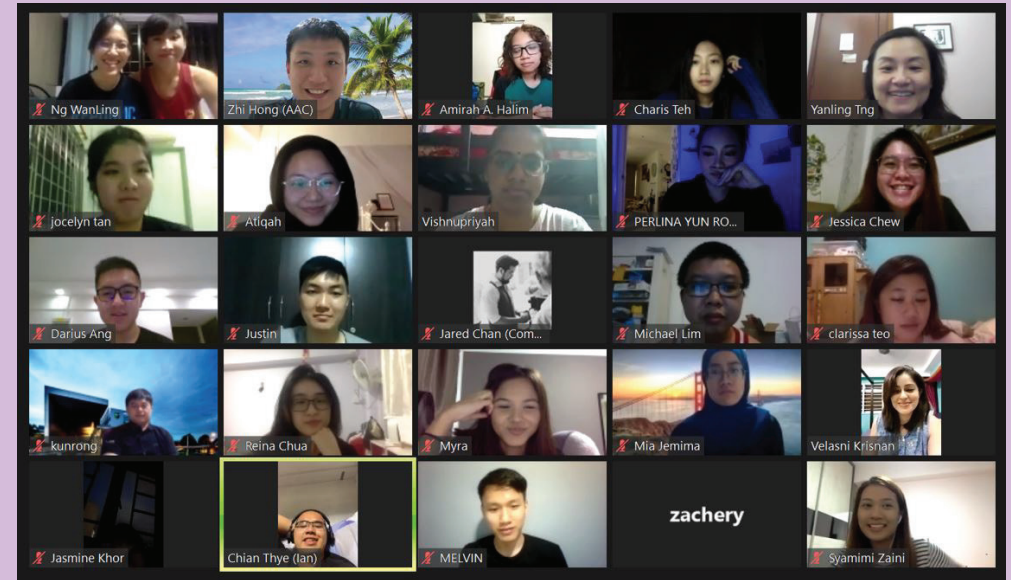
\$100 E-VOUCHERS TO BE WON

JOIN US TO NETWORK & HEAR ABOUT NEW OPPORTUNITIES

FRIDAY, 19TH JUNE 2020, 2PM-3PM


TO REGISTER: 


<https://forms.gle/v4Emm7nYk9yBA4zD9>



June 2020 is the month for School Of Hospitality (SOH) Alumni e-engagement! SOH's DRCO, DHM and DIEM organized online networking sessions with their respective Alumni to share current work trends and career opportunities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. SOH Alumni Advisory Committee (AAC) members for the various diploma were also involved, and they talked about AAC and assisted in planning and conducting these activities. More than 100 alumni were involved in these three events.

Stay connected with SOH!

 [Facebook.com/rpsoh](https://Facebook.com/rpsoh)

 [RP\\_HOSPITALITY](https://www.instagram.com/rp_hospitality)

**IGNITE!**  
STAY HOME EDITION

MILDLIFE  
STOPGAP  
BAKERS IN SPACE  
AXEL BRIZZY  
TELL LIE VISION  
JAMMERZ ARENA X REPLUG  
ELSA MICKAYLA  
LEW

**18TH JULY 2020, 8:00PM**  
LIVE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE!

DESIGNED BY: REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC, TRCC, 987

PRIZE SPONSOR: SENNHEISER

DIGITAL CONTENT PARTNER: Hear 65

SUPPORTED BY: NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL SINGAPORE

WWW.IGNITEMUSICFEST.COM

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC (THE REPUBLIC CULTURAL CENTRE) IS PART OF THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL'S ARTS AND CULTURE HUBS NETWORK



The **IGNITE! Stay Home Edition** is a special edition of IGNITE! Music Festival - despite the Covid-19 restrictions, RP continues to feature some of our favourite local musicians and rally the support of the music stakeholders for the local music scene. Hosted by 987FM DJ Charmian and our RP Alumni Danial, this Stay Home Edition presented good music, shoutouts from our friends in the music industry and giveaways from Sennheiser!

The **IGNITE! Stay Home Edition** was streamed live on 18 July 2020, 8pm, on IGNITE! Music Festival's Facebook and YouTube pages, where everyone could participate in the comfort of their own homes.

The video is available on the IGNITE! Youtube Channel until National Day! Do catch it here:

[Watch now!](#)



## See Jia Xuan & Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai

DHMP 2020 graduates, See Jia Xuan (left) and Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai (right), have registered their company, Beamo & Co, which focuses on products that promote holistic wellness and development in children.

**See Jia Xuan and Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai are recent graduates of the Diploma in Health Management & Promotion (DHMP). As passionate entrepreneurs aspiring to promote a healthy lifestyle through innovation, they joined the Entrepreneurial Immersion Programme in RP.**

Inspired by their belief in enhancing the parent-child bond to build a healthier and happier world, Jia Xuan and Mai created “Beamo & Friends”, an educational toy customised for children aged 4 to 6.

Mai elaborates, “Beamo & Friends is a themed activity box filled with fun and hands-on activities. It is integrated with a well-designed digital experience. We are excited that it will provide parents and

kids with a holistically educational project to work on together as a team. It will instill healthy habits in kids from a young age.”

Jia Xuan and Mai are now set to continue their entrepreneurial journey at the Lee Kong Chian School of Business and Nanyang Business School respectively. We can expect lots more from these two determined young entrepreneurs!

DEEE Class of 2019



# Cao Sen

**Student, Singapore  
University of Technology  
and Design (SUTD)**

**Recipient of the SUTD  
Global Merit Scholarship**

**Q1 Tell us more about your current student life at SUTD.**

As an emerging engineering education institution, SUTD is very different from other local universities, which focus on conventional lecture-based teaching. In SUTD, we are immersed in an one-of-a-kind, design-centric interdisciplinary curriculum, delivered through hands-on, small class based active learning.

All freshmen in Engineering Product Development (EPD) study a set of common modules, which include Math Modelling, Applied Physics, Programming, Design Thinking and Social Science. Thus, we can fully explore our interests before deciding on our major from the second year. We are assigned to or self-form a group for each individual subject (1D) and a cross-subject project (2D) every trimester. For most of the projects, students are given the freedom and facilities support.

SUTD has also offered me a Global Merit Scholarship, which covers my tuition fees and subsidises an overseas exchange stint to top engineering universities like Stanford and UC Berkeley. I am very much looking forward to that overseas experience. I am currently the President of SUTD Table Tennis Club. All student clubs in SUTD organise a variety of activities for members to participate in after class. These events make the culture in SUTD very vibrant and cohesive.



**Q2 What are your plans after graduating from SUTD?**

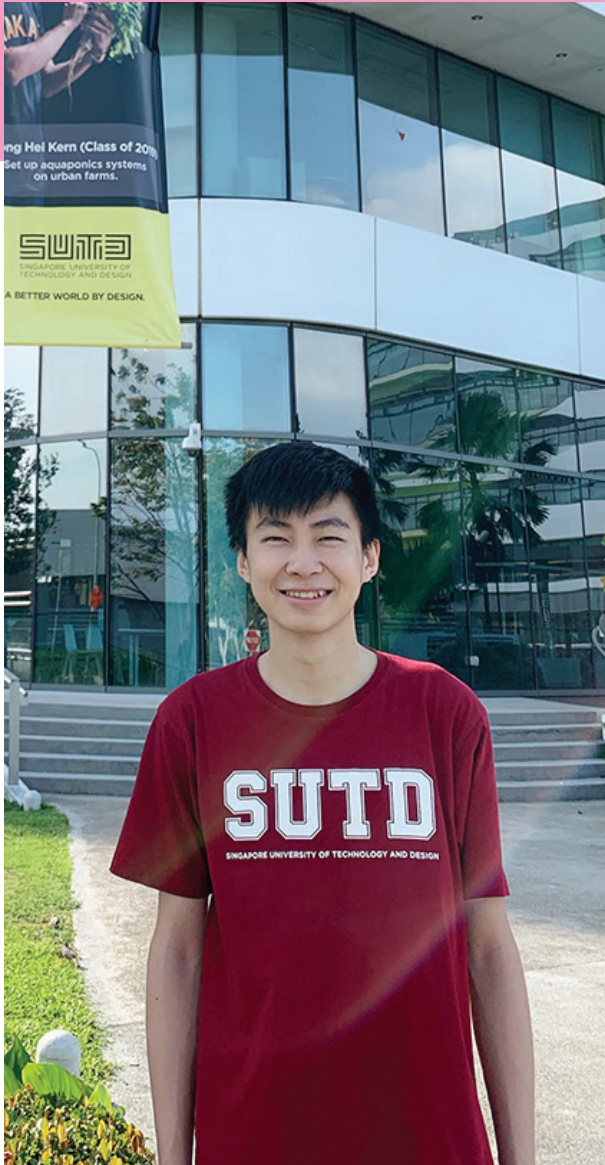
I think I'd like to be an Integrated Circuit Design Engineer in the semiconductor industry, or continue to study PhD in the field of Microelectronics or Semiconductor Material.

**Q3 What are some of the things you have learnt in RP that have helped smoothen your transition to university life?**

There are many hands-on projects in EPD, and the practical skills I've picked up in RP, such as how to connect electrical circuits and how to troubleshoot, are really important for making successful prototypes. Besides that, the theoretical

knowledge gained from modules such as Advanced Mathematics, Circuit Analysis and Semiconductor Material in RP stand me in good stead as I acquire deeper theoretical knowledge in university.

My experience from the days of being the DEEE Ambassador and Vice-Captain of RP Table Tennis IG also helped hone my leadership skills and made me more adaptable to team members of various personalities.



**Q4 How was your FYP experience when you were back in RP?**

My FYP experience was really unforgettable. My project involved designing and fabricating a self-powered inertial sensor in collaboration with a research group from the National University of Singapore. The project work was eventually published in Nano Energy journal.

Teamwork and task allocation are important as we were only given one day per week in each semester to complete the FYP. Every team member needs to try their best to complete their work by communicating regularly on the progress of their tasks and supporting one another. Through my FYP, I have learnt how rigorous and scientific research work should be and how to apply the knowledge to our life in a meaningful manner.

**Q5 Any advice(s) for your DEEE juniors aspiring to pursue further studies in universities?**

First, pay attention and think independently in class. Second, always consult your lecturers if you do not understand the lesson. Third, have proper time management so that you have sufficient time for revision before the exams.

In addition to academic results, local universities value a student's soft skills as well. Therefore, while working to achieve the GPA requirement, active participation in various programmes, such as DEEE Ambassador and co-curricular activities like IG, Service Learning, will help in your university application.

# Max Ong Yeow Loong



Diploma in Human Resource  
with Psychology

## Turning his life around in RP

by Soh Yu Xi

**Max Ong Yeow Loong, 24, recently graduated from Republic Polytechnic's Diploma in Human Resource with Psychology and is currently enrolled in**

**SMU's Business Management course, which he picked over offers from NUS and NTU.**

Life seems like a bed of roses for now, but just a few years ago, Max's life threatened to take a completely different turn.

When Max was in secondary school, he struggled with his studies. Brought up by a single mother who worked two jobs to

make ends meet, Max was lonely and often left to his own devices.

"I was a crappy secondary school kid," Max admits. "When I went to school I slept in class. I'll just go to school for PE (and) after PE I will just run out of class. I will just run out of school."

In 2012, Max did badly for his O levels. He did not qualify for a polytechnic and was

not keen on going to the Institute for Technical Education.

He spent the next three years of his life without a clear purpose, floating from one odd job to another as a waiter, flyer distributor, telemarketer and even an enforcement officer for the National Environment Agency.

Then, at age 19, Max enlisted in National Service (NS), which proved to be a turning point in his life.

Firstly, the army motivated him to work and live better. “With a very regimented lifestyle and surrounded by a very different group of people I gained new insights and new ideas and developed (into) a new character,” Max said.

Secondly, Max received a letter from his mother. “The first sentence was – I remember word for word – ‘Dear Loong, Ma cannot write well’. That just broke me. It made me realise that... although

she couldn’t give much, she gave what she could. And from then on I realised not to waste any chance that is presented to me.” He then decided to retake his O levels and did well enough to qualify for RP.

It was at RP where life finally gave him a break, although the journey was far from smooth.

To make ends meet, Max had to juggle a weekend job with his studies. In addition, he was 21 when he started Year 1, so he was significantly older than his classmates. Despite the age gap and differences in values and opinions, he was undaunted. “I figured that there’s no way I can make 100 people change for me. So I just have to change for that 100 people to be able to fit in.”

Not only did Max finally fit in with the rest of his cohort, but he also blossomed as a leader and inspiration to others. He was in the exco committee of SMC Club,

and was an active member of RP’s Service Learning Club.

Mr Charleston Goh, one of Max’s lecturers in RP, has nothing but praise for him. He said: “It is hard to state all the valuable contributions that Max has made to our school and the surrounding community. Pushing through adversity with lots of resilience and a big smile, Max constantly makes the impossible possible.”

Indeed, Max achieved what once seemed impossible – a place in university. He is grateful to his time in RP for helping him reach that goal.

When asked what he will remember most from RP, he said: “The process of growing as a person, as a student, as a better friend. The friends you make along the way, the memories... how you contribute to the school that gives you this sense of belonging.”

# How can we give back as Alumni?

By Fauzi Azman

**We sat with Aaron Yeo, an RP Alumnus who graduated with a Diploma in Biomedical Sciences (DBMS) in 2007. He was the second batch of students to graduate from RP.**

Aaron recently contributed \$6,000 to the School of Applied Science (SAS) student bursaries. Speaking about the importance of constant reflection, he acknowledged that the journey he has been on and people he met have shaped him to be who he is today.

"I am always thinking about how I can contribute back," Aaron explained. "In the past, some of my schoolmates dropped out of school because of financial difficulties. Unfortunately, these were bright students - if they had been given financial support, the funds would have gone a long way."

"I realise this is a very trying period," he continued. "If my contribution can help even one student tide over through the end of polytechnic study, that would be very gratifying for me."

RP Alumnus, Diploma in Biomedical Sciences

# Aaron Yeo



Aaron also encouraged recent graduates and alumni members to continue the search for the right career.

"No matter how difficult your situation is, find something to look forward to, and hold on to your dream. Even if it is currently difficult for you to pursue your goal right away, retain that aspiration and find alternative ways to get there."

He also encouraged more Alumni to support needy students.

"As an individual, there is a limit to what I can contribute. How do we make our efforts scalable? Connect with like-minded individuals. I imagine there is a wide pool of graduates willing to give. Sometimes, learning how to give back not in our active consciousness."

Channel your energy and time to volunteer with RP in six different areas! Head over to <https://alumni.rp.edu.sg/Pages/BeAnAlumniVolunteer.aspx> to learn more. Let us build a system to support one another.

Aaron is a Regional Director at the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) overseeing life sciences, healthcare and agriculture portfolios. He is currently deployed in San Francisco.



Aaron is a Regional Director at the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB)

**COVID-19 has affected the lives of everyone. For RP alumni, Ron Tan, the pandemic significantly reduced the number of available job opportunities in the performing field.**

Not one to shy away from challenges, Ron - who is 80% deaf and the founder of Inclusive Arts Movement (I.AM) - decided to keep playing so that the differently-abled remain visible despite the pandemic. With funding from oscar@sg, Ron and two other RP alumni, Jonathan Chee and James Lau, debuted an online music video alongside other I.AM performers. The video showcasing people with disabilities performing a medley of popular songs. The trio hopes that their listeners enjoyed and were inspired by the performance.

Catch their amazing performance in this link:

 **Watch now!**

STA alumni, graduated from DSA in 2016



This heart-warming story features one of our STA alumni, Abdul Kadir B Alimun, who graduated from DSA in 2016.

The initiative that Kadir is involved was mentioned in the Budget Speech delivered by Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat. It is an example of the Government's efforts to support meaningful projects that contribute to Singapore's nation-building.

More information can be found in *Today Online*

 **Read More**

STA alumni, graduated from DSA in 2016

Abdul Kadir  
B Alimun

