

# And Now, a Time for Thanks...

11 bursary recipients get to show their appreciation to donor Mr Choo Chong Ngen, at the first such event to be held on SIT's Dover home campus



**(Left)** Special Thanks: Bursary recipients with Mr Choo Chong Ngen, Chairman, Hotel 81, (sixth from right), his daughter Ms Carolyn Choo, Director, Hotel 81 (first from right), his son Mr Sean Choo, Deputy Director of Sales, Hotel 81 (seventh from right) and Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (fifth from right). **(Top)** Heart To Hand: Bursary recipients Mr Wilson Tan (first from left) and Ms Kathleen Koh (second from right) presenting a hand-made token of appreciation from the students to Mr Choo Chong Ngen (second from left), as Prof Tan Thiam Soon looks on.

The SIT@Dover campus welcomed some rare guests on Wednesday 3 December 2014, when renowned hotelier Mr Choo Chong Ngen arrived with his family for a small but heartfelt appreciation event held in his honour.

Thanks to the endowed \$2 million gift that Mr Choo had made in late 2013 to make possible the **Hotel 81-Choo Chong Ngen Bursary** at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), the University was able to award 12 bursaries to deserving students in financial need this academic year (AY 2014/15). From AY 2015/16 onwards, when the endowed Bursary fund reaches steady state, Mr Choo's generous gift will benefit as many as 30 students, annually and in perpetuity.

Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, hosted the event along with SIT faculty and staff. Eleven of the Bursary's first 12 recipients were also present at the appreciation lunch.

Noting that Mr Choo's "transformative support" will be pivotal to the future success of many disadvantaged students at SIT, Prof Tan said, "To enable our students to transform their own future, and the future of their families and community through a quality university education that nurtures professionals as agents of change, this is what SIT believes in and works towards."

He added, "We wish to express our deepest appreciation to Mr Choo once again, for his trust and firm support, which will help SIT and its students realise this goal."

One of the Bursary recipients who spoke at the appreciation lunch was Mr Danial Azri Bin Ismail, a first year student from the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechatronics degree programme (University of Glasgow).

He said, "For myself and my fellow students who are present today, this Bursary has

freed us from constant financial worries so that we can concentrate on our studies."

He also shared that the Bursary was helping him in ways he would not have thought of. "Apart from the financial aid, it is also opening my eyes to the importance of giving back to the community, and what it means to help those who are in need of help. I deeply appreciate the support Mr Choo is giving me and I hope that, in the near future, I will be in a position to follow his example of supporting others in need, in any small way I can," he said.

**1)** Looking ahead: Prof Tan Thiam Soon takes Mr Choo Chong Ngen through our Dover campus - and SIT's endeavours to pioneer an applied learning pathway in higher education.

**2)** A Good Start: The appreciation event held at the Auditorium Foyer marked the first such event on the SIT@Dover campus.

**3)** Face to Face: Bursary recipient Mr Wilson Tan (left) with Mr Sean Choo.

**4)** Happy Visit: Prof Tan Thiam Soon (first from left) with Ms Carolyn Choo (middle) and Mr Choo Chong Ngen (right).

