

Partners in Philanthropy

Thoughtful donors are taking the initiative to engage bursary and scholarship recipients at SIT

For some committed donors of bond-free scholarships, philanthropy does not stop with making a gift to support a bursary or scholarship at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). In recent months, these thoughtful donors have taken it upon themselves to hosting lunches and gatherings to further engage SIT undergraduates.

The Singapore Leong Khay Huay Kuan, which made a gift to establish the **Singapore Leong Khay Huay Kuan Bursary** at SIT in 2015, held a gathering for its leaders and bursary recipients on 14 May 2016. The clan association also invited its bursary recipients from various institutions (including SIT students) to its Double Celebration dinner on 18 June 2016.

Mr Ko Oen Tjiang, Chairman, Singapore Leong Khay Huay Kuan, said he was touched by the thoughtfulness of the gesture from SIT students when they presented him with a handwritten thank-you card at the May gathering. He added, "We want to do more for needy students at SIT and want to find out from the students how else we can help them."

Said Ms Neo Miao Lin, a recipient of the Singapore Leong Khay Huay Kuan Bursary, who attended both events and even performed at the dinner with

her fellow SITizens, "It was a good opportunity to get to know the other bursary recipients and work together as a team to put up the performance."

Similarly, Baker Tilly TFW LLP held a scholarship ceremony and lunch on 22 June 2016 for the three recipients (for Academic Year 2015/16) of the **Baker Tilly TFW Scholarship**, which was established to support Accountancy students at SIT. Mr Sim Guan Seng, Managing Partner, Baker Tilly TFW LLP, said, "We are very glad to be able to share our industry experience with the Scholarship recipients and also provide advice on how they can develop their future careers in the Accountancy field."

Recipients of **The Applied Materials Bursary** were invited to the offices of Applied Materials South East Asia Pte Ltd to have tea where Mr Russell Tham, President, Applied Materials (South East Asia), shared with them his experiences of the high-tech industry. "Our hope is for the bursary recipients to use their learnings to contribute to the society by solving real-world problems in creative ways through engineering," said Mr Tham.

Another SIT donor, Mr Kelvin Wong, Sales Director, McLink Asia Pte Ltd, thought it important that he encourage



(From left) Partners at Baker Tilly: Mr Khor Boon Hong, Mr Joshua Ong; scholarship recipients Mr Tan Yi Ming, Ms Levina Aw, and Ms Joanne Tang; Mr Sim Guan Seng, Managing Partner, Baker Tilly and Mr Joseph Toh, Partner, Baker Tilly.

not only the selected **McLink Scholarship** recipient, but also the other four shortlisted applicants. He hosted the students to dinner on 17 May 2016 and said, "It must be challenging to manage school, family and financial difficulties and I wanted them to persevere. It was an awesome experience speaking to them and I learnt a lot from their sharing."

For the students, these get-togethers are providing them with valuable career and industry insights.

Ms Chiam Hui Cheang from the BEng (Hons) in Information and Communications Technology (Software Engineering) degree programme (SIT), said she was inspired by the conversation during the dinner with McLink's Sales Director. "Mr Wong shared that having a disadvantage at the starting line does not equate to losing the race," the McLink Scholarship recipient recalled. "It is up to us to fight against the storm, turning adversities into opportunities."



Mr Kelvin Wong (third from left), Sales Director, McLink Asia Pte Ltd, together with SIT students: Mr Christopher Wong, Ms Chiam Hui Cheang, Mr Kelvin Wong, Mr Law Kiang Hong, Mr Han Wei Chou and Mr Teo Poh Seng.



Ms Yvonne Lee, Senior Director at Applied Materials (second from left), and bursary recipient Mr Jonathan Lim (second from right) accompanied by SIT staff.



SIT students seized the opportunity to put on a performance at the Singapore Leong Khay Huay Kuan Double Celebration on 18 June 2016.