

Young Lives Lifted Up

Gifts to SIT from anonymous donors to fund bursaries and study grants create new possibilities for recipients

Students who receive donated bursaries and study grants at SIT are benefiting in more ways than one, thanks to philanthropic support from the larger community. Not only do bursaries, study grants and other student financial aid instruments help the recipients overcome financial disadvantages, they are also helping to inspire, boost confidence and open up new possibilities as these students get their start in life.

Some of these gifts are from donors who prefer to remain anonymous and let their acts of giving speak instead of their names.

For example, an anonymous donor gave to establish the **Xiao De (孝德)** Bursary at SIT in 2012. He did so to perpetuate the philanthropic spirit of giving and to encourage the concept of “paying it forward” amongst the community of bursary recipients.

Ms Zakiyya Binte Abdul Khalil, who recently graduated from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, said, “I had a wonderful SIT-TUM experience and I enjoyed it thoroughly despite the rigorous schedule.” She added that receiving the Xiao De (孝德) Bursary in her final year “lightened the financial burden” resulting from her five-month-long Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) stay at TUM in Munich, which turned out to be her “most memorable experience.” Looking ahead, she said, “I hope to be able to build

a career based on my passion and contribute back to the society through my expertise.”

Mr Alson Cheong Zhao Huang, a student from The Culinary Institute of America’s Bachelor of Professional Studies in Culinary Arts Management programme, is now doing his year-long internship in the San Francisco Bay Area, at an establishment called One Market Restaurant. Sharing the exciting experience with SITizen in an e-mail interview, he said, “Being in a city so far away from home allows me to truly experience life and their culture.” The internship is allowing him to “grow and become a better adult”, added Mr Cheong. He also said that going abroad would not have been possible for him, had he not received the \$5,000 **Wong Family Bursary**.

Similarly, this Bursary at SIT is supported by a donor who wishes to stay anonymous. His intention is to support financially disadvantaged students in their quest for knowledge. Like most SIT students, the donor was also a polytechnic graduate before going to university to get his degree.

The **Thye Hong Study Grant** at SIT was established with gifts from yet another unnamed donor. Valued at \$5,000 each per annum, it benefits financially disadvantaged students who have achieved good academic results. Mr Pang Hee Juon, a graduating student from Newcastle University’s Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering programme, says receiving the Study Grant “helped psychologically, as the donor felt that I could make a difference and that someone believed in me”. “It pushed me to continue with my studies,” he said.

What of the future? “I would like to find a job that makes a difference, instead of a job where I just produce something that people can already buy,” he said.