

A New Year, and a New Way to Celebrate a Generous Giving Community

At the inaugural Leadership Appreciation ceremony, SITizens usher in the Year of the Rat together with SIT's donors who support students through bursaries and grants

The Leadership Appreciation, held for the first time at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), is a platform for the university to honour its donors for their philanthropic leadership in nurturing SIT students through various forms of financial aid. Close to 200 people attended the afternoon's festivities, held at the Sports Hall at SIT@Dover on 17 January 2020.

In his welcoming remarks, Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, highlighted the magnitude of the impact of their generous giving. Over the past decade since SIT was established, more than 2,572 bursaries, grants and other forms of student financial aid, have been awarded to less privileged students at SIT. Highlighting the larger impact of this philanthropic giving, Prof Tan pointed out that for many of these students who are the first in their families to attend university, their family income would also increase tremendously when they graduate and start a career.

Prof Tan added, "Thank you for empowering these young people to pursue their dreams, and most of all, for leading the way and showing them how even a single act of giving can transform the future for many others."

The committed support shown by donors have inspired students like Mr Yam Wei Jian, a Year 2 student from the Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Building Services) programme, to give back to the community. Mr Yam started the Building Information Modelling Club at SIT, which provides members a platform to learn from each other and from engineering professionals, beyond their curriculum.

Mr Leslie Goh, a first-year student from the Accountancy programme who received the ICH Gemini Bursary, said, "The experience of receiving a bursary – apart from the financial support, there is the feeling that you are being nurtured, and there is a community out there that wants you to succeed."



Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (on stage), addressing the close to 200 attendees at the event – organised specially to honour donors who have supported financially disadvantaged SITizens.



Bursary recipients (from left): Mr Yam Wei Jian, Ms Eunice Toh and Mr Leslie Goh, expressed just how grateful they are to receive support from SIT's donors.



Voices of Philanthropy: Ms Angela Wu, Staff Threat Intelligence Analyst, VMWare (left) and Mr Teng Ngiek Lian, Founder & Executive Chairman, The Silent Foundation Ltd (right) share their reasons for nurturing SIT students.



(From right) Prof Yaacob Ibrahim, Advisor, Office of the President, SIT with Mr Mohamed Abdul Jaleel, Founder, S M Jaleel Foundation, and Mr Edmund Cheng, Chairman, Mapletree Investments.



(From left) Mr Brian Tan, Regional President, South East Asia, Applied Materials South East Asia Pte Ltd; undergraduate Mr Chua Sai Wei; Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT; Assoc Prof Lim Bee Gim, Programme Director, SIT; Mr Keith Chua, Founder, Nehemiah Foundation; undergraduate Mr Yong Jian Ming; Ms Sharon Chua, Nehemiah Foundation.



Mr Lim Teck Kheng, Executor, The Estate of Lim Doa Hin, speaking to recipients of the Lim Doa Hin Bursary.



Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (right) presenting a token of appreciation to Mrs Wong Kwok Leong (left). The token, which was personalised with notes from the recipients, and made at SIT's makerspace, was presented to all donors.



(Front row, from left to right) Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost; Mr Lo Ngai Hung, Director of Taxes & Business Advisory Services, Lo Hock Ling & Co; Mr Gilbert Tan, Chairman, Lions Community Service Foundation (Singapore); Mrs Pearlyn Chong, Managing Partner, Lo Hock Ling & Co together with SIT students.



Ms Dilys Ho, a Year 3 Physiotherapy student, setting the tone for the celebratory event with a rhythmic gymnastics routine.



Ms Reshma Maria, Manager, HR, Singapore, Tyco Electronics Singapore Pte Ltd (third from left), Mr Lim Horng Huei, Director, T.E. Engineering & Trading (fourth from left), Ms Karrie Wong (third from right) and Mr Derrick Teo (second from right), toss to the Lunar New Year with SIT students.

Two donors, Ms Angela Wu, Staff Threat Intelligence Analyst, VM Ware, and Mr Teng Ngiek Lian, Founder & Executive Chairman of The Silent Foundation Ltd, spoke about why they had chosen to support SIT students.

Ms Wu, who had made possible the Wu Peihui Bursary, shared how she did not have any savings for her tuition fees when she started university but did not want to give up on pursuing a degree as she knew that a university education would help her progress in her career. She said, "This bursary is my way of encouraging students to pursue undergraduate studies in ICT, software engineering or computer engineering. My hope is also that that more women would join the IT industry and to encourage more locals to pursue cybersecurity jobs."

Mr Teng shared his motivations to pave the way for minorities through The Silent Minority Bursary. Ms Gloria Francis, who received the Bursary, said that she was glad to be able to meet with Mr Teng and thank him personally. The second-year Hospitality Business student was especially inspired by Mr Teng's commitment to giving back to society and supporting minority students like herself. She added, "What Mr Teng has done is truly admirable and I would like to follow in his footsteps."



Mr Soo Ye Wah, Executive Chairman, Dou Yee Enterprises (S) Pte Ltd (front row, middle), with recipients of the Dou Yee Enterprises Bursary.



Prof Ng Siu Choon, Assoc Provost (Students), SIT, speaking to students and guests at the event.