

Giving a helping hand to deserving students

AFTER completing their SPM last year, best friends Cheah Wei Hong and Tai Lee Shan decided to head down to Singapore to work as machine operators.

"We thought that we could earn more there due to the currency conversion factor and if we saved hard enough, we would be able to continue with our studies at a private college," explains Cheah.

He said they had both decided not to enrol in Form Six.

"Luckily when we went home to Penang for Chinese New Year, we heard about the *Star Education Fair* and decided to check it out. I am so glad we did because this is how we found out about the *Star Education Fund* scholarships," says Tai.

The two successful applicants are now pursuing a diploma in Visual and Digital Arts at the LimKokWing Institute of Creative Technology (LICT). They were among the recipients present at the *Star Education Fund* award presentation ceremony last week at Eastin Hotel, Petaling Jaya.

Cheah hopes to continue on to a degree later while Tai plans on finding a job related to animation.

Adry Azad Alauddin, recipient of the *Star Education Fund* scholarship for Diploma in Product Design at LICT, says his interest lies in designing his own furniture some day.

He says he is learning a lot from his coursework, especially on how to make consumer products safe, user-friendly and appealing.

Raja Annamalay Reddy chanced upon a *Star Education Fund* advertisement when his boss bought a copy of *The Star* while the former was working at a shoe shop.

"My boss had brought *The Star* to the shop and I read it when not serving customers. I came across the advertisement and decided I had nothing to lose by applying," says Raja who won a Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Inti International College in Penang.

Pride fills the voice of single mother Chew Kim Gin as she shares how her daughter, Rachel Heng Li Sha, can now pursue her dream career in finance. Heng is currently doing a 3+0 degree from the University of Hertfordshire at Inti College Malaysia.

"Rachel's education has always been a priority and I am so thankful that she has obtained this scholarship as I might not have been able to pay for her tertiary studies," she says.

Equally proud parents Kelvin and Susan Chin were also present to witness their son, Adrian Chin Jun Liong, being awarded his scholarship to study medicine at University College Dublin in the Republic of Ireland.

"Although we will miss our son, we are happy that he is able to pursue his dreams of becoming a doctor. Adrian put in a lot of effort in his A-Level exams to score 4As so he really deserves this opportunity," says Chin.

Adrian's scholarship covers half of his tuition fees. The rest of his expenses will be borne by his parents.

"I will be studying very hard because my parents had to take a loan in addition to using their savings for me," says the 19-year-old who plans to specialise in paediatrics.

Three other scholarship recipients who will be leaving soon for British universities are Tan Boon Ching, Chong Wai Hong and Lena Francis.

Boon Ching, who gave a piano recital at the ceremony, will be pursuing a BSc in Accounting and Finance at the University of East London (UEL).

Joining Boon Ching at UEL is Lena who will be studying for an electrical and electronic engineering degree.

Wai Hong, whose ambition is to be a legal advisor, will be doing a Bachelor of Business Studies and Law at Bradford University.

Ding Su Sin never thought he would be able to take up biotechnology as this is a relatively new area of study in Malaysia.

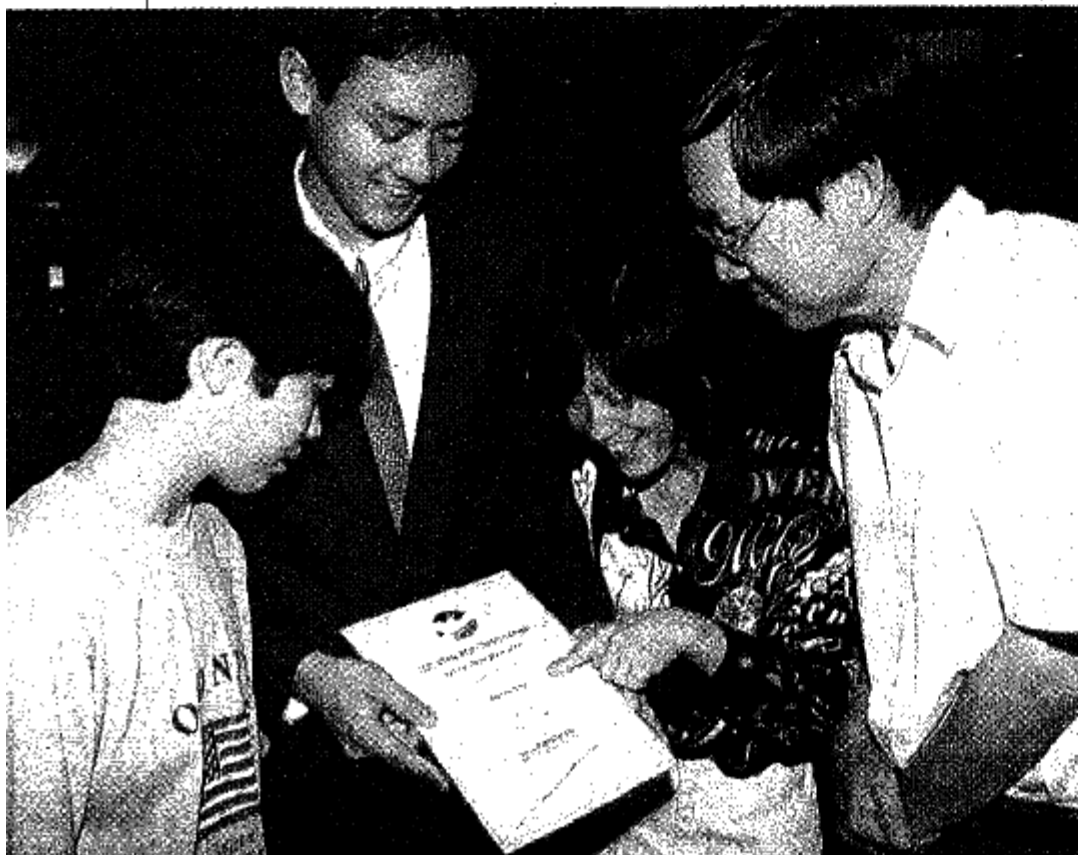
"But thanks to the *Star Education*



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Fund and the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, I am able to pursue what I've always wanted," says the 19-year old who plans to research cures for hereditary diseases.

His widowed mother, Gladys Keo, who is supporting Su Sin and his three younger sisters, says she promised to help him attain his goal if he could obtain a scholarship.

Scholarship recipient Pang Lee Teng, 18, from Seremban, has been attending her Advanced Diploma in Business Administration programme at Sunway College since May.

"I am staying in a hostel on campus and am really enjoying the experience as I am learning to be independent," says the 18-year old who scored 8As in the recent SPM examinations.

Sharon Chen Chui Teng, 18, said she was offered IT at a public university but opted instead for Sunway's scholarship as she was more interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Business.

All these students have one thing in

The *Fund* was set up to provide higher education opportunities for deserving students. Since the launch, a total of 1,088 students worth RM21mil have benefited.

The fund comprises 31 private institutions. One offers scholarships through Star Publications (M) and the other 30 are through other institutions.

This year more than 300 scholarships from the *Fund* were given. The awards, eight from Star Publications (M) and 292 from 31 private institutions, were presented by the head of the fund, Ng Poh Tip.

The *Star Education Fund* is sponsored by Star Publications (M) and the remainder of the fund is donated by the head of the fund, Ng Poh Tip, and other representatives of the fund.