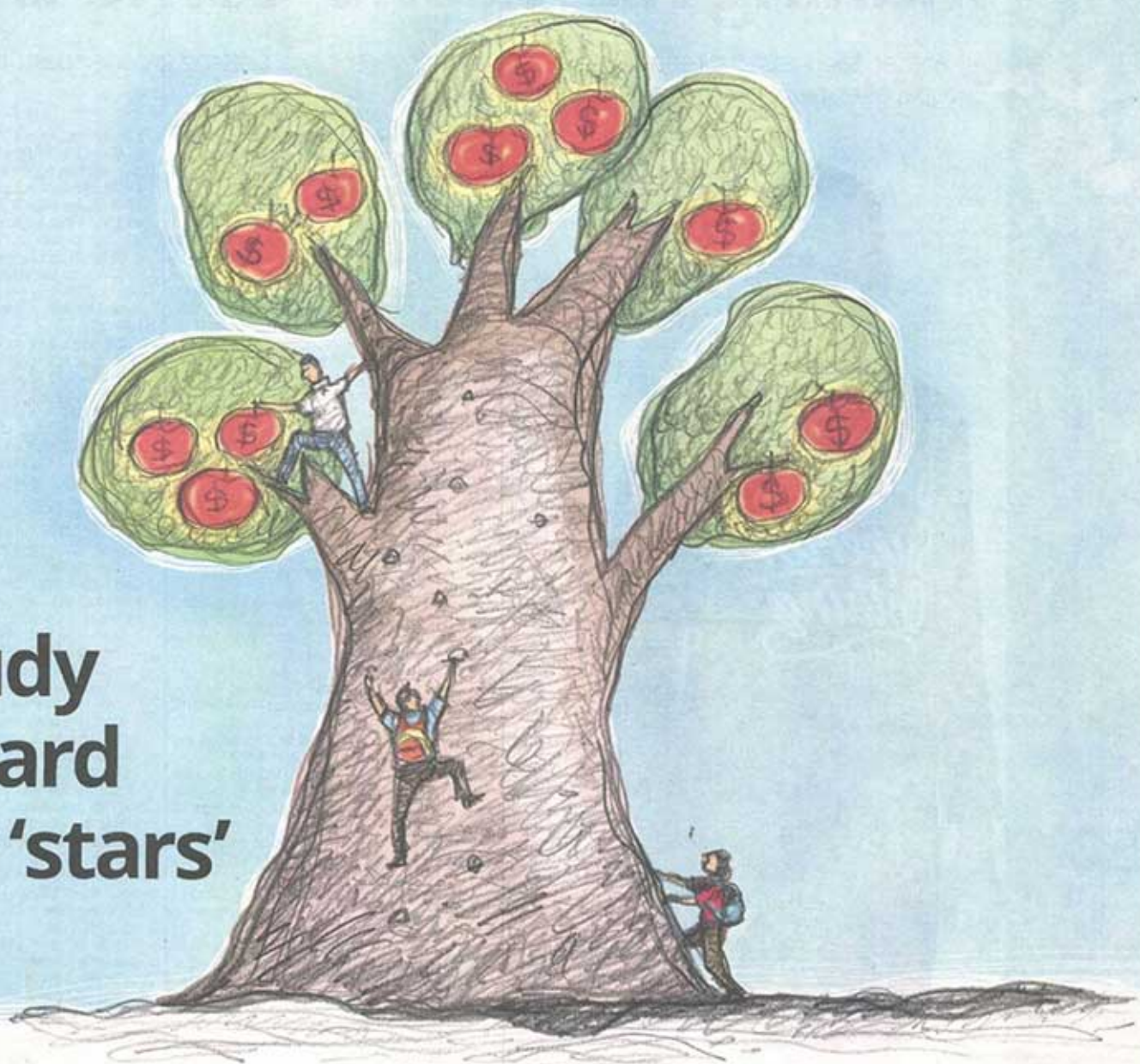


Star

educate

Study award for 'stars'



Recipients of the Star Education Fund are 'stars' in their own right. The students have fought the odds to prove they are worthy of the scholarships earned. > 8, 9 & 10

Ticket to their dreams

Thankful for the scholarships they received from institutions of higher learning in the country, there's nothing now to stop the 160 recipients of the Star Education Fund from focusing on their studies and achieving their objectives.

MORE deserving students could be given the opportunity to further their education next year, as a few institutions have expressed interest in offering more scholarships under the Star Education Fund.

Sunway University and Sunway College plan to offer more courses, and in doing so, more scholarships too.

Sunway University and Sunway College public relations director Jerrine Koay said these scholarships will be awarded through the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

"RM1.64mil worth of scholarships was awarded to 20 students through the Star Education Fund this year.

"Our pledged amount was more, but some awardees gave up their offer to go to public universities or take up other options," she said.

"We are thinking of opening up more spots for next year's Star Education Fund scholarship recipients," said Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur vice-chancellor and presi-

dent Prof Dr Roslan Zainal Abidin, adding that this year's two recipients will be studying architecture.

"The fund offers young people a chance to study at institutions of higher learning and to pursue their dreams. It's all the more in demand now, due to the current economic situation," he said.

This year, *The Star* together with its partners-in-education awarded close to RM8mil to 160 scholarship recipients.

"The Star Education Fund has successfully awarded 3,432 scholarships amounting to over RM101mil since its inception in 1994," said Star Media Group Bhd (formerly known as Star Publications (M) Bhd) group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai, at the award ceremony on Wednesday.

"To the scholarship recipients - I hope that all of you will do your part to serve the community and someday contribute back to the society from which you have benefited."

Wong welcomed newcomer Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, which joins the ranks as the fund's top five contributors this year.

The others are Sunway University and College, The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, UCSI

University Trust and Taylor's University.

Wong also expressed gratitude to the fund's partners for their support over the past 22 years.

The fund is divided into two tiers. Tier One scholarships are awarded by Star Media Group Bhd, while Tier Two scholarships are sponsored by local and overseas educational institutions.

The scholarship recipients will be pursuing undergraduate, diploma and pre-university courses such as engineering, pharmacy, law, accounting and finance, architecture, business and management, psychology and mass communication. Three will also be undertaking postgraduate studies.

Following their passion

It was the Pixar animation *Ratatouille* that inspired Teoh Zhi Hau interest in the culinary arts.

"Besides showcasing fancy French cuisine and what a professional kitchen looks like, the film opened my eyes to the fact that cooking is another form of art.

"I wouldn't have been able to pursue my passion had it not been for the scholarships I received - for my diploma and now my Degree in Culinary Management at Sunway University," said the 20-year-old.

His mother runs a hawker stall while caring for his father, who retired after being diagnosed with encephalitis.

Zhi Hau, who enjoys eating and cooking, said his internship stints at a family-run cafe and a five-star hotel gave him exposure in terms of being hands-on in a small business versus how a big organisation works.

"While my diploma focused more on cooking and the inner workings of a kitchen, my degree covers the management and decision-making aspects of running a restaurant.

"I'm particularly interested in molecular gastronomy. My ultimate dream is to open my own bakery one day," said Zhi Hau, who named Spanish chef Ferran Adria as his inspiration.

Chuah Shi Qin, 18, was offered a Public Service Department bursary for her excellent Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) exam results, but

she gave that up to pursue her passion in fashion design.

"I was asked to study more conventional courses such as engineering, but fashion design is where my interest lies. It's something I truly enjoy, and not because of the glamour.

"The course fee to study fashion design is very expensive and my

parents wouldn't have been able to afford it. So I made sure I did well in my exams to apply for a scholarship," said Shi Qin, who is studying Advanced Diploma in Fashion Design at Raffles College of Higher Education.

Shi Qin idolises designer Alexander Wang for his modern and urban designs, and follows many online bloggers and fashion designers to keep herself updated on the latest trends.

Asked who she hopes to dress, she said: "Chinese actress Fan Bingbing and Malaysian blogger Jane Chuck.

"Raffles is a great design school and we've been doing a lot of practical lessons. I'm also grateful for my family's support and the opportunity that the Star Education Fund has given me."

Saidatul Maisarah Faiesall Ahmad Faiesall jumped at the opportunity to study International Relations at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus when she got the offer from the Star Education Fund.

"I was studying foundation in law at a public university, but international relations is where my interest is. I'm fascinated with cultures and global issues," said the 18-year-old, adding that human rights and education are causes she feels strongly about.

"However, I'm aware that I need to step up my awareness of current issues and evaluate the accuracy of information, so I now make it a habit to read news regularly and compare the sources."

The Puchong resident said life at her university's campus in Semenyih has been great, with the people being welcoming and new students being taken to fun events to socialise.

Saidatul Maisarah already plans to join several clubs as part of her co-curricular activities, including

one that would allow her to continue her hobby in graphic design.

Help for all

Losing a parent is never an easy thing. It can mess with your mind and make you lose concentration to carry out daily activities.

For Koh Zhuan Lun, losing his father to a heart attack three years ago did put a damper on his A-level studies, but he kept his focus and did well in the pre-university course.

Coming from a single income household, he desperately needed a scholarship to pursue his degree.

So, he applied to the Star Education Fund and was shortlisted to be interviewed.

The 20-year-old from Sepang is now pursuing the Bachelor of Engineering / Masters of Engineering Civil Engineering course at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.

He said he chose the university due to its prestige and reputation for providing the best education in

civil engineering.

Zhuan Lun said he has always harboured a fascination with how buildings are built, and now, he gets to learn about it in a reputable United Kingdom university.

Bala Murugan Monogaran, 22, lost his father when he was fresh out of primary school.

Also coming from a single mother home, he had to put his studies on hold after his SPM to help support his older sister's education.

The second of three children worked in a church for two years

No compromise for hard work

and had applied for the Star Education Fund in 2011.

He was offered the scholarship that same year but had to turn it down because the family could not afford the extra fees and expenses.

Bala Murugan says he reapplied this year, since his family is more financially stable, and was thrilled to be offered the scholarship.

This time, he didn't reject the offer. He will pursue a Diploma in Mass Communication at KDU University College.

Bala Murugan wants to be a journalist as he "wants to make a difference and leave an impact on the world".

"Ultimately, my goal is to work for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco)," he said, adding that he believes being a journalist can open doors for him.

Being a journalist certainly opened doors for Ann-Marie Khor Wen Ling, 21.

She did her gap year as an education journalist at The Star in Petaling Jaya after her Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM).

While working on a story about computer programming, she discovered her knack for computer science.

She said she was watching students in a programming class when she realised that the coding they were doing was similar to the HTML, CSS and other computing languages she has been using in her blogs since the age of 12.

The tech-savvy Penangite also received the Star Education Fund scholarship to study her Bachelor in Science in Computing Studies (University of Northumbria) at

KDU College's Penang Campus.

She said she chose the college just so she could be back in her home state with its good food.

"My parents are also happy that I am back home," said Ann-Marie whose parents were present at the ceremony.

Determined to succeed

Determination, discipline and setting goals – those were the qualities Ng Kah Yong applied that enabled him to juggle work and study at the same time.

"My father suffered a stroke while I was studying my diploma in ICT, so I had to work part-time to fund my education and support my family," said the eldest of four children.

"I was keen to continue my education. So I worked full-time while doing my degree in computer science."

As he wanted to acquire some knowledge in business, Kah Yong

applied for a scholarship under the Star Education Fund to study the Masters of Business Administration at Taylor's University.

"The course will give me some insight on finance, marketing and management and hopefully offer an opportunity to climb up the corporate ladder.

"Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is a great inspiration as he achieved so much at a young age," said Kah Yong, who hopes to set up his own business consultancy one day.

The 25-year-old IT consultant admitted that juggling multiple responsibilities came with plenty of sacrifice, such as having to manage his time properly and

turning down social events to focus on his studies.

"For example, I had to turn down an invitation to be part of a friend's wedding entourage as I had coursework to complete, and I chose to watch movies only during semester breaks.

"But my friends and colleagues were understanding, with some saying they wouldn't have been able to commit to working and studying at the same time," said Kah Yong, adding that juggling was tough but manageable.

Last year, Tan Shi Yin sat nervously in front of a panel of interviewers as she awaited the tough questions that would probably put an end to her dream of enrolling in Sunway College to study for a bachelor's degree in Business (Accounting or Banking and Finance).

It was a course she believed would give her the chance to soon launch a successful career in finance, if money wasn't an issue.

Now 22 years old, she said she walked out of the room confident that she aced the interview and would score herself the Star Education Fund scholarship.

True enough, she did receive the much-anticipated phone call and is now not only in her second year of the degree programme, but also one of the emcees at the fund's awards ceremony.

She, together with fellow emcee Loo Jen-Ning, 21, from Sunway University Business School, said they didn't expect to be chosen to emcee the event.

In fact, Shi Yin said she couldn't believe her luck when she was chosen to emcee the event, especially

since she was seated at the back of the room just last year.

Jen-Ning, on the other hand, had thoughts about turning down the emceeing opportunity.

"The new semester has just started and there are so many assignments and activities going on right now. I didn't know if I could take on this as well," said the avid sportsman.

He plays basketball for the Sunway University team and also enjoys dodgeball and futsal.

Jen-Ning he is grateful for the opportunity Sunway University and the Star Education Fund had given him.

"I had my scholarship interview and my final A-levels exam at the same time. It was really stressful to

juggle these two important events," he said, adding that he barely slept during that time.

"When *The Star* called me to tell me that my application was officially accepted, I felt very relieved and happy."

Both Shi Yin and Jen-Ning agree that their time in Sunway has been nothing short of "amazing".

Proud parents

Fadelah Yassin said she and her husband, businessman Megat Husni Megat Hashim, are proud that their daughter was awarded a scholarship for her tertiary education.

Puteri Nur Najwa Megat Husni,

21, will be pursuing an International Trade and Business Degree at Sunway College, under the Victoria University programme.

"She found out the details of this scholarship and process on her own. I just helped a little with the application," said the full-time mother who quit her job to focus on raising her two daughters.

"We were also on the lookout for other scholarship options, as we believe that education is an important investment for our children."

"This award from the Star Education Fund is a huge burden off our shoulders, with education being even more costly in the current economic situation," said the Ampang resident.

True partners-in-education

HELP University Customer Marketing Department senior manager Yap Chen Long:

“The collaboration between the university and Star Media Group is in line with the institution's mission to help people succeed in life, and live a life of significance through education.”

HELP is one of the pioneer partners of the Star Education Fund, and it's been a very successful partnership.

The university will be celebrating its 30th anniversary next year, and we hope more people will continue to benefit from the quality education that we offer. Previous recipients have done well and worked in various subsidiaries under Star Media Group. ♣

Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur vice-chancellor

and president Prof Dr Roslan Zainal Abidin:

“IUKL has been a partner of the Star Education Fund for more than 10 years, and will continue supporting as this is a good effort.”

The university is best known for its architecture and engineering courses, which are recognised by the relevant professional boards. For example, our architecture courses meet the requirements set by the Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM).

We are working with LAM to get the part two qualification of our Bachelor of Science (Architectural Studies) recognised as a Masters in Architecture equivalent. ♣

The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus director of academic services Patrick Joseph

“Students coming in through

the Star Education Fund are of high academic calibre and that's what gets them to be eligible for this scholarship.”

These scholars have represented the university in many events and competitions.

They have done really well and continue to contribute to the university by getting involved in a lot of student activities and offices. ♣

Tunku Abdul Rahman University College president Datuk Dr Tan Chik Heok

“From our past experience with the Star Education Fund scholars, the students have maintained their standards until they graduated with good results.”

“The students coming in now are more active. They are more outgoing and dynamic, and not solely focused on their academics. ♣

THE STAR EDUCATION FUND

Partners-in-Education 2015

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Brickfields Asia College | 15 Raffles College of Higher Education |
| 2 Equator College, Penang | 16 Saito College |
| 3 Erican College | 17 SEGi University |
| 4 HELP University | 18 Singapore Institute of Management Pte Ltd |
| 5 Heriot-Watt University Malaysia | 19 Sentral College Penang |
| 6 IACT College | 20 Sunway University |
| 7 Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur | 21 Sunway College |
| 8 KDU University College | 22 Sunway College Ipoh |
| 9 KDU College Penang | 23 Sunway College Johor Bahru |
| 10 Kolej Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman | 24 Taylor's University |
| 11 Management & Science University | 25 The One Academy of Communication Design |
| 12 Methodist College Kuala Lumpur | 26 The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus |
| 13 Multimedia University | 27 UCSI University |
| 14 PTPL Penang | 28 University Tunku Abdul Rahman |

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Yes we can: Star Media Group Bhd group managing director and CEO Wong (second row, 13th from left) flanked by group chief financial officer Ragesh Rajendran and chief revenue officer Lim Bee Leng, are all smiles as they pose for a group photo with the various university and college representatives and recipients.



1 Ready to soar:
Koay (back row, fifth from left) with the Sunway University students.

2 A great start:
Fadelah Yassin (right) and daughter Puteri Nur Najwa holding up the scholarship certificate.

3 That's my boy:
Padmini Marathamuthu (left) is more than happy that her son Bala Murugan (right) is able to pursue higher studies.





4 Giving back to society: Wong advised the students to do their bit for the community.



5 Staying focused: With a keen interest in buildings and structures, Zhuan Lun is pleased to study civil engineering at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.



6 Fashion fascination: Shi Qin (left) and Samantha Jungkim are taking courses related to fashion design and management respectively at the Raffles College of Higher Education.

7 In the limelight: Shi Yin (left) and Jen-Ning were the official presenters at the event.



8 Do your best: Dr Tan (right) speaking to some of the recipients who are studying at the Tunku Abdul Rahman University College.



9 Signing up: Being a journalist had helped 'open doors' for Ann-Marie (left). Her parents Veronica Cheng (centre) and Jimmy Khor also attended the ceremony.



10 Friendly exchange: (From left): Saidatul Maisarah, Zhi Hau and Kah Yong sharing their stories.