

# TAR University College In the Limelight

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WORKING part time is usually what most people - university students and even adults - do to earn a little extra pocket money.

But for Loh Jia Cheng, taking up part time gigs was the only way to save up for university.

"I started working as a promoter for all sorts of products since I was a secondary school student because I did not want to burden my parents further," said the 21 year-old who is now a first year Bachelor of Computer Science in Data Science student at Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC).

Loh whose father is a construction worker and mother a housewife, just recently became a recipient of the TAR UC-TARCIan Alumni (TAR UC-TAA) scholarship scheme.

Established in 2017, the TAR UC-TAA scholarship was set up by the alumni to help deserving TAR UC students.

"My father, who is in his 50s, was a construction worker in Singapore for almost 30 years. No one wants to hire him now because of his age. My mother is a housewife and has no income.

"This scholarship gets rid of my financial woes. I would be able to focus my attention on studies and assignments," said an elated Loh who is from Ipoh.

Mechanical Engineering student Chey Shi Wei was the other recipient of the TAR UC-TAA Scholarship.

Loh and Chey shared a total of RM130,900 in scholarship funds among the both of them.

Noting that the scholarship has benefited 19 students since its inception in 2017, TARCian Alumni

## Financial aid for students



(From fifth left, seated) Yap, Prof Lee and Ng with the scholarship recipients after the presentation ceremony.

Association (TAA) president Datuk Yap Kuak Fong said the scholarships were set up to offer underprivileged students an opportunity to make a difference in their lives through education.

"The scholarship assists students from the B40 segment of society to break the cycle of poverty through education and transform their lives.

"A total of RM1.1mil has been disbursed since 2017 and we expect the amount to rise to RM1.8mil by this year," he said, adding that TAR UC has proven its ability to continuously provide quality and affordable education.

While her peers were applying

to colleges and universities after completing their Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) exam in 2016, Johorean Chin Yong Fong was crossing over to Singapore in search of a job when she was just 18.

After a couple of interviews, she landed a job as an aviation security officer where she stayed on for two years.

"I had to work to save up enough funds to pay for my tuition fees at TAR UC," said Chin, 21, who is a first year Bachelor of Science in Bioscience with Chemistry student at TAR UC.

She is a recipient of the TAR UC-TAA (Top Glove) scholarship -

which is funded by Top Glove through the TAR UC-TAA scholarship scheme.

"My father is a tractor driver, while mother is a factory worker. This scholarship will lighten their and my burden and enable me to upskill myself. I am trying to learn about music and chemistry," said the determined lass, whose elder sister also worked after leaving school to save up to attend university.

Other recipients of the TAR UC-TAA scholarship (Topglove) included Chen Wei Yik, Liew Tzy Jian, Wilson Foo Wei Kit, Cheok Kin Yung, Elijah Wang Da Jiong and Chang Wan Ling.

The seven recipients walked away with a total of RM359,100.

Describing students as "important leaders of tomorrow", Top Glove Foundation senior manager Ng Mei Fong said supporting youth through education was something "close to Topglove's heart".

"Top Glove Corp Bhd executive chairman Tan Sri Lim Wee Chai is a Tarcian. He knows that the education journey and getting into a good school is not easy when coupled with unexpected circumstances like financial challenges and an economic downturn.

"Giving back to society and contributing to the community is something near and dear to our chairman's heart," she said, adding that Top Glove would be giving scholarships to another 13 students.

Grateful for the generous support from TAA and Topglove, TAR UC president Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei noted that the scholarships will benefit students who not only faced financial constraints, but who have shown good academic performance and are active in extra-curricular activities.

He added that it was his wish to see scholarship recipients "return the favour" when they are able in the future.

"The scholarships from both parties are good examples of how universities can work together with its alumni to develop the next generation to drive socioeconomic progress, and how universities and companies collaborate to drive growth of industry through human capital," he added.

