



November/December 2017

# ELENA COOKE EDUCATION FUND

Empowering Today's Youth For Life

## Congratulations to our ACCA Grads!



Lim Kah Meng (left) and Phan Wai Kin start a new chapter in their lives, thanks to the Elena Cooke Education Fund. **READ THEIR STORIES ON PAGE 2**

## THANK YOU!

**Miss Moey Yoke Lai, Chairman of BBGS Alumni Berhad, pays tribute to sponsors, donors and volunteers of the Elena Cooke Education Fund (ECEP).**

**WE HAVE** much, indeed, very much, for which to thank our sponsors, donors, partners and volunteers. Because of you, we have been able to give out 33 scholarships to date and 32 (1 student had a second scholarship) have been able to pursue their studies – and, indeed, their dreams - in colleges/universities here in Malaysia. Thank you for your generosity.

There is also much to say about our scholarship recipients. Actually, they have a great deal to tell you. So, have a read as we bring you their stories in this bulletin. As our hearts were touched by their pleas to help them continue their education after SPM/STPM, we hope yours, too, will be touched and gratified to know you can have a hand in empowering young lives.

### Our Sponsors and Donors

We are thankful for every small and big donation from individuals and corporations here and abroad. Whether you take home a BBGS souvenir or participate in a fund-raising event or donate directly to the Elena Cooke Education Fund, you help a financially strapped student realise his or her potential in life.

### Our Education Partners

The Sunway Education Group pledged RM500,000 worth of scholarships in the form of fee waivers when we launched the Elena Cooke Education Fund. Since then,

8 students who chose to study at Sunway College/University have had their tuition fees sponsored by the Sunway Education Group while the Elena Cooke Education Fund took care of their living and book expenses. 4 would have graduated by the end of 2017, including our first 2 ACCA graduates, Lim Kah Meng and Phan Wai Kin.

First City University College (formerly known as KBU International College) became our second education partner in 2014. To date, we have had 5 students pursuing diploma programmes. 4 have graduated with one of our pioneer students, Lee Yin Sim, now working in the Maldives.

Our third education partner, KDU University College, came on board in 2015. Lim Kim Long would have felt extremely excited to be our first scholar to study and live in their spanking new and modern campus in Glenmarie. Kim Long has just graduated this year with a Diploma in Electrical & Electronics Engineering.

### Our Volunteers

These are BBGSians and friends of BBGS who commit time, effort and personal resources to help at fund-raising events. The Elena Cooke Education Fund Committee, the Selection Committee that meticulously screens, selects and interviews applicants, the BBGS OGA - these volunteers all play such a significant part.

### Moving into 2018: Raise RM1.25million

Every year, we have to turn away many applicants who need financial help to continue their studies after SPM or STPM. If we have more funds, we can help more students and make a difference to more lives.

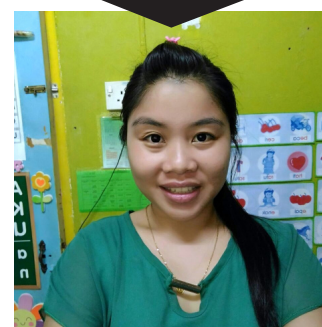
So, we are embarking on another fund-raising year. We have set ourselves an ambitious target for 2018: raise RM1.25million in conjunction with BBGS' 125th Anniversary. We are delighted that the BBGS125 Organising Team and the newly formed BBGS OGA Executive Committee are already working towards rolling out an exciting calendar, culminating in a Gala Dinner on 6 October 2018 at HGH Convention Centre in KL.

For every RM1,000 you donate, 1 Star will light up. We just need 1,250 Stars to light up the hopes and dreams of more young lives. Will you reach deep into your pockets and help us through the Elena Cooke Education Fund reach for the stars?

**Thank you!**



**"I hope Elena Cooke Education Fund will grow even more and can help more people like me in the future."**



## OUR VERY FIRST

**Ranimah Oransum was the first student we helped in 2012.**

**MARRIED RECENTLY**, Ranimah recalls the time she thought she would not have been able to complete her diploma in Early Childhood Education at MCKL. Her uncle who had promised to finance her education in KL said he could not continue paying her hostel rental. Her grades suffered and that was when Miss Moey Yoke Lai, CEO at MCKL, noticed and suggested she applied to the Elena Cooke Education Fund. With money issues out of the way, Ranimah graduated in August 2013. She returned to her hometown, got a job in a preschool and now teaches English and Bahasa to preschool to Std 4 kids at a tuition centre in Kota Kinabalu.



Wilson with his parents at his graduation.

## Wilson Scores!

**Top 10 CGPA results out of 800, Diploma in Business Studies graduate, Wilson Fung, wins a book prize from Tunku Abdul Rahman College.**

**HAVING SUPPORT** from the Elena Cooke Education Fund, this boy from Batu Pahat said "really helped me very much because I was able to finance my daily expenses and ease the burden of my parents who have retired".



# ECEF GRADS

## Sheer Grit

**Second amongst 4 brothers, Lim Kah Meng is the first to finish tertiary education and an example that sheer grit and focus on studies to carve a better life for him and his family pay off. He completed his CAT and ACCA at Sunway College and has landed himself a job at one of the top accounting firms in the country.**

Lim Kah Meng

**STUDYING ACCA** is not hard. As I believe that education can change the status of a person, I put even more effort compared to others to reach my destination. Throughout this journey, I appreciate my lecturers and friends who have journeyed with me. We studied hard and played hard. I will never forget every small and big moment we had together, including



Lim Kah Meng on his graduation day with his mum and brothers.

the moments when we paid full attention in class.

Life does not end with: I'll get a job and plan my future. Being an auditor is a good starting point. Perhaps, if possible, I'll work overseas. I want to travel and work. When I'm financially stable, I hope my mom can retire and get a good rest.

What I got from Elena Cooke Education Fund is uncountable. Without the scholarship, I probably might not have furthered my studies after SPM, let alone think about graduating from CAT and ACCA. The inclusion of living allowance from my sponsorship allowed me to focus better on my studies.

I will not forget the warmest care from the people behind the Elena Cooke Education Fund when my father passed away. The support from them encouraged me and my family to face the challenges.

Now I have a job and I'm able to support my family and give back to society. All of this would not have been possible without the Elena Cooke Education Fund.

Thank you - I hope I can be like you, helping others like me.

## Nothing Is Impossible

**Ipoh-born Phan Wai Kin is the younger of a pair of twins. After he failed to score a single A in PMR, he resolved to “change myself to focus on my studies”. Today he has completed his ACCA at Sunway College and has a job with one of the top accounting firms.**

Phan Wai Kin

**I AM REALLY** happy that I have completed the ACCA exams. It would not have happened without financial assistance from the Elena

Cooke Education Fund. I am really grateful to receive the scholarship to pursue the ACCA course in Sunway College.

The most challenging time was that period before finals. It is because ACCA exam is 100% exam based. Therefore, it was quite challenging as passing the paper was solely based on the marks in final exam. Due to the tight schedule, I very often did not have sufficient time to go back to my hometown (Ipoh).

My best moments in college? Hanging out and travelling with friends and course mates. Besides, it was also quite memorable to have many friends to study together at the library especially the period before finals. Each of us helped each other when we did not clearly understand the subject.



## Education Helps Make Wiser Decisions



Lee Chia Hui

**ELENA COOKE** Education Fund has enabled me to achieve my dreams to study in college for two years. This scholarship has helped to ensure that I won't struggle with huge student loan payments after I graduate. That has really helped remove the burden of thinking about how I would need to repay my loans and I was able to just fully focus on studying.

My parents are not capable of taking care of my expenses, so without this scholarship, it would have been virtually impossible for me to get an opportunity to get a diploma at a prestigious private university.

I feel very fortunate to be able to start out on the next step in life without any loans. This means a lot to me because I have no one to depend on and I have to start from scratch when I start working. It would be a huge setback for me to afford a decent living if there is a loan to repay on top of many other expenses.

Right now, I have been further blessed to have received another scholarship from First City University College. They offered me a Nan Yang Scholarship for Degree in Marketing. I plan to study and to learn how to market the hotel to potential guests and also to the local tourism board. My plan for the future is to work as a sales and marketing executive at a hotel. I also have plans to work and help my family in the future as well.

## Rough Start

**Olivia Francis might have had a rough start in life but thanks to supportive parents and donors, including the Elena Cooke Education Fund, she managed to complete her Certified Accounting Technician studies at MCKL in 2014. She then secured a scholarship from a corporation to pursue her ACCA and now works for them.**

Olivia Francis

**ON 11 MARCH 2014**, I submitted my application for the Elena Cooke Education Fund to Miss Moey (CEO of MCKL) and they partially sponsored my education in August 2014. This helped me to have more confidence in my studies which helped me get higher marks in my exams.



By God's grace and with the help of good-hearted people, I completed my CAT course with good results in 2014.

## Make My Grandparents Proud

**Left in the sole care of her maternal grandparents in Sungei Siput, Perak, after she was born, Lee Yin Sim was determined to make them proud of her. They wanted her to study and were prepared to struggle financially for her. Relief came when Elena Cooke Education Fund, together with KBU (now, First City University College), gave her a full scholarship to pursue her Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management in 2014.**

Lee Yin Sim

**AFTER MY** studies at KBU, I went on to complete my Bachelor's degree. I then did my internship in the Maldives.

Now, I am employed by Shangri-La's Villingili Resort and Spa in Maldives as a Service Associate in their Guest Service Center.



Without the Elena Cooke Education Fund, I would not have reached this far. Really appreciate them for giving me the opportunity to pursue my Diploma in KBU. It really reduced my family's burden at that time.

## Dream Come True

**Her dream was to study Interior Design but her father had retired. She applied to KBU (now, First City University College) and the Elena Cooke Education Fund to fully finance her Diploma in Interior Design in 2015. Shahrina binti Mohd**

**Shafiq has graduated and now hopes to continue with a degree course.**

Shahrina bte Mohd Shafiq

**I AM VERY** honored to be a recipient of the Elena Cooke Education Fund. The financial assistance has fulfilled my lifelong dream. My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in funding my studies. My family and I wish the very best to this foundation and we are confident that the foundation will continue to assist the needy and qualified students in the future.



Shahrina (right) with Lee Chia Hui, fellow ECEF recipient.

## Lifting Dad's Burden

**Llm Kim Long, ECEF's first recipient at KDU University College, is now working in Quality Control, having graduated this year with a Diploma in Electrical & Electronics Engineering.**

Lim Kim Long

**ELENA COOKE** scholarship fully covered my tuition and daily fees, so I did not become a burden to my family since I still have a younger sister in secondary school.



## First Class

**Khor Sin Yee, armed with a 1st Class Degree in Actuarial Science from UKM, hopes she can now help to lift her family's financial burden.**

Khor Sin Yee

**I AM VERY** grateful and I genuinely appreciate this scholarship as it really helped me a lot. It lightened my financial burden and allowed me to concentrate on my studies. Indeed, the Elena Cooke Education Fund has given me encouragement and has inspired me to help others. I hope one day in the future I am able to help others to pursue their dreams as what the Fund has done for me.





# 6 AWARDED 2017 SCHOLARSHIPS

## Sheer Relief and Happiness at Signing Ceremony

THEY MIGHT have come from different towns and different backgrounds and embarked on different courses at different colleges and universities.

But one thing they had in common was this: they needed financial help if they were to study beyond SPM/STPM.

So when they heard they had been selected from over 100 applicants, they were elated!

### Nur Khairunniza bte Slamet Purwanto

was very late to the signing ceremony on 12 August 2017. She and her family had started early from Tanjong Kling, Melaka, but were stuck when the Plus highway was temporarily closed due to a fatal tanker lorry accident.

Nothing, it seems, comes easy. Eldest amongst 5 siblings, Nur did not have the luxury of kindergarten. She started at Std 2 and took 6 months to learn to read and write.



Nur Khairunniza at the signing ceremony with Datin Noor Azimah Abd Rahim.

She might have had a late start, but she is determined to finish with a First Class Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Universiti Utara Malaysia.

**Han Rusan a/p Yok Lot** is the 7th of 12 siblings from Ganggai in Felda Trolak, Perak, an Orang Asli village that lacks basic necessities like electricity. She was fostered at 7 as it was tough for her rubber tapper father to provide for his large family.

Han applied to MCKL to do Early Childhood Education because “I see a need in my OA community and I realize that without education, they will be left behind... I want to make a change in my community and I will show people that OA people can be successful in life if given the opportunity and motivation.”

**Chin Zhi Thing** is from Kulim, Kedah. She is studying for her Diploma in Business Administration in Sunway University.

Her father worked as a carpenter until 2015 when he was diagnosed with lung and thyroid cancer, caused by his working environment. He has undergone operations and chemotherapy and is still undergoing radiotherapy. He tried to go back to work once, but the prolonged exposure to toxic chemicals in his line of work only worsened his condition.

Zhi Thing’s mother - a housewife - has only received education up to Standard 6. Besides, she needs to care for her husband full-time. They are currently surviving on their savings. Both Zhi Thing and her elder sister, who is studying in UM on a PTPTN loan, have been working part-time to help ease the burden of their parents.

**Lee Yuen Yee** and his older two siblings were raised by their mum single-handedly. He recalls that they were “always struggling with financial problems so my older brother



Ms Jennifer Cheong, Datin Noor Azimah Abd Rahim & Ms Moey Yoke Lai from the Elena Cooke Education Fund Committee pose with (L to R) Lee Yuen Yee, Glenna Tan, Han Rusan & Chin Zhi Thing.

and sister lost the opportunity to attend university. I tried to stop studying and work instead, but they gave me the most support to continue studying. I’ve worked part-time since 2012 to support my family’s income, even to the extent of working every day after school in a mobile phone shop for two years.” Before that, he worked in a joss stick shop for 6 months.

His passion to create and design, plus an A in STPM Seni Visual, led him to pursue a Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

**Glenna Tan Jie Yee** has chosen an unusual degree in Forensic Science at UKM.

She is Elena Cooke Education Fund’s first scholarship holder from SMK Sri Bintang Utara.

“I lost my mother at the tender age of 5 and have had a challenging time throughout my growing up years, being a mother to my 2 younger brothers and also run my home,” says Glenna.

Her father, a construction worker, has re-married and has two young kids.

**Teo Hui Ren’s** parents were finding it hard to make ends meet, so when he was only 10, his maternal grandmother decided to take him and his younger brother to Batu Pahat to bring them up herself. His aunt and uncle then stepped in, took the two brothers in and provided for them all the way through secondary school.

However, his aunt and uncle are not able to sponsor Hui Ren beyond Form 5; hence he applied for the Elena Cooke Education Fund scholarship after SPM.

In his personal statement in the application form, he wrote : “Through this amazing scholarship, I am able to reduce the burden of both my parents as well as my aunt, uncle and grandmother. Standing a chance in getting into the college/university of my dreams would also put me one step closer to accomplishing one of my goals in life which is to give back to society. All my life, I never had much so I understand what it feels like to be uncertain about the future. Thus, I hope that one day I would be able to do what this Fund is doing for the less fortunate.”

Hui Ren is doing the Certified Accounting Technician programme at Sunway College.

### SUMMARY OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED: 2012 - 2016

#### 2012

Ranimah Oransum, Pitas, Sabah  
Early Childhood Education (MCKL)

#### 2013

Rebecca George Williams K John, Klang  
CAT (Sunway College)

Deborah Cheong Sok Jing, PJ  
Early Childhood Education (MCKL)

#### 2014

Mok Jia Huai, Shah Alam  
Dip Mass Comm (KBU)

Lee Yin Sim, Sg Siput  
Dip Hospitality & Tourism Mment (KBU)

Lim Kah Meng, Subang Jaya  
CAT (Sunway College)

Phan Wai Kin, Ipoh  
ACCA (Sunway College)

Olivia Francis, Kajang  
CAT (MCKL)

Khor Sin Yee, Teluk Intan  
BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science (UKM)

Muhd Azfar bin Zukarnain, KL  
BEngineering (UTM)

Chan Li Xuan, Nibong Tebal  
BAccounting (UM)

#### 2015

Lim Kim Long, Muar  
Dip Electrical & Electronics Engineering (KDU)

Lee Chia Hui, KL

Dip Hospitality & Tourism Mment (KBU)  
Shahrina bte Mohd Shafiq, JB

Dip Interior Design (KBU)

Foo Jun Chow, Ipoh

ACCA (Sunway College)

Nicholas Chong Zheng Tau, Skudai  
Dip Business Admin (Sunway)

Teo Shi Teng, Ledang

BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance  
(Sunway University)

Miggie Wong, Batu Caves

CAT (MCKL)

Carolyn Ng Kar Yee, Butterworth

Dip Mass Comm (Han Chiang College)

Lim Kah Meng, Subang Jaya

ACCA (Sunway College)

Wilson Fung, Batu Pahat

Dip Business Studies (Acctg) (TARC)

#### 2016

Alicia Tan, Miri

Dip Computer Studies (KDU)

Lim Khai Zhin, Muar

Dip Business Admin (KDU)

Nursyamimi Syahirah bte Mohd Joha, Batu Pahat

Dip Interior Design (First City)

Nurcassandra Nissa bte Shanizal, S’ban

Dip Computer Science (UMP)

Chong Wei Kuan, Pulau Pinang

B Management (Hons) (USM)

Jonathan Phan Kar Jun, Kuantan

BA (Hons) English for Professionals (USM)

## How We Select Our Scholars



### ECEF Selection Committee Head, Lim Lai Hong, describes the process.

The objective of the Selection Committee is to identify applicants who best meet the ECEF requirements

for recommendation to the BBGS Alumni Berhad which manages the Elena Cooke Education Fund.

Key stakeholders include:

#### 1. Panel of Selection Committee members

The panel presently comprises 16 members, all of whom are alumnae of the Bukit Bintang Girls’ School.

Level 1: Pre-interview shortlist:

They sieve through all applications received by the stated deadline.

Each application is evaluated to ensure it meets requirements as stipulated in the application form and then scored against a set of criteria where the key consideration is the financial neediness and family background of the applicant. Only applicants with family annual household income of not more than RM42,000 will be eligible for consideration. The selection criteria consider the financial resources of the applicant as well as the daily challenges of the applicant and his/her family (e.g. being raised by single parents, orphans or have family members who have disabilities or require special medical care).

Other considerations include academic and co-curricular activities. As financial and family background are considered with greater emphasis, applicants are only required to score at least 3 A s in the SPM, and the scholarships are awarded based on admission to the courses that they will be able to succeed in. Personal statement scores are considered stringently with significant attention to plagiarism as we believe our scholars should be ethical and independent.

Level 2: Interview Shortlist:

The interview session focuses on the applicant’s character and ability to complete the course.

#### 2. BBGS Alumni Berhad (BAB)

The BAB is the final approving authority on all policy matters of the ECEF. It is the final decision maker for the award of the scholarships and the management of the scholarship funds. The Board is assisted by an ECEF Committee.

The Selection Committee proposes to the BAB the following for approval:

- interview shortlist
- final recommended ECEF scholars after interviews

#### 3. ECEF education partners

Our ECEF partners rely on the BAB recommendations for the shortlist of the applicants for interviews by a panel comprising the representatives from the BAB and their college.

The scholars are interviewed on a joint basis and the panel will propose the successful applicants to the BAB.






Reach for the Stars

Let's Celebrate BBGS' 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
BBGS 125 Gala Dinner

DATE	6 October 2018
TIME	6pm, Saturday
VENUE	Galaxy Hall, HGH Convention Centre, Sentul, Kuala Lumpur

More details & how to donate and book your tables @  
[www.bbgs.com.my](http://www.bbgs.com.my)

All donations will go towards the **Elena Cooke Education Fund**  
to help financially needy students pursue education beyond SPM/STPM.



### HOW TO DONATE TO THE ELENA COOKE EDUCATION FUND

The Elena Cooke Education Fund is managed by the BBGS Alumni Berhad, a company limited by guarantee set up and managed by ex-BBGS girls. Details of the Board of Directors and the Selection Committee (who vet and evaluate scholarship applications) are found on our website <http://bbgs.com.my/>.

If you wish to make a donation, you may do so by banking in directly to the bank account of BBGS Alumni Berhad at:  
Maybank account No: 5141-2316-6380  
BIC/SWIFT Code: MBBEMYKL  
Please scan and email the bank receipt to [bbgs.elena@gmail.com](mailto:bbgs.elena@gmail.com)

Alternatively, you may post your cheque i.e., made payable to BBGS Alumni Berhad and post it to:  
c/o BBGS Alumni Berhad  
Suite 310, Level 8  
Pavilion Kuala Lumpur  
168 Jalan Bukit Bintang  
55100 Kuala Lumpur

In either case, please remember to give us your name, address and email address so that we can send a receipt to you.

down memory lane...  
class of 1966



# The BBGS Legacy

Climb the *bukit* to reach the *bintang*



IN 2018, the Bukit Bintang Girls' School or BBGS marks a truly special milestone. We celebrate 125 years of a heritage that epitomises excellence, discipline and faith. We celebrate the women who have made a difference in the spheres they represent. We celebrate our tradition of giving, our friendships and the memories that we share. And in doing so, we continue to reach for a nobler, higher standard.

Our physical school may have been torn down, but we have rebuilt on the values and the ethos of BBGS through the Elena Cooke Education Fund. The spirit of BBGS lives on in the lives of the young underprivileged scholars whom we assist with their education. It has been five years since the launch of the ECEF, and to date, 32 young people have benefited from the Fund. Their lives have been changed. What we began is now taking root and we are encouraged by the success. Each year we get over a hundred applicants, and we want to continue to help as many as we can.

So, as we celebrate our 125 years, we honour our alma mater, our principals, teachers and all who came before us by supporting this stellar legacy of education through the Fund. We will lift high the banner to "Empower Today's Youth for Life".



**Class of '74. 8 July 2017. Gave RM20,000.** 60 years old & 43 years after leaving school - and grateful to BBGS, 80 girls' love and toil continue for their alma mater BBGS.



**Class of '86. 23 July 2016. Gave RM4,379.60.** They had a fantastic 30th anniversary celebration remembering those schoolgirl days - and they also thought of helping young Malaysians.

In 2014, this caring Class of '86 raised RM8,450 in memory of Mabel Soosai whose young life was so tragically cut short in the MH17 tragedy. The proceeds were donated to the Elena Cooke Education Fund.



## Spirit of School Lives On

**The building is gone but generations of girls schooled at BBGS still remember.**

**FOUNDED IN 1893** by dedicated pioneers who travelled thousands of miles from England, BBGS was built on the love of these early educationists who sacrificed the prime of their lives to build the school.

Miss Elena Maud Cooke was amongst these dedicated Principals. The 10th Principal of BBGS from 1958 to 1977, she was, before that, a student and teacher.

Many remember learning about giving back to society, especially to the less fortunate, through the Prefects' Campaign which Miss Cooke introduced. This year-round activity spurred the girls to compete against each other to see which class collected the most towards selected charitable organisations.

## Giving Back

**They gathered to celebrate their birthdays and remembered to give back.**



**Class of '77. 15 July 2017. Gave RM13,500.** 77 girls who swayed and bumped the night away at their 40th anniversary party.

### Class of 1966

**Class of '66. 2016. Gave RM18,780** as they got together to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

### BBGS Melbourne Alumni

**Melbourne Alumni. January 2016. Gave RM1,800.**

### Light-a-Star Individual Donors

**Individuals who lit up BBGS Stars** - names are listed on website. <http://bbgs.com.my/elena-cooke-education-fund/light-a-star-donor-list/>

### Others...

Apologies if we missed out others who have donated to the Elena Cooke Education Fund. Thank you!