SPH awards scholarships for budding journalists

By MICHELLE YEO

IT is never too late to embark on a career in journalism and newly minted Singapore Press Holdings scholar Kelly Tay can certainly attest to that.

Ms Tay was one of six scholars who received the SPH Journalism scholarship at the SPH awards ceremony held at the Toa Payoh News Centre yesterday.

Unlike the other five scholars who will obtain funding for their undergraduate degrees, the 23-year-old already has a degree in English Literature from the National University of Singapore (NUS). She will, instead, obtain funding for her masters degree in Journalism at Columbia University next year and will be bonded to SPH for three years.

Also heading overseas are Rae Tan, Yuen Sin and Heng Kang Wei. Mr Tan and Ms Yuen be going to the UK to read International Politics and English Literature respectively, while Ms Heng will study International Politics at Peking University. All three will be bonded to SPH for six years after completing their studies.

Lee Hee Ai and Ng Hui Wen are both headed to NUS to read Sociology and English Literature respectively and both will be bonded for four years. All of them will have a chance to intern at the SPH newsrooms during their summer school breaks.

Besides the six SPH Journalism awards, 10 Lim Kim San Memorial scholarships were given to outstanding students pursuing languages at local tertiary institutions. Some 14 other scholarships were also presented to the children of SPH employees and newspaper vendors.

Ms Tay, currently a full-time journalist with BT, did not expect to go into journalism after completing her studies at NUS, much less apply for an SPH Journalism scholarship. But it was her hands-on experience at BT that cemented her decision to pursue journalism as a career, she said.

Acting chairman of SPH, Cham Tao Soon who presented the awards to some of the scholars yesterday, emphasised the importance of a good education for budding journalists in his speech during the awards ceremony. He noted that “a quality education is important. Whatever the course of study, education opens up our minds and expands our horizon.”