OVER 600 outstanding scholars and top achievers from UCSI University received recognition from the university in an award and scholarship presentation ceremony held recently.

The scholarships together with academic and achievement awards included the Presidential Award, Overall Achievement Award, Academic Award, Achievement Award, UCSI University Trust scholarships for each level – pre-university, diploma, degree and postgraduate study – and a sports bursary for state and national athletes.

UCSI's premier scholarship, namely, the Tan Sri Ahmad Razali Merit Scholarship Award, was also presented to Tan Yi Xun.

On top of his academic achievements, Yi Xun is also a national athlete, having represented the country in various water polo and swimming championships including the SEA Games and SUKMA.

Apart from awards from the university, scholarships are also pledged to various education funds set up by media partners such as the Star Education Fund and Sin Chew Daily Education Fund among others.

Deserving recipients of these awards are also recognised at the annual presentation ceremony.

By offering such scholarships, the UCSI University Trust is able to equip students with the opportunity to pursue their tertiary education in order to fulfil their potential, said UCSI University Trust chairman Datuk Dr Mohd Karim Abdullah Omar.

"To date, the Trust has awarded over RM50mil in scholarships and bursaries, and more than 2,000 students have benefited from this since 2006," he said, adding that the amount was expected to increase to RM68mil in the coming year.

In his speech, the UCSI group founder and chairman Datuk Peter Ng said he was delighted to see so many achievers make their mark at the university every year, highlighting various student achievements – from multiple wins in local and international competitions, being part of the Harvard Medical School's Global Clinical Scholars Research Training Programme in Boston, and being accepted into prestigious universities around the globe.

"Such achievers are walking testimonies that reflect the saying, 'excellence begets success'. I am certain they will continue to persevere in being the best in their respective fields," he said.

Various award-winning scholars from the university's Institute of Music also performed at the event.

They included Jeremy Yeo who clinched first place in the American Protege International Competition of Romantic Music 2013; and Cleryn Wong Hui Yun and Sharene Tang Suat Ting who bagged several top awards in the World Harmonica Festival, Germany as part of the Fresco Harmonica musical group. Renowned violinist and music producer Dennis Lau – who is a UCSI alumnus – also wowed the crowd with his upbeat performance. Also present at the award presentation ceremony was the university council chairman Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and guests, who included parents and family members of the recipients, academics and senior management from the university and industrial partners.
Deserving student: Lim Wen Jen being congratulated on stage by Dr Mohd Karim and UCSI De Institute of Creative Arts and Design director Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Zainuddin after receiving the University Trust Scholarship Award.

Merit award: Yi Xun receiving the award from Musa while deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Postgraduate Studies) Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Nizam Isa looks on.