New scholarship in memory of ex-Citigroup S’pore head

BY JOSEPHINE TAY

THE late Mr Sunil Sreenivasan lived in Singapore for just six years as Citigroup’s country head, but it fast became a favourite place of the globe-trotting banker.

Now a third-year student at the Singapore Management University (SMU) has become the first beneficiary of a scholarship his family has set up in Singapore, in recognition of Mr Sreenivasan’s affection for the country.

He was Citigroup’s country officer in Singapore from 1998 to 2003 and was said to have described it as “the most enjoyable time” of his life.

His son, Mr Raoul Sreenivasan, said at the awarding of the scholarship at SMU yesterday that his father had met some of his “closest business and social acquaintances” in Singapore.

“He loved the people here. He was fascinated by Singapore’s culture and history.

“But, most of all, he believed in the vision and the future of this country,” he said.

Mr Sreenivasan, 54, died in 2005, in Hungary, where he was working. Born in India, he had US residency status. Among other interests, he was a student of classical guitar.

During his time in Singapore, he also served as a founding member of SMU’s board of trustees and helped shape the building of the university.

After his death, about 30 friends and family members of Mr Sreenivasan raised $133,000. About 60 per cent of the donors are from Singapore. The amount was matched by the Singapore Government, taking the total scholarship money to $266,000.

Mr Tong Junjie, a double-degree student in accountancy and finance who is president of the SMU windsurfing club and string ensemble, is the first recipient of this scholarship.

“Junjie displays the characteristics that my father held dear – integrity, drive, community spirit and all-roundness,” said Mr Raoul Sreenivasan. “We hope to continue our relationship with him, and that he will contribute to furthering my father’s values through what he does.”

ST PHOTO: FRANCIS ONG

FIRST RECIPIENT: Mr Tong receiving the scholarship award from Mrs Melissa Sreenivasan yesterday. Looking on are Ms Tamara Sreenivasan and Mr Raoul Sreenivasan.