In pursuit of excellence

Family of seven graduates create history at AeU

Even out of nine in a family from Sabah graduated with the same Master of Education (MEd) degrees from AeU. Five of them who graduated in 2015 comprised four sisters and a brother-in-law. The number of graduates in the family increased to seven with Lily @ Viva Sabil, 25, and her husband, Dymoen Zeno, 34, finally obtaining their MEd degree in 2016. This created a new history for AeU.

It started from Puan Leahia @ Root Sabil, 46, who harboured the ambition of becoming a professional educator. As the second child of the six Sabil siblings who are all teachers, Leahia teaches in the National School Roagud, Ranau. The only obstacle to her ambition was the absence of suitable institutions of higher learning near her residence. The nearest full-time learning centre closest to her home is located about 80km in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Leahia’s long-awaited dream came true when AeU expanded its network of educational services centres in 2012 from all the states in Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak. She started receiving information through word of mouth about AeU from her friends, teachers and also through her own reading of AeU articles in the newspapers. As a mother of five, Leahia was determined to continue her study in AeU’s Master of Education (MEd) programme.

When Leahia shared her aspiration and intentions with her family, all her siblings and two brothers-in-law who are also teachers were inspired by her. In total, nine members of the family were registered as students of AeU. Eight of them enrolled for the same MEd programmes at the same time on 20 January 2014. They are Leahia and her husband, Fred P. Jasmin, Rosline, Rosie and her husband, Edmond St. Carolus, Lily and her husband, Dymoen Zeno and Jane. The eldest brother, Juni Sabil, was registered in September 2015 and is pursuing his Bachelor of Education programme in AeU.

“It was fun to study and discuss together when my siblings and I shared a common interest in education. Learning together makes it easier for us because we can complete the task, revise and attend classes together. We actually gained more in terms of knowledge and skills after attending the AeU’s MEd programme,” says Leahia. Although the sisters and their spouses worked in three different schools, SK Roagud, SMK and SRAN loaned in Desa Waasuan in Tambunan, they did not encounter any difficulties in meeting the needs of the education as the blended learning methodology offered by AeU was accessible anywhere, anytime, which gave them the flexibility including attending class schedules held only in the weekends. They began to overcome their initial worries after being exposed to the blended learning. With proper time management, they were able to cope with their work commitments and studies and believed they can achieve their goals of lifelong learning.

“Learning materials were easily available online and the use of AeU’s new technology continually

Fast facts on AeU

AeU is a collaborative multinational university established by the auspices of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) countries. All its academic programmes ranging from diploma to masters levels are approved by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and accredited by the Malaysian Qualification Agency.

Today, AeU has a diverse and robust international community of more than 21,000 students from 84 countries. Over 1,000 students from 34 countries also make AeU as their choice to pursue their studies at the doctoral level.

Registration for September 2017 intake is now open. For enquiries, call 1 950 300 298 or apply online at www.aeu.edu.my.