

A family of five graduates create history at AeU



Five graduates in one family. From left: Edmond, Rosie, Lesiah, Jane and Rosline at AeU's 5th Convocation Ceremony.

At Asia e-University (AeU) recent 5th convocation held in Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, among the 3,000 local and international graduates who received their scrolls, an unusual historic moment happened when five graduates comprised four sisters and a brother-in-law from Sabah went on stage to receive their Master of Education degrees respectively.

It started from Lesiah @ Root binti Sabil, age 44, who harboured the ambition of becoming a professional educator. As the second child of the six Sabil siblings who are all teachers, Lesiah teaches in the National School Bongkud, 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 110km in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Lesiah's long awaited dream came true when AeU expanded its network of educational services centres in 2012 from all the states in Peninsula Malaysia to Sabah and Sarawak. She started receiving information through words 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, Lesiah was determined to continue her study in AeU's Master of Education (M.Ed) programme.

When Lesiah shared her aspiration and intentions with her family, all her siblings and two brother-in-laws who are also teachers were inspired by her. In total, nine of them registered as students of AeU. Eight of them enrolled for the same M.Ed programmes at the same time on 20th January 2014. They are Lesiah and her husband, Fred bin P. Jau-mis, Rosline, Rosie and her hus-

band, Edmond St. Carolus, Lily and her husband, Dymson Zeno and Jane. Only the eldest brother, Juin bin Sabil, was registered in September 2013 and is pursuing his Bachelor of Education programme in AeU.

Interestingly, all of them are teachers and graduated at the same time for the same Master of Education programme, except for Juin, Lily and Dymson who hope to graduate in 2016. Their convocation ceremony was witnessed by their families including the Sabil sisters' mother, Suliah Kelangkat, aged 70.

Although the sisters and their spouses worked in three different schools, SK Bongkud, SMK and SMK Ranau Lohan in Desa Wawasan 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.

Through the blended learning methods, students can get study notes through the student portal, known as My Personalised Learning Space or myPLS. Classes are held in the weekends once a month in strategic learning centres within the closest proximity to the students. Interactions with academic facilitators (AF) are conducted online in accordance with the schedule agreed by the AF and students.

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Within five semesters of their studies, their hard work paid off when five members of the family were notified they had passed their exams and could attend their graduation ceremony at AeU's 5th convocation. With that, they created history for AeU as this is the first time that out of nine in the family who registered as students with AeU, five graduated at the same time with the same M.Ed degree. It clearly shows their interest and commitment to the teaching profession and the pursuit of higher education is highly regarded and respected by the society.

The unique tale of the five in two families is not just the success story of the families' dedication to education but also reflected the importance of lifelong learning through AeU's personalized mode of flexible learning that can help working adults to achieve their dreams and ambitions.

Fast Facts on AeU

AeU is a multinational university formed by the approval of the Round Table, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), which comprises 33 member countries including Malaysia. All of the academic programmes offered are in compliance with international standards, approved by the Ministry of Education and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

As one of the major players that offer Education Open Distance Learning (ODL) in Malaysia, AeU until today has recorded a total of over

22,000 students enrolled in 65 countries of the world and of that number, 7,000 have already graduated. At the same time nearly 1,000 students from 46 countries also make AeU as their choice to pursue their studies at the doctoral level.

Founded in 2007, AeU has moved forward with confidence to become one of the leading and most active organisation that promotes Education Open Distance Learning (ODL) in Asia. AeU focus as institutions are supporting ODL methods are clear that providing quality higher education platform, accessible and affordable by all segments of society in Asia.

AeU has spread its wings to ACD member countries such as Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam, as well as to non-member countries such as Denmark, Hong Kong, Iraq, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Somalia, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In addition to the main campus located in Kuala Lumpur, AeU continue to expand its network with the opening of learning centres in strategic locations across the country including in the major cities and in rural areas in the peninsula and Sabah and Sarawak.

Registration for January 2016 Intake is now open. For enquiries, please call: 1 300 300 238, or apply online at www.aeu.edu.my