

From dream to reality

> AeU helps single mother achieve her dream

FOR Liow Zen Min, 40, a single mother with two kids aged six and seven, life has not been easy being the breadwinner.

A believer in lifelong learning, her dream and ambition is to become a specialist in early childhood education and a motivational speaker. She wants to inspire women to overcome their hardships, live independently, and have the determination to pursue their dreams.

"My first degree is a Bachelor of Commerce and Management from Lincoln University, New Zealand. I was searching for a postgraduate programme from a reputable university where I can study without giving up my work," Liow said.

"I did my research via the internet and after browsing through many universities, I came across Asia e University (AeU) which is the most ideal open distance learning institution for me to pursue my studies," she said. Liow enrolled as a Master of Education student with a specialisation in Early Childhood Education in January 2014.

The Johorean is constantly multitasking between work, family responsibilities such as looking after her children and teaching and coaching them in their studies, doing chores and study.

"I am also an entrepreneur. I am currently running my own two businesses. The first business is teaching young children to be independent readers, while the other is a partnership business where I run a special school for special needs children in Kulai. I am also a part-time lecturer at Southern University College, Johor," Liow said.

Liow specialises in teaching young children to be independent readers. She started training her daughters to be independent readers since they were one-and-a-half years old.

She takes pride that they finished the whole set of Ladybird Peter and Jane story

books independently by the time they were four years old.

The main reason Liow chose AeU was because it provides the flexibility to study anywhere and anytime, which allowed her to structure learning around her busy schedule.

"I am a fully online student but I try not to miss any of AeU's seminars. I attended most of it by driving or taking flights to the campus in Kuala Lumpur.

The seminars are interesting and it helped me develop a deeper understanding of my studies. It also enabled me to network with the professor, academic facilitators and coursemates," Liow said.

"Despite my struggles, I managed to submit all my assignments before deadlines. I scored GPA 3.33 in my first semester, GPA 4.0 in my second semester and GPA 3.92 in my third semester. I just completed my fourth semester exam, and I am now waiting for my results. There are two more semesters to complete the programme," she said.

Liow said she benefited a lot from the programme because the theories she learned are not only closely related, but also applicable to her work. It gave her the opportunity to pursue her goal in earning a valuable Master of Education qualification to enhance her career, while fulfilling her ambition and dream.

"My daughters are my greatest motivation. I am very thankful and grateful to my mother for her support. I am also very grateful to all the professors, lecturers, academic facilitators and staff who have been very friendly and helpful in my studies.

"I hope to inspire others, especially single mothers and the less-fortunate to never give up their struggles, but to work towards their dreams and achieving their goals," she said. - **Yee Jie Min**

Those interested in what Liow does can contact her at ewkidzenrichment@gmail.com. For more information on AeU, visit www.aeu.edu.my.



Liow and her daughters (left) and Liow teaches young children to be independent readers.