

A family affair

> Four sisters and a brother-in-law graduate together

A historic and unusual moment was recorded at Asia e University's (AeU) recent convocation where four sisters and a brother-in-law from Sabah graduated with their Master of Education degrees at the same time.

The dream started with Lesiah @ Root Sabil, 44.

She is the second of seven siblings who harboured the ambition of becoming a

professional educator.

The only obstacle was the absence of suitable higher learning institutions near her, with the nearest full-time learning centre located 100km away in Kota Kinabalu.

Lesiah's dream came true when AeU expanded its network of educational service centres to Sabah and Sarawak.

A mother of five, she was determined to continue her studies and so she pursued AeU's Master of Education (MEd) programme.

Lesiah shared her aspiration and intention with her family, and inspired her four younger



The Sabil sisters (from left) Rosie, Lesiah, Jane and Rosline.

sisters and two brothers-in-law, who are all teachers.

All eight in the family, namely Lesiah and her husband Fred bin P. Jaumis, Rosline Sabil, Rosie Sabil and her husband Edmond St Carolus, Lily Sabil and her husband Dymson Zeno, and the youngest, Jane Sabil, also enrolled for the same programme at the same time.

Their eldest brother, Juin Sabil, 50, also pursued AeU's Bachelor of Education.

While five of them graduated at the same time, Juin, Lily and Dymson hope to graduate next year. Their graduation was witnessed by their families including the Sabil sisters' mother, Suliah Kelangkat, 70.

"Learning together makes it easier for us because we can complete the tasks, revise and attend classes together. We have gained in terms of knowledge and skills after attending AeU's MEd programme," Lesiah said.

They did not encounter any difficulties in meeting the education needs as AeU's blended learning methodology makes education accessible anywhere and anytime. It gave them the flexibility to attend class schedules held only on weekends.

"Learning materials are available online and the use of AeU's new technology system continuously made the learning process easier and cheaper," Jane said.

Their hard work paid off within five semesters of studies when they were notified they have passed their exams and could attend their graduation ceremony.

With that, they created news as this is the first in AeU's history where five in a family registered and graduated at the same time with the same MEd degree.

"My mother and late father were the key influences behind our success. They not only supported and helped us financially to realise the dream of becoming a teacher, they also constantly encouraged and gave us moral support and blessings," Rosie said.

This unique tale is not just the success story of the families' dedication to education, but reflects the importance of lifelong learning through AeU's personalised mode of flexible learning that can help working adults achieve their dreams and ambitions.

For more details, call AeU's toll free line at 1300 300 238.