A first in AU history

> Four sisters and a brother-in-law graduate at the same time

A UA University’s (AU) fifth convocation ceremony created news as it is the first in the university’s history that four sisters and a brother-in-law registered and graduated at the same time with a Master of Education (MEd) degree.

The dream started from Lesiah @ Root Salisbury, a teacher from the National School of Bengue, on the second of seven sisters, the harboured ambition of being a professional educator. Her dream came true when AU exposed it to the network of educational services to the Sabah and Sarawak in 2017. Lesiah shared her aspiration and intention with her family, and inspired her four younger sisters and two brothers-in-law, who are all teachers.

In fact, eighth in the family registered and earned for the same MEd programme, namely Lesiah and her husband Fred P. Jusma, Roseline Salib, Rosie Salib and her husband Edmund St Carolus, Lily Sabih and her husband Dymosh Zero, and youngest sibling, Jane Salib. Their eldest brother, J. Sabih also registered to pursue AU's Bachelor of Education. 

While five of them graduated at the same time, June, Lily and Dymosh hope to graduate next year. Their convocation ceremony was witnessed by their families including the Sabih sisters’ mother, Salsiah, Kalangkat.

"It was fun to study and discuss together as my siblings and I shared a common interest in education. 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 AU’s MEd programme," Lesiah said.

Although the sisters and their spouses worked in three different schools, they did not encounter any difficulties meeting their education needs as AU’s blended learning methodology is accessible anywhere anytime; that gave them flexibility including attending classes held only on weekends.

The sisters were initially worried about how to cope with their commitments and studies, but after being exposed to the blended learning methodology, the sisters began to believe they can achieve their goal of lifelong learning through better time management.

"Learning materials were available online and the use of AU’s new technology continuously made the learning process easier and cheaper," Jane said.

Through the blended learning method, students get the study notes through the student portal, known as My Personalised Learning Space or myPLS. Classes are held on weekends once a month in a blended learning environment. The classes are held in banks of 15 where the closest within the students, and interactions with academic facilitators (AF) are constructed so that a schedule agreed by the AF and students.

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

"We chose AU because it made learning in terms of knowledge, time, location and financing," Roseline added.

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

For enquiries, call 1300 300 238.