

UMS VC receives posthumous degree for daughter

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PENANG: Graduation day is always a big moment in the lives of students and their families, but not so for Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Mohd Noh Dalimin as it was he who had to receive the scroll meant for his daughter at the convocation of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) yesterday.

His 24-year-old daughter, Maryam, was a final year architecture student at USM but was killed in a road accident at the campus on Feb 18. She died at 5.20pm of head injuries after her motorcycle crashed into a road divider.

Maryam was on her way to the Housing, Building and Planning School from her hostel when the accident happened.

Prof Mohd Noh received the posthumous degree from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Lin See-Yan during the second session of USM's 35th convocation here.

Prof Mohd Noh's wife, Prof Datin Dr Maryati Mohamed who witnessed her husband receiving the scroll, could not hold back her tears during the presentation.

Their second daughter Dr Mehah and sixth son, Hamidi, who had accompanied them here, were seen comforting her.

Prof Mohd Noh, when met later, said Maryam was inspired to study architecture since small after she saw her uncle do some renovation works to their house many years back, although then she did not know that the uncle was not an architect.

He said that he found a poem written by Maryam when



POSTHUMOUS ... Mohd Noh (left) received the late Maryam's degree from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Lin, packing her belongings after the accident with the heading "Everyday, I start my day with an end".

It was an indication of the type of person Maryam was who always looked forward to start everyday as a new day with full of hope, he said.

Prof Mohd Noh also said that he could not fulfill Maryam's dream to visit Yokohama, Japan last November as both of them had been busy.

He, however, accepted her passing as fated and that the family had to be strong in facing the future. -Bernama