



Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman presenting the scroll to a graduate during the 13th UMS convocation yesterday. Musa, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of the university, presented scrolls to 799 graduates in the ceremony at the Chancellor's Hall.

Royal Education Award recipient sets example for siblings

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By Sandra Sokial

KOTA KINABALU: Salmiahwati Djafar has one mission in life — to set a good example for her younger siblings, especially when education is concerned.

Coming from a middle-income family, the third child of eight siblings not only finished with a First Class Honours in the Bachelor of Social Science with Honours (History) but was also the recipient of the Royal Education Award.

Met during the 13th Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) convocation ceremony, yesterday, the humble Salmiahwati said there was no special recipe to her success.

"Probably because I am the type of person who gives my full attention during lectures, and I also often do revision with friends ... may be that helped," she said who scored 3.72 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

This Sandakan lass thanked her parents and family members for their continuous support.

"I strove hard in my education because I am also the first child in my family to pursue education at university level ... I hope my younger siblings will work hard



Salmiahwati

as well," she said.

Daughter to a tow-truck driver and housewife, Salmiahwati is currently pursuing her Degree in European History at UMS.

"I hope to be a lecturer one day ... so I hope it would be a reality when I complete my education," said Salmiahwati.

Meanwhile, Chia Yee Shin could not describe how happy she was when she was named as the Chancellor's Gold Award recipient.

"I did not expect this ... my parents and other family members are equally happy," said the youngest of two siblings.

And when asked what she did to deserve the award, Chia replied: "Studying does not mean attending classes and doing our assignments



Chia

alone, it is also to show interest in the subject ... that, to me, is the best recipe."

While others may complain about doing assignments, the Kota Kinabalu-born thinks otherwise.

"That is in fact my most beautiful memory in UMS ... I love finishing my assignment because that is where I get to learn about new things.

"I do not mind starting from square one, because to me, hard work builds my self-esteem which eventually encourages me to learn more about engineering. This is my subject and I intend to master it," she said.

Chia is also currently pursuing her Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at UMS.