

Four Papar siblings complete Master's degree at UMS

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By Nell Brian

KOTA KINABALU: Four siblings from Papar made their family proud by obtaining a Master's in Education Management together.

They received their certificate along with 5,207 other graduates at the 18th Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

Baidi Baddiri, 42, Basni, 39, Nazari, 34, and Ranidah, 32, decided to embark on this journey together back in 2014.

It was Baidi who suggested that they should all enrol for the master's program together.

He figured that it would be a good idea for them to complete the course together since it would more convenient.

Baidi added that the moral support and love they had for each other was vital in their success.

Their journey was not always easy. Their house in Kampung Laut Kinarut, Papar was destroyed by fire just two weeks before the deadline for their dissertation. Their laptop was destroyed and all their hard work inside vanished.

To make matters worse, they lost their brother-in-law after the fire. In the midst of mourning the loss of their loved one, they had no choice but to complete their dissertation.

Basni said that all fields of studies had their own challenges. Diploma, bachelor degree and master's degree students would all face difficulty but it is the perseverance

that pulls you through.

When asked whether they intended to further their studies, Raini said that they would love to do it when the right time comes.

Meanwhile, Perak-born student, Angel Kuok Me Erh, achieved great success when she was presented with the Chancellor's Gold Medal award. The chemical engineering graduate obtained an astounding 3.92 CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average).

The success of her twin sister, Shawn Kuok, a Biotechnology graduate has motivated her. Shawn who also graduated from UMS last year won a Book Prize award.

"Having a twin is unlike having a sibling. If your twin is happy, you are happy. If she is sad, you are sad. Thus, if she is successful, I want to be successful as well," she quipped.

Angel maintained a 3.900 and above CGPA for almost all her semesters. She said she did not necessarily study hard but instead she studied 'smart'. This was the secret to her success, Angel claimed.

Li Tongxia, a student from China, who came to Sabah in 2014 to pursue his studies was given the Tun Zaki Tun Azmi award.

He won the award due to his outstanding dissertation. When asked about how he felt about the award, Li said that he was privileged and honored.

He expressed his joy for completing his course on time.



The Baddiri siblings. From left Baidi, Basni, Nazari and Ranidah.



Li Tongxia



Angel Kuok