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Motivational talks, extra classes for top students

WHENEVER Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) celebrates its convocation, you can be sure of activities galore.

A common sight is that of students in robes and mortar boards, posing for photographs with proud parents at UPSI's beautiful buildings.

The recent convocation in August was a memorable one as former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Leadership and Education Management.

His wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, received the Honorary Doctorate of Family Development.

Dr Mahathir was awarded the honorary doctorate in appreciation of his efforts to boost the quality of education in Malaysia. UPSI highly regards his achievements in leading Malaysia for more than 20 years.

The university also produced three First-Class graduates this year: Yan Fong Lan @ Nadiah Yan Abdullah, Lee Wai Chung and Nisha Abd Kadir are in the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) programme.

Nadiah is also the recipient of the Royal Education Award (Anugerah Pelajaran Diraja).

The university plans to increase the number of First-Class graduates in the near future.

Now, there are a number of students who make it to the Dean's List every semester.

To help excellent students maintain their grades UPSI hosts motivational talks and extra classes, which also encourage weak students to work harder.

Faculty members identify these students through class interaction, the quality of assignments produced and exam grades.

Then, the faculty together with the Counselling Centre will develop programmes or activities for these students.

Usually, there is a motivational camp held at the beginning of each semester. This year the university's strategy paid off, as it produced nine Vice-Chancellor Gold Award winners.

The award is given to students who maintain a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.5 and above.

Other awards handed out were the Chancellor Gold Medal and the Board of University Director Gold Medal.

On the day of the convocation, visitors to the university have a lot to see.

They can take a walk around the campus and admire the architecture, which dates back to the 1920s.

Usually, there is an exhibition showcasing students' work and information on courses is also available. Aside from that, there will be food and beverages on sale.

UPSI is a specialised university and unlike other universities, courses focus on teaching programmes.

It offers 19 under-graduate programmes at six faculties: the Arts and Music Faculty, Language Faculty, Cognitive Science and Human Development Faculty, Science and Technology Faculty, Information Technology and Communication Faculty and the Business and Economy Faculty.

For details, call 05-4506000 or log on to: www.upsi.edu.my

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