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Dentistry grad wins two gold awards

PENANG, Tues. - Nor Aidaniza Abdul Muttlib is on cloud nine, and has every reason to be.

The Universiti Sains Malaysia dentistry graduate has been named the winner of the USM Chancellor's gold medal award for academic excellence and the Rulers' Council gold medal.

She also has the distinction of being one of the 29 in the university's pioneer batch of dentistry graduates.

The 24-year-old daughter of a forest ranger will receive the Chancellor's Gold Medal from Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah, who is also USM Chancellor, at the university's 33rd convocation tomorrow. A total of 6,355 graduates will receive their scrolls in nine sessions.

Nor Aidaniza, from Bukit Payung in Kuala Terengganu, said:

"This is definitely the happiest day of my life. I never expect to win both awards.

"I will continue to do my best for the people and the country and to uplift USM's name," she said.

Present was USM deputy vice-chancellor Associate Professor Datuk Jamaludin Mohaiadin.

At tomorrow's ceremony, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will also be conferred an honorary doctorate in Science for his many contributions during his tenure as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister, notably to education.

Nor Aidaniza, who is now with Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia in Kelantan, said she had always wanted to be a dentist.

"When I was in school, I had a teacher who dared his students to be dentists because of the acute shortage of dentists in government hospitals.

"I am glad I took up his challenge, and to be here today," she said.

Another graduate awarded the Rulers' Council Gold Medal was Penang-born medical student Fahmida Ilyas Mohammad Ilyas.

Shaiful Idzwan Shahidan, 23, was named the winner of USM's Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal, honouring excellence in student leadership.

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