

Gurcharam achieves 45-year dream

SERDANG: To what extent will one go to achieve a dream over 45 years?

For retired teacher Gurcharam Kaur it meant 14-hour days over weekends for four years to earn a first class honours degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

She had to wake up at 5am, leave an hour later from her home in Kuala Pilah and drive 113km to Universiti Putra Malaysia here.

It also meant driving another 113km back home at 8pm along a windy road that tested even the most experienced drivers. And at 62, it was a daunting task, as she acknowledged yesterday.

Memory also posed a problem at her age as she had to spend 10 times as long as fellow undergraduates to memo-



Gurcharam Kaur admiring her degree after the UPM convocation yesterday.

rise information.

“I believe in the saying ‘If there is a will, there is a way’. Although, I had to sacrifice my weekends and be on the road for two hours a day every weekend to attend classes, it was worth it.”

Yesterday, the second among six siblings was all smiles as she and 1,075 graduates received convocation scrolls from University Putra Malaysia Pro-Chancellor Tan

Sri Dr Nayan Ariffin.

With her to celebrate the special occasion were her brothers and sisters.

Gurcharam said she had to look after her sickly parents and, thus, had to forgo the chance of furthering her education.

The yearning for education has not stopped yet. Gurcharam now wants to enrol in the master's programme in TESL at the university.