

Juggling work, family and night classes to earn degree

While most parents would be sitting down to help their children with homework, Ms Angela Goh had schoolwork of her own to do.

Ms Goh, 37, who took part-time studies at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), received her Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics degree yesterday at the university's campus in Clementi.

It took her three years of juggling her job at a government enforcement agency, taking care of her family – she has two sons aged eight and 10 – and attending night classes at the university before she was able to complete the course.

She is pregnant with her third child, a girl, who is due next month.

SUSS provides education to adult learners and is known for its flexibility in allowing part-time studies.

Of its 2,268 students who will be conferred their degrees over three days, until tomorrow, only 168 are full-time students.

Ms Goh credited her husband, who wanted to be known only as Mr Chow, for his support – he would ferry her to the university from her workplace in Outram for her night classes once a week, and back to their home in Woodlands once she was done.

Mr Chow, 36, who works in a government agency, also took charge of supervising their children and helping them with schoolwork, especially when her examination period rolled around, Ms Goh said.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

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MS ANGELA GOH

"My classes were once a week but I made it a point to read my notes or my textbooks for at least two hours every day, so that when my exams were near, I did not have to rush to prepare.

"At home, my sons would be doing their homework and I would be doing mine. There were times when they finished their exams before me and I was still burning the midnight oil," she said with a laugh.

Prior to her enrolment at SUSS, her highest certification was a polytechnic diploma in marine engineering. Due to financial reasons at the time, she was not able to further her studies.

Ms Goh said: "I always tell my children, 'Nothing can beat a hard-working person'. If they work hard now, they will have an easier time in the future."

Jolene Ang



Ms Angela Goh, who received her Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics degree yesterday after three years of part-time studies at SUSS, credits her husband for his support. She says he took charge of supervising their children and helping them with schoolwork, especially when her exams rolled around. ST PHOTO: SYAMIL SAPARI