

By RICHARD LIM  
educate@thestar.com.my

HER father, Jalani Sidek, became the youngest shuttler to win the All England Championship in 1982 but Puteri Suaida Jalani, 20, set a different record for herself at Tunku Abdul Rahman (TAR) College's Convocation Ceremony 2009 last Saturday.

Picking up her diploma in Multimedia Design with merit, Puteri Suaida was all smiles as she showed that it isn't always a chip off the old block – well, almost.

"I guess it's natural for badminton to be associated with my family but it's not for me," she said after the convocation at the college's main campus in Setapak.

"I played badminton but I got tired and stopped in college. Fortunately, my family is involved in animation and I drew inspiration from my mother Raja Azmi Raja Sulaiman who is the film producer for the animation series *Anak-anak Sidek*."

Although the aspiring animator felt out of place when she first joined TAR College, she adapted quickly to the cultural differences and feels sad that her studies at the institution have ended.

"I felt like the odd one out at first as virtually all my course mates were Chinese," she continued. "However, TAR College is one *muhibbah* campus and colours don't bind here.

"I made many good friends and I was a class representative and treasurer."

Handing out her scroll was college council chairman Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting who said that this year's convocation was memorable as it

# In another court



Ong having a light moment with the new graduates.

coincided with the college's 40th anniversary.

Hailing the growth of the college that evolved from an initial student enrolment of 764 to its current tally of 26,000 across six campuses, Ong reaffirmed the institution's commitment to student welfare.

"At TAR College, no student will be deprived of the right to pursue education," he said. "TAR College has always stayed true to this and approximately 9,000 students have received TAR College Merit Scholarship Awards in the last 13 years.

"Also, the college has given out

RM16.8mil worth of loans to 9,684 deserving students over the years and with the increasing number of student loan funds, we can meet the needs of our needy students."

An alumnus of the college, Ong pointed out that students were fortunate that the campus was being upgraded for their needs.



Puteri Suaida: I made many good friends and was also class representative and treasurer.

A new Cyber Centre has been built to serve as an e-learning hub for students and staff and construction is ongoing for a new six-storey administration building that will house an auditorium and even an exhibition hall.

"I can recall the early days where I had to study at one of the temporary rented premises in the Klang Valley which contrasts greatly with the present lecture theatres," he continued.

"These physical structures, I believe, are truly in line with the students' expectations of a trendy campus lifestyle and a modern, tertiary learning experience."

A total of 8,721 TAR College graduates nationwide would receive their scrolls in the two-week long convocation ceremony across the college's six campuses.