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The Kirkby name lives on

A hall at a teacher training college in Penang has been named after the former Malayan Teachers Training College in Kirkby, the United Kingdom.

Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun recently performed the naming ceremony during Maktab Perguruan Tuanku Bainun's convocation.

She signed a declaration on a plaque naming the college hall Dewan Kirkby.

Also present at the ceremony were Maktab Perguruan Tuanku Bainun deputy director Daud Mohamed Saman, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris pro-chancellor Datuk Dr Yahaya Ibrahim and Tuanku Bainun's daughter Datuk Seri Raja Azureen Sultan Azlan Shah.



Tuanku Bainun signing the declaration on the plaque. Looking on are (from left, behind) Daud, Dr Yahaya and Raja Azureen.

To mark the occasion, Tuanku Bainun, a Kirkbyite, presented an LCD projector to the college.

The decision to have a permanent record of the college was mooted during its 50th anniversary celebrations held in Kuala Lumpur in 2001.

Tuanku Bainun was patron of the event attended by more than 500 Kirkbyites.

In her message to the souvenir publication *The Golden Panduan* which marked the anniversary celebrations at that time, Tuanku Bainun said: “Kirkbyites can be proud that they have played a significant role in the development of teacher education in Malaya. They have contributed, and are still contributing, to the progress of the nation.

“I feel that in recognition of this historic and significant role, some form of permanent record should be thought of to perpetuate the memory of the college.”

Due to the severe shortage of teachers in the pre-Merdeka era of the early 1950s, the then Malayan Government established a teacher training college in a little town called Kirkby near Liverpool in England.

Starting from 1951, about 150 young Malaysians were sent there every year to be trained as teachers.

Nearly 1,500 teachers graduated from Kirkby until it was closed down in 1961 when enough teacher training colleges had been set up to meet the needs of the nation.

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