

Gold Medalist Inspired by her Father

Shaniyah Azmi Nisha, recipient of four gold medals, says her father, Mr. Mohammed Shameem, was a role model for her and inspired him in more ways than one.

“He is currently the Chief Customs Officer- Nadi Border- Fiji Revenue and Customs Service. He began his work as a primary level customs officer and through hard work and dedication, he reached his position today,” she said.

Ms. Nisha accredits her choice in her programme of study to her father.

“He is a man who is very straight forward with his approach to life and I aspire to be exactly that. He always told me that wherever you go or whatever you achieve, never forget your roots. Respect is the core of everything so always respect people regardless of their society status because at the end of the day, everyone’s equal. That is something I always keep in mind,” she said.

The 22-year-old says she chose to study at UniFiji as it provided quality and affordable education.

“UniFiji is a university that not only advertises but also proves that it is future ready and provides affordable and quality education. From personal perspective, I was very comfortable with the environment and opportunities that the university provides hence my decision of choosing it for my degree and in near future to advance my studies from UniFiji as well,” she said.

Ms. Nisha is the first person in her family to graduate with a Bachelor’s degree and was overwhelmed with receiving 4 medals.

She received Outstanding Information Technology Student, Outstanding Management Student, Outstanding School of Business and Economics Student and the Major award for The University of Fiji- Vice Chancellors Award.

“It is surely one of the greatest milestones in my life and I am really overwhelmed and delighted to have made my parents proud,” she said.

Ms. Nisha stated that the recent pandemic, which prompted the use of online mode of education, was one of the major challenges she faced during her three years of study.

“From personal perspective that (online studies during the pandemic) too also came with a solution as my lecturers were so understanding not only for me but also towards the other students as well. They went over and beyond to ensure that all the students are able to understand things despite it being an online mode. Their approach towards teaching and my tactic of understanding reflects on my transcript today enabling me to attain a GPA of 4.35 / 4.5,” she said.

Ms. Nisha envisions herself making a difference in the organization where she works as well as in the country as a whole. She is currently employed by the Fijian Immigration Department as an Immigration Inspector.