



Hans To'o – Graduated in May 2016 - Alumni Bachelor of Commerce & Bachelor of Laws

1. Why did you choose your degree programme, and what made you enrol at the University of Otago?

I chose my 2 degrees for 2 different reasons. My family had a big influence on my decision to study Law, so I suppose I chose to study towards an LLB to make them proud. I also had genuine interests in commerce and computers, so it seemed appropriate to major in Information Science for my Bachelor of Commerce.

Throughout secondary school, I had long anticipated staying at home for study, but I had visited Otago in 2009 for a Pacific Island students' On Campus Experience where I got to witness the student-focused culture and the awesome lifestyle that the University and its Halls of Residence had to offer.

2. What did you enjoy most about your academic journey?

It would have to be the people that I have met over my time down here. Dunedin is a melting pot of students all with different backgrounds and stories to share. The fact that Otago students are from all parts of New Zealand (and the world) who meet through either living, studying or socialising together, ironically helps in bringing everyone closer – which makes for a more enjoyable and well- rounded student experience.

3. During your studies what key relationships mattered the most? What key sources of support did you encounter at the University of Otago?

The key relationships for me have had to be the friends I have made over my time at my Hall of Residence and during my studies. These people are those who share every experience with you along the way, from helping each other with exams to helping set up another flat for the year.

The University of Otago leaves no stone unturned when it comes to support of any kind. I have had academic support available from my Hall, the Pacific Islands Centre and obviously the Departments themselves. Support is also widely available spiritually, physically and mentally – the University has a countless number of clubs and societies which students can join, the UNIPOL Gym is also free entry for students and Student Health is close by for those who ever feel under the weather.

4. What are some of your career and/or academic goals and aspirations?

With whatever career path I end up on, my hope is that I would be able to make full use of the skills and knowledge that I had acquired over my time in Otago. The end-goal is to live a self-sustainable life surrounded by close friends and family, to which I believe a number of those friends would be from my time in Otago.

5. What advice would you give to new students?

Your time at University is not just defined by the qualification you walk away with, it is also defined by the people you meet. Take every opportunity you have to surround yourself with good people because if you do, you will leave University with so much more than a degree.

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