



## **Georgie Archibald – Alumni Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Graduated in 2013**

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

The University of Otago is close to home (Christchurch) and has a fantastic reputation for its academic and student life. I've always loved studying English Literature, and thought that combining it with Law would result in strong reading, writing, and communication skills that would be transferable across a number of careers.

### **2. What did you enjoy most about your academic journey at the University of Otago?**

We had a large, social year group for law, and after taking our required courses it was great to branch out into more specialised classes that drew our interest. My final Honours year for English was awesome for totally different reasons, with a small year group of 14 students who worked closely with a wide range of faculty within the Department. There was a lot of sweat and elbow grease applied to our studies, but the friendships formed through each group are by far the best memories I have of Otago.

### **3. During your study what were the key relationships that mattered most? What were the key sources of support you encountered?**

I was a first-year resident at Selwyn College, which was an absolute blast. Living with forty other students who were serious about getting accepted into the law programme, and Selwyn's great tutorial system, ensured that we balanced our academic pursuits with our more wild 'fresher' adventures. I was also introduced to the wonderful people at the Pacific Island Centre, and the warmth and support from Nina and the team throughout my six years was invaluable. They situated me within the Centre's tutoring programme, and I was later able to help with mentoring and hosting younger Pacific students. Making connections with students, staff, and community members of all ages was an enriching and rewarding experience, and the support received was phenomenal.

### **4. What are you doing post-graduation?**

I'm currently studying towards an MA in English Literature at the University of Colorado Boulder on a Fulbright award. Boulder is a fantastic mix of study and the outdoors: the university has a highly regarded graduate school, and a ten minute drive down the road and I'm hiking, fishing, and skiing in the Rocky Mountain foothills.

### **5. What was it like living and studying in Dunedin at the University of Otago?**

Study was full on, particularly during my final two years, but we managed to fit in plenty of weekend getaways—adventures out to the peninsula, fishing at Sullivan's Dam, skiing at Treble Cone, and road trips around the South Island. We also have a pretty great food and music scene in Dunedin, and the flattering set-up is like no other!

### **6. What do you remember about your graduation day?**

My parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were all attending to celebrate my cousin and I graduating that year. It was really special to have them there, and the Pacific Graduation Breakfast was a highlight, with many laughs, hugs, speeches, and (embarrassingly!) a few tears. It was also a

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brilliant time of catch-ups with old friends as almost our entire year law year group travelled back to Dunedin for the big day.

### **7. What advice would you give to new students?**

Don't be worried if you want to change courses a few times throughout your studies—most of us seem to do so, it's all a learning curve. Seek out academic mentors who are passionate about your field of study, whether they are older students, staff, faculty, or members of the wider community. And enjoy Dunedin's many opportunities—we have so many great bands, art galleries, book stores and readings, and of course the outdoors—as you'll be much sharper and happier when hitting the books!

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