

Mum grabs award for best student in economics

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A MOTHER of two received the first ever T.K. Jayaraman Award for the Best Master of Commerce in Economics at the University of the South Pacific during the gold medallist awards night on Monday night.

Award recipient Shabnam Bano, in a statement, said she had initially dropped economics at Form 5 and took Urdu instead as her parents wanted her to study that subject.

“Being a mother of two and completing Masters in Economics from USP was not an easy way out for me,” Ms Bano said.

She said she got an entry to USP for her Bachelor’s Degree in 2003 and majors in Accounting and Economics which she successfully completed her Bachelors in 2006.

“After years of work, I then again decided to further my studies and I started off with Postgraduate Diploma in Economics from the USP Lautoka campus.

“The first year of study after a lapse of four years was quite difficult as during that time, I had my younger daughter who was two months old and elder daughter at three and a half years.”

She said when she heard the news of her gold medal win from the Student Academic Services at USP, she thought they made a mistake, but when she viewed the email with an attached award letter, she was really surprised.

“I conveyed the news to Professor Jayaraman, he was delighted.

“I was his student in 2005, when he taught monetary economics and to get the prize today from him is the highest achievement.

“All my heartiest thanks go to Professor T.K. Jayaraman and his wife who initiated this award for economics students

“I am indeed grateful to the university for recognising my hard work and awarding me with this prestigious award,” she said.

When contacted Professor Jayaraman said he was really proud of her being the first person to win the award.

