 PRESS RELEASE
USP ANNOUNCES 2009 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S RESEARCH PRIZES

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) at the University of the South Pacific is pleased to announce that two staff members and students have been awarded the 2009 USP Vice-Chancellor’s Research prizes.

These Research prizes were established in 2007 and are awarded annually. The prizes recognise excellence in research at USP and contribution to development in the Pacific region.

The 2009 Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for Research Excellence is awarded to Dr Mohit Prasad, Senior Lecturer, School of Language, Arts and Media, Faculty of Arts and Law. Dr Prasad’s innovative research into Pacific work ethics exemplified by the success of Fiji golfer, Vijay Singh has resulted in the following:

Conference Paper

Book Chapter

The value of the Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for Research Excellence is $2000.

The 2009 Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for Best Research Publication is awarded to Dr Surendra Prasad, Associate Professor, Division of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment. Dr Prasad’s research has resulted in the publication of two papers in the prestigious journal Food Chemistry:


Chetty, A.A. and Prasad, S. 2009. Flow injection analysis of nitrate-N determination in root vegetables: study of the effects of cooking. Food Chemistry, 116, 561-566. This research reports on nitrate values found in most commonly consumed vegetables in Fiji. The data provided by the above studies are of great value in identifying vegetables that have toxic nitrate levels, a possible causative of cancer, and raising public awareness of this issue.

The value of the Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for Best Research Publication is $1000.

The 2009 Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for Best Student Research is jointly awarded to Mr Lincy Pende and Mr Moses Peter. Mr Pende completed his Masters of Arts degree in Development Studies, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, Faculty of Business and Economics. His thesis was awarded an A-grade and is entitled: Impact of urban growth on water supply and sanitation: a case study of Honiara city, the Solomon Islands. Mr Moses Peter is a Bachelor of Law student who produced a comprehensive research project entitled: Legal, economic and social issues arising from the leasing of customary land in Vanuatu.

The value of the Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for Best Student Research is $1000 to each awardee.
The presentation of the prizes will be held during a special ceremony at a later date.

For further details and requests for media interviews with award recipients and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), please contact Kaliova Kadonavatu, USP Media and PR Coordinator at email: kadonavatu_k@usp.ac.fj or telephone 323 2355.