MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

A great partnership: husband and wife to graduate together

A PhD is a lot of work and it's important to have support throughout those years of study.

And what better support than a partner who is going through the same thing?

Mahadi Mohammad and his wife Sazlina Salleh were both postgraduate students in the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies.

Sazlina was due to graduate last year, but delayed her processing so she and her husband could accept their PhDs at the same ceremony.

The two met during their college years. The couple said it was good having a partner who understood what the other was going through, throughout their studies.

"We sort of helped each other during lab-work and field work. It made it easier to find someone to help out.

"At times it was hard, since both of us has to juggle both house work and studies at the same time," Mahadi said.

"And when it came to thesis writing it was a bit hard as we tended to get on each other's nerves quite often!"

The couple said they were excited and happy to be at the end of their doctorates.

Media opportunity: Mahadi and Sazlina will be available for interview in their graduation robes at **9am on Saturday 13 August 2011**, outside the University Administration building. (Brick building next to large red building in top carpark at the Sandy Bay UTAS campus, Churchill Avenue.)

About Mahadi and Sazlina's PhDs:

Mahadi's thesis evaluated the usage of meiofaunal (invertebrate) communities to monitor and evaluate human impact in coastal areas along Casey Station, Antarctica.

He showed that there is a strong relationship between a meiofaunal community's structure and the type of hydrocarbon (an organic compound made up of hydrogen and carbon) and metal contamination found in its sediments.

Sazlina's thesis evaluated how high temperature and light affect the photosynthesis of benthic diatom (algae) living on the sediment surface of three different regions. She showed that impacts were more severe in the tropical community than those in the temperate and polar regions.

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