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Students' Association Election

The 2010 Students' Association election took place on Wednesday May 19. Students turned out in numbers to cast their votes for the incoming executives. Voting began at 9am and ended at 2pm with results being announced shortly after. The following students were officially elected to head the University's Students' Association:

President: Vijay Singh

Vice Presidents: Adi Motea Silatolu and Lavenia Cagi

Secretary: Ingrid Nilsen

Assistant Secretary: Lilian Mausio

Treasurer: Parneet Harish

Assistant Treasurer: Alisha Nisha

The new President, Vijay Singh, said that he was very happy with the appointment. He said that the Students' Association exists solely to look after students' welfare and it was important to have an active association.

"I have a strong team and together, we have a lot to achieve", he said. He further added that his team had plans to undertake fundraising activities in the near future. "Whatever my team will do, we will do it professionally, ethically and in a very transparent way," he concluded.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the University's main hall on Wednesday May 12. The chairperson, Mr. Salvin Nand, welcomed students from the two campuses and began by highlighting the importance of having a student body in a University such as ours.

Mr. Nand also explained the nomination procedures to all who were present. He concluded by reminding all student representatives about the big task ahead. "Your appointments will come with great responsibilities and you have to see that your actions are fair and in the best interests of all students," he said.

Mr. Singh said that he plans to organize meetings with students on a regular basis.



2010 UFSA Executives



Voting procedure explained



Casting the vote...

LTA Road Show @ UniFiji

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) recently set up a booth at the Saweni campus as part of their road show. The purpose of the road-show was to raise awareness among the University staff and students about the services LTA offers to the public. The LTA booth was set up in the University carpark and many staff and students took advantage of the services they provided that day; these included: processing of learners' permits, drivers' licence renewal, payment of wheel tax and road levy. The LTA staff members also answered questions from some enthusiastic students.

The road-show started at 10am and ended at 3pm.



LTA set up a booth on campus as part of their road show

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School of Law Mooting Competition

The University organized its first ever Moot competition this year with the finals being held at the Law School in Suva on Friday May 21. Mooting is quite common in Law Schools around the world and it is an excellent way of building research skills, public speaking skills and engaging in advocacy and teamwork. Mooting is the oral presentation of a legal issue or problem against an opposing counsel and before a judge.

The finalists were four of our third-year Law students. The Appellant's team was represented by Krishan Prasad & Adarshani Vikash while the Respondent team was represented by Watson Nata Jr. & Pita Niubalavu.

Like other typical moot court settings, the debate was concerned solely on a particular point(s) of law. The hearing was in the form of a case heard on appeal from a lower court.

The fictitious case for this event was well prepared by Salvin Nand, a Law lecturer. The debate was centered on a defamation case whereby a Journalist and a Member of a Parliament made public defamatory comments about each other and now both were defending each others' allegations.

The judges who took the bench during the final round were Pt Devendra Pathik, Head of the School of Law and two other judges (Felicity Heffernan and Amene Bale). All Judges gave positive comments on how well both teams took up the case, describing the transition of their arguments and how well the arguments were presented.

The mooting competition was organized to prepare for the inter-university mooting competition with University of the South Pacific in mid-July, with the intention of also participating in international competitions in future.

Upon completion of the competition, the '**Pt Devendra Pathik trophy**' was awarded to the winning team of Watson and Peter.



Moot Participants pose with the trophy



Moot Participants with their Lecturer, Mr. Nand, Dean Mr. Pathik and Vice Chancellor, Professor Muralidhar

Rugby Sevens Success

On Saturday May 15, the University was represented by two men's teams and one women's team in a western division inter-tertiary rugby sevens competition. At the end of the day's play, held at the former Lautoka Teachers' College grounds, a total of 10 of our men and 5 women were selected for a western division training squad. Selecting this squad was the purpose of the competition. Our young men and women were led by Mr. Jones Vukinagauna, University of Fiji's rugby coach and mentor.

The **15 players** selected for the squad were:

Men: Savenaca Nalibu, Josua Lutumailagi, Temesi Namulo, Aisake Tuitui, Wame Duve, Mesake Lacarua, Apimeleki Nasalo, Samuela Toga, Koro Taukei, Vonivate Danatabua.

Women: Lia Kotobalavu, Glennes Taylor, Laisa Taga, Esita Sakitoro, Veniana Naisewa.

This piece was contributed by Associate Professor Cliff Benson, who also played a role in organizing UniFiji's participation. Mr. Benson is also a committee member of the Fiji University Sports Association (FUSA).



Men's team take time to pose for the camera



It's snack time for our women's team



UniFiji Women's team getting some last-minute tips



Coach Jones (right) with Mr. Epeli Lagiloa (second from left) and officials of other teams



Our boys in action against FNU Namaka



Job well done.....our boys take a break after the games

Girmit Smriti: A Remembrance Day

The University celebrated *Girmit Smriti* on Friday May 14 from 2:30pm to 5pm at the University's main campus in Saweni. Staff and students turned out in numbers to commemorate the event. The programme also included poetry, traditional Hindi songs and readings.

The Chief Guest at the function was Pundit Devendra Pathik, Dean of the School of Law and patron of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji.

Mr. Pathik began by stressing the importance of people remembering their ancestors. "There is no shortage of literature and books on the 'Girmit' period and I urge you to read them as they are of special interest to all of us in Fiji," he said.

The Girmityas were brought to Fiji by the British as indentured labourers mainly to work on sugar plantations.

"As far as Fiji was concerned, most of the Girmityas were from North India such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," Mr. Pathik said. "Most of them were agriculturists and labourers," he added.

He further explained that about eighty percent of all emigrants were Hindus, fifteen percent Muslims and the rest Tribal, Christians, Sikhs and others. "At the time it was required by Indian emigration rules to have a fixed ratio of women to men among the emigrants.

When labourers were recruited, at least forty per cent had to be women," he said

Additional speeches were presented by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muralidhar, Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts, Professor Nandan and Mr. Vijendra Kumar, former editor of the Fiji Times.



Invited Chief Guest Mr. Devendra Pathik, Mrs. Sushila Pathik, Mr. Vijendra Kumar with senior staff of the University.



Guests paying listening to Pt. Pathik's speech

Former Editor of Fiji Times visits UniFiji

Mr. Vijendra Kumar, the former and first local editor of the Fiji Times, was invited by the School of Humanities and Arts, UniFiji, to help design courses in Communication and Media Studies in the Department of Language, Literature and Communication.

Mr. Kumar, who now lives in Brisbane and has worked with the Courier Mail, spent almost a fortnight at the Saweni campus meeting staff and giving lectures to classes on Writing and Media. He also participated in the Girmit commemoration at UniFiji on 14

Mr. Kumar's University Seminar on PORTRAIT OF A JOURNALIST was well-attended and a report appeared in the Fiji Times on Thursday 18 May.

Mr. Vijendra Kumar has submitted his report and recommendations to the University. His stay at the university has been most beneficial in planning new courses in Journalism and Communication from 2011.

*Contributed by
Professor Satendra Nandan
Dean—SoHA*



Mr. Vijendra Kumar speaking at a seminar on Wednesday May 19

Going to Goa

Professor Satendra Nandan and Dr Jyoti Nandan were invited to attend the 5th International conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Australia (IASA) held at the International Centre, University of GOA earlier this year. The conference was attended by more than 300 scholars from many parts of the world. Professor Nandan gave a plenary paper on *Literature as Freedom*. Dr Jyoti Nandan gave a paper on Women's Writing and chaired a session.

Professor Nandan was also asked to give the Valedictory Address, where he spoke about Australia-India- Fiji relations. His suggestion that the IASA should extend its intellectual boundary to include the South Pacific was much appreciated. He felt that it should be Australasia rather than Australia.

Anyone interested in joining the IASA can contact Professor Nandan or Dr Jyoti Nandan at UniFiji.



Prof. S. Nandan and Dr. J Nandan at the conference in Goa

Alumnus Profile



Name: Ifraz-ud-Din

Graduation year: 2010

Unifiji Qualification: Bachelor of Information Technology

Awards: (Recipient of Vice Chancellor's prize for Academic Excellence and recipient of Information Technology prize for the most outstanding student graduating with a major in Information Technology)

What made you choose the University of Fiji for your studies?

Well, firstly, I didn't have to stay away from home for three years since the other option would certainly have taken me to the central division, away from my loving family.

Secondly, I was attracted to their IT programme since it is very demanding and one of the finest available.

How do you think this qualification will assist you in your career?

Information technology has become one of the most essential sections in any large organization and a Bachelor's Degree in IT will easily get me a good job. Since IT has many fields of its own, this qualification has prepared me to make my career in any one of these.

Do you have any other comments about your qualification or the University in general?

The University of Fiji provides a great environment for any hard-working student to excel in his/her studies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the university, especially my teachers and friends who were very supportive; it is thanks to them that I have achieved this significant award. Thank you all.

Staff Profile



Name: Dr. Mohit Kumar Kolay; *BE (Mech.), ME (Prod.), MSc (Com. Fin.), PhD (Engg. Mgmt), FICWA*

Position: Professor, and Head, Management Department, School of Business and Economics, Coordinator—Master of Business Administration Programme (MBA).

Year joined: February 2010

Areas of expertise/ interest: Strategic Management, Entrepreneurship Development, Operations Management, Project Management, Decision Theory, Business Research Methods, Management Accounting, Real Options, Corporate Finance, Human, Resource Accounting, Corporate Social, Responsibility, Corporate Governance, and Productivity Management.

Previous experience: I started at one of India's largest private sector steel manufacturing companies and then moved on to managing corporate credit accounts at two of the largest banks in India. After spending the first ten years of my career at these three places, I diversified into teaching, research and consulting areas by

first in India such as NITIE, Mumbai, ASCI, Hyderabad, and IIT, Kharagpur, and then overseas. This included four years with the University of Technology Mara and Malaysian Institute of Management followed by ten years at the MBA Programme at the USP in Fiji. I joined the MBA programme at the USP when it was still at a fledgling stage and I consider myself to have played a key role in its ensuing growth over the next ten years. During my period at the USP, I taught one semester as Visiting Professor at the International University in Germany. In 2009, I was Professor, and Dean in the Faculty of Business at Sohar University in Oman. I have a research monograph, one textbook, and more than thirty publications in refereed international journals and conferences to my credit.

The University Open Day is from July 8 to July 9 at the Saweni Campus