



# The University of Fiji

# Uni MATTERS

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## New Library System to make life easier

The University of Fiji has overhauled its library systems to make life a little easier for staff and students. Gone are the arduous days of manually hunting through shelves and shelves of material and on the part of library staff; sifting through thousands of catalogues for their filing.

The Uni Fiji library is now fully automated thanks to an installation project undertaken by experts from Australia last month. The implementation of the Liberty 4 software in the new Library Management System took place over a one week period by *Softlink Australia*, a hugely successful company experienced in Software Development and Implementation.

From June this year, students will be able to access OPAC terminals and login with their ID. Once they are logged in, they will be able to search the catalogue and see what resources are available. They will also be able to see the location of books on the shelf. If the books are not available, they will be able to place a reservation. Once the book becomes available, they will be notified by the library staff.

The comprehensive systems overhaul and installation of the new Library Management System also included an intensive training session for the library staff.

"Everything in the library used to be done manually and staff had to track books manually", said Softlink Australia's Technical Analyst Sarah Thompson, who was responsible for training and implementation.

"This created a lot of extra work for the library staff. The new system will be great for them as well as for students."

Sarah says electronic resources such as PDFs and website links can also be incorporated in this new system.

"The new Library Management System will make accessing the catalogues a lot more efficient for students as they will be able to find books and resources online using the new Management system," she added.

UniFiji Librarian Jose Poulouse says the new system will be a relief for all users.

"Life as a tertiary student is difficult as it is. We're doing what we can at UniFiji to make the learning experience easier and more enjoyable," he said.

Jose Poulouse added that having computerized system for searches and filing meant users spend less time hunting and more time utilizing the library's resources.

Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Muralidhar says this new move highlighted the University's efforts in using best practices in everything it does.

"As someone once said, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. At UniFiji, we are taking these steps one by one, and are steadily achieving our dreams of being innovative, creative and flexible."



From left: Shaneil, Jose, Sarah, Professor Muralidhar, Deepti, Ravineet and Siwagami.

## Unifiji invites a guest speaker

A special lecture delivered by a guest speaker was organized by the University's Department of Management on May 6, 2009. The lecture commenced with a brief on the historical development of the Labor Laws in Fiji with further discussions on Fiji's new Employment Relations Promulgation 2007.

Mr. Vishnu Deo, Manager, Industrial Relations, for Fiji Electricity Authority and Ms. Razeen Ali, Lecturer in Governance & Ethics courses, University of Fiji, jointly delivered this presentation. The lecture had participation of a number of management students, and other interested staff and officials of the University.

In this open forum both the staff and students shared their views and knowledge on the ERP 2007 and what it meant for us – both as employees and as employers!



Mr. Vishnu Deo delivers his topic

## Inside this issue

Student Profile.....	Pg 2
New Staff Profiles .....	Pg 3
New Staff profiles cont'd.....	Pg 3
Girmit Day programme.....	Pg 4

## Student profiles

**Name:** Milika Namananivanua

**Programme:** Bachelor of Information Technology

**Year Enrolled:** 2007

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

Affordable fees, availability of really good programmes of study, close to home

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

A Bachelor of IT Degree equips students really well as it provides graduates the opportunity to move into any sector. Graduates are employable in NGO's, Private Sector, Government etc. In this day and age, good IT graduates are very much in demand.

**Do you have any other comments about the University in General?**

The University provides excellent opportunities for students who previously were unable to afford higher education. Its strategic location also means that school leavers in the west don't have to live away from home for studying purposes.



**Name:** Vishneel M Goundar

**Programme:** Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)

**Year enrolled:** 2009

**What made you choose the University for your studies?**

Well truthfully, I applied for Uni Fiji and when I got the offer letter, I decided to give it a shot. I am happy to say that Uni Fiji hasn't disappointed me.

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

Well first and foremost, It wasn't my ambition to become a doctor, It was my mother's dream and so it's just a big thank you to her but this qualification will basically help me give back something to the people of my community.

**Do you have any other comments about the University in General?**

The University of Fiji was an excellent choice for me. It's a great learning environment and in general the only comment is...it rocks!



**Name:** Krishan Prasad

**Programme:** Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

**Year Enrolled:** 2008

**What made you choose the University for your studies?**

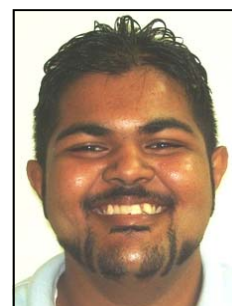
The fact that Unifiji Law School has links with University of Canberra and that Professor Murray Raff is the examiner and Justice Pathik's ideology that education is a life long process and his view that University of Fiji Law Campus would be one of the best legal institutes in the South Pacific were some of the reasons I chose Unifiji to further my education.

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

Since being in employment with the Judiciary, achieving a LLB degree would enhance my knowledge in my field of work, plus there would be an increase in my pay and better chances for getting promoted in accordance with the qualification held.

**Do you have any other comments about the University in General?**

It was a brilliant idea for Unifiji to open up a law school with such high standards. I am also thankful that through Unifiji's low fees, I am able to study without much financial burden on my family.



## New Staff Profiles

**Name:** Vijayta Singh

**Position:** Assistant Lecturer in Hindi

**Department:** Department of Language, Literature & Communication

**Year joined:** March 2009

**Area of expertise/Interest:** Language & literature, Economics, Political Studies, Journalism & Mass Communication

**Previous work experience:** Have been working at Uni Fiji since graduation



**Name:** Miss Razeen Ali

**Position:** Lecturer – Social Science & University Wide Courses (Governance & Ethics)

**Department:** University Wide Program

**Year joined:** 2009

**Area of expertise/Interest:** Good Governance, Anti- Corruption, Human Rights, Gender Equality & Justice

**Previous work experience:** Razeen has more than 3 years of work experience working as a Programs Director at Transparency International Fiji. Prior to joining University of Fiji, Ms. Ali was employed as a Programs Manager at the Australian High Commission, Department of AusAID, Suva.

**Membership of Professional Bodies:** PCDF, Projects/ Reports Steering Committee, FCOSS Technical Advisory Committee Board Member, TI F Co-opted Board Member. Member of the Human Resources Institute of Fiji & femLINK SDP Advisory Committee.

**Describe your typical work day?** The greatest part of all is when I am delivering Lectures to my students! It feels great when I am explaining my students the practical side of things as opposed to the theoretical world. Other times of my days are spent on preparation/ assessment of the classes and extra research work in areas which I have a lot of interest.



**Name:** Zaheer M Hassan

**Position:** Marketing and Public Relations Officer

**Department:** Marketing

**Year joined:** 2009

**Area of expertise/Interest:** Marketing Communications, Web (Content Management Systems), Brand Management, Direct Marketing, Advertising, Media Relations, Marketing Planning and Research, Marketing Strategy Development, IT (Hardware, Software Development, Internet Technologies etc.)

**Previous work experience:**

**IT Trainer – Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji:** Conducted training in Certificate IV in IT (Technical Support) – TAFE New South Wales, Diploma of IT (Systems Administration) - TAFE New South Wales, International Computer Driving Licence (Australian Computer Society), Microsoft Office Suite etc.

**Project Officer – Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji:** Responsible for the overall Management and Marketing of TAFE New South Wales IT programmes conducted at TPAF's 4 centres throughout Fiji. Was also responsible for training tutors and developing procedures for the department.

**Team Leader (Technical Support) - Unwired Fiji:** Setup the helpdesk from scratch, developed procedure manuals and trained technical support staff. Responsibilities included: managing the helpdesk, managing several technical support staff, presenting monthly reports, website maintenance and ensuring customer queries are dealt with in a professional and timely manner.

**Lecturer in IT – Central Queensland University.** Conducted Lectures & tutorials for the Bachelor of IT and Foundation programmes.

**Marketing and Public Relations Officer – International School Suva:** Responsible for website development and maintenance, advertising, marketing communications, marketing collateral, public relations, media relations, internal and external communications, direct marketing, marketing planning and research. Strategy development.

**Membership of Professional Bodies:** Professional Practitioner Member, *American Marketing Association*, *Professional Member, The Marketing Association of Australia and New Zealand*. Member, *Golden Key International Honour Society*.

**Describe your typical work day?** Identifying strategies to ensure the University gets an optimal image.



**Name:** Dr. Kunneth Ramakrishnan

**Position:** Senior Lecturer

**Department:** Department of Management,

**Year joined:** March 2009



**Area of Specialisation:** Ph.D. in the area of Organisational Behaviour. (Others ; M.A. Sociology-Industrial, MBA, PG. Dip. in Marketing and Advertising). Consultant in Behaviour Modification, Stress Management and Suicide Prevention. This is my area of interest. Professionally, management education starting Feb. 1973 at the Air Force Administrative College of the Indian Air Force, Founder Director of the first Management Institute in Bangalore, India, under the Bangalore University and accredited by the All India Council for Technical Education, for 12 years from April 1985, Director-Academic Development, Informatics Institute of Technology, Colombo, Sri Lanka (two years), besides a number of other senior academic appointments, totaling about 37 years. The last appointment being the Director - Amity Business School (India) managing about 500 management students (MBA and BBA) and 28 management faculty members.

**Previous work experience:** My experience is in many diversified areas. Includes ; Institution Building, Curriculum Development, Course Development, Student Development, Educational Reforms at the National level, Indo-Australian Collaboration in Management Education and Enterprise Management (through the Australian High Commission in India), besides teaching management subjects mainly at the PG level (short experience at the USP, Fiji at the undergraduate level) and some research projects for the Small Scale Industries. Also undertaken a few consultancy work in the area of Organization Development (OD)

**Memberships:** Life Member, World Association for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation (USA-India), Life Member- Indian Institute of Public Administration, Rotarian, and a few other social groups.

**Typical Work Day :** Out for a morning walk at 0545 Hrs., back home, exercise for one hr. after a black tea, prepare and have breakfast, travel to the University, prepare notes for the students or teach. and keep wondering what can I contribute for the University of Fiji, to enhance its image, credibility and growth. Return home by 5 pm and watch the news and prepare my dinner. I love to be with the students and share their problems and find solutions if possible.

## Girmit Smriti: A Remembrance Day

# Programme

May15th 2009 , Time: 2:30pm to 6:30pm

**MC:** Minakshi Maharaj

**2:30pm** – *Welcome:* Srinivasiah Muralidhar

**2:40pm** – *Song:* Unifiji Students

**2:45pm** – *Reading:* Asinate Mausio

**2:55pm** – *Reflections & Journeys*

*Book Launch:* Aiyaz Sayed–Khayyum (Shifting Location Edited by Subramani)

**3:15pm** – *Song:* Lautoka Teachers College students

**3:25pm** – *Reading:* Reijieli Racule

**3:30pm** – *Remembrance and Writing*

*Book Launch:* Nazhat Shameem (Satendra Nandan, Between the Lines)

**3:50pm** – *Reading:* Jyoti Nandan

**3:55pm** – *Song:* Uni Fiji Students

**4:00pm** – *Response:* Satendra Nandan

**4:10pm** – *Reading:* Cliff Benson

**4:15pm** – *Thanks Giving:* Joji Uluinakauvadra

**4:30pm** – **5pm:** Refreshments

**5:00pm** – **6:30pm:** *Film 'Exiled at Home':* Satish Rai