



# The University of Fiji Uni MATTERS

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Private Mail Bag, Lautoka, Ph: 6640600, Fax: 6640700, email: info@unifiji.ac.fj, web: www.unifiji.ac.fj

## Third Graduation Ceremony - 9 April 2010

The University of Fiji's third graduation ceremony was held on Friday April 9 at its main campus in Saweni, Lautoka.

Among the invited guests were ministers, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from business houses throughout Fiji and school principals.

The University's Chancellor and former President of the Fiji Islands, the Turaga ni Tui Vuda, Ratu Josefa Iloilo was the special guest at the ceremony. Over seventy five students graduated this year compared to fifty nine last year.

Vice Chancellor Professor Muralidhar formally welcomed all the guests and expressed gratitude towards the land owners for their generosity and for thinking about the educational needs of the young men and women who would have found it difficult to pursue tertiary studies elsewhere.

"The University of Fiji is founded on a strong moral and social philosophy of promoting increased access to quality higher education, and by making that education affordable. Our fees are considerably lower than those at other tertiary institutions, and many students who have come here would not have been able to afford the fees charged elsewhere" he said.

"We have been sensitive to the plight of students who have had difficulty paying their fees—and here I would like to thank all the organizations and individuals who have generously provided funds to our Loan Scholarship Scheme and direct grants to students" he added.

"The total student enrolment for this year is close to 800, a rise of 35 percent over last year's enrolment. This reflects increased and growing confidence in our new university and in the quality of our educational programmes" he further added.

Professor Muralidhar also congratulated the graduands and gave them words of encouragement and advice. "In a rapidly changing world you will have to be able to adapt quickly to changing times. You have to constantly update your qualifications and skills, learning how to learn, or indeed, prepare for a new career altogether" he said.

Professor Muralidhar also thanked the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji for their vision, commitment and determination. He also thanked the community at large, donors and the Government for their continued support.

Professor Muralidhar concluded by thanking all staff members of the University, the Chancellor, parents, guests, graduands, members of the University community and the people of Vuda.



Graduands entering the University hall



Graduands pay attention to the VC's speech



Graduation march



Chancellor Ratu Josefa Iloilo confers the degrees



Minister Filipe Bole with Senior Administrative staff of the University



Students line up to receive their degrees

## Special Award Winners

- **Ifrac-Ud-Din** – 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.
- **Dilesha** – recipient of Accounting prize for the most outstanding student graduating with a major in Accounting.
- **Ashwini Ashmeeta Kumar** – recipient of Economics prize for the most outstanding student graduating with a major in Economics.
- **Pramita Minal Raj** – recipient of Management prize for the most outstanding student graduating with a major in Management.
- **Mohini Lata** – recipient of Language, Literature and Communication prize for the most outstanding student graduating with a major in Language, Literature & Communication.
- **Kasanita Nayasi** – special prize in literature
- **Bulou Racava** – recipient of Fijian Language & Culture prize for the most outstanding student graduating with a major in Fijian Language & Culture
- **Prem Chand Sharma** – recipient of the Postgraduate prize
- **Divnesh Kavir Singh** – recipient of the postgraduate diploma in teaching prize



*All smiles after 3 years of hard work*



*Fiji's future.....All set for a new beginning*

## Excerpts from the Graduand’s Appreciation Speech by Kasanita Nayasi

Today is a very special day, this may be one of the days that we will remember for the rest of our lives, for today we graduate!

Three years ago, I was thrilled and excited in gaining admission to the University of Fiji. Most of us came together as strangers, but today we are leaving here as a family. Each and every graduand is about to embark on a new journey, one that is full of challenges. The University has provided me, as well as all graduands, with invaluable experiences that are so useful in the ever challenging working world.

It has equipped us with a lot of qualities such as leadership, time management, and teamwork. The University and all it represents have molded us into what we are today. The different faculties, its facilities, its staff, its emphasis on quality education and all its care and concern together with the complete academic support of The University of Fiji have made all of us successful graduands, ready to face the world.

From our small playing field to the classroom, and from the tutorial rooms to the library, many of us have been constantly exposed to our lecturers’ experiences and guidance.

We have been trained to be leaders, to be sportspeople, and to become useful citizens of tomorrow. The University of Fiji had taught us to care for others. We are all touched by the milk of human kindness and the invaluable lesson the University has bestowed upon us.

Once again, thank You University of Fiji for the great opportunity; thank you our honorable Minister for the provision of funds; thank you, our dear parents for your love and support and thank you my fellow graduands and friends for making the university experience a delightful one.



*Invited guests at the graduation ceremony*



*BCom graduates show off their degrees*



*Master of Educational Leadership graduates with Prof. Muralidhar & Mr. Nobin*



*BIT graduates with pose for the camera.*