



# **THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012**

## Note from the Vice - Chancellor

It has been a challenging year in many ways. I am thankful to members of Council for their confidence and support. The Chair and the 3-member sub-committee continued to provide advice on issues and situations.

As I had stated, on assuming office, notwithstanding the challenges, the UOF provides tremendous opportunities to make a difference in terms of providing access to affordable tertiary education to all the people of Fiji. It has proved particularly attractive to those located in the peri-urban areas of Western Vitilevu.

I have endeavored to position the University as a credible alternative in terms of providing quality and relevant education. I am happy to report on the unwavering commitment of the staff in our shared vision. We need the blessing and support of the Council and other stakeholders in the pursuance of our objectives.



*Vice Chancellor Professor Mahendra Kumar*

This reports records the University's gratitude to the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji, members of the University council and the hardworking academic and non academic staff. Hearty thanks to the Government of Fiji for their continuous support. I also acknowledge all the other stakeholders input and assistance.

Professor Mahendra Kumar  
**Vice-Chancellor**

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## 1. BRIEF HISTORY

The decision of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji (APS) to establish a University at Saweni, Lautoka was publicly announced by the National President of the Sabha, Pundit Kamlesh Arya, during the Arya Samaj Centenary Celebrations at DAV College, Dayanand Nagar, Nabua on 19 December 2004, in the presence of the Chief Guest for the occasion, the Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Laisenia Qarase, and over one thousand guests including local Arya Samaj representatives and overseas delegates.

At that meeting, the Council appointed Dr. Ganesh Chand as the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the University to administer the functions of the University until a Vice-Chancellor was appointed. Professor Rajesh Chandra, former acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific was appointed the Vice Chancellor of The University of Fiji and took office on 05 April 2005.

Registration of students for the various courses that were offered began on 07 March 2005. 174 students were enrolled before lectures commenced on 14 March 2005. Of this, one-third were iTaukei students, the rest being Indo-Fijians and others.

On 22 December 2006, the University of Fiji and the Ministry of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding giving the University conditional recognition (Registration No. 1890) and provided a framework for both parties to work through towards resolving other issues, one of which was the legal framework to govern the University. This led to the Public Service Commission, Fijian Affairs Board and Multi-Ethnic Affairs Scholarships being tenable at The University of Fiji.

### **Schools**

The University commenced in March 2005 with courses in Accounting, Economics, Management, Computing Science, Information Technology, Mathematics, and Language and Literature. In 2007, it expanded to include teacher education, and Fijian language, as well as postgraduate studies in IT, English, Economics, Geography and History, Hindi, Law and Medicine were added in 2008. The Postgraduate programme in educational leadership was added in 2007, and has expanded rapidly, with over 200 students now spread across Saweni, Suva and Labasa. The Schools established initially were the School of Humanities and Arts, School of Science and Technology, and the School of Business and Economics, followed in 2008 by the School of Law and the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine.

### **Centres**

The University has created five Centres of Excellence to promote public lectures, discussion and debate, research, writing and publication: the Centre for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development; The Centre for Diasporic Studies, the Centre for Gender Research; the Centre for International and Regional Affairs and the Centre for iTaukei Studies.

## 2. COUNCIL

Name	Appointment by
<b>APPOINTED MEMBERS</b>	
Pt. Bhuwan Dutt	Ex-Officio
Prof. Mahendra Kumar	Ex-Officio
Pt. Kamlesh Arya	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Arun Padarath	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Pt Narendra Prasad	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Ravindra Varman	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Shanti Saroj	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Agni Deo Singh	Fiji Teachers Union
Mr Abdul Qayyum Khan	Fiji Muslim League
Mr Kamal Shasaiya Mani	Dakshina India Andhra Sangam of Fiji
Mr Swami Tadananda	Ramakrishna Mission
Mr Dewan Chand Maharaj	Shree Sanatan D P Sabha of Fiji
Mr Dalabar Singh	The Sikh Association of Fiji
Mr Filipe Bole	Government – Education Department
Mr Manhar Narsey	Gujarat Education Society in Fiji
Ratu Meli Q Saukuru	Ba Provincial Council
Prof. Rajesh Chandra	University of the South Pacific
Prof. Altaisaikhan Khasag	Appointed by Senate
Vacant	Elected Non Professorial Member
Dr Gunsagaran Gounder	Co-Opted Member
Ms Vasantika Patel	Co-Opted Member
Ms Prudence Rouse	Co-Opted Member
Mr Anil Tikaram	Co-Opted Member
Mr Padam Raj Lala	Co-Opted Member

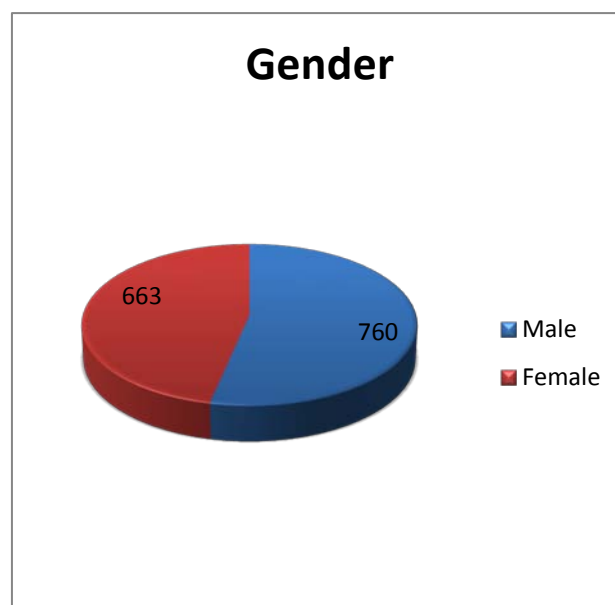
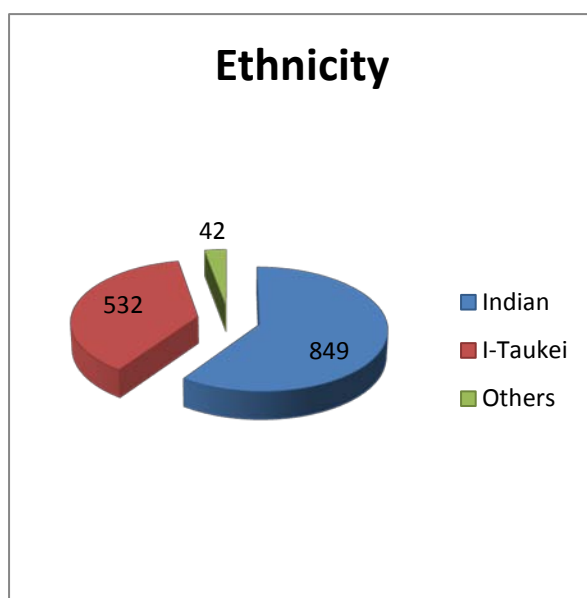
### 3. STUDENT ENROLMENT

A total of 1423 students were enrolled in 2012 and the breakdown of the above is categorized into the following:

- a) Ethnicity and gender;
- b) Home town;
- c) Programmes; and
- d) subjects/levels/gender

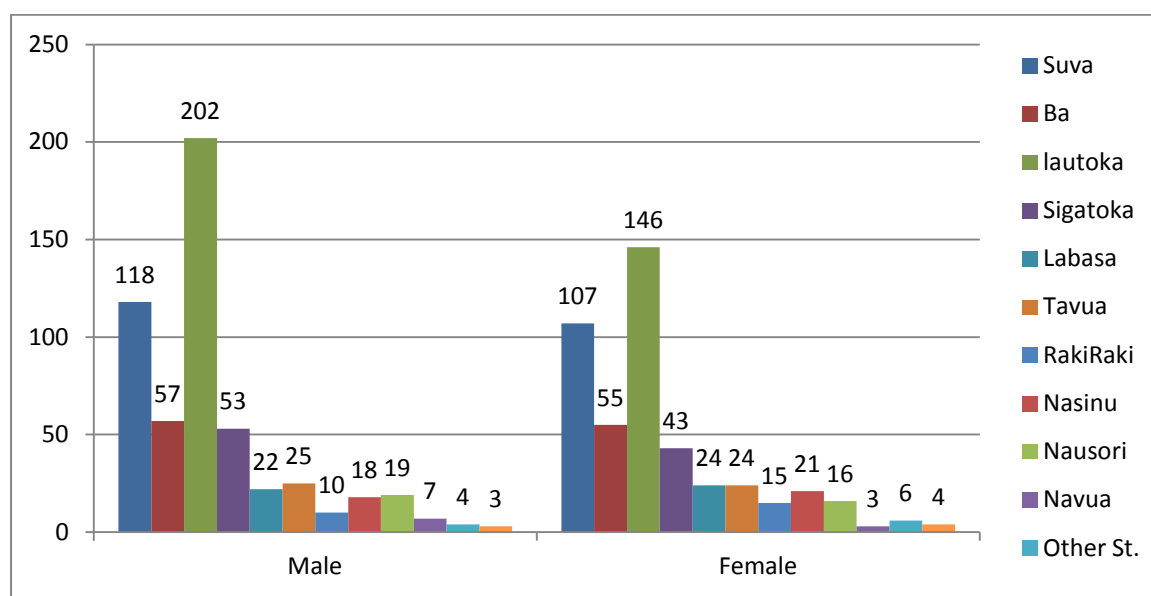
#### a) Ethnicity and gender

By Ethnicity and Gender	Indian	Fijian	Others	Total
<b>Female</b>	426	309	25	<b>760 (53%)</b>
<b>Male</b>	423	223	17	<b>663 (47%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>849(60%)</b>	<b>532 (37%)</b>	<b>42 (3%)</b>	<b>1423</b>



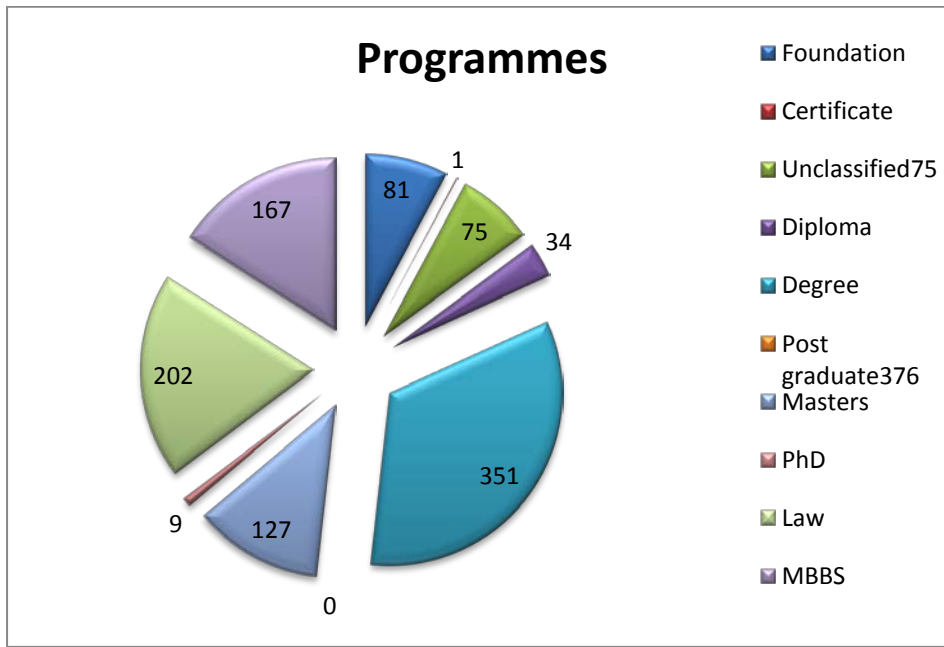
### b) Home town

By Home	Suva Lami	Ba	Nadi	Ltk	Sigka	Lab. Tav/Savu	Tav.	Ra	Nasinu	Nau.	Navua	Others	O/Seas	Tot
Female	118	57	202	219	53	22	25	10	18	19	7	4	3	757
Male	107	55	146	197	43	24	24	15	21	16	3	6	4	661
Total	225	112	348	416	96	46	49	25	39	35	10	10	7	1418



### c) Programmes

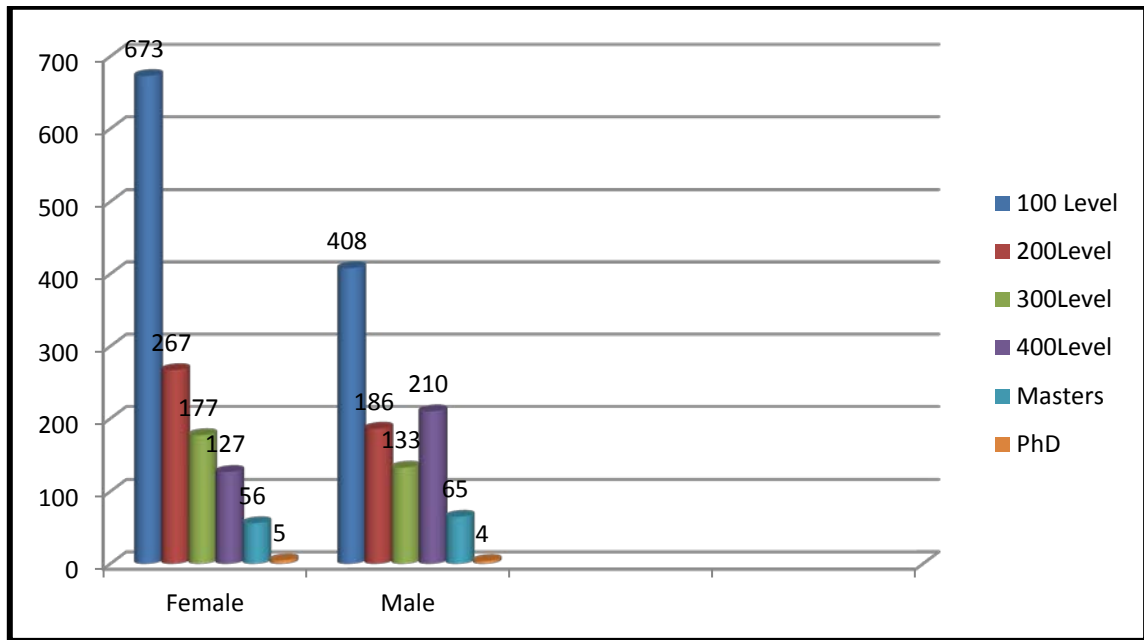
Programme	Fnd.	Cert	U/C	Dip	Deg	PG	Masters	PhD	Law	MBBS	Tot
No.of Students	81	1	75	34	351	376	127	9	202	167	1423



**d).Enrolment by subject/ level/gender**

	100		200		300		400		MA		PhD	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
ACC	28	16	35	26	28	23	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
BIF	0	0	2	4	8	13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BIO	23	9	15	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CHE	24	11	12	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECO	36	16	22	11	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	7	52	105	46	48	4	4
ESC	N/A	N/A	10	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIC	55	36	19	10	16	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
INR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	17	2	2	N/A	N/A
ITC	101	67	26	41	20	19	0	10	0	3	N/A	N/A
ITK	52	30	4	1	17	11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAW	74	56	47	43	17	32	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LLC	126	91	29	6	22	5	18	5	3	1	1	0
MBA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	69	5	10	N/A	N/A
MGT	32	13	31	18	21	10	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MTH	42	24	6	13	4	2	1	4	0	0	N/A	N/A
PHY	5	5	9	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UUU	75	34	51	22	44	26	4	0	0	1	N/A	N/A

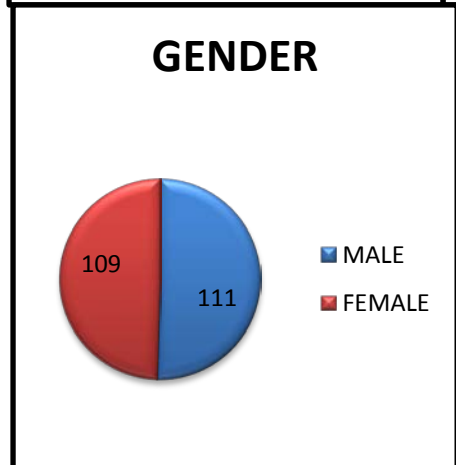
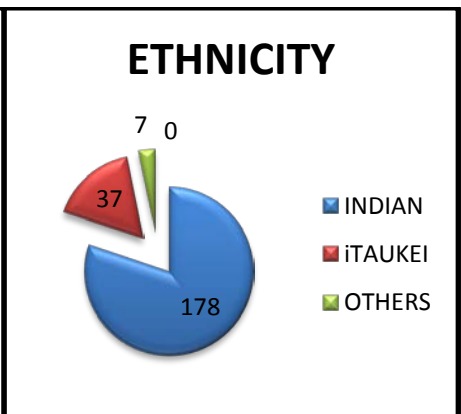
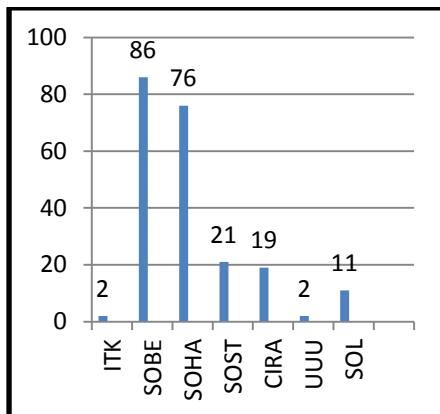




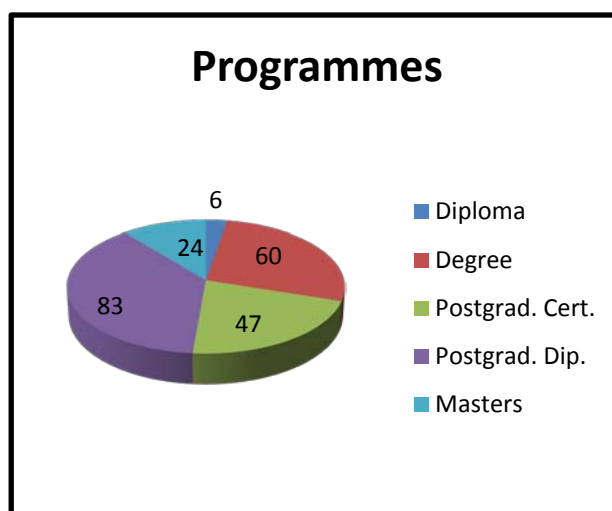
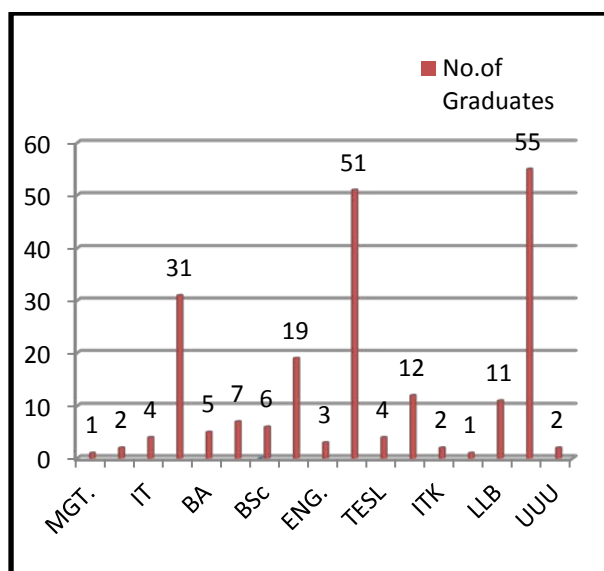
Enrolment by subject/ level/gender

#### 4.0 GRADUATION DATA

SCH/ DEPT. NOS.	CIR A	ITK	UU U	SOB E	SO HA	SOS T	SO L	FND.	MAL E	FEMA LE	IND.	ITAUKEI EI	OT H.	TO T
	19	02	02	89	76	21	11	-	111	109	178	37	7	220



PROG	DIPLOMA				DEGREE					PGCERT		PGDIP.							MASTERS				
	ACC	MGT	ITK	HIN	BCO	BA	BIT	BSC	LLB	MBA	INR	MBA	ENG	EDL	IT	TEACH	TESL	WWW	INR	EDL	MBA	MATH	IT
NOS	2	1	2	1	31	5	7	6	11	33	14	19	3	35	3	12	4	2	5	16	3	4	1



## 5.0 STAFF

Recruitment and retention of staff continue to be a major challenge. With our current salary structure, it is impossible to attract well qualified and experienced candidates. This is impacting on our ability to recruit senior level staff in many areas such as accounting, law, medicine and sciences. Our processes for getting work permits, facilitating travel, etc, are very frustrating and time consuming. With the arrival of the Human Resources Manager, it is expected that the procedures can be streamlined.

One effective way to enhance our staff profile and the depth of experts in particular fields is through honorary appointments using the provision of Adjunct/Visiting Appointments that was endorsed by Senate recently.

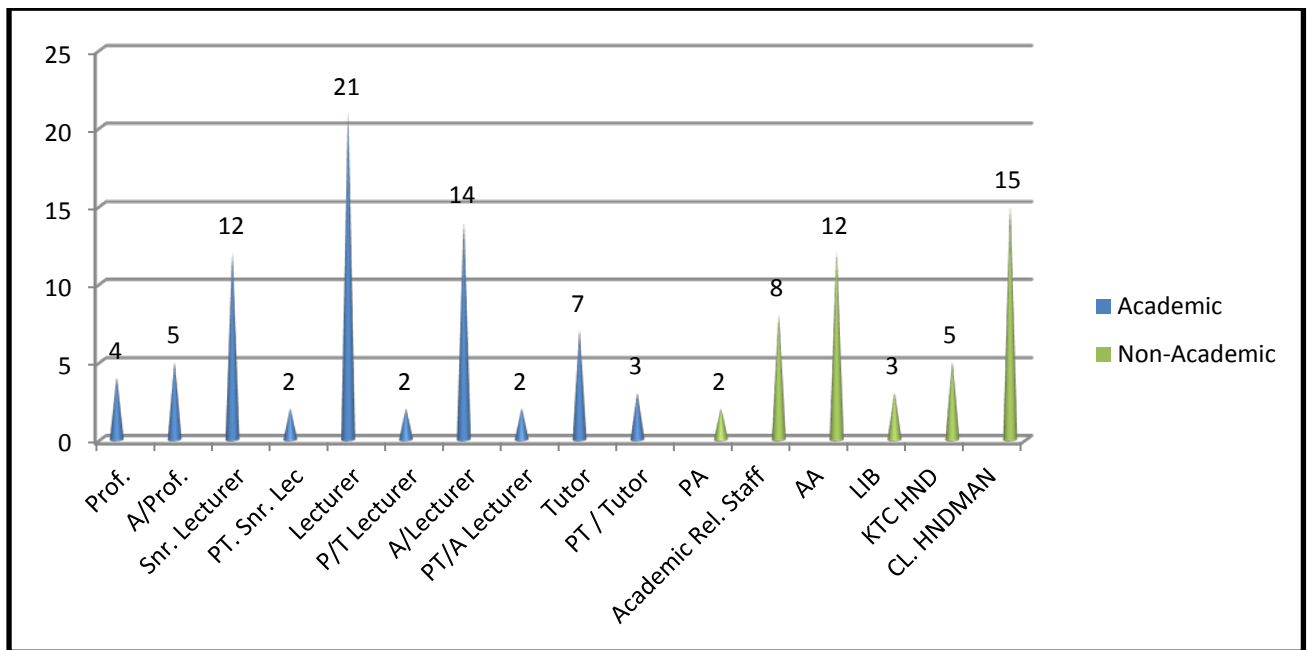
The HRM has embarked on developing procedures for HR, including grievance procedures, staff appraisal, recruitment, etc. There is also a need to identify training needs for support staff as well as detailed job descriptions for staff.

<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
Randhir Charan	Manager Human Resources
Richard Hogan	Professor of Education
Parveshni Devi Harakh	Part-time Lecturer in MBA Programme
Monish Rupika Naidu	Tutor in Mathematics
Fernande Ratubalavu	Asst. Lecturer in French
Vinod Narayan Sami	P/T Lecturer in Biochemistry/Micro-Biology
Shaileshni Sangita Devi Prasad	Marketing & Public Relations Officer
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	
Mr Nemani Tuifagalele	Senior Lecturer in Law
Mrs Minakshi Maharaj	Senior Lecturer in LLC
Ms Pamela Kenilorea	Lecturer in Law
Mr Rohitash Chandra	Senior Lecturer in CS/IT
Dr Kuldeep Mathur	Senior Lecturer in Mathematics
Ms Shailesh Prasad Sami	Asst. Lecturer in LLC
Ms Fernande Ratubalavu	Asst. Lecturer in French
Ms Monish Rupika Naidu	Tutor in Mathematics
Ms Alicia Lizano	Part-time Senior Lecturer in Community Medicine
Mr Vinod Narayan Sami	P/T Lecturer in Biochemistry/Micro-Biology
Ms Parveshni Devi Harakh	Part-time Lecturer in MBA Programme
Ms Monish Rupika Naidu	Tutor in Mathematics

### **Honorary Appointments**

Professor Arthur Hoyle, University of Canberra, School of Law  
 Professor March Anders, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Paediatrics, UPSM  
 Professor S Sotheeswaran, Chemistry, SOST  
 Professor Richard Coll, University of Waikato, Education, SOHA  
 Professor Milind Sathye, University of Canberra, Accounting, SOBE  
 Professor Gurudeo Tularam, Griffith University, Mathematics, SOST  
 Professor Khanaiya Lal Sharma retired, Economics, SOBE

ACADEMIC STAFF										NON-ACADEMIC STAFF							
Prof	A/P	SL	P/T SL	L	P/T L	A L	P/T AL	T	P/T T	PA	AC.R .ST	A A	LI B	KH	CL/ HN D	TO T.	
4	5	12	2	21	2	14	2	7	3	2	8	1 2	3	5	15	117	



2012 STAFFING

## 6.0 GOVERNMENT GRANT ACQUITTALS & SCHOLARSHIPS

We are grateful to the Government, especially to the Minister of Education, for granting us \$3,000,000 in the 2011 budget under operating grants and transfers.

We convey our appreciation to Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar who had a principal role in putting the grant proposal together.

All Government scholarships are now tenable at The University of Fiji.

Apart from students sponsored by the Fiji government, we have, this year, six students from Solomon Islands who are enrolled in the MBBS degree. Two of the six Solomon Islands students were also at UniFiji last year.

The breakdown of scholarship students this year is as follows:

iTaukei Affiars scholarship	15 students
Multi-ethnic affairs-	23
PSC scholarship-	82
PSC Loans scheme	17
Solomon Islands	6
PSC Scholarships	\$439,950
PSC Loans	\$96,950
Multiethnic affairs	\$27,095

iTaukei affairs	\$57,590
Solomon Island	\$37,980
Lalita Jeraj	\$23,080
Fiji Muslim League	\$37,850
Unifiji Loans	\$127,820

Total fees receivable for semester 1, 2012 was \$ 2,347,650.00, of which \$1,912,350.00 has been received.

## 7.0 SCHOOLS & CENTRES

### Foundation Studies Programme

**1. Introduction:** The Foundation Studies Programme consists of four strands , with a total of 12 subjects being offered. Semester One, 2012 has seen the usual good enrolments and the programme is running smoothly. To ensure this, regular meetings are convened by the Director of Foundation Studies.

**2. Enrolments:** The initial enrolment of full- time Foundation students was 65, with 32 in the Science strand, 14 in the Social Science strand, 15 in Commerce and 4 in Mathematics/Information Technology.

In addition, many students take advantage of our Unclassified Studies option. As a result, total Semester One enrolments is very high in LLCF11 (91) and CSAF11 (80), for example.

**3. Students' Perceptions of their first four weeks at the University of Fiji:** Mr. Cliff Benson conducted a mini-research project into how students perceived their experience in their first four weeks at the University. A journal writing assignment was used for this feedback. It is very pleasing to report that feedback was overwhelmingly positive in students' view about the Foundation lecturers' teaching styles, approachability and helpfulness. The majority were also very positive about the general University of Fiji environment.

**4. Graduation Ceremony for those completing the programme in 2011:** A small but successful function was held on the 21 March 2012. The Chief Guest was Ms. Sunila Karan, Counsellor. Professor Mahendra Kumar welcomed everyone to the function. A highlight was the presentation for the first time of trophies to the students with the most outstanding performance in each of the four strands. Professor Kumar, Professor Khanaiya Lal Sharma and Associate Professor Cliff Benson kindly donated the trophies.

**5. Conclusion:** Matters for attention include a review and revision of the Programme, as well as the formation of an Advisory Committee. The University's Foundation Studies Programme is a valuable pathway to further tertiary study and will hopefully attract greater numbers from Semester One, 2013.

## School of Humanities and Arts

**1.0 Introduction:** School of Humanities & Arts (SoHA) has established itself as an important School of the University of Fiji with a commendable national and international profile. Its programs in Education, Language, and Literature & Communication continue to attract students from year 1 to PhD and EdD levels. This year at the University Graduation we had a number of students graduating with Masters in English and Education and also with post graduate diplomas and degrees. School of Humanities & Arts consists of the Department of Language, Literature & Communications and the Department of Education.

**2.0 Department of Education:** The Department of Education in the School of Humanities and Arts is a rapidly expanding section dedicated to providing the very latest approaches to teaching, learning and leadership within the Fiji context. The Department of Education currently has four fulltime on campus lecturers. Dr. Wahab Ali coordinates the EdD program, while Ms Sarita Harish coordinates the Masters program. Mr Lalesh Sharma coordinates the Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching Program while Ms Mohini Devi coordinates the programs at the Suva Campus. This is the first time we have a full-time Education Staff based at the Suva Campus. Associate Professor Ken Nobin is still teaching EDU780 online from Sydney as a gesture of goodwill and appreciation.

### 2.1 Programs offered by the Department

- Doctor of Education
- Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership
- Master of Educational Leadership
- Master of Teaching
- Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching

### 2.2 Departure of the Dean of SOHA, Professor Satendra Nandan

Professor Satendra Nandan completed his term on 28<sup>th</sup> February and did not seek for the renewal of his contract due to his personal and national commitments. Professor Nandan had been the Foundation Dean for SOHA and had been a pillar of strength for all the staff members. We congratulate him for his appointment as a member of the Constitution Review Team in Fiji and thank him for his contribution towards the University of Fiji.

### 2.3 Appointment of Acting Dean SOHA

Dr. Wahab Ali was appointed as the Acting Dean with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Dr. Ali joined the Department as a Senior Lecturer on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011. He acted as Head of Department for Education with effect from 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and was subsequently appointed as the substantive head on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Dr. Ali acted as Dean of SOHA from 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 while Professor Nandan was on leave. The School wishes him all the best in his appointment.

### 2.4 Doctoral program

A major development this year has been the Senate's approval of the Doctor in Education (EdD) Program in collaboration with the University of New England, Australia. This is the first of its kind program in the South Pacific. The program rolled out this semester with 8 students which is a rational number for a doctoral study. The EdD program consists of 4 course work units and a portfolio/thesis. The current students are all enrolled in EDU780 Professional Workplace Culture & Learning. The students are taught online from Australia by Professor Ken Nobin and they lately attended an intensive holiday class with Professor Tom Maxwell at the Saweni Campus.

### **2.5 Visits by Adjunct Lecturer**

Professor Tom Maxwell was at the University from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May. He took a week of intensive class with the first cohort of our EdD students. His teachings centred on doing research related activities. Professor Maxwell is a well-known academic and publisher of research articles; he has widely travelled the world giving seminars and has a wide experience supervising doctorate students doing their thesis worldwide. Having counterparts from external universities is a great advantage to our students as it provides them new perspective to learning and teaching. Currently Professor Tom Maxwell is an Adjunct Professor at the University of New England.

### **2.6 Visits by the Permanent Secretary for Education, Dr. Brij Lal**

Dr Brij Lal, The Permanent Secretary for Education, National Heritage, Culture and Arts, Youth and Sports was invited as a guest academic during the joint lecture of all the postgraduate students in Education on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. He thanked the University for inviting him and suggested that closer links needed to be built between the University and the Ministry of Education as they are one of the key stakeholders. He was quite impressed by the courses offered by the Department and suggested that issues like ethics, values, internal assessment and reforms could be integrated in our education courses. He suggested that we needed to have regular meetings and invited the Department to address the Senior Management Board of the Ministry of Education. This took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Marela House.

### **2.7 May Holiday Class**

An intensive holiday class was held at the Suva campus from 7-12 May 2012. Ms Mohini Devi coordinated this unit and had 18 students. Most of the students were our continuing students while some were from other departments and ministries. *EDU405 Contemporary Issues in Education* focused on examining the current issues affecting education in Fiji, Oceania and beyond through the perspectives of history, philosophy, sociology, psychology, anthropology and politics of education. This course covers interesting and relevant topics in Education globally and blends them with contemporary issues and reforms currently implemented in our schools. EDU405 is one of the courses that lead toward a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership.

### **2.8 Externalizing the Education Units**

As part of its outreach program the Department of Education has for the first time began offering a postgraduate unit in Tavua. For the first time the students in Tavua are enrolled in a post graduate program offered by The University of Fiji. Mr Lalesh Sharma coordinates *EDU401 Educational Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and has 20 students. He travels to Tavua to conduct this class on Saturdays. Most of the students are high school teachers, vice principals and principals. The unit is very relevant as it exposes students to a number of leadership styles and enables them to make sound decisions in the administration and management of their schools.

### **2.9 Staff Resignation**

Ms Sarita Harish has resigned as a Lecturer in Education after serving the University for about three years. She has been a pillar of strength for the Department and has contributed a lot towards the designing and teaching of Masters in Teaching Program. Before joining the University, Ms Sarita was a career civil servant and a distinguished curriculum developer and writer. She leaves The University of Fiji to join Fiji National University as an Assistant Registrar. We wish her all the best in her new appointment.

**3.0 Department of Language, Literature & Communication:** The Department of Language, Literature & Communication in the School of Humanities and Arts offers a number of programs from a degree level to Masters and PhD Level. Major changes have occurred in the staffing of the LLC Department. Associate Professor Cliff Benson is now Acting Head of Department and one new

member, Ms Shaleshni Prasad, recently joined the Department as a tutor. Ms Prasad is also delivering the three French courses on offer this semester. With the departure of Professor Satendra Nandan, and the imminent departure of Dr. Jyoti Nandan, the Department is assigning the three existing experienced staff to ensure the maintenance of high quality delivery of the upper level including postgraduate literature courses.

### **3.1 Enrolments**

Enrolments continue to be very high for LLC101, English for Academic Purposes course, but moderate in other 100 to 400 level courses. The likely transfer of the Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language (PGDIPTESL) Programme to the Department will substantially enhance its postgraduate offerings, hitherto confined to literature courses.

### **3.2 Hindi Section**

The Hindi Section organized the following events as part of its activities for the year:

- A two-day seminar on the teaching and promotion of Hindi, attended by nearly 40 participants including FNU and USP colleagues. The facilitator was Professor Ramvir Prasad, Second Secretary of the High Commission of India.
- An outstanding Girit Smriti function was organized on Friday May 13, the Chief Guest for which was his Excellency, Mr. Vinod Kumar, the High Commissioner for India.
- Also of note are the following activities of Mrs. Suklesh Bali during Semester one:
- Chief Guest at Drasa Secondary School, Hindi Day Celebration - 7 March, 2012;
- Chief Guest at FNU, 'Ek Shaam Hindi Ke Naam', 16 March, 2012.
- Chief Guest at Gurukul Primary School on the occasion of Arya Samaj Sthapna Diwas, 2012.
- Coordinator and speaker on the occasion 'Girit Remembrance Day' 11 May, 2012.
- Coordinator of a Musical Programme at Unifiji, 1 February, 2012.

**4.0 Conclusion:** My special thanks to the staff of SoHA, the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and other administrative staff in facilitating the work of SoHA. Roziya has joined the UPSM after serving SoHA for about 7 years. We wish her all the best in her new posting. On the same note, I have much pleasure in welcoming Ms Roshni Chand as the new Administrative Assistant for SOHA. I hope SOHA will flourish and ideals of UniFiji will continue to give light and enlightenment as expressed in our University prayer.

## **School of Science and Technology**

The SOST comprises of three departments: Department of Computer Science & Information Technology (CS/IT), Department of Mathematics and Department of Science.

### **Department of Science**

#### **a. Biology**

The Foundation Biology has 38 students who are enrolled this semester. All are full-time student. Three lectures, one lab and one tutorial session per week are scheduled for the course this semester. UPSM Bio-chemistry lab is used for the foundation class. The course is conducted by two staff Ms Priyatma Singh and Ms Roneeta Sharma



A total of 25 students are enrolled for BIO 111. All are full-time students, taking their first year course in Biology. There are three lectures, one lab and one tutorial session per week is scheduled for this semester.

The year 2 courses for Biology commenced this year and a total of 20 students are enrolled for this course. Four of the students are part-time as they are school teachers while 16 of them are full-time students.

The laboratory component of the course is being conducted using the UPSM Bio-chemistry lab. The lab practicals were designed to suit the availability of the materials and equipments. A successful field trip was also coordinated and was conducted during the semester. The students got to see live specimen of animals and marine flora and fauna at Vuda marina.

The year 2 Bio-diversity and Conservation students went for a field trip to Shangri-La's Fijian Resort and Spa at Yanuca to observe the marine sanctuary. The purpose of the visit was to learn what the resorts are doing towards conservation and to see how sustainable their practices are in relation to sewage treatment and drinking water treatment and storage. The students were shown various projects the resort takes up, such as building fish houses and mangrove planting.

#### **b. Chemistry**

The Foundation Chemistry has 37 students who are enrolled this semester. All are full-time students. Three lectures, one lab and one tutorial session per week are scheduled for this semester. UPSM Bio-chemistry lab is used for the foundation labs. The course is conducted by two staff Ms Vikashni Singh and Mr Aman Deo.

A total of 25 students are enrolled for CHE 111. All are full-time students, taking their first year course in Chemistry. There are three lectures, one lab and one tutorial session per week is scheduled for this semester.

The year 2 courses for Chemistry commenced this year and a total of 10 students are enrolled for this course. Two of the students are part-time as they are school teachers while the rest of them are full time students.

The laboratory component is being conducted using the facilities of the neighbouring school, Pundit Vishnu Deo Memorial School (PVDMS) for foundation labs only. For year 1 and year 2 courses, UPSM Bio-chemistry labs are used for practical sessions. The practicals were designed to suit the availability of the materials and equipments. These included bulk of materials and equipment that were purchased during the semester. The practicals were also improvised utilizing the equipment and materials that were available at the school PVDMS and UPSM laboratory

Field trip was organized for Year 2 Chemistry student to Sugar Research Institute of Fiji, Drasa, Lautoka on the 24 April 2012. The rationale of the visit was to expose our students to the workings and organization of a working laboratory set up in the real world. Moreover, the students gained an insight into the organization, systems and performance. Many of these students are hoping to pursue a career in Chemistry and Biology and we feel that the field visits provided an ideal opportunity for others to understand the intricacies of a professional laboratory.

#### **c. Physics**

The Foundation Physics had 16 full-time students enrolled this semester. Three lectures, one lab and one tutorial session per week are schedule for this semester. The unit is conducted by Ms Dhrishna Charan.

A total of 7 students are enrolled for PHY 111. All are full-time students, taking their first year course in Physics. There are three lectures, one lab and one tutorial session per week is scheduled for this semester. The unit is conducted by Mr Aman Deo.

The year 2 courses for Physics also commenced this year and a total of 11 students are enrolled for this course. All are full time students.

The laboratory component is being conducted using the facilities of the neighbouring school, PVDMS. The practicals were designed to suit the availability of the materials. As for physics, a bulk of equipments will be ordered as the technician is waiting for the quotations.

The field trip for year 1 and year 2 was organized for a visit to Fiji Metrological Services in Nadi. This field trip provided an excellent opportunity for the students to get an insight into the actual workings of a Meteorological station. Seeing the instruments in their workable environment can never be duplicated to the same effect by photos of instruments used during classroom learning. This field trip provided the students with an unparalleled hands-on learning opportunity to complement their school learning with its real life applications and also led to an appreciation of the hard work that goes into making weather forecasts.

### **Challenges**

Since Science programme has just commenced and this is our second year, things are shaping up for the BSc structure. However, there is room for more developments. Clearly the current numbers are not that promising and probably extensive marketing in this area is required.

The equipment and facilities for Science is an issue at the moment or probably will be till we get a fully equipped laboratory for Science concerning all the three disciplines. The University needs to invest in building a science laboratory to make learning experience in science complete.

We need to equip the library with more Physics, Chemistry and Biology books as these are very limited at the moment. Online journal database has been open for students use now and we welcome this initiative by the library service. Students do not have access to science text books and reference material in the library.

### **Future Plans**

- i. As Science programme was just introduced at the beginning of this year 2011, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to promote Science at The University of Fiji.
- ii. There has been a lot of interest from graduate teachers for postgraduate courses in Physics related areas such as renewable energy, climate change and environment. The teachers based in the western schools rightly feel that it is easier for them to take courses at Saweni than in Suva. However, the department plans to offer this from next semester.
- iii. There is a need for at least one dedicated laboratory which can cater for all science practical classes. This can be designed for multi-disciplinary use.
- iv. Climate Change & Health Symposium  
The University of Fiji, through the CCCEESD and UPSM, will be organizing a symposium on 'Climate Change and Health' during the second mid-semester break. The proposal has support of the Ministry of Health and other partners such as WHO, SPC, etc. A small planning committee is working on the arrangements and the announcements, etc.

### **Department of CS/IT**

The switch from the previous IGNOU based structure to that suggested by the External Adviser was now almost complete. Some of the new programmes such as BBI were not attracting the expected student numbers and need to be reviewed for continuation.

### **Department of Mathematics**

The Department continues to be plagued by low numbers (less than 10) at second and third year, while maintaining healthy numbers at year 1. The first year courses are needed as service courses for the science programme, and there needs to be an appraisal of the sustainability of the mathematics courses at years 2 and 3. The postgraduate courses, however, continue to attract reasonable numbers.

### **School of Business and Economics**

The number of course enrolments in **Accounting** Department remained fairly flat in 2012 as compared to 2011 in both semesters. This implies that more needs to be done to market our accounting programme.

The Fiji Institute of Accountants had reviewed the re-accreditation of the Accounting Programme in September 2011. During 2011, all established positions except the position of Professor in Accounting were filled and a number of part-time lecturers were also hired. Despite the concerns of the FIA regarding staffing, by the beginning of the second semester of 2012, the most senior staff in the department was an Assistant Lecturer. Mainly through the efforts of the Vice Chancellor and following consultations with Professor Keith Houghton and the FIA, his threat to withdraw accreditation was temporarily removed. All vacancies in the department have now been advertised and should be filled in by the end of the year. The FIA specifically wants a Professor to be appointed but it is difficult to get a Professor of Accounting at the salary and conditions offered by the university. The appointment of a Professor of Accounting is of crucial importance. If we have difficulties recruiting a Professor, we will not only lose FIA accreditation but it will be impossible to get any accounting students. If the accounting programme stops running, the economics and management departments will also stop running. As such, it is essential that a Professor of Accounting is appointed with sufficient remuneration.

The profile of the Accounting Department could be lifted if appropriate adjunct/visiting appointments are made. An Adjunct Professorship has been offered to Professor Sathye from Canberra University, and similar appointments can be given to a few of the retiring academics from USP.

Course enrolments in the **Economics Department** showed a very marginal increase in 2012. There has been a vacancy for a Senior Lecturer in Economics for some time now. The position has now been advertised and should be filled by the end of the year.

Course enrolments in **Management** in Semester 1, 2012 declined by 27% compared to semester 1, 2011. This was due to rationalisation of course offerings in the department. In 2012, the position of Professor has been filled, jointly with Business. For most part, the Department operated with only a tutor and a Senior Lecturer. Vacant positions have been advertised and should be filled by the end of the year.

### **MBA Programme**

Course enrolments in the MBA programme have grown from 75 in Trimester 1, 2011 to 115 in trimester 3, 2012. There is potential to increase the enrolment in the MBA programme. Under the

guidance of Professor Narendra Reddy, MBA classes were offered in Tavua for the first time. There are plans also to offer courses in other parts of the country where there is demand. There is only one full-time academic staff (the Director) in the programme. Other academic staff have been hired on a part-time basis. Vacancies have been advertised and should be filled by the end of the year. Part-time staff will continue to be hired as the need arises.

## School of Law

At the end of 2012, the School of Law has enrolled a total of 153 students both at the Suva and Saweni Campuses.

The School of Law has also witnessed historic feats including the graduation of the first 12 Law Students with their LLB Degree Certificates and subsequently the graduates' admission to the High Court as Barristers and Solicitors on 17 August 2012. This ceremony was highlighted in the country as our substantive Dean Pundit Devendra Pathik appeared as Counsel in Court after 40 years to move the admissions. We also note that all of our Law Graduates have found employment as lawyers in government departments and law firms.

Furthermore the School of Law has now appointed 2 Adjunct Professors namely Judge Ajit Singh who is a District Court Judge at Manukau, Auckland, New Zealand and the most recent appointment is of Assistant Professor Arthur Hoyle of University of Canberra, thanks mainly to the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor.

Another important achievement for the students and staff of the law School this year is the participation of our Moot Team at the Pan Pacific Moot Competition hosted by Waikato University. Notably one of our students was nominated for the award of Best Mooter. It was a matter of concern that the University was not able to make even a token contribution towards this historic accomplishment.

In August 2012, the School's other Adjunct Professor, Judge Ajit S Singh visited both campuses and presented lectures to the students and public. He has already indicated his intentions for similar presentations in Semester 1 of 2013. Mr. Salvin Nand attended 2 international conferences in India and Australia whereby he presented his research papers. He also presented one of his research papers at Saweni Campus last month. This is an area that The School of Law hopes to improve next year in relation to the staff development policy to increase the number of publications and also attendance to conferences. This we can only achieve with the assistance of more senior staff to lead in the area of research and publication.

The School of Law will be farewelling two of its lecturers namely Pamela Luhania Kenilorea from the Suva Campus and Nemani Tuifagalele from the Saweni Campus. These positions as well as other vacant positions will be filled in the next coming weeks. There is an urgent need to get senior staff, especially at the rank of Professor/Associate Professor to provide academic leadership to the School.

- 1. Orientation Programme:** The Suva Campus Orientation Programme was held on 19 March 2012. The Vice Chancellor & Registrar along with Mrs. Sarita Singh, Ms. Rupika Nandan and Dr. Wahab Ali travelled from Lautoka to attend the said programme. A short formal programme proceeded followed with light refreshments which allowed for some interaction between students and the staff.
- 2. New Lecturers:** In the first semester of 2012, the School of Law has appointed 2 new lecturers and continued with 2 part-time lecturers from last year.

- Ms. Rupika Nandan: has been appointed as a full-time lecturer teaching 3 LLB Courses at Saweni Campus.
- Mr. Jay Udit: has been appointed as the first ever Coordinator for Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice which is currently running at Samabula Campus.
- Mr. Jiten Singh: Part Time Lecturer teaching 2 LLB Courses at Samabula Campus.
- Mr. Neel Shivam: Part Time Lecturer who continues to teach this year Property Law in the Samabula Campus.
- We also have Mrs. Kathleen Taito teaching LLC 101 English for Academic Purposes for the first time at the Samabula Campus.

Note that for all these new lecturers have been provided with their own individual offices fully equipped with computers and internet.

**4. Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice:** Our first ever Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice Programme for Law Graduates commenced on 19 March 2012 with a total of 13 students. This comprises of 10 of our Law Graduates plus 2 Graduates from USP and 1 from University of Pune, India. The Coordinator is Mr. Jay Udit as afore mentioned.

The GDLP prepares law graduates for admission to the practice of law in the High Court of Fiji. It is a competency skills based course with practical activities/tasks and assessments based on “real life” legal practice scenarios to help law graduates acquire the skills necessary (advocacy, mooting and drafting) to work effectively as an entry level lawyer. It is an intensive 15 weeks program.

The conclusion date for the programme on campus is 22 June 2012. Immediately after the conclusion of the programme applications will be lodged at the High Court of Fiji for the GDLP participants to get admitted to the Bar. Once they are admitted they can now practice as fully fledged lawyers.

**5. Graduation:** On 13 April 2012 The School of Law celebrated its first batch of Graduates. We were more proud as one of the Law Graduates, namely Hadassah Duaibe gave the speech on behalf of the graduating class of 2011.

On 9th May 2012, the Dean, Devendra Pathik organized a small ceremony for the presentation of awards at the Samabula Campus. Ms. Jamie Bancod was award (\$300.00) prize as the most outstanding student graduating with LLB Degree in 2012. The Best Moot Team of 2010, the Runner Up Moot Team 2010 and the Best Mooter were also awarded their certificates. This ceremony was attended by the Pro Chancellor Pandit Bhuwan Dutt and APS President Pandit Kamlesh Arya.

**6. Work on Facilities:** Prior to start of Semester 1, Suva Campus carried out some repair work and maintenance in our Library, the reception door, the classrooms, the canteen, staff tea room, the Dean’s toilet sink, fixing my window in staffroom, Air condition and installation of power switches, clearing of water chamber, repairing the tent structures. All repair works were completed before the enrolment date.

At present other works are being undertaken by the Facilities Manager in preparation for the visit of the Fiji Higher Education Commission on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.

**7. Library Book Donations:** So far we have received two shipments of books donated by Judge Singh, in Auckland, New Zealand.

We have also received correspondence from the Dean School of Law, Waikato University, who has indicated that they are trying to organize the transportation and delivery of more donated books from their law school. This is still pending.

We have already indicated the need for some provision of shelves for the Suva Campus Library to cater for all these new books that have been received.

**8. Visitation from New Caledonia Students:** On 2nd May 2012 about 22 students from New Caledonia visited the Samabula Campus. We had a formal introduction with the Samabula Campus students and lecturers where our students also presented an item song for the visitors. Thereafter, the Dean arranged for refreshments so all the students could mingle on an informal basis. Whilst the formal programme commenced at around 3.30 p.m., the students and the visitors enjoyed each other's company and they left the campus around 6 p.m.

We hope that whatever little input we did will help towards the marketing of our University in the region.

**9. Proposed Developments:** At this point there will be consideration within the department as to whether we can continue with the second session of GDLP in 2012 or not. Some of the current Year 4 Students have indicated to me that they will be submitting a petition seeking for another GDLP session before the end of the year. However this has not been fully discussed and decided yet.

Also the Dean has received a Petition from Law Students from the Saweni Campus seeking Summer School during the semester break. This is yet to be considered fully and decided upon.

Finally, I am grateful to the staff and lecturers for their dedication and effort in ensuring the smooth running of The Law School in this period of significant events and developments.

### **Umanand Prasad School of Medicine (UPSM)**

UPSM has established itself as an important School of the University of Fiji with a commendable national and international profile.

UPSM has encouraged staff to attend conferences, give seminars and talks in and outside Fiji. More active interest in research will assist the development of University profile internationally. Professor Altaisaikhan Khasag is invited to attend the conference for the AMERWPR Advisory Board Meeting in Seoul, Korea from 30 May to 2 June.

**1. Consultancy and Research Grant:** World Diabetes Day Campaign successfully implemented in association with WHO and Vuda Town. Technical and Financial Report were submitted to the WHO and Mr. Ravineet Sami, the manager of finance and facilities.

The Funder and the Contractor signed the agreement for the performance of work between World Health Organization and the University of Fiji, for the sum of FJD **23,400.00** for conducting the Activities on the World Diabetes Day Campaign.

UPSM team successfully selected and signed contract of first two phases of the Consultancy of Co Comprehensive assessment of PPTCT and Syphilis Management services; and development of an

integrated operational plan for virtual elimination of pediatric HIV infections and congenital syphilis in Fiji, 2011-2015.

The consultancy consists of three interlinked phases:

**Phase 1** - A strategic assessment of key barriers to eliminate new pediatric HIV infections and congenital syphilis should be conducted in collaboration with MOH Fiji, UNICEF and UNAIDS. The assessment should identify the achievements and strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and challenges of current programmes to eliminate new HIV infections and congenital Syphilis, as well as identify opportunities to enhance scaling up of services. As a result, recommendations for consolidating and improving the strengths and achievements, addressing the gaps, constraints and challenges will be made.

**Phase 2** – Based on the analysis of country level data, national STI, HIV and MNCH programme, along with other key stakeholders and partners, country specific goals, targets and timelines should be developed.

**Phase 3** – Upon setting goals and targets, an operational plan to eliminate new pediatric HIV infections and congenital syphilis will be developed. The operational plan should be linked with broader STI, HIV, MNCH and other plans and goals, and clearly delineate roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in order to ensure accountability.

**2. Operations Committee:** UPSM is to organize Memorandum of Understanding launch as is an opportunity for marketing UPSM with a range of products: students, curriculum, facilities, and members of the teaching staff.

UPSM is mandated to provide secretariat support for operational committee. So the Head of Academic Administration, Ms Litiana Kuridrani is the secretary to the operations committee.

**3. Staffing:** Staffing continues to be the major issue at UPSM. Currently the UPSM has a total of 11 full-time, 3 part-time and 12 Clinical Tutors (part-time). This is from an approved establishment of around 36 full-time staff. Approximately 12 positions are currently being considered with offers in the pipeline. We are hopeful making a number of appointments in time for the beginning of the new academic year.

The final year students (year 6) will proceed on their attachments at hospitals in Ba, Lautoka and Nadi next year. Arrangements are being made to provide living facilities close to the hospitals to meet the need of the interns.

There is a need for the University to invest in clinical facilities at the major hospitals. This matter was also discussed at the recently held meetings of the UPSM Advisory Committee, the Fiji Medical & Dental Council (FMDC) and the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC).

Both the medical forums endorsed the request of the UPSM for minor changes in curriculum and for emphasis on emergency medicine, mental health and relevant topics in community health. There was a general endorsement of the progress the UPSM has made in terms of curriculum, staffing and facilities. These are important for the final assessment of our graduates for their registration by the FMDC.

An important request from the School, endorsed by the Advisory Board and FMDC, was to have the graduation of our medical students in December 2013 rather than at the normal graduation event in April. This is to ensure harmony with the employment cycle beginning in the new-year.

The School will apply for recognition from the Association of Medical Education for Western Pacific Region (AMEWPR) in the New Year. This regional medical authority will assess the courses and programmes against the Global Standard of Basic Educational. This will be the ultimate recognition of our medical education by WHO sub-regional group.

There is an increasing confidence from stakeholders about the UPSM and our first graduates due to graduate next year. The Minister of Health has continued to show direct interest and suggest ways of reinforce our programme and demonstrate greater accountability. In a recent dialogue, he wished to see that the fees derived from scholarships are put back for the benefit of the medical students. There is a concern that we have not been making the necessary investment in equipments and resources, such as books, journals etc. He has encouraged the School to look at strategic areas of postgraduate studies such as Diabeteiology, Nursing Management, Emergency Medicine, etc.

It is a matter of pride for the UPSM that the Dean, Professor Altaisaikhan Khasag, has been nominated by the Minister to head the Diabetic Hub in the west. This is part of our MOU with the MOH that allows staff to spend up to 40% of their time in such clinical activities.

#### **4. Departments**

##### **a) Department of Basic Medical Sciences**

The major achievements of the Department of Basic Sciences, UPSM in the last year were:-

- Successfully double the number of enrolments from 25 last year to 52 this year in Year 1 MBBS;
- Designed and inaugurated the Biochemistry laboratory, which is being used by the School of Science and Technology as well apart from UPSM;
- Designed and inaugurated Microbiology Laboratory;
- Successfully revamped the existing MBBS curriculum and introduced two new courses in 2012 in MBBS year 1 and MBBS year 2, Medical Ethics, Communication and Terminology (MECT 104) and Basic Professional Skills (BAPS 204) respectively;
- Redesigned the MBBS curriculum to be more practical based and stresses on hands-on approach;
- Started the use of Multimedia and other modern audio visual aids for teaching and learning purposes;
- Regularly conduct Seminars, quizzes etc. during tutorials for the development of the students;
- Senior faculty members from Department of Anatomy, School of Medical Sciences, University of Otago, and Dunedin, New Zealand visited UPSM and conducted one day teaching and learning workshop with the MBBS students. This workshop was also mentioned on the website of University of Otago and covered by newspapers in Fiji;
- 3 scientific publications presented in the annual conference of ANZACA at Dunedin in December 2011;
- Introduced a novel and engaging approach of learning Anatomy – Body Painting
- Presentation on NCD – Diabetes at FNU in February 2012;
- Diabetes Walk on Nov 12 with UPSM students as part of World Diabetes Day Celebration;



- NCD screening for World Diabetes Day from Nov 11–13 in Saweni for the public together with the Dean and students;
- Open Press Day for World Diabetes Day celebration in UPSM on 14 Nov 2011; and
- Conduction of research activities for NCD – Diabetes awareness

## **b) Department of Clinical Sciences**

### **Student Enrollment**

We are currently handling MBBS Years 3, 4 and 5 of which MBBS years 4 and 5 are currently attached to Lautoka Hospital and Health Centers. Our present enrollment is as follows:

MBBS 3 - 36 students

MBBS 4 - 22 students

MBBS 5 - 34 students

We have improved on the numbers of clinicians but still awaiting for some more positions to be fielded up. Presently we are trying to recruit tutors to help us resolve temporarily the manpower shortage.

**Equipment:** Presently there are no new equipments that will assist us in teaching our students. We are still waiting for the time that we can start ordering equipments like mannequins to assist us in the present programs of the new curriculum.

**Facilities:** The UniFiji house at Simla is still being used as a place to have lectures for the students. Although we are still having some technical difficulties with the house which is up to now unresolved; we are just coping with this issue. We should start thinking of 2013 to avoid any inconvenience to both the school and students. By 2013, we will have MBBS year 6 which needs facilities for accommodation for our students since they will be going on regular 24 hour calls.

**Programs:** To have a smooth transition, the programs for the MBBS 4 and 5 are still patterned to the old curriculum. By 2013, MBBS year 4 will be kicking off with the new curriculum.

**Comments:** Time is not on our side so I hope that the University can assist us with the facilities and equipments which is a must in training students to become good medical doctors.

## **5. The Academic Administration Unit**

### **Human Resource (Staffing/Training and Development)**

Capacity building in the areas of research, consultancy and educational strengthen of UPSM. The Strategic plan and internal UPSM policies procedure are aligned with the bigger UniFiji current operation policies and corporate goals. Aggressive marketing needs to be done to ensure UniFiji and UPSM grow. Market read through different targeted avenues, channel so that local, regional and international markets are tapped.

**6. Staff Development:** Staff is encouraged to do in-service education in the specialised areas.

**7. Lunch hour Seminar:** Lunch hour Seminars are conducted on every Wednesday's from 12–2pm.

Professor Altaisaikhan talked on the *“Medical Education/ UPSM Model - Learning by Doing”*

Mr. Isaac Babatunde also spoke on the *progressive changes in open heart surgical techniques overtime which were reviewed from earliest days of medicine up till 21<sup>st</sup> century*. It was a systemic review of what has transpired regarding Cardiac Surgery and Medicine and Medical Education.

Both the presentations pointed out many things that have occurred in the transitions eras. It is a type of research in itself. Staff has displayed confidence and courage to take very broad topics. It is only the beginning everyone, learn through exposures and experiences.

**8. Supplementary Exam:** UPSM MBBS program accept providing medical students a second chance considering the complexity and technicality of medical training and the resources required.

**Objective**

- To provide a transparent mechanism in assessing and evaluating student appraisals, assessment and academic performances

**Guidelines**

- Candidate can only sit for supplementary exam once. This is subject to each of the unit failed;
- Failing the supplementary examination in 2 subjects will lead to repeating the year program

**9. Conferences and Meeting:** Prof. Altaisaikhan Khasag participated in the Foot Care Project Meeting, 24-25 February, 2012 in Kyoto Japan. Presented a page on “Diabetes Foot in Mongolia”

Prof Altaisaikhan Khasag attended the National Consultation on Improving Health Research Management; Governance and Data Sharing in Fiji from 14-16 March 2012 at the Novotel Hotel in Lami.

## Centre for Indigenous Studies (CIS)

### 1. Concept:

1. The CIS has continued to teach courses that will lead students to gain Diploma in Itaukei Language & Culture or a B.A Degree as a COMajor.
2. The CIS has continued to encourage the development of an inclusive and united Fiji where ethnic groups can interact more and develop a greater understanding of and respect for one another. It has, therefore, become an important forum for dialogue on important cultural issues as well as on significant & relevant concern of the Itaukei people.
3. The CIS research and publishing programmes have been focusing attention on practical solutions to issues and challenges facing the Itaukei people.
4. The CIS continues striving to become a Centre of Excellence for Itaukei art and cultural practices and will work with other institutions concerned with Itaukei people.

### 2. Language and Literature Courses

### 3. New Courses

1. Medical Ethics, Culture & Terminology (MECT 104)  
It is a one hour per week course for MBBS 1<sup>st</sup> years for 32 weeks.



The New Marketing and PR Officer, Ms Sangita Prasad joined on 5 of November, 2012. Out of \$280,000 marketing budget for the year, \$92, 839.25 have been used till to date on advertising and marketing materials. \$67,747.50 has been spent on advertising mainly on newspaper ads, television ads, school visits and \$25, 091.75 on marketing materials like brochures, banners, calendars, etc.

Earlier attempts for billboard advertising HAVE NOT PROGRESSED.

**The Marketing Strategies for year 2013 include:**

- ✓ **Create UniFiji brand awareness.** This is aimed to increase the number of students next semester by changing the mind set of people when they are choosing a university and to create awareness that The University of Fiji is another University in Fiji.
- ✓ **Reach out to parents and students in a more efficient and cost effective manners.** This would be through social media, ads, careers expos, open days, newsletters, sms advertising, flyers, and road shows at major centres/towns on weekends on a constant basis.
- ✓ **Acquire more personal touch with the high schools, principals, careers teachers and students.** Getting to know the future students and discussing options with them is important. Get more structured school visits and conduct a Career's Teachers Workshop.
- ✓ **Highlight the strength of the University** - The points of differentiation about the UOF in providing affordable tertiary education and its attractiveness to the west should be well advertised. Other positives include: the only other alternative for medical education, provision of law at 2 campuses, new approach to science, programmes like Accounting accredited by FIA etc are strong selling points.

The University is enhancing its efforts to ensure greater visibility of activities undertaken through greater publicity via print media, radio and TV. Regular news releases are being transmitted and the media is invited / persuaded to cover key events. The first 4 months has seen unprecedented publicity through the regular media. Regular newsletters have restarted, with two issues released already. A Marketing Team has begun plans to visit schools and take part in events such as Careers Expos, etc, to try and boost the number of students who would make UniFiji their first choice for tertiary education. This is in line with our overall aim to increase our student numbers.



*Students at Saweni Campus*

*Outside study environment for Students*



*Students on Examination day*

## **9.0 IT SERVICES**

The following were the activities of the I.T Services Department for the above stated period:

- \* Upgrade of Moodle to version 2;
- \* Upgrade of Staff and Lab computers to Windows 7;
- \* Upgrade of lab computers at UniFiji house – Simla;
- \* Roll out of ESET antivirus on all University owned equipment;
- \* Implementation of new phone system; (Minor configurations are still in progress) and
- \* New website development. Testing of the site is in progress.

### Planned Activities for 2012

- \* Online course evaluation system
- \* Customization of Student Management System (EduPoint).
- \* Specialized computer Lab for Post-grad Computing Science/Information Technology classes.

\* Financial System implementation

## 10.0 LIBRARY SERVICES

**1. Library opening Hours:** The library now opens from 8am–8.30pm on Monday to Thursday, 8am-8pm on Friday and from 9am 3pm on Saturday both at Saweni and Suva campuses. The Students of MBBS, MBA and education are the main groups who make use of the library services during the evening hours.

**2. Book Donations** –The Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Library, New Zealand recently donated 2000 books on history to the University Library. The Neptune Pacific Agency shipped these books free of charge. Other donations we have received are from the Indian High Commission, Suva; Sai Foundation Sydney; Dr. Ajit Singh, NZ; International Pure Bhakti Yoga Society Lautoka and the Forum Secretariat, Suva. I thank all donors and appreciate their generosity.

**3. Collection Development:** About 1,700 books on various disciplines have been added to the library collection for teaching and learning purposes. Now the library holds 15,000 volumes of printed materials.

**4. Electronic Databases:** The Library added OARE (Environmental Science database) to its online resources while continuing subscriptions to ProQuest, JSTOR, LEXISNEXIS, and HINARI. The students and staff are making good use of these databases for their teaching and learning. The usage statistics show education journals are the ones in the highest demand and then Management and Accounting. At times users have found difficulty in downloading resources due to bandwidth issues.

## 11.0 RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

After a lull of about 2 years, the Research Committee has been reactivated and guidelines and procedures, including on ethics, are being developed. The current allocation for research is \$30,000 which we expect to allocate to encourage student and staff research. The committee also agreed to initiate a Journal to serve as an outlet for research findings.



*The Vice-Chancellor Professor Mahendra Kumar in deep discussion with the Dean of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine Professor Altaisaikhan Khasag and other Medical Advisory Board members.*

## 12.0 VISITORS

A number of prominent and distinguished individuals visited the Saweni Campus during the period of the report:

Mr Kalbeo Kalpat, Principal, Vanuatu Institute of Technology;

Dr. Salik Ram Govind, Resident rep for WHO based in Mongolia;

Professor Dharmendra Sharma, Dean Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering, University of Canberra and external Adviser to CS/IT;

Professor Mark stringer, Director, PGD in Surgical anatomy, University of Otago;

Dr. Latika Samalia, Professional Practice Fellow, University of Otago;

HE Yogesh Karan, Fiji's High Commissioner to India;

HE Vinod Kumar, India's High Commissioner to Fiji;

Dr. Kamal Kishore, Director Indian Cultural Centre, Indian High Commission;

Mr. Pradeep singh, Managing Director, Kenzotech Australia Pty Ltd;

Mr. Raj Prasad, CFP, Principal, Platinum Accountants and Advisers, Sydney;



Dr. Kamal Singh Dhaliwal, Clinical Psychologist, Brisbane;  
Mr. Aisea TuiDr.aki, Special Administrator, Nadi Town Council;  
Mr. Jeremy Finnaz, French Language Attaché, French Embassy;  
Mr. Denis Decraene, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councillor, Embassy of France;  
Dr. Brij Lal, Permanent Secretary of Education;  
Colonel Ratu Isoa Tikoca, Vuda Township;  
Mr. Denis Decraene, 2<sup>nd</sup> Counsellor, Embassy of France;  
Mr. Peter Woodward, NZ Society for Earthquake Engineers;  
Mr. AnDr.ew Cleland, CEO, Institution of Professional Engineers, NZ;  
Mr. Pratarp Singh, President, Fiji Institute of Engineers; and  
Mr. Barry Peddle, CEO, Australia-Pacific Technical College.

### **13.0 MASTER PLAN AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES**

Availability of adequate facilities and equipment is a prerequisite for the FHEC recognition process as well as for the accreditation by professional bodies such as Fiji Medical Council. Third year courses in science will be offered from next year, and whilst attempts are being made to design courses that may not require traditional large laboratory support, there is certain minimum level of support that is mandatory. There is an urgency to build at least one laboratory that will cater for the needs of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### **14.0 UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The 2011–2014 Strategic Plan was noted by the Council last year, and is now available in hard copy. The Strategic Plan is yet to be approved by Council. It has also been posted on the UniFiji webpage. Departments, Schools and various sections of the University are now preparing their own operational/action plans in line with the Strategic Plan. These are at various stages of preparation. Advisory Boards for various programmes are also being formulated. The biggest challenge to the implementation of the Plan is finance.



## 15.0 UNIVERSITY EVENTS

### 1. Academic activities

#### i. Sai Medical Conference

UPSM in conjunction with Sathya Sai Service Organization, Australian Sai Medical Unit, and Fiji College of General Practitioners hosted a successful Medical Camp from 20-24 August. This was preceded by a day-long conference on 19 August, held at the UoF Hall, on the theme “NCD & LIFESTYLE – A Holistic Approach.” The conference attracted approximately 40 people from abroad and was well attended by members of the Fiji College of General Practitioners as well as UPSM staff and students. The Chief Guest was the acting High Commissioner for Australia, Mr. Glenn Miles.

#### ii. Climate Change Health Symposium

The Climate Change and Health Symposium was successfully hosted by the Centre for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (CCCEESD) on behalf of the University of Fiji from 13-15 September 2012. Close to 200 delegates, including regional delegates, international speakers and representatives from Government, NGOs, other tertiary institutions and international organisations, participated in the event. The funding was provided through contributions from SPC and WHO. As part of the support, the University benefitted from investment in equipment like curtains for the hall, table clothes, hot water system, etc. Our students and staff were given free access to the conference proceedings as well as provided with all the facilities accorded to delegates. There is likely to be funds left over which will be utilised, as per the understanding with the sponsors, to enhance research, publications and other activities in climate change in the University.

#### iii. AHTIPI Conference

The Association of Heads of Tertiary Institutions in the Pacific Islands (AHTIPI) conference on “Achievements, Challenges and Prospects for Tertiary Education in the Pacific” was held in Nadi from 22-23 October.

The conference themes included:

- Leveraging Technology for Tertiary Education in the Pacific;
- Creating Academic Excellence;
- Accessibility and Affordability in Tertiary Education; and
- Financing Tertiary Education in the Region

The Vice-Chancellor presented a keynote paper on UniFiji’s experience in “Increasing access to tertiary education for the poorest students”. Other noteworthy papers included “Leveraging Technology for Tertiary Education in the Pacific” and “Governance, Management and Institutional Strengthening” by Professor Roger Field, former Vice-Chancellor of Lincoln

University. There were presentations too from the FHEC on the issues of qualifications framework, quality assurance and funding. AusAID presented its new proposed “Pacific Tertiary Education Strategy”. A number of countries such as Solomons and Vanuatu which are working towards establishing national universities were extremely interested in the UniFiji experience and have indicated their wish for future collaboration. The conference was attended by the Heads of most tertiary institutions in the Pacific. As part of the proposed collaboration, three Working Groups (i) Library, (ii) ICT and (iii) Procurement, are working to foster greater sharing of resources, expertise and processes to ensure greater efficiency and benefits to the institutions.

#### **iv. FHEC Issues**

- Following consultations between the three Universities, the FHEC has established a Committee on the Accreditation of University Qualifications (CAUQ) to work on procedures to be followed by the CAUQ in its operations. Our representative on this committee is Dr. Wahab Ali.
- A workshop on Quality Assurance for Higher Education Institutions (HEI) was held in Lautoka on 24 October. Dr. Ali and I attended this workshop which was designed to inform institutions of the quality Assurance requirement and its implications.
- The second visit by the FHEC Registration Team was undertaken on Monday 29 October. The FHEC had wide ranging discussions with staff, students, management and representatives of Council. Amongst the issues raised by the students was their perception that they are not getting value for money given the lack of University’s support for strategic activities. The Commission also raised their concern about the governance issues. This was one of the many visits the team hopes to undertake to clarify issues required for registration.

#### **v. CTA-UNESCO-Pacific Islands Regional Universities Network and Science Policy Dialogue**

This high level dialogue was designed to provide the opportunity to network with all the leaders of the regional universities, with a view to forming regional Universities organization that can network and collaborate in areas of mutual interest, such as R&D, and which could serve as a convenient single point of contact for any funding agency to coordinate its research-related activities and training. Over ten Heads and several representatives of tertiary institutions attended this meeting that was hosted jointly by UNESCO and USP in November.

## **2. Other activities**

### **(i) Hindi Day Celebration**

This was held on 29 September. HE, Mr. Vinod Kumar, the High Commissioner for India and Mr.s Kumar were the Chief Guests. In a spectacular ceremony attended by close to two hundred people, two distinguished sons of Fiji: Mr. Anandi Lal Amin and Dr. Joginder Singh Kanwal were honoured for their contributions to Hindi language, culture and music. In a tribute to UniFiji’s expanding role in Hindi, Mr. Amin also donated a shield that was given to the Ba

Cultural Centre by the Indian High Commission 26 years ago. The shield will be used in future Hindi oratory contests.

The Indian High Commission also donated a number of musical instruments that will be used for the teaching and learning of music.

One of the highlights of the event was a Qawali performance by the well known group *Qawwal Wajahat Hussain Badayni & Group* from India.

#### **(ii) Signing of MOU with University of Calcutta**

The University of Fiji signed an MOU with India's oldest University, University of Calcutta. The agreement was signed between the High Commissioner of the Government of India, Mr. Vinod Kumar and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mahendra Kumar, during the Hindi Day celebrations. As part of the MOU, UniFiji will explore collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest, including short courses in identified subject areas, collaborative research projects, and the mutual provision of services in respect of matters likely to include staff development, programme support, joint workshops/seminars and other educational events, joint marketing, exchanges of staff and students and the identification of a range of other joint projects to be considered for undertaking by the Universities in India and in the Fiji Islands.

The MOU is the first and important step in terms of collaborating with Indian institutions generally. As a large country with a tradition of tremendous strength in many strategic areas, for e.g., science, medicine, Information technology, etc, The University of Fiji can benefit from partnerships and collaboration.

#### **(iii) Fiji Day Celebration**

This was held on 12 October with Ratu Isoa D Tikoca as the Chief Guest. The function included cultural items such as meke, quizzes and poetry presentation in iTaukei.

#### **(iv) Farewell & Welcome for staff**

At a function organised at UniFiji, new staff who have joined the University were welcomed and departing staff farewelled. Staff leaving included Mr. Tito Isala, Ms Hettal Ben and Mr. Aseri Rika.

#### **(v) Pan-Pacific Mooting Competition**

The School of Law took part in this year's Pan Pacific Mooting Competition which was held at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, from 18 to 21 October 2012. Students Ricky Singh, Kavitesh Prabhakar, Aminiasi Turuva, Rasha Zafirah Ali and Zoyab Mohammad comprised our team. The University team was accompanied and supervised by Law Lecturer, Ms. Rupika Nandan. In the absence of any financial support from the University, the team undertook active fund raising to make the participation possible. One of the students, Ricky Singh, was nominated for the prize of the best mooter from amongst the 20 presenters.

## **Fund Raising**

Dialogue with development partners, and the private sector, has continued with frequent meetings with representatives. There are positive signals for possible support from AusAID, Indian High Commission and JICA, as well as private sector.

## **16.0 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

- Attended the 10-year celebrations for FRIENDS, Tuvu, Lautoka;
- Hosted team from Ministry of Education, headed by the Permanent Secretary;
- Participated in the 2012 Principal's Conference, Lautoka;
- Chief Guest at graduation ceremony of the Australia Pacific Tertiary Colleges (APTC), Tanoa International Hotel;
- Met up with the acting Head of Delegation, European Union;
- Continued to represent the Universities as member of the National Environment Council;
- Met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Climate Change, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, to discuss issues relating to collaboration between CIRA and SISS (China);
- Chief Guest at Vishwa Hindi Parishad inauguration, Civic Centre, Ba, 9 November;
- Chief Guest at Ba Multicultural Centre Diwali celebrations, 14 November 2012; and
- Chief Guest, Annual Prize Giving Ceremony, Ba Sangam High School and AD Patel College, 27 November

## **17.0 CONCLUSION**

A number of exciting challenges face us next year, but with the support of Council and our colleagues in the University, we can face them with confidence.

In the next two months we must work hard to recruit more students at all levels in all programmes. As we move to the third year in the MBBS and LLB programmes, we must ensure that what we offer our students is of the highest quality in terms of the curriculum, teaching, assessment, learning support, and resources. We must start preparing ourselves for the accreditation LLB programme. We need to reconstitute and rejuvenate the advisory committee for the Law programme, and to start planning for the launch of the LLB programme.

The completion of the Strategic Plan, developing guidelines for quality management, and the formulation of a teaching-learning policy for the University must all be in place by the middle of next year.

Now that we have a Staff Policy Committee, we need to develop a comprehensive staff development plan across the university, and also to introduce additional incentives from time-to-time to attract and retain high-quality staff. Incentives might include provision of medical

benefits, increasing the annual leave from 20 to 30 days for academic staff, and subsidising the fees for courses taken by the children of staff.

Fund-raising, both for our loan scholarship scheme and for capital projects is vital, and we need to make a firm commitment to it, by assigning groups to target specific donors and specific areas.

We need to develop working relationships with the University of the South Pacific and the National University of Fiji so that our students and staff can benefit from the extensive pool of academic expertise available in Fiji. We can also work collaboratively in many areas for our mutual benefit.

## **18.0 FINANCIAL REPORT**