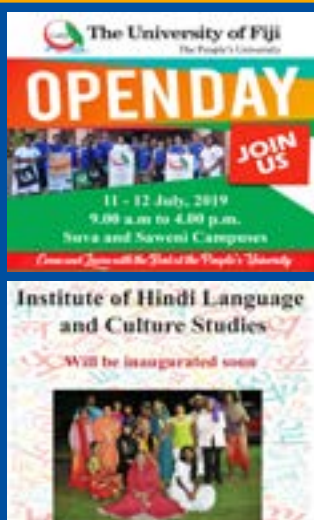


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UPCOMING EVENTS



Entering New Era as People's University

The University of Fiji is entering into a new era as 'A People's University'. It is on the edge of a significant leap forward in its academic and intellectual life. The governance of the University is in the hands of prominent academics who aim to take the institution forward in realising its full potential as a University.



The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani, is a distinguished writer and educator. After taking on the

leadership of the University in March 2019, he has outlined a program for taking the institution to another level. First securing the future of the University through the establishment of Endowment Funds that will support initiatives like School of Graduate Studies, a University Hospital, Institute of Hindi language and Cultural Studies (to complement the work of Centre for iTaukei Studies). Second, locating the University firmly in surrounding communities, attending to their scientific and technological needs, directing research in these communities, offering a second chance to those missed out on higher education. Within the University, greater collegiality and interdisciplinary studies are being encouraged through the proposed School of Science and Cross-Cultural Studies. There is a long-term vision of making The University of Fiji the intellectual and cultural centre of the west.



Professor Ruwendra Nandan, Dean of the School of Business and Economics (SoBE) and Professor in

Accounting, is an esteemed Accounting scholar with numerous publications to his name. Two of the recent ones being 'Climate change accounting: The challenge of uncertainty in Pacific Islands, International Journal of Critical Accounting,' Volume 9, (2017) and 'Networks in knowledge-intensive industry: the case of a regional accountants' network, Journal of Accounting and Organisational Change,' Volume 10, (2014). He was instrumental in getting the Certified Practicing Accountants Australia's (CPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) accreditations for the Bachelor of Commerce programme at UniFiji.



Professor Tupeni Baba, Professor in Education and Dean for School of Humanities and Arts (SoHA),

is a renowned academic and former political leader. He has been a Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in his political career. Professor Baba has been a Consultant in areas of Research, Evaluation, Pacific Education and Pacific Development and has a varied range of publications with the most recent one being 'Na Vuku ni Vanua: Wisdom of the Land' (2014).



Professor Shaista Shameen, the Dean of Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDP SoL), is a strong legal advocate of holistic development

of student life. She was previously the Director of Fiji Human Rights Commission. Professor Shameem has the International Relations and Diplomacy (INR) programmes under her school and recently added PhD programmes in Law and International Relations and Diplomacy for JDP SoL. She is a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts (London). Professor Shameem has successfully completed her Doctorate in Juridical Science from Waikato University.



P r o f e s s o r
Anirudh Singh,
Dean of the
School of Science
and technology
(SoST), is the
Professor in
Physics and
P r o g r a m m e

Coordinator of the Masters in Renewable Energy Management. He is widely published, his recent publications being 'Talking Renewables – A renewable energy primer for everyone (2018)'. Professor Singh comes with a wealth of knowledge as a researcher and teacher of science.



P r o f e s s o r
F r e d e r i c k
Merchant, Dean
of Umanand
Prasad School
of Medicine and
Health Science
(UPSM & HS),
has a long and
widely recognized
S c i e n c e -

Pharmaceutical-Surgical career. He joined UPSM & HS in its inaugural year, 2009, as Professor of Surgery and Anatomy. He brings with him vast surgical experience. He has Fellowships in Surgical Oncology and Blunt/Penetrating Trauma and Cardiovascular Surgery combined with Research and Clinical Teaching. He has many scientific publications as well as articles in creative writing under his name. With a line of well qualified and broadly experienced Deans, and with the Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Subramani's leadership, The University of Fiji is ready for a significant leap forward as the nation's premier Higher education institution.

UniFiji April Graduation



Professor Subramani (middle) with Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Anil Tikaram (First from right), Professor Shaista Shameem (second from right), Professor Tupeni Baba (First from left), Ms. Shirley Prasad (third from left) and council members, at the graduation ceremony.

The University of Fiji celebrated its first graduation of the year on March 29, 2019. 229 students graduated in various disciplines including Commerce, Science, Law, International Relations and Medical field.

The following was the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani's remarks during the graduation:

"In recent weeks, the University of Fiji has experienced a rare breath of new life. Therefore, I want to begin this address by expressing our honest gratitude to the University Council and the Arya Pratinidhi Sabah who have placed, what looks like, unconditional trust in the academic community of this institution. This has given opportunity to unfolding of many possibilities. And it is now our responsibility to explain how we intend to translate that goodwill gesture into real ideals and practices.

We want to begin with the issue of greatest importance: the matter of collective wisdom because any institution without clear vision and concepts leads a blind life. We take strength from the fact that The University of Fiji is the only Peoples' University, the crowning achievement of investment in education by the workers and farmers of this country. Furthermore we have drawn inspiration from the words of the noble Founder of the Sabah who says, "He is good and wise who always speaks the truth, and acts on the dictate of virtue, and makes others good and happy." His words are more relevant today than ever before because truth,

virtue, goodness, and human happiness have come under a great deal of strain in recent times.

The search for truth has been the perennial goal of universities, both in the sciences and humanities, ever since 'a community

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of teachers and scholars' was first conceived in the middle ages in the West. Well before that it echoed in educational institutions in Asia and Africa. The value of truth resonates with new urgency in today's world inundated, as it is, by untruths, half truths and alternative facts. The latter part of the Founder's words – acting on the dictates of

virtue and making others good and happy – has lost its meaning for homo sapiens. Not only universities but also modern education in general has closed its mind to such noble ideas and thoughts. In their short-sighted devotion to vocational and technical goals, to accelerate short-term economic development, schools and colleges have lost their way. They confuse training with education. Universities are not just transmitters but also creators of knowledge. Of course, we can go producing technicians and middle level managers; at the same time we should have strategies in the system to resist all forms of dehumanization or making us less than what we are meant to be. The Sabha is absolutely right in emphasizing the need to evolve a society where everyone is literate. We interpret literacy broadly, that is, not merely as the ability to read and write; that is the minimum

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

requirement.

Literacy has cultural, humanist and spiritual dimensions that argue for education of the complete person.

In order to give force to these ideals and associated practices we have adopted the principle of shared governance for The University of Fiji. We have appointed some of the best scholars and educators as Deans of the university. Whether through the workings of destiny or mere chance, they have gravitated to this university at a critical time. They are individuals who understand facing adversity and building resilience; they stood up as leaders during the most turbulent period of the country's history, and at this difficult and challenging hour at this institution, they have stepped forward from safe academic life to assume responsibility of the governance of this university.

Professor Tupeni Baba is Dean of School of Humanities and Arts; Professor Frederick Merchant Dean of Umanand Prasad School of Medicine & Health Sciences; Professor Shaista Shameem Dean of Devendra Pathik School of Law; Professor Ruvendra Nandan Dean of School of Business and Economics; and Professor Anirudh Singh Dean of School of Science and Technology.

Although belonging to different academic disciplines, they share common belief in the autonomy of the institution, in safeguarding truth, and aspiring for what is good and virtuous beyond self-interest. They know that we cannot continue to call ourselves 'a young university in transition'; we must maintain we have, in fact, arrived. Together with senior colleagues they are now forging strategies to negotiate the university through conflicting, and sometimes contradictory, demands of the Higher Education Commission, the nation state, stakeholders, benchmark laid out by international academic community, and expectations of students and parents bringing all these to terms without wavering from the fundamentals of what it means to be a university is an enormous undertaking, which is like redesigning the institution. It is a responsibility we have to accept with fortitude.

They will review in particular the many dilemmas faced by the Medical School, and expand support for it through a network of 'friends of UPSM & HS' in Fiji and the diaspora. The School is gaining the power of rehabilitation and recovery, to use medical metaphors. We know that born out of the noble dream of a Fijian philanthropist, the

Medical School must succeed and continue to evolve and thrive in new fields like medical research.

After the initial phase of borrowing and duplicating, trying to learn from others, we are poised to ask the unavoidable question: 'What is it that The University of Fiji can do that other institutions have either neglected, ignored or are unable to offer'. One thing no one can replicate is our location. Established between two townships we have all the advantages to become the educational, cultural and intellectual centre of the West. First, we will become more firmly rooted in the communities around us by responding to their scientific and technical needs. The university must assume responsibility for their socio-cultural progress. By thus defining ourselves as community-related that the university will be less of a middle class enterprise. No doubt there are multiple challenges, of taking care of the cultural and linguistic well-being of our people, enlarging their choices, empowering them and enriching their life. We will radically transform ourselves in the process as the educational and cultural centre reinforced by increasing public spaces on the campus, holding international conferences, important seminars, seminal public lectures, readings and arts festivals. We have had very productive dialogue with the student body that conceptualizes quality in an enlightened way, refusing to see themselves as customers and clients: they are primarily university students. It is gratifying to know they are engaged in developing a robust campus life through clubs and various collectives. They too are defenders of the broad vision of the university.

Our statement on values education is not just empty rhetoric. In a world of rising hate and supremacist agendas, education in values become not just our priority but should be the burning concern of all educational institutions. We ourselves have been close to the point of breaking up as a plural society; we do not want to go there again. As interpreter of the future, which means being a few steps ahead, the university must know what are the greatest threats facing humanity in the rest of this century; they are the mayhem on the internet, biotech and infotech revolutions and the uncertain future of work, new tribalism and unfriendly, even hostile, attitude towards people who are different. The new university of the 21st century must reinvent or become irrelevant. If we look at our school curriculum, it is already too cluttered; there is no room for original and

imaginative programs, and our universities either mistakenly or arrogantly believe their work is 'academic' and not cultivating emotional or spiritual intelligence. At The University of Fiji we have planted the seeds through a couple of international seminars on human values; we have plans for workshops for our staff because moral rehabilitation must begin with ourselves. The individual human being is the active agent of change and emancipation. We want our collegial life to be steeped in values of compassion, care and love-words that modern academia has erased out of its educational agenda. But they are precisely the values that preserve and enhance life, and produce noble deeds and great culture.

Language is central to our cultural enterprise, especially vernacular language. We have the only Institute of iTaukei studies in the country, which is gradually realizing its potential, and soon it will be complemented by the Institute of Hindi Language and Culture. These two institutes are entrusted with the responsibility of resisting any further erosion of our local languages. They are integral part of the consciousness of this institution.

This morning we are awarding the second doctoral degree. We have conceptualized a Graduate School that will prepare scholars and professionals who will take up elite positions in our country. We will approach the University Council and the Arya Pratinidhi Subha to establish an Endowment Board with membership drawn from here and the Fijian Diaspora to support such initiatives.

You would have noticed this morning's address is not about our woes; we have plenty of that and we can make a long list. This address is definitely not about setbacks and afflictions. Let me say there is a lot of goodwill here, and things are looking bright: our student numbers and finances are relatively stable and what is most heartening, there is now a spirit of optimism in the university community, and that alone can overcome many of our troubles.

I have turned to another facility unique to this university-the Tagore Centre – to find words to support that growing optimism. The poet-philosopher, who initiated an extraordinary experiment in higher education, Rabindranath Tagore, composed the following lines:

Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high,

where knowledge is free.

Where the world has not been broken up
into fragments by narrow domestic walls.

Where words come from the depth of truth,
Where tireless striving stretches its arms
toward perfection.

Where the clear stream of reason has not
lost its way

into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.

Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever widening thought and action.

In to that heaven of freedom, my father,
LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE!

The lines capture most elegantly our theme
of truth, freedom, and awakened intellect.

We urge those who are graduating this
morning to hold these words close to your
heart; they will motivate you to find a point
of view to help define who you are as a
person and fill you with infinite joy in that
discovery."

Chancellor Praised UniFiji during Graduation

The University of Fiji continues to
contribute heavily to the local and
international workforce by churning out
graduates in fields ranging from medicine
to climate change.

In late March, 229 students graduated
with diplomas, degrees, masters and even
a doctorate during the University's March
graduation ceremony. So far, over 3000
students have graduated from the University
since 2008. This has garnered praise from
the University's Chancellor, Ratu Epeli
Nailatikau, who commended the increasing
number of admissions to the school.

"This year student numbers have increased
to 2626," he said.

"This means that the University's catch
phrase of "For Quality Affordable
Education, It Must Be UniFiji" is catching
on. This speaks volumes of the University's
accessibility to students from diverse
cultures and backgrounds.

"This graduation will witness more than 200
students graduating in various programmes.
The enormous contribution of the families
to be the success of their children is
applauded. This is an investment not only
for the family but also for the nation.



The Chancellor, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau garlanded during the graduation ceremony.

"These new graduates add up to 3000 plus
students who have successfully graduated
since 2008. It is pleasing to note that
increased enrolment over the years has
seen more students graduating, thus adding
value to the existing UniFiji alumni."

He said the University took much pride
in the recent developments that have been
accomplished.

Reiterating these comments, University's
Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor
Subramani said they had adopted the
principle of shared governance for The
University of Fiji.

"We have appointed some of the best
scholars and educators as deans of the
University," he said.

"Whether through the workings of destiny
or mere chance, they have gravitated to this
University at a critical time.

"They are individuals who understand
facing adversity and building resilience,
they stood up as leaders during the most
turbulent period of the country's history, and
at this difficult and challenging hour at this
institution, they have stepped forward from
safe academic life to assume responsibility
of the governance of this University."

Professor Subramani also highlighted the
benefit of location.

He said with the campus established
between two townships, the University
had all the advantages to become the
educational, cultural and intellectual centre
of the Western Division.

"First, we will become more firmly rooted
in the communities around us by responding
to their scientific and technical needs.

"The University must
assume responsibility
for their socio-cultural
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the University will be
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"We will radically
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seminars, seminal public lectures, readings
and arts festivals.

"We have had very productive dialogue
with the student body that conceptualises
quality in an enlightened way, refusing to
see themselves as customers and clients.
They are primarily University students."

Further to his comment, the Chancellor
elaborated that UniFiji has numerous
collaborations with international bodies
to advance research in the field of climate
change. Some of the bodies include China
Ocean Development Foundation, World
Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Pacific
Island Development Forum (PIDF), Ocean
Policy Research Institute Japan, University
of South Florida and the Ocean Foundation
among others. He gave the example of the
School of Science and Technology which
continues its commitment in carrying out
activities, programmes and research to
create more awareness of climate change in
the general public.

"Some of the key research areas include
marine spatial planning, ocean acidification,
blue economy, climigration, renewable
energy, forecasting and modelling and
ocean science and governance," he noted.

He concluded by stating that the
international collaborations gave UniFiji
global exposure.

Second PhD graduate for UniFiji



Dr. (Ms.) Kamala Naiker.

KAMALA Naiker awarded PhD in Literature

The pioneer Masters student who graduated from The University of Fiji in 2009 has been an important figure in the school as the Head of Department for Language, Literature and Communication.

In Late March, she graduated from the University again, this time with a doctorate, earning a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English Studies.

She said her journey was captivating.

“I had an enthusiasm to study further to complete PhD studies in English,” she said.

“Zestfully, in Semester 1, 2010, I registered in this programme. While researching in 2010, in the middle of this search, I accidentally discovered a novel with a startling title *Wife* (1975) by Bharati Mukherjee, which immediately pulled my attention. The blurb on this fiction indicated that my search for an author that I could study for my dissertation was Bharati Mukherjee. It saved me from doing any further search for an acclaimed international author. Mukherjee was my choice to investigate the subject of women in their homeland and abroad. Her novels explore the ways in which women deal with the pain of exile, alienation and isolation. Conversely, this text approach matters relating to the liberation of women from the oppressive social order of patriarchy and the traumatic experience of immigration, matters of identity and agency within an overarching patriarchal and alienating world,” she stated.

She carried out a discussion with her then supervisor, Dr. Jyoti Nandan, to read more about the writer and her novels.

Unfortunately, her supervisor left for Australia and Ms. Naiker was left to complete her thesis on her own.

Despite this, she soldiered on, buoyed by the support of her family and friends.

“With Professor Subramani on board, I enrolled in Semester 2, 2018, polished my thesis under his guidance and submitted it for examination. The positive results from the examiners elated me, my family and friends. A dream come true, a vision of my parents! A feather added to my cap with my Doctoral certificate!”

Her children Neelam and Mithran were equally thrilled with their mother’s achievement.

They said despite all the sacrifices, their mother always had time

for them and had taught them to be resilient and adaptable.

“It is quite astounding to us that she was able to complete a transition from Science to Arts, through completing Diploma, Bachelor of Arts, and Masters and PhD degrees, all while having two children and holding down full-time teaching jobs to which she devoted significant attention given her passion for Education. And yet we don’t remember a moment when she didn’t have time for us,” they said.

A total of 229 students graduated in various disciplines including Commerce, Science, Law, International Relations and Medical field.

Science Student Scoops Vice-Chancellor’s Medal



Nikhilta Gounder (middle) with proud parents Mr. Samantham Gounder and Ms. Muni Latchmi Gounder.

For many students, receiving their hard earned diplomas and degrees after years of grueling studies can be intensely gratifying.

It is not just the students who feel elated, but their parents, also; often have to make sacrifices in order to put their children through school, feel a sense of accomplishment.

Nikhilta Nirvani Gounder, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Biology and Chemistry got recognised as the top student out of the 229 graduands.

The Lautoka lass was presented with the Vice-Chancellor’s Award.

The 22-year old was also awarded the Most Outstanding Student in Biology and

Chemistry. Ms. Gounder was also named the Most Outstanding Student for the School of Science and Technology.

The eldest of two children, began her University journey in 2016.

She said that despite being a top student during her Secondary School

years, her external results were consistently not up to par to her expectations. She said that she needed to prove her caliber to people.

“I have proved myself to people and made my parents proud. The four medals are proof of this,” she stated.

Ms Gounder said that she wanted to pursue a career in Science as she did not want to be stuck at a desk job. Instead she wanted to travel around, explore and learn new things each day.

She intends to pursue her postgraduate studies in Biology and Chemistry in the near future.

Passion to Study Language



Ms. Emele Tabucala, all smiles after receiving her degree.

All thanks to the Lord Almighty.

This was the message of Emele Cakosawaieke Tabucala, 33, after she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English Language and Literature and iTaukei Studies.

In addition to this, Ms. Tabucala was awarded the Outstanding iTaukei Language

and Culture Student medal.

Originally from Baleyaganiga, Vaturova in the Cakaudrove province, Ms. Tabucala's journey began five years ago when she moved from Labasa to Makoi with her school teacher husband who was transferred to Suva.

The mother-of-two, a daughter aged four and a son aged four months, found it difficult to adjust in the big city.

"My husband, who was teaching Vosa Vakaviti back then, was posted to a prominent school in Viti Levu so we had no choice but to move, as a family too," she said.

"While my husband was teaching, I also had chance to read his text books based on culture and language in iTaukei. Thus one day, we talked and agreed that I should continue with my studies, not in journalism but in language since my favourite subject was English back in high school," she said.

"Through my English mark in 2005, I was able to work as a junior news and sports

reporter for Fiji Sun based in the North as well in Suva. While working for Fiji Sun, I lost my biological father who was a heart disease patient. Life was not easy as I was always his pet. This incident too has encouraged me to continue my studies accompanied by the guidance of my husband," she added.

She said this was a milestone achievement for her family and being named an outstanding student was a surprise.

"When we travelled to Lautoka to attend the rehearsal, my husband kept insisting to check my GPA. I got a feeling he knew I deserved to get a special award. When my name was called out, I was speechless and I could not stop my tears rolling. These were tears of joy after all the hard work and sacrifice my family and I had to go through in order to attain that medal," she said.

She plans to complete her graduate diploma in teaching at The University of Fiji next semester before continuing her postgraduate studies.

UniFiji a Vibrant University- Ali



Sharukh Ali with his Bachelor of Law degree.

The University of Fiji is a vibrant University, said an elated Bachelor of Law graduate, Sharukh Ali. The 26 year old said that by studying at the University, he was able to

achieve his dreams and much more.

"I always wanted to become a lawyer. Studying at UniFiji, I was

not only taught to be a competent lawyer, I was developed holistically. The JDP School of Law taught us law not only by using conventional methods, we were also able to learn by means of plays, weekly seminars hosted by various individuals, and much more," he stated.

Mr. Ali further explained that the lecturers were of high calibre and much more came with a wealth of knowledge.

"The lecturers at the School came with a wealth of knowledge having previously worked in the field. Law is something

that needs to be taught face to face and having lecturers who have mastered their art in the real world, meant that we were always taught with practical examples," he commented.

Adding to this point, he said that the law programme was well structured and once one started, he/she would learn more and more each day.

Mr. Ali has just completed his Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice at the University and plans to work as a civil lawyer, in the future or to follow an academic path. He was among 229 students who graduated in various disciplines from The University of Fiji on March 29, 2019.

Family Support and Competitive Mindset Motivation for Success- Sharma

Recipient of the Master of Information Technology Medal, Mr. Neeraj Sharma, says that support from his parents and having a competitive mindset steered him towards success.

"Seeing my parents happy and their continuous support and encouragement kept motivating me to go even further. Also, having a competitive mindset helps

when it comes to studies," he said.

Talking about his journey, Mr. Sharma stated that he was not the brightest in primary and high school but when he joined The University of Fiji everything changed.

"I got enrolled in the



Mr. Neeraj Sharma (second from left) with other Masters of IT graduate and UniFiji staff.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Bachelors of Information Technology programme in 2012 and graduated in 2015, where I received an award for Most Outstanding Student in IT. This motivated me to further my studies even more as I found IT easier and easier as the level progressed. I completed the Postgraduate Diploma in IT within two years and after its graduation and award, I took up the Masters by thesis programme,” he explained.

Elaborating on his point, Mr. Sharma said that studying Information Technology at UniFiji was particularly exceptional

because of the intense course content in conjunction with thesis which helped him publish various papers.

He advises students that are doing Masters should motivate their family and friends and encourage them to study as well.

“This will have a good impact on a person with children. Seeing their parents study will also motivate them and will allow them to have a healthy mindset when it comes to studies in the future,” he mentioned.

Mr. Sharma is currently vying for a scholarship for his PhD programme.



Ambassador Kamlesh Arya.

UniFiji bids Farewell to Former Registrar

The University of Fiji bid farewell to Ambassador Kamlesh Arya on December 12, 2018. He was the Registrar of the University since 2012.

Ambassador Arya, in his 6 years at the University, made tremendous impact on staff and students life. He worked tirelessly to forward the University’s goals. Ambassador Arya was actively involved in community engagement projects including

speaking at various events and occasions organized in the communities, talking to school students and teachers about the University and much more. Ambassador Arya was especially liked by all staff and students for his warm greetings and humble personality.

The University thanks Ambassador Arya for his services, dedication and support over the last 6 years and wishes him well for his future endeavours.

New Registrar Appointed



The Registrar, Ms. Karishma Mani.

and graduation. Ms Mani managed the Student Disability Unit, Student Campus Life Unit, University Student Sports, Health/welfare and Residential life Unit and the Student Career Services Unit. She also served in many committees and developed policies and practices for student services management.

Ms. Mani holds degrees from The University of the South Pacific in Masters in Commerce (Management and Public Administration) and Bachelor in Banking & Finance and Management. The wealth of knowledge and experience she has gained in her 8 years of working at a tertiary institute is a huge advantage to UniFiji. Excited

with her new role, she said that her major goals include transition to the new Student Management System and strengthen a student centric culture.

“I am extremely excited with my new role at The University of Fiji,” she said.

“I look forward to working closely with the students, my team, the academics and other stakeholders. I have a list of things that I

want to introduce and implement for taking this University to new heights,” Ms. Mani commented.

Originally from Lautoka, Ms. Mani had always wanted to work amidst her own community and being a part of UniFiji family has provided her this opportunity.

Welcome to The University of Fiji, Ms. Karishma Mani!

JDP School of Law Holds First BEMA of the Year

The Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law held its first BEMA event of the year on Friday, April 5, 2019 with Professor George Edwards as the keynote speaker.

Professor Edwards highlighted on the importance of the ‘right to appropriate food’ as a state obligation pursuant to the international (UN) conventions, especially the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) that Fiji ratified in 2018.

Assisted by celebrity award winning Chef Robert Oliver, Professor Edwards told a packed Lecture

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Theatre at Samabula Campus, with VBC to Saweni Campus, that it was the state's legal responsibility to provide its citizens not only with adequate food, but also appropriate food that would alleviate the epidemic levels of NCDs faced by Fiji and other Pacific island countries.

Contributing to the discussion was Fiji Higher Education Commission's Dr. Nikhat Shameem who said that the legal obligation should be included in Fijian schools' educational curriculum because bad habits regarding inappropriate foods were set early in childhood and were hard to eradicate when people reached adulthood.

Robert Oliver added that the medium of television was also very important to ensure that both adults and children received the right message about the types

of food that should be available to alleviate diseases currently facing the Pacific Island communities. He said that the Pacific was a natural home for healthy, fresh food but people had been hoodwinked into thinking imported food was better than local food.

Another contributor, Mr. Kini Keteca, Senior Lecturer at the JDP School of Law, made a strong point that young people should be taught to garden and plant food from a very young age as part of their educational curriculum in order to appreciate the fresh

and healthy foods that could easily be grown in Fiji.

The JDP School of Law would be holding more Bema sessions in the near future.



Professor George Edwards with JDP School of Law staff and students.

UniFiji Alumnus Appointed First Secretary at Fijian High Commission in PNG



Mr. Paulo Daurewa during his graduation in 2018.

The University of Fiji alumnus, Mr. Paulo Daurewa was recently appointed the First Secretary at the Fiji High Commission in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Mr. Daurewa graduated with top honours bagging a gold medal in the graduation class of 2017 in International Relations and Diplomacy (INRD), in the JDP School of Law.

Mr. Daurewa, with a background in engineering and teaching, joined UniFiji with the goal to join the Foreign Services either locally or abroad.

Talking about his experience at the University, Mr. Daurewa complemented the lecturers saying that they were very professional and informative with over 30 years of experience in the field.

"Courses were both academic and practical in nature where the lecturers allowed us to engage with students from Samabula Campus. Studying at UniFiji expanded my

horizon and I was able to understand the role of being a Diplomat and the requirements it entailed. Now I am a Diplomat in a Foreign Country and representing Fiji at the World Stage," he stated.

He commented that he would recommend studying INR to people from all walks of life including mature students who are already in the Foreign Service but do not have qualifications in INR and young students who have a passion in Foreign Affairs and World Politics.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and many Multinational Organisations are now seeking employees who have qualifications in INR. Foreign Service Officers have the opportunity to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with overseas organisations that help them understand different cultures, languages and the atmosphere of working in a foreign country. The family also has the opportunity to meet new friends and develop a network that is global. Kids attend International Schools, enjoy benefits of being part of a Diplomat's family, travel the world and experience a whole new life away from home," he said.

Mr. Daurewa hopes return to UniFiji one day and teach INR to aspiring new students who have a passion for international relations. Mr. Daurewa is now a PhD student in the INRD programme

Vetting of Year 9 English Syllabus/Text Book

The Department of Language, Literature and Communication of The University of Fiji played a fundamental role in vetting Year 9 English Syllabus and Text Books. Dr. Kamala Naiker, Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Mr. Satesh Kumar were part of the 2 Day workgroup meeting for English facilitators at Natabua High School on May 30-31, 2018.

The then Senior Education Officer English at Curriculum Advisory Services, Ministry of Education, Ms. Roshni Devi extended the invite to the trio to be part of the vetting process. HOD LLC, Dr. Naiker was elated to significantly contribute to the vetting process. Ms. Kaur stated that: 'The Year 9 English Syllabus and Text Book are undergoing major reforms and the LLC Department's input and suggestions as key stakeholders and language providers are welcoming'. Mr. Kumar was also part of a similar 2 Day workgroup meeting in the Central Division as well.

Dr. Naiker and Ms. Kaur suggested the team to make the curriculum user friendly and at the same time impressed upon three key components to be included in the vetting of the syllabus and that is: relevance, quality and appropriateness of the curriculum.

This appointment further saw LLC academics contribution in the writing of the English curriculum. One of Dr. Naiker's creative pieces titled Please Let Me Speak featured in the Year 9 English Textbook for study purpose at this level. The Senior

Education Officer, English Section, Ms. Roshni Devi approached the duo to submit their poems and short stories for the Year 9 Textbook.

Please Let Me Speak
Kamala Lakshmi Naiker

Please let me speak today
I fear
The sweetness of yours words

Let me speak today
My hands reached to cause you pain
Please forgive me.

My hands tortured you
But you never protested
Never for a minute
Please let me speak.

You were fulfilling your responsibility
I was blinded by my revenge
Giving way to hatred
Please forgive me.

Please let me speak
The guilt will remain
If I do not speak today
The guilt will remain with me forever
Please let me speak, Please forgive me.

World Language Day Celebrations

The University of Fiji celebrated World Language Day on Thursday, February 28 and Friday, March 1, 2019.

The staff and students' talents as writers



Ms. Manpreet Kaur, Ms. Kamala Naiker and Mr. Satesh Kumar vetting the syllabus.

and artists were exhibited in the University foyer. Colourful posters illustrated the myriad aspects of language and the poems and short stories on display attested to the versatility of the faculty and students with the written word.

Language week recognized the important role that languages played in all areas of life. It celebrated the diversity that multi-linguism gave to the people of a multi-ethnic nation like Fiji.

Dr. Kamala Naiker, Head of the Language, Literature and Communications (LLC) Department and the progenitor of this event at the University said, "The art of communication is the language of leadership. Language is the greatest communication in the world."

The LLC Department thanked the former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narendra Reddy and former Dean of School of Humanities and Arts, Ms. Prathika Gounder for supporting the initiative of the Department to observe this significant day and to showcase appropriate displays.

The University is grateful to its dynamic Head, Dr. Kamala Naiker for her foresight, vision and energy in recognizing the need to celebrate such occasions. The efforts of the staff, under-graduate and post-graduate students are also acknowledged for their creative contributions.



LLC Staff and Students with their displays in the foyer.

Milestone Achievement for the Education Department

It was a memorial occasion for the education department when Professor Tupeni Baba handed over the two examiners' reports of the EdD Thesis of Nilesh Anish Narayan. Both the reports were overwhelmingly good and the examiners were pleased with the standard of the thesis presentation.

One of the examiners commended Nilesh and ordained the thesis as a novel presentation of fresher insights while the other saw the thesis as worthy of publication because of its uniqueness. The topic of Nilesh's thesis was "A Mixed Methods Investigation of the Factors Impacting Teaching and Learning of Mathematics in Secondary Schools".

The Head of Education Department, Associate Professor, Dr. Wahab Ali was elated to receive such good examiners' reports from the Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts, Professor Tupeni Baba.

Associate Professor Dr. Wahab Ali was the Principal Supervisor while Professor Tupeni Baba was the Associate Supervisor. Nilesh is the first EdD student to have successfully reached

this stage. The student will address the minor changes and will graduate with a Doctor of Education degree in December, 2019.



Dr. Wahab Ali (left) receiving the examiners' report of the PhD thesis from Professor Tupeni Baba.

UniFiji Science Students Plant 1000 Mangrove Seeds



Students planting mangroves at Saweni Beach.

The University of Fiji's School of Science and Technology (SoST) students in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry planted 1000 mangrove seeds at Saweni Beach on Monday, March 11, 2019. This was done to commemorate "World Earth Day" and help the Ministry achieve its goal to plant 4 million trees in 4 years.

A Total of 26 second year students enrolled

in the biodiversity and conservation course were accompanied by the teaching staff of The University of Fiji to plant mangroves to help raise awareness about environmental issues.

"We planted mangroves to preserve the natural environment and habitat for marine species. Mangroves do not only provide livelihood to coastal communities, it also prevents coastal erosion, abrasion, and helps in combating the effects of global climate change. It is one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world which needs to be protected due to its ecological and economical importance," said Ms. Zafia Naaz of the School of Science and Technology.

Mr. Setareki Nanuloilagi, who is the forester extension at Ministry of Forestry, West, helped provide the mangrove seedlings and also accompanied the students at the site. His team demonstrated how to plant mangrove seedlings to the students.

The University of Fiji has been consistent with its efforts to make a difference in the community through its various community outreach programmes. One such effort was SoST hosting monthly seminar sessions in the lead-up to COP23 in Germany. Mangrove planting activity has also been carried out by the Science Department in previous years to help rehabilitate and regenerate coastal habitats.

Therefore the students who took part got an opportunity to interact and engage in conservation methods which they can later practice in their own homes and communities.

UPSM & HS Students Advocate on Personal Hygiene



Dr. Bijend Ram (middle) with UPSM & HS students at Maigania Muslim School.

Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences' students, led by Dr. Bijend Ram and Dr. Sakiusa Mainwalala, as part of their community outreach programme, held a session with students of Maigania Muslim Primary School.

The session focused on the importance of hand washing followed by a demonstration on the correct method of hand washing

through dance.

Creative ways to impart knowledge on health is at the core of the community health studies at the University.

Hence, UPSM & HS carries out community outreach programmes as such on a regular basis. Last year, students were involved in various activities such as free community health screenings, clean-up campaigns, blood drives, and visiting communities and advocating about certain health issues and much more.

More programmes have been set out by the School for the coming year.

Youth Development Workshop

The Marketing and Public Relations Officer, Ms. Shirley Prasad attended the Ministry of Youths and Sports Workshop held at Tanoa International Hotel on Friday, 8 February.

The workshop was attended by approximately 48 stakeholders based in the Western division to discuss youth development. The theme of the workshop was 'Strengthening partnerships in youth and sports development'. The Chief Guest was Mr. Jone Nemani, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Ms. Prasad presented on the programmes

offered at The University of Fiji and where the graduands were after graduating. She mentioned that apart from academic learning, they involved the students in other events, workshops, research and conferences to broaden their horizon.

"Whenever we have any public engagement such as workshops, open days or seminars, we allow our students to take the lead. Some help in preparation, while some actively take part on the day. This builds public speaking, analytical

and leadership skills," Ms. Prasad said.

"Last year, the University hosted the Commonwealth Youth Forum and we are proud that we bring such exposure to the



Ms. Shirley Prasad (sitting row, first from left) with other participants at the workshop.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

youth in the western division,” Ms. Prasad added.

She requested the representatives from the Ministries and other partners present to assist the students in sports development as the University did not have enough facilities to run the minor sports.

Through this workshop, there are possibilities of partnerships with Fiji Tennis, the Australian Government and the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Western Branch.

A workshop of this nature was good as it brought new ideas and collaborations. The outcome of the workshop will be collated by the Ministry to be included in the 2019-2020 Operational plans.

IT Services Ticketing System

The IT Services Department (ITS) at The University of Fiji has implemented IT Service Ticketing software to assist the department in providing better service to staff and students. This software helps the team to properly record user requests/issues and to make sure that the requests/issues are attended to on time by the assigned IT officer.

If a staff or student faces any IT related issues or needs to make a request, they will have to

call or email the ITS. An ITS personnel will log into the system and assign the request to the officer responsible. The system will create a priority level (low, medium, high and emergency) of the request/issue.

The issuer of the request will then get an email from the ITS Ticketing System stating that a ticket has been created on his/her behalf. This is an auto generated email from the system once the request is logged.

The system will then keep on notifying the ITS officer through email that the ticket is due. The interval of the ticket notification will depend on the priority level assigned. Progress reports will be sent to the person to whom the ticket is issued for. The system will notify in a separate email once the issue has been resolved or request has been fulfilled.

Maintaining Systems Documentation has always been a challenge for the IT Services Department therefore in order to overcome this challenge, the team has implemented an online system for maintaining documentations of internal systems. The online system maintains the documentation in a structured and organised manner with advance search

features.

When asked what next plan in line was, the Manager of Information Technology department Mr. Joel Anjaiya said that they are now concentrating on online room booking system.

“All these systems are open source software and implementing them did not involve any cost to the University. The software is modified and implemented in-house by my team,” Mr. Anjaiya said.

Mr. Anjaiya worked as the University’s Systems Administrator for over 2 years and he later joined again as Manager IT Services from January, 2019.

The team strives to serve the University community through its mission statement “Creating Value through Technology!”



From Left: Mr. Avin Prasad, Mr. Arjun Pillay, Manager IT- Mr. Joel Anjaiya, Mr. John Eastgate, Mr. Emosi Fong and Ms. Manaini Rokotuivuna.

Ministry of Education’s Careers Expo

Various teams from The University of Fiji participated in the Careers Expo throughout the country as part of building its community relations. The expo was organized by the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts.



First row, from left: Professor Anirudh Singh, Professor Tupeni Baba, Ms. Shirley Prasad with other stakeholders at the Careers Expo at Tilak High School.

The theme for this year was “No child to be left behind”.

The Expo was organized with the intention of effectively contributing and supporting government’s desire to leverage the education system and workforce and to promote Pillar 9 of the Charter for Change, Peace and Progress in making Fiji a knowledge based society by reaching out and creating more awareness in rural and maritime areas that greatly need information and services around the country.

As envisioned in the Strategic Plan 2017-2021, the expo not only acted as a strategy to broaden the University’s

student recruitment spectrum, it also acted as a means of community engagement.

At the Expo, Year 12 and 13 students were advised on the University’s programmes, its strategic intent and why they should choose UniFiji. Other students, including Primary School students, were given career advises such as what subjects they needed to take in order to get into a certain programme.

Professor Anirudh Singh, Dean of the School of Science and Technology, was the Chief Guest for the Ministry of Education’s Careers Expo at Tilak High School, on April 5, 2019. The Careers Expo at Tilak High School was attended by all Lautoka and Nadi Secondary Schools. Some primary schools were also a part of the expo.

The Expos were successful in transmitting the information to potential students and the University intends to partake similar events in the future.

29th April, 2019 - Graduation AVC – Message Hindi Translation

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी में इस वर्ष का प्रथम ग्रेजुएशन 29 मार्च को आयोजित किया गया। इस दौरान विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में 229 विद्यार्थी ग्रेजुएट हुए। सर्व प्रथम वाइस चान्सेलर प्रोफेसर सुब्रमनी ने इस विश्वविद्यालय के शैक्षणिक समुदाय के प्रति अपना विश्वास प्रकट करने के लिए ‘विश्व विद्यालय परिषद’ और ‘आर्य प्रतिनिधि सभा’ के प्रति कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि अनेक इस विश्वास के कारण अनेक सम्भावनाओं को उजागर करने का अवसर हमें प्राप्त हुआ है। अब यह समझना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है कि हमको सद्भावना और विश्वास के साथ, आदर्शों एवं प्रथाओं का पालन करते हुए, इसे कार्य रूप में परिवर्तित करना है।

इस बात का हमें गर्व है कि यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी एक पब्लिक विश्वविद्यालय है, जो इस देश के किसानों और श्रमिकों द्वारा खड़ा किया गया देश का प्रथम विश्वविद्यालय है। इसके साथ ही हमें सभा के संस्थापकों से प्रेरणा मिलती है जो यह मानते हैं, “वही अच्छा और बुद्धिमान है, जो हमेशा सच बोलता है और कार्यरत रहता है।” विज्ञान और मानवीकरण दोनों क्षेत्रों में सत्य की खोज करना विश्वविद्यालय लक्ष्य का रहा है। साक्षरता को जैसा कि सभी समझते हैं, केवल पढ़ना और लिखना, यह तो बहुत छोटी समझ है। साक्षरता में सांस्कृतिक, मानवतावादी और आध्यात्मिक आयाम जुड़े हैं, जो एक व्यक्ति को पूर्ण शिक्षित बनाते हैं। इस सिद्धान्त को अपनाने के लिए, इस विश्वविद्यालय में हमने इन आदर्शों को मान्यता दी है। इसके लिए हमने यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी में सर्वश्रेष्ठ विद्वानों और शिक्षकों की नियुक्त की है। इस महत्वपूर्ण समय में ये ऐसे विद्वान हैं जो प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों में भी आगे बढ़ने का हौसला रखते हैं और तत्पर रहते हैं।

प्रोफेसर तुपेनी बाबा ‘स्कूल ऑफ ह्यूमैनिटीज’ के डीन हैं; प्रोफेसर फ्रेडरिक मर्चेंट ‘उमानन्द प्रसाद स्कूल ऑफ मेडिसन एण्ड एमप, स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान’ के डीन हैं; प्रोफेसर शाइस्ता शमीम ‘देवेन्द्र पथिक स्कूल ऑफ लॉ’ की डीन हैं; प्रोफेसर रूवेन्द्र नंदन ‘स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस एंड इकोनॉमिक्स’ के डीन हैं; प्रोफेसर अनिरुद्ध सिंह ‘स्कूल ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी’ के डीन हैं। हालांकि ये विभिन्न स्कूलों से जुड़े हुए हैं परन्तु ये विश्वविद्यालय की सामान्य धारणाओं को स्वार्थ से परे रखकर, जो अच्छा है और उचित है, उसकी आकांक्षा रखते हैं।

29th April, 2019 - Graduation AVC – Message iTaukei Translation

Sa mai liwava na Yunivesiti ni Viti edua na cagi tokavuki ni veisau vou ena macawa e vica da sa mai vakanadakuya. Au sa mai cavuta kina edua na vosa ni vakavinavinaka cecekiea vei ratou na lewe ni Council kei na Arya Pratinidhi ena nodratou veivakabauti ki na tabana ni vuli (academic community) me ratou sa cicivaka sara vakavinaka na veika vakavulici ena Yunivesiti qo. Oqo sa dua na gaunisala ka rawati kina eso na cavuisausau vakavuli ka se bera ni rawati eliu. Sa noda itavi kina me da na cakacaka vata me rawa ni vakavotukanataki kina na veika oqori.

E gadreva me da tekivu sara mada ena veika bibi taudua: oya na veisoqoni kece ni vuku-yalomatua (wisdom); na vuna oya ni kevaka edua na koronivuli ni veivakarautaki e sega ni vakarautaka tu edua na ituvatuva matata ni nona tatadra (Vision), e sa na rawa ni vakatauvatataki kei na dua e lako mataboko voli. Edua na ka me vakaukauwataki keda tiko, oya ni na Yunivesiti ni Viti e koronivuli vakarautaki me nodra na lewe ni vanua. Ni a tauyavutaki ena nodra cakacaka vagumatua na tamata cakacaka kei ira na dauteitei ni vanua o Viti. E veivakauqeti na nona vosa na Turaga tauyavutaka na koronivuli o Sabah ni kaya.

“E tamata dina ka yalomatua o koya ka dauvosataka na dina ia, okoya sa itovo vakaturaga ka dau caka vinaka ka mamarau vei ira kece sara”

Na mala ni vosa qo erui bibi meda vakananuma ena gauna nikua baleta ni sa vaka me yali yani ena nikua na Dina, Yalo vakaKalou, Caka vinaka kei na Vakacegu.

Mai na ivakatekivu ni gauna vou ni tokavuki ni veisau e Urope, (Middle Ages), sa inaki tudei tu ni veiYunivesiti e vuravura, me ra vakasaqara na Dina ena veitabana ni vuli vakasainisi (sciences) kei na tabana vakavuli (humanities). Ni se bera na gauna oya, a vakasaqarai talega na Dina qo ena vanua vaka Esia kei Aferika. Na bibi kei na talei ni “Dina” qo e sa kuruseti vakalevu cake tale ena buturara ni vuli e vuravura nikua baleta ni sa levu talega na veika e sega ni dina se vakatikina ga e vakaturi me kena isosomi. Na veika vakaturaga ka Dina e sa vaka me sa sega ni vakabibitaki ena buturara ni vuli nikua vei ira na kawatamata. Ena vuku ni nodra rai vakatawayalomatua ka rai vakalekaleka sa vaka me ra yali yani vei ira na Dina kei na yavu ni bula vaKalou, ni ra sa vakabibitaka na veicakacaka ka vakavurea vakalevu na bulavakailavo ni tamata. E sa sega talega ni matata na ibalebale ni veivakavulici (education) kei na vuli (training). Na Yunivesiti e sega walega ni dua na vanua e vakarautaki kina na tamata mera dau buli-ka ka kila-ka, era vakarautaki talega kina na tamata me ra idewadewa ni kila-ka oya. Sa dina sara ni rawa ni ra buli ka tuberi ena univesiti eso me ra dau ni bulibuli se mera kena dau ni vakavinakataki veimisimi, se eso tale mera veiliutaki ka me ra manidia ni veikabani. Ia, sa dodonu me da dabe ka raica lesu na kena vakatavulici na veitovo e vakarokorokotaki kina na kawatamata kei nai naki taumada a buli kina. Sa dodonu kina na nona vosa o Sabha ni sa dodonu me kila-ka kece na tamata. Na kila-ka (se literate) ni tamata e sega ni baleta walega na wilivola kei na volavola e umani talega kina na itovo vakavanua, vakayago, kei na vakayalo me qai taucoko kina edua na tamata.

Ena kena vakavotukanataki na veituvatuva qo sa mai taurivaki kina edua na lawa buli vou me sa da na Taukena vata na lewa ni kena cicivaki na Yunivesiti ni Viti. Era sa mai digitaki kina eso na ililiu vinaka ka ra vakoro ena vuku cecere me ra liutaka (Deans)