



French senators enjoying FNU hospitality.

French dignitaries grace Nadi Campus

SIX French senators were hosted to Fiji National University hospitality when they stopped over in Fiji for a day on their way to Tonga.

The French Embassy said the purpose of the visit to Nadi Campus was to show the senators an example of French cooperation with FNU involving training in bakery and a French language course in the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies.

Under this French-FNU cooperation which started last year, about 80 students have enrolled in the French baking class and about

30 students in the French language class.

Head of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Eric Jioje said each programme ran for 12 weeks and the cost for a full time student was about \$1200.

“For this particular programme the pass rate is about 90%-95%, averaging around B+,” he said.

The six senators Jean-Pierre Demerlait, Robert Laufoaulu, Jean-Luc Fichet, Jacqueline Panis, François Pillet and Odette Terrade are all members of the French Senate friendship committee “France-Vanu-

atu-Pacific Islands”.

The group visited Nadi Campus for lunch and later the University of Fiji campus and Alliance Française and had dinner with French citizens living in the west of Fiji.

Wallis Futuna Senator Robert Laufoaulu said the trip to Tonga was to study how the legislative system worked in the Kingdom and to meet with representatives of government.

“This is a special year during which we are highlighting the overseas territories of France,” Senator Laufoaulu said.

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Financial Literacy

FINANCIAL literacy is the ability to understand finance.

More specifically, it refers to the set of skills and knowledge that allows a person to make informed and effective decisions through understanding finance.

With this in mind the Nadi Commerce Teachers Association organised an oratory contest on Nadi Campus for secondary school students.

The students spoke on the various aspects of financial literacy.

A great deal of information was highlighted on the topic, to the advantage of an audience of more than 300 people.

Winners of the event were Nileshni Devi of Sabeto College, Votualevu College’s Archana Ashmita, Sangam College’s Shirani Sonika and Jessie Tunikula of Swamy Vivekananda College.

Nadi Campus Coordinator Prem Chandra said the University sponsored the event with a winner’s shield, consolation prizes and

refreshments for all guests and contestants.

He said the oratory contest was an annual event and this year the organisers teamed up with FNU to host it.

Nadi Commerce Teachers Association patron Anita Gounder thanked the College of Business Hospitality and Tourism Studies and its Dean Doctor Mahendra Reddy for initiating the arrangement.



Winners of the oratory competition on financial literacy with their trophies and awards

JOB VACANCIES

FOR CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE VISIT PAGE 4

FIGHT CANCER

STUDENTS who do their practical work at FNU's Garden City Hairdressing Academy will whip out their scissors to help raise money for the WOWS charity event 'Save it or shave it'.

Regional and Fiji personalities will offer to have their hair shaved off to collect funds for work with children with cancer, and the 20 FNU students will be happy to oblige.

FNU students are also involved in a number of other community projects. They will go to the Home of Compassion in Tamavua, Gospel School for the Blind and Samabula Old People's Home this week to give haircuts, manicures and pedicures.

Lecturer Vasiti Baledrokadroka said the University believed that community service is an essential way for students to get involved in activities outside the lecture theatres.

It allows students to apply the knowledge and skills that they learn in the classroom to real life.

Further such activities were planned in future as part of the practical work students need to do to complete their programmes.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ENGAGES IN REGIONAL MEETINGS

THE College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences has four major regional meetings in the last week of this month.

The first is a regional meeting of the Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services in the Pacific programme, from 15 – 18 August at the Sheraton Hotel; the Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium will be at the Radisson Hotel on 16-17 August; the Pacific Health Information Network Regional Meeting will be on 16-17 August at Sofitel, and the Pasifika Medical Association Conference will meet 18-20 August, also at Sofitel.

Fifty Pacific Islands stakeholders in the Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services programme will use their annual meeting to get high level advice, oversight and feedback on the programme, including a review of work plans and budgets and recommendations on strategic directions of the programme. Those attending include representatives from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Observers include service providers from the Pacific region who contribute and participate in providing specialized clinical services to the Pacific islands.

Improvement in the role of academic

institutions in the response to the crisis in non-communicable diseases is the aim of the Pacific Islands Health Research Symposium, looking at key training and research needs and how institutions can meet them, with an opportunity to share research. Participants will include representatives from WHO, universities in Australia, US and the region.

The Pacific Health Information Network Regional Meeting [Health Information Systems] will discuss a regional plan and advocacy, leadership and governance, data quality and sharing. The theme 'Claiming Healthy Futures' will provide the opportunity to develop and strengthen skills, and foster and share innovation in relation to the clinical focus of the conference. It will encourage and support Pacific health professionals and those working with Pacific communities to become better equipped to serve communities around the region during these challenging times.

The themes of this year's conference, "Cancer" and "Child and Maternal health", have been carefully identified to reflect the growing urgency of these key issues within the region. Pacific health leaders are making critical decisions regarding Health investments in a period of scarce resources whilst dealing with the growing demand and urgency of non communicable diseases.

Medicine and Law

BE prepared to be challenged in court, former High Court Judge Nazhat Shameem told medical professionals and students at a lecture on medicine and the law on Pasifika Campus on Thursday 11 August.

She said that when doctors were giving legal evidence in court, they needed to establish their credentials and their specialism – and should expect to be challenged on them.

She warned them to give their evidence only within their area of expertise.

Doctors also had to show the scientific process to reach their conclusions on such matters of time of death, not just go on what the police said.

For instance if they described a sexual offence victim as distressed, they had to show in what way they showed distress.

In sexual offences it was also important for doctors to record the victim history accurately, so that there was no conflict in

what the police and the doctor said they were told.

Once they reached their conclusions they must be clear about them and able to stick to them, Ms Shameem said. They had to maintain the integrity of their evidence or it would destroy the weight of evidence. The age of injuries was another important area that required doctors to be careful about the process they used to estimate how long ago the injury occurred.

In homicide cases, doctors could be asked to estimate how many blows had occurred and with what force. A question that they should be asked, but often weren't, was whether the weapon produced in court was what had caused the injuries.

To be clear on these points, prosecutors should have witness briefing meetings with doctors before going to court.

Ms Shameem also went through the new Mental Health Decree and the sections of the Crimes Decree that concerned mental



Former High Court Judge, Nazhat Shameem at Pasifika Auditorium yesterday.

impairment, diminished responsibility and fitness to plead. She said when psychiatrists were asked to assess the mental condition of a person, they needed to ask why the patient needed examination, because different cases required different information, for instance whether the person was mentally impaired, had a mental disease, if they were capable of pleading and whether they were looking at a situation, such as domestic violence, in which a person had been affected over time.

APPLY FOR RESEARCH

IF you have an idea for a research project such as development of a technical prototype, pursuing cultural and creative work involving critical thinking, inquiry and experimentation, especially in an area that will help with the development of the country, this is your chance.

Fiji National University is inviting applications for the third round of research grants. Soft copies of the proposals need to be submitted to Chair, College Research Committee or respective Head of School by email by 5pm on 15 September 2011 at the latest. Follow the form available at <http://www.fnu.ac.fj/newsite/research/> for writing proposals and leave the last page blank for evaluation and constructive inputs by referees.

How to apply:

1. Download Application Form from FNU research website and use it for drafting your proposal.
2. Try to complete all rows with relevant facts/data or write Not Applicable.
3. Leave last page of the proforma blank for use by the referees.
4. You can include moderate budget instruments in your application.
5. Email the completed proforma to: Chair, College Research Committee (i.e. Dean) and cc: Head of School. Your form must reach corresponding office latest by 15th September 2011.

However, sooner the better as CRCs will process applications at fortnightly intervals with in this period and grant approvals so long as funds are available with them.

Last date of application:

15th September 2011

Time period:

1. The maximum allowed time duration for proposal costing less than \$8000 is 12 months and for those costing above \$8000 is 24 months. Chair, CRC may grant extension, in case due to valid reasons work can not be completed within specified time.
2. Date of start of the project is the date of facilitation of vote code.

Project Completion Report:

Upon completion of the proposed study, with in a month, PI's are required to submit a Project Completion Report. Report need to be brief and should highlight objectives achieved vis-à-vis objectives proposed and important findings of the study.

Ethics and Safety Approval:

Applicant is requested to ensure if his/her proposal requires ethical approval. A decision flow chart is available at the FNU research website. If it is required please complete relevant additional ethics and safety disclosure proforma and submit along with the main proposal. (decision flow chart and proforma are available at <http://www.fnu.ac.fj/newsite/research/>)

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University Women's Team tops Volleyball Tournament

THE University's Master's Women's Team paid their own way to victory when they won in their category of the Nadi International Volleyball Tournament on 6 August at Prince Charles Park.

The team paid their own \$200 registration fee, while the University sponsored three other teams – a mixed team, males' team and master's male team.

The tournament organisers contributed \$3000 from the fees to the Treasure House Orphanage in Nadi.

A total of 95 organisations, 172 teams with 2064 players took part.

All the University teams except the masters women's team were defeated in their hard-played pool games.

Physical Education Lecturer on Lautoka Campus, Katarina Ruru received the award for Best Masters Woman Player for her efforts as team captain and won a return trip to Hong Kong on Air Pacific.

Chairman of the FNU Sports Committee, James Rafoi, expressed his gratitude to Varanise Gaunidali and her team for her work on the Western committee to make participation in the event a success.

On her behalf he also thanked Nadi sports representative Mataiasi Tabisa, Mereani Samo, Sala Tikoduadua and Nadi NTPC manager Netava Baroka for their support, Mr. Noa Niubalavu and his student for preparing food, and NTPC in Naceva Street for accommodating our fundraising drive and training. Others who assisted included NTPC Manager, Lautoka Rupeni Lewetuitovo Samuel Petueli and team, Ana Niumataiwalu, Nirmala Singh and Prem Singh.

Mr Rafoi said the tournament experience was exceptional and FNU participants said it demonstrated clearly the importance of keeping a healthy working environment and building a team committed to success.



Katarina Ruru with the winning trophy from the Nadi International Volleyball Tournament.

University cares about staff health

THE University's Human Resources Division is worried about our health.

A series of presentations on maintaining our health and wellness has been organised to encourage us all to maintain our fitness and cut down those sick days.

This Friday, 12 August, Dr B P Ram will give us some good advice in the Lecture Theatre, Room B319 on Samabula Campus, 12 noon – 1pm.

Dr Ram is a Fellow of the Royal Society of

Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and Director of Suva Bayview Medical private hospital and specialist care centre, and Tropic Health laboratories in Suva and Lautoka.

Dr Ram gained his medical education at Fiji School of Medicine, Korea Institute for Population and Health, Sydney University and Harvard School of Public Health.

He is a specialist in community medicine and consultant in health management, as well as being a practicing medical doctor. He has worked with the World Health

Organisation and with the South Pacific Community.

Call Randhir Charan on 3393091 for any further details.



FNU Tops Bowling

FNU is bowling over the competition in the Business House Bowling Competition.

The staff of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences have formed the FNU Bowling Club and entered the business house competition, which has already begun.

The FNU team won its first game against FNPF on 21 July. The University team has also defeated Draiba Old Scholars and is next scheduled to play QBE2.

If you fancy yourself as a bowler and are interested in participating, contact Mr Christopher Siga or Mrs Louisa Underwood.



EVENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SYMPOSIUM 6-8 OCTOBER, 2011

Papers are invited for the Fiji National University Renewable Energy Symposium to be held by the College of Engineering, Science and Technology on Raiwai Campus. Abstracts must be received by 31 July.

Abstract details: Word limit for the abstract is between 100-300 including keywords. Abstracts must include the proposed title for the paper, the full names, and addresses and email addresses of all authors, and a telephone number for at least one contact author. Authors may also indicate the session in which they are submitting their abstract.

File type: Word for Windows.

Submission: By e-mail attachment to: soret@fnu.ac.fj

Full paper: Only required after acceptance of abstract and not to be more than 5,000 words, including abstract, keywords and references.

Paper submission date will be no later than 16 September, 2011. Submission should be made to the respective session chairs.

Important dates:

Submission of Abstract 31 July, 2011

Acceptance of Abstract 12 August 2011

Submission of Full Papers 16 September 2011

Symposium 6-8 October 2011

Final Submission of Revised Full Papers 30 November 2010

Contact Details:

Overall Coordinator: Dr Surendra Prasad, Dean, College of Engineering, Science and Technology, FNU

Convenor: Ms Ravita Prasad, Lecturer, School of Applied Sciences, CEST, FNU

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Vacancies

For job vacancies and career opportunities at Fiji National University, go to www.career.fnu.ac.fj

New posts are logged each week for academic and non-academic vacancies, so check regularly for the opportunity that could lead you to a new life.

Some of the positions currently available online:

- Assistant Lecturer/ Tutor in Computer Science/ Information Systems (Ba & Nadi Campus)
- Assistant Lecturer/ Tutor in Accounting
- Lecturer in Avionics
- Lecturer in Aviation (Airframes & Power Plants)
- Lecturer in Graphic Design & Arts
- Training Assessment Officer (Re-advertised)
- Audio Visual Technician