

Volume 2 No. 35
31 August 2011

In this issue

- Making marching music at hibiscus Pg 1
- Collaboration on environmental science Pg 1 & Pg 2
- Drawing out the talent Pg 2
- Temple dance entices Pg 2
- Skillful, ethical and professional with HIV Pg 3
- Sports team back from universiade Pg 3
- Speaking on safe motherhood Pg 3
- Rugby talent gears up Pg 4
- Farewell to a veteran Pg 4
- Events Pg 4



"Fiji National University music students give Nasinu Campus a preview of the marching music they performed in the Hibiscus Festival parade. Music Department students in the College of Humanities and Education demonstrated their talents for an impressed crowd in Suva on Saturday."

MAKING MARCHING MUSIC AT HIBISCUS

CLOSE to 50 students of the Music Department at the College of Humanities and Education took part in the Hibiscus Festival march last Saturday.

Department head, Mrs Utonivesi Waqavou said it was the first time the department was taking part in such an event.

She said students played pieces during the march that were orchestrated by the music lecturers.

"FNU students are specialists in music. They learn the theory in the classroom and they

apply it in their different musical instruments, whether brass, guitar, piano or any other," she said.

Mrs Waqavou said this was the beginning of a new FNU Brass Band with more instruments and hopes it will grow large enough to compete with the military and police bands.

"This band consists of young, trained musicians who can read music and that is why we will make a difference," she said.

She said the brass band instruments were a donation from the Chinese Government.

JOB VACANCIES

FOR CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE VISIT PAGE 4

Collaboration on environmental science

FIJI National University and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) South Pacific Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) last week to collaborate on freshwater and river biodiversity research supported by the AusAID funded project on building resilience - strengthening community adaptation measures to effects of climate change in Fiji.

The project aims to proactively reduce the vulnerabilities and exposure of communities to the effects of climate change, through a strengthened, coordinated, integrated approach to better land use planning and care for our rivers, mangroves, and other coastal habitats.

Dean of the College of Engineering, Science and Technology, Dr Surendra Prasad said the signing of the MOU with WWF South Pacific was both important and historic.

"The Fiji National University has various programmes where environmental science is a strong component. We believe that research is the vehicle to engage students with such project activities and we will do our very best with the students to do what is right for the world by assisting WWF in the field," he said.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Acting Head of School for Applied Science, Dhiraj Deo Ram, who stressed that such a partnership will greatly benefit students who will get exposure to the field work and increase their knowledge of practical, on the ground work – an area that NGOs like WWF are close to.

Ilaitia Finau, Lecturer in Freshwater Ecology and Environmental Science at the School of Applied Sciences said this was an ideal opportunity for students to go into the

field and do practical work based on the theory they are learning in the classrooms.

"FNU has a very practical style of teaching, giving our students an edge when entering the work force. Forming partnerships as this with WWF is the perfect platform to build capacity of our students and assist the conservation efforts of respectable environmental organisations like WWF?"

Principal lecturer for the Bachelor in Applied Sciences Programme Mr Lepani Kolinisau said there was much demand for their students and engaging in such partnerships will only further enhance the students' capacity.

The MoU provides the opportunity for WWF South Pacific Programme and FNU to undertake further activities in freshwater and wetlands field work, expanding to other WWF project sites in Fiji.

• continued on page 2

DRAWING OUT THE TALENT

CARTOON drawing is used to highlight social events and issues in a lighter tone, FNU artist in residence Laisiasa Naulumatua said.

It was also one of the best forms of art where the ideas and the creativity of an artist can be most nicely expressed.

With that in mind six students graduated with a certificate of participation in basic drawing on Lautoka Campus.

The participants learnt to draw with pencil and gained the fundamentals of sketching and drawing techniques

Mr Naulumatua said the course was designed to equip students of all ages with basic skills in how to express themselves and communicate through the pencil drawing medium

Students learnt the development of art concepts, elements of composition with shapes and shades, human figure drawing, drawing animals, fashion illustration and display.

“Like you students, I too have grown as well through sharing my experience and hope that you will all continue to perfect your skills,” he said.

Acting Head of Primary Education Samuela Tuinabua said the group took up the craft through interest and to perfect their skills.

“Your drawings are an inspiration from the very outset and you all are lucky to be

you have an instinctive interest in the field, so that you enjoy what you do and also endeavour to improve.

“You have all shown that you are talented and I hope that this does not end here.”



Artist in residence Laisiasa Naulumatua, left, with graduates of his recent drawing course and some of their work displayed behind

in the company of a person like Lai, who has had wonderful career as an artist and a cartoonist for the Fiji Times,” Mr Tuinabua said

“Lai acquired his skills through sheer interest and experience. It is significant that

Mr Tuinabua said the most significant factor that determined whether a person was successful in a particular field or not was how dedicated and sincere he or she was.

• continued from page 1

As part of the MOU, FNU agrees to assist the WWF South Pacific Programme through providing environmental graduate research students to conduct freshwater/wetland field work involved in implementing project activities.

Students will be able to participate in project activities such as the national summit for practitioners, scientists, community leaders and civil society organisations (CSO) on the impacts of climate change in Fiji and the media campaign to highlight the importance of mangroves in coastal adaptation and need for local-national legal protection.

WWF South Pacific Programme Representative, Kesaia Tabunakawai said building local capacity was one of the key outcomes of the AusAID Building Resilience project.

“This partnership with the Fiji National University is an ideal way to build capacity of students who are the environmental practitioners of tomorrow and duplicate WWF’s efforts as we will exchange information and tools with students who go into the field with us, ensuring a greater impact within our society” she said.

TEMPLE DANCE ENTICES



Members of the Gunjan Dance Academy meet with their Nadi Campus audience after a performance of the enticing Odissi temple dance.

ODISSI is believed to be one of the oldest forms of Indian Dance according to sculptural evidence available.

It is a style of temple dance which began in the second century BC and is different from other Indian dance forms as it emphasizes the tribhangi, the independent movement of head, chest and pelvis.

Staff, students and invited guests at Nadi Campus over the weekend were given the opportunity to watch an Odissi dance demonstration led by Ms Meera Das of the Gunjan Dance Academy.

Indian Cultural Centre director, Dr Kamal Kishor Mishra, said the dance and

accompanying lecture was to demonstrate every aspect and meaning of the dance.

“This is the why or what meaning is behind having such a posture or movement from the eye down to the feet and hands” he said.

“There so many aspects of the dance and this presentation was to also teach young children.

“The basic idea is to understand the technique of Indian dances. This is a learning process. This is our idea of a lecture-cum-demonstration.”

“The dance movement depicts history, sculpture, poetry and painting all combined into one portrayed through the dancers’ graceful movements.”

Mr Mishra said the Odissi dance group is the number one group in India and had traveled across the globe and performed in 64 countries.

Group leader Ms Das began as a child artist and is a postgraduate in dance and the founder and principal of Gujan Dance Academy.

She said the mission of the group’s tour through out Fiji was to teach people about this dance and how to appreciate and remember it.

FNU staff member Finau Leggett said the dance was so provocative, sensual, erotic, emotionally captivating and physically enticing that it led her to research about it after the performance.

Sports team back from Universiade

THE Department of Sports Science hosted Acting Head of School Alifereti Cawanibuka to afternoon tea following his return from the World Universiade Games.

President of the Fiji University Sports Association and Chef de Mission, Mr Cawanibuka was accompanied by Fiji athletes – Leslie Copeland, Banuve Tabukaucoro, Eugene Vollmer, and Ratu Tiwa at the Games in Schenzen in China.

At the afternoon tea the sports science students got to hear first hand of the event.

Mr Cawanibuka said when anyone got the opportunity to attend an

international event on that scale was a major achievement.

He said FUSA was grateful for the assistance provided by the Chinese Embassy and its Ambassador for their generous financial support.

This had now opened the door for Fiji university athletes to participate in world level competition.

Mr Cawanibuka also said opportunities were out there and it's up to the individual to grab them.

He said sports not only helped to build up physical

strength and willpower, but also promoted leadership, teamwork, and responsibility, all contributing to the qualities for great leaders.

Lecturer Mr Epeli Lagiloa reminded students that Mr Cawanibuka was someone who possessed a great deal of knowledge and expertise and would be able to assist them in whatever way he could.



Skilful, ethical and professional with 799

A training course on HIV Management and Continuum of Care started at the Pasifika Campus last week.

It will be run for 10 Saturdays and facilitate partner institutions for the Global Fund Round 7 HIV Grant which are Pacific Islands Aids Foundation (PIAF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Pacific Counseling and Social Services (PCSS).

Research Coordinator (TB and HIV)

at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Sharan Ram said there was a need to train students who will soon be entering the health workforce so that they have the skills to provide pre and post counselling to those who present themselves for HIV testing.

“This will make them skillful, ethical and professional in what they will do. In addition they are also made aware of the legal framework that surrounds the issue of HIV so that they are aware of the rights of their clients as well as their own in providing a non

-judgmental, confidential and professional service to their clients,” he said.

He said the workshop was intended for all near graduating students of CMNHS.

The ultimate objective of the course is to build capacity of the near graduating regional students in HIV management and continuum of care with those who could contribute to HIV treatment care and support of their clients (especially high risk groups and People Living with HIV (PLHIV)) upon return to their respective countries.

Speaking on safe motherhood

2011 marked the third successive year for the Fiji White Ribbon Safe Motherhood

Initiative (FWRSMI) oratory contest.

This year the contest took place at the Hibiscus Festival on August 25.

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Dean, Professor Ian Rouse said this year the regional oratory contest team visited Nausori, Lautoka, Sigatoka, and Savusavu.

“Fiji White Ribbon Safe Motherhood Initiative has seen more than 60 schools participate in advocating for maternal health throughout Fiji,” he said.

Interim Secretary for FWRSMI, Maggie Kama said the competition sought to engage young students in primary and secondary schools to become aware of maternal health issues through

the process of oratory, which includes research and public speaking delivery.

“This year FWRSMI was happy to be working together with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Working closely with these two partners has made the task of FWRSMI easier,” she said.

She said Ministry of Health's role was to assisting in bridging the gap between FWRSMI as an organization and the Ministry, also with future plans for the oratory competition to be an annual activity of the organization. The partnership process is a vital step in securing this relationship.

“This year the FWRSMI has engaged the United National Population Fund as a donor. They are providing funding assistance for the FWRSMI activities for 2011. This year's oratory contest is the largest one yet, and has grown to be a memorable event, thanks in part to our funding and support from UNFPA,” Ms Kama said.



Winners of the oratory contest. From left: Selai Lofia Kolitagane of Lautoka Andhra Primary and Ratu Laisenia from Nasinu Muslim College

Rugby talent gears up

COLLEGE of Humanities and Education rugby is gearing up to prepare for the up coming Coral Coast sevens.

Lecturer and head coach Epeli Lagiloa said the side would be playing under the FNU banner.

He said preparations in terms of training and fundraising had already commenced although the competition was a couple of months ahead.

He said he would also be scouting for players from the other colleges during the intercampus competition.

He said the Coral Coast was expected to draw teams from all over the country and the region as well.

“Registration fee is \$750, that’s a lot so we have started fundraising by hosting a tea basket drive,” he said.

“There will be other fundraising events coming up to assist the team’s preparations.”

Mr Lagiloa said last year the side reached the quarter final of the Cup competition.

He said despite finishing off at eighth place at the recent Coral Coast sevens, the FNU Lautoka sevens rugby side is looking forward to a better outing come the November competition.

Although the side was the youngest team at the Coral Coast sevens the team won the hearts of the crowd when they displayed superb rugby at last year’s competition.

“For that they have earned themselves a place in this year tournament. So the Department of Sports Science is organizing a Fund Raising Drive to collect the registration fee before the end of this month,” he said.

“So far the team has been doing well in all their tournaments and they are promoting our College and FNU in a big way.”

“The Department of Sports has had a very busy schedule and we are thankful to our HOS and FNU for supporting us all along.”

FAREWELL TO A VETERAN



NTPC bid farewell to one its longest-serving staff members this month when Manager Operations Shaheed Shah called time on his 20-year career with the industry-focused institution.

Mr Shah began his career in further education as a Training Officer in Supervisory Management when he was 22. He made the transition from teaching to management and in 2003 took on the role of Manager Operations with the (then) Productivity and Quality Training Department of the Management Manufacturing and IT Training Division. He has also acted as General Manager MMITT on several occasions.

He is now joining family in Australia where he hopes to further his education and career.

At his farewell he said that working with NTPC had been a rewarding experience and thanked the staff, particularly Director Yogesh Karan, for help over the years. The Manager of the Department of Productivity and Quality, Binesh Chand, said one of Mr Shah’s greatest strengths was his ability to complement the team.

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

Deputy Convenor: Mr Shalendra Prasad, Lecturer, School of Electrical and Electronics, CEST, FNU

Email: soret@fnu.ac.fj

WORLD HINDI DAY & HINDI STORY WRITING COMPETITION

Thursday, September 8
Raiwai Campus

OPEN DAY

September 9, 2011

Samabula Campus II Pasifika Campus II Nadi Campus II Ba Campus II Labasa Campus

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:

- Lecturer 2 in Physiotherapy
- Assistant Lecturer in Physiotherapy
- Part Time Trainer / Lecturer (10 Positions- Automotive)
- Part Time Trainer / Lecturer (19 Positions- Mechanical)
- Executive Assistant/ Clerical Officer (Finance)
- Finance Officer/ Assistant
- Marketing & Information Assistant
- Part Time Technical Assistants (10 Positions- Automotive)
- Part Time Technical Assistants (9 Positions- Mechanical)