The Fiji National University Newsletter tracks media coverage of FNU events on a weekly basis. The following news can be found on the website which shows how FNU was featured in the media in the past week.

More than one thousand students have graduated from the Fiji National University and are ready to join the employment world. Organised in a series of five ceremonies held over three days, students graduated with certificates, diplomas, degrees and masters from the five colleges and training centre that make up the national university.

FNU Chancellor, Mr Ikbal Jannif (pictured) said the increasing number of graduates affirms the University’s commitment to produce industry ready graduates who can deliver in their chosen career.

“FNU endeavours to become the premier university for higher education, technical and vocational education and training, research and development in Fiji and the Pacific region, and to be the national centre of excellence in Fiji for all things to do with training and productivity. It is encouraging to see our graduates increase year after year and that we continue to produce graduates of the vital part they will play in one of the most challenging but also the most rewarding sectors of the modern economy.

Some of you may already be working in health and see your new qualification as a way to build knowledge and boost your career. Some of you may be about to embark on a career in the sector for

Regional medical students graduate

Students from 10 regional countries were part of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences graduation ceremony. This is a testament to the broad reach and strong reputation of FNU across the region. Speaking as the chief guest during the graduation ceremony held at the Nursing Campus Auditorium, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Mr Philip Davies (pictured) reminded the graduates of the vital part they will play in one of the most challenging but also the most rewarding sectors of the modern economy.

“Some of you may already be working in health and see your new qualification as a way to build knowledge and boost your career. Some of you may be about to embark on a career in the sector for

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FNU in the MEDIA this Week
The Fiji National University Newsletter tracks media coverage of FNU events on a weekly basis. The following news can be found on the website which shows how FNU was featured in the media in the past week.

- Samoa doctor leads the way
- Sacrifice Leads Metita To Success
- Fidow Takes Up Medicine To Honour Granddad
- Graduate Credits Family’s Support
- Little Sister Fulfils Brother’s
- $104k Distributed Amongst 19
- Youngest Of Six Fulfils Father’s Wishes
New graduates set to boost Fijian workforce

some of the greatest students that go on to be remarkable leaders not only in our country but across the world," said Mr Jannif. "Some of you might be joining the workforce for the first time while some of you may already be in the workforce and your boss will be looking for qualities that will make you a good employee, I always say this in every graduation ceremony - no one likes a show off and when you are at work you will be expected to stay off your mobile phones and no facebook during working hours," he said.

Mr Jannif commended government for its continued support towards education in Fiji. He said the government’s vision to provide access to quality education will greatly benefit the nation. "I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Fiji Government for the budget allocation for FNU in the last budget announcement. The allocation will enable and ensure we build state of the art facilities, employ adequately qualified staff and purchase new equipment that are necessary. The government anticipates our graduates to be the best that would be available and as a University it is our mission to provide leadership in all intellectual pursuits in higher education, research and development, and the development and acquisition of relevant and quality technical skills in all trades and soft skills that are necessary for development of nations, businesses, and communities," said the Chancellor.

Mr Jannif confirmed the $6.5million Labasa Campus is in its final stages of planning and construction should commence soon.

Regional medical students graduate

the first time," he said. "However, you plan to use your new qualifications you can be sure that you will be contributing to the wellbeing of your communities and, ultimately, to the growth and development of your countries. That should be a true source of pride to you all," he added.

"We should also acknowledge the governments and other bodies who have generously supported many of today's graduates throughout their studies. Their contributions play a vital role in the work of FNU and the successes of its students," he said.

Fiji National University Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said graduation ceremonies are the highlight of the University’s academic calendar. "It is the opportunity to come together and to celebrate our students’ hard work and perseverance, as well their academic success," he said. Professor Healey told graduates that they were entering a world in which geographical boundaries have become increasingly meaningless, adding that the health sector is facing new and unprecedented challenges.

"You will be employed by organisations, deal with clients and suppliers and work with colleagues that come from every part of the world. We live in an integrated global economy, in which information, goods and services, people and capital flow seamlessly across borders."

VC encourages students to continue upskilling

Fiji National University Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey (pictured) challenged students to continue to further their qualifications. Professor Healey made this comment while congratulating graduates during the May graduation ceremonies.

"To succeed in this world of ever-more rapid change, you will need to build upon the qualifications you have earned at university and continue to learn and reskill throughout your lives to adapt to the changes that have yet to come. The digitally-connected 24/7 world you are joining is unrecognisable from that of your parents’ generation. And it will change in the future even faster, in ways we cannot predict," said Professor Healey.

"I hope that, in the years ahead, we may welcome you back to the University to take further qualifications, to enable you to keep up with changes in the workplace and society. Many of these, I suspect, will be in subjects and disciplines that do not yet even exist," he said.

"Your qualifications are globally recognised and, should you decide to spend part of your career overseas, they will hold you in good stead."

The FNU VC also encouraged graduates to be worthy ambassadors of the University and to join the family of tens of thousands of past graduates and reconnect through the FNU Alumni Association."
**Tiko applauds Faculty**

The Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage & Arts, Mr Iowane Ponipate Tiko (pictured) commended the tremendous work done by the staff of College of Humanities & Education (CHE) in molding and nurturing students for a first order profession.

Mr Tiko made these comments during the graduation ceremony of CHE at the Entertainment Centre, Novotel in Lami.

“Allow me to convey my sincere gratitude to the College of Humanities & Education – a College faculty and administration’s dedication to train educators to become knowledgeable about what that entails. Thank you for your hardwork,” said the Permanent Secretary.

Mr Tiko encouraged graduates to work diligently.

“Kids are global citizens now and they must be taught to act that way. But the truth of the matter is that these young people are creative, eager, and inquisitive and indeed, you as their teacher are challenged not only to teach them but to love teaching them.

“I am of the opinion that one of our greatest challenge is to change the mindset of our people, so that we can get ourselves out of the rut and the doldrums of archaic education practices that have become redundant.

“Graduates of 2017, we all consider you as 21st century teachers, but let me warn you, that one of the challenges you will meet in many of our schools in Fiji, is the somewhat stubborn mindset of some 20th century educators who find it pretty difficult to let go of the past.

“Given that your charges will be young, as teachers you need to take special care not to lose your enthusiasm and youthful openness that you will take with you on your first year,” he said.

Mr Tiko reminded the graduates to maintain personal integrity and the integrity of the children they teach in order to maintain the dignity of the teaching profession.

**Singh encourages agri-entrepreneurship**

The College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF) is seen as a centre of excellence in Fiji and the region.

The Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Jitendra Singh (pictured) made these comments at the second FNU graduation ceremony at the Entertainment Centre, Novotel in Lami where more than 200 students graduated from CAFF and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).

Mr Singh commended the efforts of the University in developing future farmers, foresters, fishermen and entrepreneurs.

“I would like to acknowledge Fiji National University, especially the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry for their dedication in serving the farming community and making significant contributions to agricultural advancement throughout the country.

“Agriculture has been and will continue to be the backbone of our economy as it plays a pivotal role in the development, growth and stability of our nation,” he said.

Mr Singh challenged the graduates to become entrepreneurs and create jobs.

“ I would like to see most of you in these fields; as farmers, service providers, entrepreneurs rather than at a desk job inside a building. The richness of your contributions will not only determine your own success, but also of the nation,” he said.

Graduates were reminded of the significance of soft skills required in the modern labour market and business environment.

“FNU has given you the foundation and important values like integrity, good ethics, vision, humility and compassion and the need for sheer energy and ambition through which you all can make outstanding contribution to your families, country and indeed the world.”
Love for teaching

The greatest feeling of being a teacher is when you see your students excel in life. The Bachelor of Education (Primary) graduate, Ms Sheeral Sonika, who has been in the teaching field for the past four years, said the field is very challenging as teachers get with different caliber and personality of students. “Children need to be molded in the right manner for them to achieve their goals and for this I love helping them. It is satisfying to note that children learn and apply what they are taught,” she said. “I must also congratulate FNU for doing a tremendous work in the way this programme was delivered. Academics are always ready to assist students and we student teachers get to learn a great deal and apply them in the daily classroom life,” said Ms Sonika.

The Tavua District School teacher acknowledged her mother and two sisters for their continuous support during her studies.

Graduate hails FNU programme

The nature of deliverance of Media and Journalism programme at FNU builds a strong foundation for students to handle challenges of the industry. Diploma in Media and Journalism graduate, Mr Pravin Narain commended the lecturers of the department in delivering an industry ready programme. “This programme provides us with the opportunity to experience real life situations and struggles of a journalist where we get to make decisions on the spot and learn what is expected of us when we go out in the field,” he said.

The Fiji Times Sports Reporter said people often regard this field as glamorous without realising the struggles of journalists in putting together news pieces every day. “I feel honoured to have joined a profession which serves the people of Fiji through disseminating accurate, fair and timely information daily. This profession provides us an opportunity to become the voice of the voiceless.”

He said the coverage of 2000 coup inspired him to become a journalist. “I used to be known as the ‘news man’ during my secondary school days which strengthened my inspiration of joining this field.”

Mr Narain is looking forward to Bachelor in Media and Journalism programme being offered at FNU.

Kumar continues family legacy

Family of teachers’ is what people address us within the community now, said the Higher Education Diploma in Education (Primary) graduate, Ms Arishma Dorrish Kumar. Ms Kumar’s parents and her only brother are primary school teachers and she says their achievements inspired her to enter this profession. “I feel proud to have followed the footsteps of my family in choosing my career. From childhood I have witnessed my parents working hard as teachers to live up to the expectations of the profession,” she said.

Ms Kumar has been posted to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial School in Nabua. Her father, Mr Ajay Kumar Head Teacher of Ratu Filimoni School in Ba, said children can reach great heights in life with obedience and guidance. “I feel proud of the fact that my children have achieved their goals. I would like to urge every child to never disrespect their parents as whatever they say is for your own good. As a teacher, I would like to challenge the graduates to do their duties faithfully and respect everyone.”

Goneva graduates to support family

Maciu Goneva, a Trade Diploma in Agriculture graduate has set his eyes on becoming a successful commercial farmer. Goneva loves working on his farm which he said assisted in meeting his primary and secondary school educational expenses. The man from Natawa Village, Vaturu, in Nadi said since his childhood, the only source of income for him and his family was through cassava, dalo and yaqona farming. “My family and I faced a lot of financial problems in the past and we currently still do, which is why I took up the course to help my parents in our farm and have a better job to cater for their expenses. “I want to take the burden off from my parents’ shoulders so they can enjoy their life instead of doing hard work in the rain or sun.”

Lal follows her dream

The passion for field work led Yorishma Esmita Lal of Nakama, Labasa to take up Trade Diploma in Applied Fisheries. Ms Lal said it was her dream to join a field that would require her to be close to nature. She said the programme has prepared her well for the challenges that lie ahead in her career. “I decided to study fisheries because it is an interesting field and not many females tend to pursue this programme. The best part about this is going out in the field. During my attachment for six months in Savusavu, I learnt a lot from the farmers. I also enjoyed sharing some of the things I learnt while studying this programme. We were able to learn from each other,” said Ms Lal.

Ms Lal’s father, Mr Satish Lal praised her daughter’s achievement. “We are really proud of Yorishma for successfully graduating.”

Ms Yorishma Esmita Lal with proud parents.

Ms Sheeral Sonika with her Mum.

Mr Maciu Goneva smiles as he receives his certificate from PS Agriculture, Mr Jitendra Singh.

Mr Pravin Narain.

Ms Arishma Dorrish Kumar receives her certificate from FNU VC, Professor Nigel Healey.
Q & A with Dr Fidow

Name: Dr Ulai Tapasafo Fidow | Programme: Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

1. What inspired you to take up medicine?
My grandfather was my inspiration to enter medical field. He was a Public Health Physician. All my other siblings and cousins in the same generation actually took up other specialty fields and I decided, since I am the last one, to take up medicine.

2. What challenges you faced while pursuing your Masters studies?
I started in 2012 and lived here in Fiji for about 3 years and I went back to Samoa for my final year and did my research thesis there. I’m married with two beautiful children and I would like to acknowledge my wife; she sacrificed everything for me to achieve this goal. The most challenging thing is being away from family and also learning how to budget and live on an allowance. It’s one of those challenges that solidify your managerial level so I’m hoping that I’ve not only graduated with a Masters but also with some degree of financial management.

3. What are your views on the delivery of the MBBS programme here at FNU?
Absolutely brilliant! With the right agreements in place, in terms of Memorandum of Understanding in partnering with the international community, I think FNU can spread its wings further. Speaking from experiences in terms of shortage of doctors in Samoa and the Pacific, I thank FNU and their medical academic staff for allowing me to do my final year there, and therefore, I was also able to help my people because there was a shortage of doctors. So thanks to FNU I managed to attain my degree and at the same time help my people. I was under a government scholarship so now I have to go and serve my country and my people and to repay back the money that the government spent on my studies.

4. What is your message to aspiring medicine students.
There is no substitute for hard work. As we have heard from our peers today, it’s about setting a goal and making sure you reach that goal one step at a time. Whatever goal you make in life, it doesn’t matter if you move one inch at a time or you move one mile at a time; it’s the matter of perseverance and keep moving forward. Whatever you do, keep moving forward and you will eventually get to your goal. It may take you longer than you expected but you will get there.

Dr Sui accomplishes life goal

After seven long years away from home, Eddie Sui Junior will now return to the Solomon Islands as a Doctor. What was once a dream has now become one of his greatest lifetime achievement of Dr Sui.

“I’m really thankful for God himself, the sustainer and the source of all things I’ve achieved. He has been kind and merciful to me through this whole journey. It was not an easy journey, I had challenges but through him, my friends, colleagues and family I’m able to make it this far to this glorious day,” said Dr Sui.

Originally from the Malaita Province, Dr Sui said medical conditions and disease outbreaks in the Solomon Islands pushed him into medicine.

“There were a few incidents when I was young that made me realise medicine was my field of calling. I was helpless as a young boy as I witnessed my mother got hurt with a cane knife and the malaria outbreak. But all in all it made me want to do something about it thus the long hard sacrifice to be a doctor,” he said.

Dr Sui was attached at the Lautoka Hospital during his internship and will return to work at the National Referral Hospital (NRH) or Number Nine as its fondly known in Honiara, the largest hospital in the Solomon Islands.

Vacancies

For job vacancies and career opportunities at Fiji National University, go to http://waf.fnu.ac.fj/eoi/ 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:

- Head of Training – Hospitality and Tourism
- Assistant Lecturer in OHS
- Tutor in Accounting
- Head of Training – Aviation & Travel
- Laboratory Demonstrator in Physics
- Assistant Professor in Economics
- Senior Quality Officer
- Academic Officer
- Associate Professor in Accounting

The FNU newsletter is prepared by University Communications. Send your articles and pictures to SPRO@fnu.ac.fj