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Fiji National University Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said as a dual sector University, it prides itself with its intensive hands-on training which has seen many of its graduates excel in their careers.

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Alumni weekend commended

The Honourable Speaker of Parliament Dr. Jiko Luveni praised the organisers of the 2017 Alumni Homecoming Weekend for recognising the contribution made by members towards economic development in Fiji and overseas countries.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr. Jiko Luveni said such events provide an opportunity for former students to reconnect as well as cultivate and preserve relationships with the University. Dr. Luveni said the theme ‘Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future’ embraces the rich and diverse history of the Fiji National University.

This year’s event was dedicated to the Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) for completing 132 years. FSM is now part of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, one of the five colleges that make up FNU.

Proud Alumnus, Dr Luveni said the medical school has come a long way and its legacy will continue to live on.

“FNU is the first University in Fiji to dedicate a day to its graduates. This depicts the true nature of the University”

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Prof Healey acknowledges Alumni

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(Continued from pg 2)

FNU in the MEDIA this Week

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- FNU Alumni celebrates 132 years of Fiji School Medicine
- Fiji National University Celebrates Alumni Homecoming Event
- University marks alumni homecoming weekend
- FNU students to be part of tourney
as an education provider that cares about its graduates and their future,” said Dr Luveni.

Creating history herself, Dr Luveni graduated from FSM as the first female dentist and went on to become the first female speaker of the house.

“It took me by surprise to discover that FNU’s history threads back to 1885 when FSM was established. FSM has since then produced high quality medical practitioners serving the nation and the region. The School takes pride in its achievement and more than a century of legacy,” Dr Luveni said.

The College has the vision to be the leading health workforce academic education and research institution in the Pacific Region. It strives for excellence and relevance in all that it does and graduates for the past few years are coming out more prepared and trained through improved facilities and technology. There is focus on preparing compassionate and competent health professionals who will graduate and improve the health of people in the Pacific Region,” she added.

FSM since its establishment has had five major course and curriculum changes from an original three year certificate (1885-1933), a four year certificate (1934-1981), a five year diploma (1952-1990), a seven year MBBS degree (1982-1990); and a six year MBBS degree (since 1991) in various health science disciplinary including dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, radiography, laboratory technology, dietetics, public health and environmental health.

“Many of us alumni have contributed greatly to the advancement of the communities, regions and countries we served in the past years and this trend is evident today and will continue into the future. This is a reflection of the alma mater that assisted to shape us as we journey through life to what we are today and the University, I am sure is proud to have been part of that journey. I am also sure that we alumni do have a soft spot for the institutions that we attended and this is indeed the opportune time for us to reconnect with the University and with each other,” said the honourable speaker.

Dr Luveni challenged the alumni network to contribute to the University through initiatives such as mentoring current students, giving guest lectures and employing FNU students as interns or staff or offering scholarships.

“For us graduate alumni in medicine, I believe we can do a lot more by providing local and regional support and also seek the support of the international community.”

Hundreds of alumni, current students and potential students gathered in Suva to mark the special event. There was a march through the City as well as two-day entertainment program held at Sukuna Park.

The University head said the two-day celebration provided an excellent platform for its former students to look back, reflect, reconnect and give back to their alma mater.

“I believe that we must reposition FNU as the institution that provides the route into high-quality employment for our graduates. Unlike other tertiary institutions, our roots are proudly in vocational education, with strong connections to the employers of our students.

“We owe it to the current and future generations of Fiji’s students to invest in our own qualifications, so that together we can provide teaching and research worthy of Fiji’s national university. We are – and should be – judged by the achievements of our graduates and researchers. Therefore, our prestige in national and the regional arena is reflected upon the accomplishments of our Alumni,” said Professor Healey.

The Alumni Homecoming Weekend is a permanent fixture in FNU’s annual academic calendar.
Dr Tukana Applauds FNU’s Commitment

Fiji National University has been commended for spearheading action against Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Dr Isimeli Tukana, Director National Wellness Centre made the comments during the Alumni Homecoming Weekend public lecture at the Pasifika campus in Suva.

Speaking on the topic ‘The Fijian NCD Crisis 2011 – Global Thinking, Local Action, Relevance to FNU,’ Dr Tukana said as the national University, it must ensure that it continues to produce graduates who will be role models in the fight against NCDs.

“FNU teaches students who go on to be part of a profession that can significantly make a difference as we try to tackle NCDs in the country. It is the students you are teaching now in University that will go on to be role models to the future generation,” said Dr Tukana.

“Keep teaching them (the students) to change their lifestyle, to eat healthy, reduce salt intake and be a role model in their chosen career and because they will become leaders that they will be able to change the landscape of Fiji,” he added.

The health and wellness guru said FNU should use its different colleges to map out ways it can lead the fight.

“We should work towards producing specialists in the different fields of work that can work hand in hand to reduce the growing concern with NCDs. We can look at the College of Agriculture who can produce farmers for the supply of fruits and vegetables not only for commercial purposes but for own use also. The need to consume fruits and vegetables is particularly important as an approach to tackle NCDs.”

Dr Tukana is optimistic Fiji is on the right path towards reducing NCDs.

Fiji National University alumni and renowned professional surgeon, Professor Eddie McCaig challenged all alumni to give back to the institution that groomed them into the professionals they have become today.

Professor McCaig, one of the top surgeons in the South Pacific while addressing the closing dinner event of the 2017 Alumni Homecoming Weekend, said alumni associations play an integral part in the development of an institution.

“Alumni need to be involved and not hesitate to share ideas on ways to assist the university and its current students,” said Professor McCaig.

Reflecting on his days at the then Fiji School of Medicine now known as the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Professor McCaig said a lot has changed.

“Change is inevitable; we now balance what’s deemed to have worked in the past against the rise of technology. When we stand in a lecture now students have their laptops open and playing with their computers and before I finish a sentence they are already adding to my explanation,” he added.

Professor McCaig said with the evolution of technology, learning and teaching methods was changing rapidly.
More benefits for Alumni

Students and Alumni of the Fiji National University can expect greater benefits from the Alumni Association (FNUAA) President, Mr Netani Sukanaivalu revealed.

“FNUAA is working closely with the Alumni office to bring forth benefits that will be of great assistance to members of the association. Currently, we are seeking partnerships with businesses such as Jayanty Bondwell, Vodafone, Pacific Energy, Fiji Link, interisland ferries, etc,” said Mr Sukanaivalu.

“I invite all alumni to register and be a member of the University alumni and participate in the activities of the association and contribute towards maintaining a lifelong relationship with FNU.”

The former Minister said FNUAA is looking at ways it can assist in the development of learning facilities to make FNU the University of first choice for every Fijian.

Down memory lane with LMS

Lelean Memorial School (LMS) was acknowledged during the Alumni Homecoming Weekend for its contribution towards the formation of the Fiji National University.

The special bond dates back to the institute’s humble beginning some 100 years ago as the first teacher training institution in Fiji.

To mark this special bond, students of LMS were invited to be part of the celebration joining in the parade and to perform a dedicated ‘meke’ especially produced as a tribute to the school’s history.

“We owe a special recognition to Lelean Memorial School for creating the stepping stone that led to the formation of one of the colleges of FNU,” said FNUAA President Mr Netani Sukanaivalu.

In 1910 Davuilevu was established as the new education Centre for the Methodist Church. The Centre included two very significant programmes – Teacher training and Technical Vocational Training Education (TVET) which were later adopted by the government to be part of Fiji Education Curriculum.

Later in 1916, a total of 100 teacher trainees were enrolled in the three year programme.

Davuilevu was the only Teacher Training College in Fiji until 1946 when the government established Nasinu Teachers College which later became the Fiji College of Advance Education (FCAE) now part of FNU’s College of Humanities & Education (CHE).

In 1919, Ronald A Derrick a technical instructor joined the institution offering carpentry, electrical engineering, concrete work, motor engineering, plumbing, book binding and elementary book keeping.

Instructor Derrick left the Mission and joined government’s newly established Manual Training Centre which later became the Derrick Technical Institute before being named as the Fiji Institute of Technology, and now known as the College of Engineering, Science & Technology under FNU.

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:

- Training Officer in Quality Management
- Head of Training - Aviation & Travel
- Bakery Supervisor
- Head of Training
- Principal Lecturer in Architectural
- Senior Lecturer in Building/Construction
- Lecturer II in Quantity Surveying
- Tutor in Aviation
- Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering

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