

FNU NIKUA



FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

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Turning Dreams *into* Reality



FRIENDS
REUNITE AFTER 17 YEARS

FNU PAVES PATHWAY
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



FNU *paves* pathway for economic development

The Fiji National University family congratulates all students from the class of 2022 who graduated in their chosen fields of study.

For any learning institution, graduation is one of the most anticipated events of the year. It gave me a wonderful feeling to be amongst the graduates and celebrate our achievements together.

Students are the heart of the university, and it is our duty to give them the best learning experience possible.

After two years of cancelled ceremonies due to COVID-19 restrictions, our graduation ceremonies last month were a welcome return to a sense of normalcy and community.

As the FNU Council, our role is to set the university's strategic direction to ensure that FNU achieves its learning, teaching, and research objectives.

The economic and social impact of COVID-19 presents significant challenges to Fiji, the Pacific, and the world, now and in the coming years. But challenges also bring opportunity.

As a dynamic, modern University looking to the future, FNU is determined to seize the opportunities for innovation and fresh thinking and, in turn, to create opportunities for our students, communities, nation, and region.

The Council ensures that the Vice-Chancellor and

the Senior Leadership Team manage the institution in the best interests of the university's stakeholders - our students, staff, employers, professional bodies, taxpayers, and the Fijian Government.

I also acknowledge Professor Lyn Karstadt in her first major engagement as University Vice-Chancellor.

Her knowledge and vast experience align well with FNU's strategic priorities during its next decade of providing accessible learning, teaching, and research opportunities to all Fijians and our regional and international students.

I have openly shared that education is important to me as the child of a teacher, as I firmly believe that education is critical to economic development and can transform the lives and livelihoods of our Pacific communities.

As the national institution, FNU must play a key role in being the catalyst for change, and with the continued support of the Fijian Government and the FNU Council, we will continue to help improve living conditions, assist many to achieve their academic aspirations, and take tertiary education in the country to greater heights.

I want to assure everyone that the Council has high expectations of where we envision the institution to be in the next few years as a university of which all Fijians can be proud of.

We will ensure that the university is accountable for its commitment to providing quality and accessible tertiary education and research with real-world impact.

During the ceremony, we also heard motivational and inspiring words from the Chief Guests and the Vice-Chancellor. I encouraged our graduates and guests to take these words to heart as they go out into the world and pursue their career goals.

I look forward to hearing about the achievements and success of our graduating class of 2022 and the contributions, creativity, resilience, and determination they will each contribute to communities, businesses, and nations.

As the University prepares to welcome new students in the coming months, I encourage prospective students to learn first-hand the programmes offered at FNU that is aligned to your career aspirations.

Students, parents and guardians can reach out to the University for academic counselling and to receive information regarding the entry requirements and application process for Semester 1, 2023 studies.

Tessa Price
Chancellor and Chair of Council



STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE – VC



In her first major engagement as University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lyn Karstadt challenged the graduating class of 2022 to use what they have learnt to advance their personal and professional life, as well as those of their families and communities.

“The award of a university degree carries many privileges, but like all privileges, it also carries responsibilities. As graduates of Fiji National University, I challenge you to use what you have learnt not only for your own advancement but also for the benefit of all,” Prof Karstadt said.

“I urge you to strive for excellence and use the skills and knowledge you have acquired with rigour and integrity and to commit yourselves to a schedule of learning and discovery that will last throughout your lives. I invite you to remember all the lessons that FNU has taught you about the worth of others, particularly those who have not had the opportunities that you have had.”

Prof Karstadt also reminded the graduates of their role as ambassadors of the Fiji National University.

“In all you do, I charge you to be deserving of the good name of Fiji National University. As the national university, FNU is proud of our dual-sector identity, through our provision of higher education

and TVET programmes. As an FNU graduate, you will have all developed the ability to think imaginatively, independently, and critically, and to uphold our university values of care, honesty, accountability, service, and excellence. These are great lessons to take with you into the future.”

“Our students are at the centre of everything that we do, they are the primary reason we exist, and our duty is to provide them with the best possible experience that allows them to develop personally, morally, and spiritually as well as intellectually, and to thrive, learn, question, and succeed as global citizens.”

Prof Karstadt also mentioned the key University highlights below;

- The University has introduced Basic Operations in a Call-Centre course this year through the Fijian Government’s Reskilling and Upskilling initiative. The Level 3 programme was designed by FNU in collaboration with the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Council.
- FNU is also actively involved in climate change work through the Climate-U Project in Tailevu, where university staff have been engaged in community projects that includes tree planting, water source enhancement via borehole and piping, alternative water sourcing and improvement work,

drainage improvement, solar light installations, and water tank installation.

- FNU has introduced a new Bachelor of Sports Science programme this year for students interested in a career in sports science.
- FNU’s College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is offering new short courses and programmes which includes; Managing Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology cases in Dental Practice, Postgraduate Diploma in Dental Public Health, a Level 4 Certificate in Health Professions Foundation Studies and Responding to Gender – Based Violence (GBV) in the Pacific: Foundation of Health Care Practice.
- The University has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with iMGINE Engineering & Technologies PTE Limited and RC Manubhai & Co. PTE Limited, and Fiji Airways. This would allow our students to get their experience in their field of study and give back to the nation.

CHIEF GUESTS' GRADUATION MESSAGES



“Telecom relies on institutions like FNU to supply the company with the human capital that essential industry players like Telecom require to deliver its obligations. As a company, we greatly value our people by placing staff welfare, safety, and wellbeing above everything else. As the country’s main backbone communications provider, our engineering and other supporting teams worked round the clock, in some instances during the pandemic crisis, to deliver critical infrastructure projects to ensure that the network was able to meet the explosive growth in demand for data services in Fiji. We are proud to say that 98% of our workforce are local and are locally trained by institutions like FNU.”

**Charles Goundar | Chief Executive Officer
Telecom Fiji Limited
College of Engineering, Science and Technology
(CEST) and Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA)
graduation**



**Kameli Batiweti | Chief Executive Officer
Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation
College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
(CAFF), College of Business, Hospitality and
Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and National Training and
Productivity Centre (NTPC) graduation**



“When a student graduates, the family graduates and the community graduates to another level of advancement as part of a knowledge-based society. I commend the graduands, as I note that a higher number of females will be graduating today; it makes me always happy when you see women progressing. This year, we have witnessed a total of 896 female graduates and 839 male graduates from the Fiji National University. The number shows that more females are joining the workforce.”

**Honourable Rosy Akbar
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty
Alleviation and Acting Minister for Education
College of Humanities and Education (CHE) and
College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
(CMNHS) graduation**



FATHER OF TWO THRIVES 2000KM AWAY FROM HOME

The Fiji National University (FNU) has deeply rooted history in providing TVET and higher education qualifications to local, regional, and international students.

This is evident during the University's graduation ceremonies, whereby students are decked out in their traditional garlands and outfits to pay tribute to their heritage.

One such regional graduate was Donny Regio Duna from the Western Province of the Solomon Islands.

Duna (*pictured right*) was among 512 graduates of the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST). He graduated with a Trade in Automotive Engineering from FNU.

Almost 2000km away from home, Duna said he missed his family in Solomon Islands immensely while he studied in Fiji. Away from his wife and two children, the 36-year-old said it was not easy being away from his family.

"I want to dedicate this achievement to my family back in the Solomon Islands, especially to my wife and children," he said.

Duna said he plans to return to Fiji to further his education at FNU in the next five years.

"I would like to encourage students who are still studying that FNU is the best university. I want to thank the lecturers for always helping me," he said.



FRIENDS REUNITE AFTER 17 YEARS

Seventeen years after graduating with diplomas, Marica Meo and Beranadita Maria Veitoyaki reunited at the Fiji National University (FNU) graduation ceremony to receive their Bachelor of Education degrees.

The duo initially met 19 years ago whilst undertaking their Diploma in Education (English and Social Science) studies at the former Fiji Teachers Advanced College, which is now part of FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

After graduating in 2004, they were posted to different schools in Fiji.

The two were sighted outside the Vodafone Arena reliving their good old days at the Nasinu Campus, which has served as FNU's main campus since 2010.

"We are delighted to have reconnected 17 years after finishing our studies, and we have exchanged many experiences with each other since then. In some ways, FNU has provided us with the opportunity to reconnect," Meo (*pictured above left*) stated happily.

"We met today for the first time in 17 years since I was in Naiyala and Marica was in Vatukoula. We attended our degree classes via Zoom and have been encouraging each other to perform well ever since."

"Maria is a language teacher at Naiyala Secondary School and I am the Vice-Principal at Nilsen College, so we have accomplished a lot in our teaching careers. We had challenges in our lives, but we overcame them and triumphed against all odds to become who we are today."

Veitoyaki claimed it was fate that allowed them to graduate together.

"I feel it was all part of God's plan to bring us back together and share our passion and love for teaching, including studying at FNU and graduating on a high note," she explained.

"We were both young single girls when we first met, but now we are mothers and have our own families. Our love and friendship are as strong as they were 17 years ago."

"I am grateful to FNU and the Ministry of Education, Heritage, and Arts for providing us with the opportunity to study and advance in life."

The 38-year-old friends acknowledged their supportive families for motivating them during their studies.

"Time management was critical for us since we had to balance life with the family, school, and studies," they said.

"We had a lot of help from our family members during our studies, and it was because of them that we were able to get our Bachelor's Degree in Education."

"We also intend to finish our master's degrees in the near future, because learning should never cease for anyone."

Both highlighted that university life is one of the most memorable adventures that any student could have, and that the friends they make along the way are friends for life.

Meo has completed her Postgraduate studies, while Veitoyaki is now pursuing hers.

Meo and Veitoyaki were among 242 College of Humanities and Education students who graduated at the FNU's graduation ceremonies in September.

ROGOWALE SAILS HIS WAY TO SUCCESS



The last eight years was no easy feat for Sivitveni Rogowale. The 28-year-old from Ono-i-Lau said the last few years were an ordeal as he had to finance his own studies and make sacrifices to serve his required sea time.

"I feel thrilled today. This is a huge achievement for me as all my hard work and struggles have paid off. Study hard and you will reap what you sow," he shared happily.

"I started studying in 2012, and I am graduating now, in 2022. It has been a long time coming but is a very rewarding experience."

Rogowale (*pictured far left*) graduated with a Diploma in Marine Engineering from Fiji National University's (FNU), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) and dedicated his achievement to his father.

"This diploma is dedicated to my father as he was always there for me. He is the one who supported me during my studies and was a source of inspiration, motivating me every step of the way."

"I faced financial challenges over the years but this was a struggle I overcame. During this time, I was also doing my sea time, which also required a lot of sacrifice."

He was among the 29 graduates from FMA that were

part of FNU's September graduation ceremonies.

Proud father, Jope Seru said it was an emotional moment being present to witness his son receive his certificate of qualification.

"I am over the moon today seeing my son complete his Diploma in Marine Engineering as I know the struggles he has been through over the years," Seru said.

FMA is the sole maritime training provider in Fiji and caters to all nationals interested in pursuing training.

Students graduating from the Academy were awarded a Diploma in either Nautical Science or Marine Engineering.

Graduate breakdown by gender		
Colleges/ Academy/Centre	Male	Female
CAFF	31	52
CBHTS	140	256
CHE	81	161
CEST	407	105
CMNHS	99	293
NTPC	52	28
FMA	28	1



Vanuatu President His Excellency Nikenike Vurobaravu and first lady Rima Vurobaravu at the graduation.

VUROBARAVU URGES PACIFIC TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Sale Tamata Olivier Vurobaravu has urged his Pacific peers to unite in the fight against climate change.

Vurobaravu, (pictured right) who is the son of Vanuatu President, His Excellency Nikenike Vurobaravu, graduated recently from the Fiji National University (FNU) with a Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine.

The FNU College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) alumnus was quick to highlight the environmental call following his graduation ceremony to signify the issue's urgency.

"Because we are all part of the Pacific, we must work together to combat climate change, which affects every Pacific island country and its people," Vurobaravu said.

"It is a significant issue that we must address, and I am pleased with our governments' efforts to address the issues and find answers."

"At the graduation ceremony, I heard from the Vice-Chancellor that Fiji National University is deeply committed to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and developing cost-effective, scalable solutions for sustainability, resilience, and adapting to climate change."

The 35-year-old, who works as a Junior Consultant at the Vila Central Hospital in Port Vila, Vanuatu, also completed his undergraduate studies in medicine at FNU in 2012.

"I am grateful and relieved that my father was able to attend the ceremony and witness my graduation. He was returning from the United Nations, where he had delivered an address to the UN General Assembly," he mentioned.

"His attendance at the graduation was a stopover on his way back to Vanuatu, which also happened to coincide with my graduation. This was a memorable



time for me as my father was present to see me receive my award. Every child's ambition is to have their parents attend their graduation, and I realized that dream today."

According to Vurobaravu, hard work is always rewarded.

"Our grandparents had a difficult life, staying in the village, struggling and striving, and they gave their all, and we should learn from them and give our all in any work we do," he said.

Vurobaravu was among the 392 graduates from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences who graduated from FNU's September graduation ceremonies.

VERMA CELEBRATES DOUBLE ACHIEVEMENT



Shivanjani Sheetal Verma had every reason to celebrate her double achievement. After graduating with a Bachelor of Accounting from the Fiji National University, Verma then began in her dream career as a finance professional at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Verma, (pictured above) who is from Vunimoli in Labasa but now lives in Nasinu with her husband, believes that education is essential for a successful profession.

"It has always been my passion and goal to pursue a career in the accounting sector since I believe it is very flexible and enormously fulfilling, with great earnings and prospects to advance in life," she said.

"I was able to acquire employment in my desired career after completing my degree at FNU. It was initially tough to find work, but with the right knowledge and training, job searching became history and the future seems promising."

"Honestly, I don't know how I feel about having the degree in my hand since I am overjoyed to have the

chance presented to me after all of my hard work and dedication to my studies. This degree has provided me with new opportunities and better career prospects."

Verma believes that learning should never cease in life, and plans to further her studies at FNU.

"The unique part about my position is that it allows me to meet different stakeholders while also allowing me to apply my knowledge and talents to the general productivity of the organisation," she explained.

"I am overjoyed because I have achieved what I have always desired, and finally wearing the gown and being able to walk down the aisle is a beautiful sensation in and of itself. A heartfelt thank you to my husband, parents and my in laws for their continuous love, support and motivation and for inspiring me to achieve all that I have achieved today."

"I picture myself furthering my education and leading a group of experts, striving to set a path for the team to achieve a common goal."

Verma's younger brother is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics in Japan, while her younger sister is a nurse who is contributing

to the health sector of the country.

"Studying at FNU was a wonderful experience," she said. The academics used good learning and teaching approaches that helped me and other pupils proceed smoothly through each academic year."

"I consider myself fortunate to be in this field, since I believe that accounting is linked to the country's economic health, and that no business would exist without accountants."

"As the economy undergoes structural changes and new businesses emerge, more accounting professionals are required to collect, analyse, and report financial data for businesses."

"Every child should work hard and graduate to make their parents proud, as parents are the ones who trusted and invested in them to make them successful individuals."

"The gleam in the parents' eyes is brighter than the gleam in the diamond, and is a valuable gift to parents."

At FNU's graduation ceremony last month, Verma was one of the 396 graduates from the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies.

Graduate breakdown by qualification

Colleges/ Academy/ Centre	Post graduate	Under graduate	Diploma/ Certificate
CAFF	2	70	11
CBHTS	89	166	141
CHE	31	162	49
CEST	17	87	408
CMNHS	155	227	10
NTPC	0	0	80
FMA	0	0	29





Tudravu thrilled with **OVERALL BEST APPRENTICESHIP AWARD**



A moment of silence passed before Paula Tudravu looked heavenward to express his gratitude to God for helping him win the Overall Best Apprenticeship Award at the Fiji National University's Graduation Ceremony.

The 26-year-old was an apprentice at FNU's National Training and Productivity Centre's (NTPC) National Apprentice Scheme and currently works for British American Tobacco as an Operator.

"When my name was announced as the Overall Best Apprenticeship Award recipient, I was utterly taken aback. It caught me by surprise," he revealed.

"I thank the Almighty for the reward. I am also grateful to have been picked for the award."

Years of hard work and sacrifice paid off for Tudravu, *(pictured right)* who had completed his Technician Level Apprenticeship programme Plant Engineering and completed his course of theory instruction with College of Engineering Science and Technology.

He emphasised the importance of hard work and selflessness in achieving success.

"Without hardship and personal sacrifice, success is impossible to achieve. The idea of how machinery works and the science behind it fascinated me, so I decided to enrol in this programme," Tudravu explained.

"This honor is a reflection of my dedication and perseverance throughout the programme, and I am extremely satisfied with the outcome. The accolades and prizes were a nice bonus."

"I was able to do well thanks to the NPTC's apprenticeship programme. In engineering terms, it has helped me learn more about different topics. This programme has provided me with the opportunity to network with industry leaders from around the world."

His advice to other aspiring tradespeople is, "Don't limit yourself; instead, seek opportunities to progress through your study of the field and keep learning, both professionally and personally."

Tudravu also urged students to create both short-term and long-term ambitions.

Tudravu was amongst 80 graduates from FNU's National Training and Productivity Centre who graduated in the September graduation held last month.

TUNAYAU MAKES **GRANDMOTHER PROUD**

Reape Tunayau, a proud Bachelor of Science in Agriculture graduate was grateful to have her grandmother in attendance as she received her certificate of qualification from the Fiji National University (FNU).

Tunayau *(pictured right)* dedicated her achievement to her grandmother, Elesi Bauleka and her late grandfather Uraia Bauleka for being her pillar of support and encouragement during studies at FNU's College of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry.

"I faced a lot of challenges during my studies, but with the help of my lecturers, friends, family, and, most importantly, my grandma, I got through it," Tunayau said with excitement.

"My grandparents are my greatest inspirations. Following this accomplishment, I plan to further my studies in agriculture at FNU."

The 22-year-old advocated for perseverance and never giving up in life, which was something she believed in when things became difficult during her tertiary education.



"I had financial difficulties, but FNU and the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) provided me with options. As a result, I was able to graduate," Tunayau shared.

"Because my mother isn't here, my grandmother has looked after me since I was a child. She deserves to be acknowledged during today's graduation."

Elesi Bauleka made the journey to Suva from Lautoka and could not contain her emotions after witnessing her granddaughter graduate.

"It gives me great pleasure to witness her graduation. I am relieved that she has completed her tertiary studies and is now capable of being an independent woman," Bauleka said.

"I wish her the best and hope the Almighty gives her all success because she has been a very hardworking girl."

Tunayau was one of the 83 students who graduated from the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at last month's FNU graduation ceremonies.



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FNUNIKUA



CHAND RECEIVES TOPPER AWARD

Spending close to eight hours on campus for the last four years made the Fiji National University (FNU) home away from home for top Engineering student Shavneil Chand.

His dedication and commitment to tertiary learning was rewarded when Chand received the Telecom Fiji Ltd (TFL) Prize for Topper in Engineering and Information Technology at the FNU graduation ceremony held last month.

“We used to spend almost eight to 10 hours on campus every day, staying late and coming in early to meet due dates of all assessments and projects,” Chand (pictured right) explained.

The 24-year-old graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Electrical (First Class) alongside his twin brother, Shavin Chand from the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

Fascinated from a young age about how electricity is generated, Chand enrolled into this programme to understand and become qualified in the field of electrical

engineering.

“When I was young, I always wanted to know where electricity is generated from and how everything works. Upon completing our secondary education, my twin brother and I were both awarded the National Toppers Scheme (NTS) and both enrolled at FNU to study electrical engineering,” he said.

The former Vashist Muni High School student says the lecturers and tutors at FNU were critical in contributing to the students’ success.

“The service provided at FNU is great. The workshops were always up to date and the equipment was kept well by the lab technicians. Our lecturers and tutors always tried to explain to us the concepts in a simple manner for easier understanding.”

“Our lecturers were always approachable and still accommodate our queries about projects and assignments after the teaching hours.”

Chand was one of the 512 students who graduated from the College of Engineering, Science and Technology



UNIVERSITY CONTINUES OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



The Fiji National University outreach team has continued to reach out to communities, schools, and individuals to create awareness and inform and educate on the programmes they could take at the University.

The Outreach team partnered with the Fiji Secondary Schools Soccer Association (FSSSA) to provide academic counseling to secondary school students participated in the National Secondary School Soccer Competition at Churchill Park in Lautoka.

Outreach Manager, Vishal Lal, said the FNU team managed to interact with the many visitors who attend the sporting event.

“I believe there were more than 500 students, staff, and spectators present during the three-day tournament, and we had constructive interaction with majority of them,” Lal said.

“We were happy to see that students showcased great interest in knowing about the programmes and how they can prosper in life. There were many questions about FNU that the students needed to clarify so they could make an informed decision about their tertiary education.”

The Outreach team discussed programmes, study pathways, and other student and academic support provided at the University.

“Students were able to identify specific programmes that they could apply for based on their subject combination and career aspirations,” Lal said.

“The main presentations were on TVET Pasifika and how students can take advantage of the support that the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) is providing to students who study at FNU.”

“There are a total of 4,600 places available for students to study TVET at FNU that is supported by TSLs.”

200 students can also take advantage of the grant available for students who wish to take up TVET at FNU and score at least 250 in Year 13 and 270 in Year 12 in the 2022 External Exams.

The FNU Outreach Team intends to reach out to students, schools, communities, and industries to provide information on study opportunities at FNU.

If you would like us to come to your home, school, or community, please contact the Outreach Team at: outreach@fnu.ac.fj | Phone: 3394000 | Ext: 2896.

GAIN LIFELONG SKILLS THROUGH TVET STUDIES AT FNU

As a dual-sector tertiary education provider, the Fiji National University (FNU) offering a growing range of qualifications from certificate to doctorate levels.

This allows graduates from one discipline to develop new expertise and competencies in another. The University is also focused on developing both the technical skills and competencies as well as ‘soft skills’ like critical thinking and teamwork to enable our graduates to succeed in a fast-changing labour market.

At FNU, we understand the need for young people to be empowered with opportunities of acquiring quality education, skills training and a curriculum that encourages innovation and sustainable learning.

Our TVET programmes are designed to assist a wide range of economic sectors pertinent to our region,

including agriculture and the marine sector, hospitality and tourism, business and commerce, engineering and technology, education, and community care.

Our diverse TVET course offerings provide individuals and organisations with opportunities to learn and upskill and reskill to meet the changing demands of national and regional labour markets now and in the future.

TSLs support

The Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) is providing 4,600 study placements for students who wish to undertake a TVET course at FNU.

Students eligible for TSLs-funded studies must have successfully completed Year 12, Certificate I, Certificate II or secured a final offer letter for any Certificate Level III, IV or Diploma level 5 programmes offered at FNU.



FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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SCAN TO REGISTER



SIKOA SCORES BEST APPRENTICE AWARD

eager to embark on her tertiary education journey.

Although she had initially dreamt of being an aviation engineer, Sikoa decided to pursue studies in an alternative TVET programme after undergoing academic counselling at FNU.

She then enrolled in the Certificate IV in Plant Maintenance (Certificate in Plant Maintenance Engineering (Level 4)) programme at the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

“I was very excited as I had looked forward to studying at Fiji National University as it dawned on me that it was an institution that provided industrial attachments and since I was a hands-on person, FNU was an easy choice,” she said.

“I am glad that doing the attachment was a requirement for graduation. This allowed me to apply what I learnt in the classroom in the workplace. It also gave me enough experience to be able to secure a job upon graduation.”

Sikoa added that her peers, who were mostly men as she studied in a traditionally male-dominated field, also added to her student experience.

“We were always discussing things, coming up with ideas, and trying to push each other to do well and graduate. Practical classes were my favourite as I was able to test my theoretical knowledge and learn as much as I could from the lecturers, who were patient when it came to teaching students,” she said.

“I also enjoyed the educational field trips that were coordinated by the University. Being exposed to the potential companies and their expectations broadened my knowledge of the companies and instilled in me the skills that I needed to work on to successfully graduate.”

“I vividly remember visiting Fiji Sugar Cooperation, Dominion Cables, Fiji Water and Douglas Pharmaceuticals, which motivated me to excel in my studies as I dreamt of being employed by one of these reputable organisations one day.”

Family support

Having strong family support and perseverance was the beacon of hope that Sikoa relied on during her studies.

“My family has been a major source of support throughout my life and I am forever grateful for that. I acknowledge the lecturers we had as they always motivated and guided us every step of the way,” she shared.

“My father is a retired physiotherapist, and my mother does an amazing job of providing nice meals and a home.”

Sikoa dedicated her graduation and achievement to her parents and her sister, who is also a third-year nursing student at FNU.

Career

Sikoa is currently employed at the feed mill by Goodman Fielder International.

Interacting with people and being open to learning new things has allowed Sikoa to progress from being an engineering apprentice in 2017.

“I got promoted to join the projects team as a project engineer and, after the completion of the project, I joined the engineering team as a permanent fitter,” she said.

“She is currently the Health Safety and Environment Cadet.”

Her role involves briefing managers on compliance-workplace issues and compiling and collating reports.

Volunteer work

Giving back to the community through volunteer work is also a passion for Sikoa.

She volunteered in 2021 with Ronald Macdonald’s House of Charities at the Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital and spent time in the children’s unit.

In addition to this, she is also engaged in the Vunilagi Book Club, where she reads to children.

Sikoa’s advice to students is to work hard and never give up.

“Be patient. Not all successful people start from the top of the hierarchy. They had to get their hands dirty, serve others or work long hours,” she said.

Alumni Connect

Graduates of FNU and its former institutions can register to be part of the exclusive Alumni Connect portal and remain connected to their classmates and the University. Registered alumni can receive news and updates on key University activities, read alumni success and feature articles, scholarship and upskilling opportunities, networking events and professional development and training seminars.

Apply Now

The Fiji National University is now accepting applications for Semester 1, 2023 studies.

For further information, students can visit our website at www.fnu.ac.fj email the Academic Team via admission@fnu.ac.fj or Text (Toll-Free) 857 for Vodafone and Inkk users.

Being the eldest in her family and the sole bread winner paid off for Rosalia Sikoa as she was awarded the Best Apprentice in the Trade of Plant Maintenance Engineering at the Fiji National University’s (FNU) September graduation.

Rosalia (pictured above) received her certificate of apprenticeship in January 2022.

Sikoa is no stranger to hard work, as she began working at the age of 18 and has always excelled in work, home, or church activities she participated in.

Education

Sikoa was born and raised in Suva and completed her primary education at Dudley Intermediate School.

Upon completing her high school studies in 2016 at Suva Grammar School, Sikoa was

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FNUNIKUA welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the newsletter. Please send your suggestions, comments or articles for consideration to mprc@fnu.ac.fj

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