

FNU NIKUA



ISSUE NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2022



We Care *For Students*



WAQABACA ACHIEVES
ACADEMIC AMBITIONS AT FNU

MUKTAR WINS
GOLD AT CHEFS' COMPETITION



Caring for our Students

The Fiji National University (FNU) is wrapping up its annual academic calendar and is at the key phase of a student's learning journey throughout the semester – final examinations.

Examinations are an important part of the learning process as it allows a student to highlight the level of knowledge retention and application of the skills, theories, and concepts they have learnt throughout their unit. It also enables staff to evaluate the effectiveness of their learning and teaching methods and how this is interpreted and understood by students.

The theme for this month's FNUNIKUA edition is We Care.

This is fitting as we truly care for all our students and seek to provide them with an enriching student experience and enhanced support and facilities so they can graduate and become better individuals and citizens.

As Nelson Mandela rightfully said, Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. At FNU, we put students at the centre of everything we do, and as your tertiary service provider, we continuously work on ways to enhance student experiences. This is undertaken through different activities, such as through engagement with industry organisations to develop workplace attachment and industry experience. These partnerships enable our students to broaden their knowledge and skills in their area of study.

New and enhanced facilities

We recently opened our new College of Business, Hospitality, and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) complex because we wanted to give our students the best facilities to study and flourish in their academic careers.

The \$27 million building project will benefit students in their learning as most of the key services provided by the University are now centrally located in one building. It is a one-of-a-kind building with very specific functions that will be open to all the students.

Just as importantly, it will be available for functions, whereby FNU can invite the community in to see what our University has to offer.

The new CBHTS complex consists of a Student Central Office for students' academic, financial and ITS needs; classrooms and workspaces and a 450-seat lecture theatre inclusive of accessible seats for students with disabilities.

We have more exciting projects in the works to provide a conducive and exciting student and campus life.

Student Experience

As a University that has Care as one of its five core values, we continue to partner with our students at every step of their journey. As we near Semester 1, 2023, I also look forward to welcoming more students into the FNU family.

The University boasts of students from various backgrounds, and this adds to the diversity and various cultural experiences at FNU. This was highlighted recently through the annual Culture Night performances from the College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences (CMNHS) students. The event is one of the most anticipated nights and our students have always managed to put on a successful show. This year, the performances were based around the theme Oceania: Voyaging to a Climate-Resilient Future and was attended by the Chief Guest, the Attorney-General, Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Housing and Community Development, Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Sustainability at FNU

We also had the first-ever Sustainability Week at the University. This was initiated to create awareness, build civic pride, create a knowledgeable society, and showcase the importance of sustainability. The staff, students and alumni from our campuses in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions participated in cleanup activities and awareness campaigns as a means to give back to our communities and

environment. This is in line with FNU's commitment to providing a welcoming, encouraging, empowering, and inclusive environment for students to ensure equal access, full participation, and reasonable accommodations for their academic pursuits.

Business Excellence

It was a proud moment for the FNU family when the President of the Republic of the Fiji Islands, His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, commended FNU for its commitment and contribution towards promoting business excellence in Fiji for the past two decades through the Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA). FNU's current and former staff have worked hard with pure commitment and dedication, and I can assure you that FNU will continue to enhance our services for the betterment of our students, communities and industry partners. It was my first time to be part of a University event of such magnitude, and I was thrilled with the emotions from the participants and the organisations nominated for the awards in the different categories.

Apply Now

Before I end my message, I would like to encourage high school students and those who wish to study at the Fiji National University to submit your applications, as it is currently open to everyone. Our team at the Academic Office located in the different campuses would be happy to guide you and provide academic counselling to find out the best programme for you. Our team will also be conducting roadshows in January 2023 so be sure to look out for our team in your towns.

And finally, All the Best to the Year 12 and Year 13 students who will be sitting for their final examinations in December. We hope to see you pursuing tertiary education at the Fiji National University next year.

Vinaka.

Professor Lyn Karstadt
Vice-Chancellor



FONORITO REELS HIS WAY INTO SURVIVOR FILM CREW

Joseph Fonorito is thankful to the Fiji National University (FNU) for giving him an opportunity to be a part of the US Emmy Award-winning series, *Survivor*.

The 22-year-old said he never imagined himself being a part of the post-production crew of the hit reality show for two consecutive seasons while it was being filmed in Fiji.

From wanting to quit at one point in his life to graduating and then working shoulder-to-shoulder with an international film crew, it has been a dream come true for the young man.

“Through FNU, I was given the opportunity to work with big time producers and directors from Los Angeles,” Fonorito (*pictured right*) said.

“The production team had contacted the University, I was recommended to them, and after an interview, I was chosen to become a part of the series.”

With paternal links to Noa’tau, Rotuma and maternal links to Sawaieke in Lomaiviti, Fonorito graduated from the FNU with a Certificate in Film and Television (Level 4) in 2021.

“Before joining FNU, I was studying Foundation in History and Politics at another university and after one semester, I realised that neither did I wish to pursue History nor venture into Politics.”

“I dropped out of the programme, and felt lost, and just when I was thinking of quitting school, I saw this

Film and Television course being offered at FNU.”

“I thought to myself, that it is only a year’s course, and it is also in demand as I had heard on the news that lots of filming was planned to happen in Fiji.”

Fonorito was based on the Mamanuca Islands for three months during the shooting of Season 44 of *Survivor*.

“I was part of the post-production team that deals with everything that happens after the shooting is complete, from the labelling of the memory cards to data-entering of the records before everything is sent off to LA for editing,” he explained.

The allowance from the shooting also helped him pay for his University fees.

“When I was on the island, I got the email that I was behind on my payment for University fees, so I called my mum and asked her to pay then, and when I was back on the mainland, I will pay her with interest.”

“This I did with the money I earned while shooting.”

The future filmmaker recommends students who wish to study Film and Television to undertake the course at FNU.

“I had a very enlightening journey at FNU. I had the most amazing and down-to-earth guidance from FNU’s Film and Television Coordinator, Arun Chakravorty and Instructor Maneesha Wijekoon. The duo ensured we were industry ready and prepared us on what is expected from us when we were out there working,” he said.

Survivor, which is hosted and executively produced



by Emmy Award winner Jeff Probst, is a TV show where participants are left stranded on an island with physical and mental challenges to earn the title of the Sole Survivor.

FNU’s Film and Television Coordinator Arun Chakravorty said that the *Survivor* show has been recruiting students from FNU since 2016.

Apply Now

Students interested in Certificate in studying the Film and Television (Level 4) programme or other TVET courses at FNU can apply now for one of the 4,600 placements available through the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS).

Eligible students must obtain a pass in Year 12, Certificate I, Certificate II or secure a final offer letter for any Certificate Level III, IV or Diploma level 5 programmes offered at FNU.

FNU 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.

CHAND EXCITED TO PURSUE STUDIES AT FNU

Flippping through the newspapers during the weekends and seeing many vacancies in the construction industry prompted Vishant Chand to pursue studies in carpentry at the Fiji National University (FNU) next year.

The current Year 13 student at Ba Sangam College said he was excited to receive his offer letter for a Certificate in Carpentry (Level 4) programme to be undertaken at FNU’s Ba campus.

“I felt happy to receive my offer letter and be on the pathway to learning the skills and knowledge required to work as a proficient carpenter in the booming construction industry. I have observed that the demand for carpenters is on the rise,” he said.

Offered through FNU’s College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), students who enrol in the course will have the chance to learn carpentry fundamentals. Students will also gain knowledge on topics such as Properties of Timber, Trade Calculation, Construction Drawing, Introduction to Communication Literacy, Workshop and Power Tool Safety, General Scaffolding, Levelling and Site Establishment, Clearance and Demolition.

Chand (*pictured right*) highlighted that the training was appropriate for students who, like him, lack prior knowledge or expertise in carpentry.

“I have always been interested in skilled-based and innovative education, and carpentry is the right choice.



After completing my education, I will be a trained and skilled craftsman and will be able to work in construction and renovation projects.”

“I know I will have full job satisfaction because I will have the opportunity to do hands-on work. I don’t like sitting at a desk and staring at computer screens.

“After completing my programme, I know I will have the opportunity to build and create something with my own hands. And the plus point is that every project and every day will be unique,” he adds.

Chand is confident that he will be able to find employment quickly after completing his studies.

“FNU programmes have a practical component, and I will be job ready right after graduation. I have discovered that the construction industry faces a workforce shortage because of many factors.”

“Currently, there aren’t enough skilled carpenters employed to handle the demands of all the many projects taking place across the nation. Carpenters and other craft professions are in high demand; therefore, there are many opportunities, better job stability, and better benefits available in these fields.”

The Ba lad wants to leave a legacy and said that a carpentry career offers him a chance to make a difference in other people’s lives.

“When I work in construction, the things I produce will help the community in the long run. In those homes, families will grow, and students will learn in schools. The gyms, churches, and businesses will transform lives.”

“The tasks you might do in a matter of months could last for the next century or beyond. You might have a small but crucial role to play in people’s most memorable moments or important events,” he said.



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MUKTAR WINS GOLD AT CHEFS' COMPETITION

Fiji National University (FNU) student, Bavlyn Muktar bagged herself a gold medal at the annual chefs' competition held in Nadi. The 33-year-old recently participated in the Live Cake Decoration category at the FMF Salon Culinaire 2022, Class 12 competition held at the Sheraton Fiji Golf and Beach Resort in Nadi. Originally from Sigatoka, the mother of two said it was hard being away from her two children while studying in Suva.

"I am a mother of two wonderful children, and my husband has been extremely supportive in taking care of them throughout my studies while working a full-time job. After classes on Friday, I have to rush down to the West to spend quality time with them," Muktar (*pictured right*) shared.

"The toughest times were not being there when they had celebrations and events at school or when they video called me for their functions."

She is currently studying Certificate in Baking and Patisserie (Level 3) at Fiji National University's, College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS). "It was a tough competition, with some of the

industry's best, and the win was humbling and a learning experience." Muktar said she has gained vast experience from renowned resorts in Fiji as well as Cook Islands. "I am the first in my family to take up the profession. I became involved in the profession to start work somewhere. I then worked for five-star resorts, such as Shangri-La Fijian, Warwick, Outrigger, and Aitutaki Island Resort."

She was among six students from FNU's Nasese campus that participated in the FMF Salon Culinaire 2022 competition.

CBHTS Dean, Professor Arun Elias said it is a great feat for CBHTS that all six students from Nasese campus won medals.

"Like FNU is a dual sector university, CBHTS is a dual sector business school. Hospitalism and tourism studies plays a very important part in TVET," Elias said. "Education is about broadening about your mind, and I hope students we gave you an opportunity to broaden your mind."

School Hospitality and Tourism Studies Head, Aman Narayan said it is a big achievement for the school. "This competition involves chefs from the hotels,



resorts, universities from all over Fiji, who take part to showcase their talents and artwork."

"Our chefs took part in the Local category which involved chefs from the local industry, and this has provided them with exposure to the talent within their industry."

One gold medal, three silver medals and two bronze medals were won by students from the Nasese campus, whilst nine medals were won by students from the Namaka campus.

FNU STUDENTS IMPLEMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAMME AT NAIMALAVAU VILLAGE



Nutrition intervention programmes implemented by Fiji National University (FNU) at Naimalavau Village will help our people focus on their diet in the fight against Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

This was highlighted by the village chief, Seru Bakaniceva.

"This programme is helpful for our villagers as they are now more aware of their eating habits. "We will closely monitor our diets and undertake more physical activities to stay healthy and fight against NCD" said Bakaniceva.

As part of the FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) Bachelor of Dietetics and Nutrition programme, students undertake community outreach and intervention programmes as part of their student learning journey.

Year 2 students of the programme recently conducted a community outreach session to Naimalavau Village to review the progress made by the villagers.

The students, accompanied by course lecturers, made

their first visit in September to carry out a community needs assessment. During this visit, the students collected data on the nutritional and health status of the villagers such as the food they consumed during their three daily meals, the number of fruits and vegetables they eat and the physical activities undertaken by the villagers.

After the data was collected, the students were required to analyse the results and outline a programme to address the issues highlighted.

To educate the Naimalavau village about living a healthier lifestyle, the students made charts, models, did food demonstrations and performed a drama for the villagers during their second visit.

The villagers were also encouraged to continue with their gardening practices and were provided with seedlings by the University.

"This intervention generally happens every year with the help of Ministry of Health and Medical Services staff. Generally, we have staff nurses and dietitians who accompany us during our first and second visits," said course lecturer Dr Pragya Singh.

FNU TO COLLABORATE WITH UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

As a future-focused, dual-sector institution, the Fiji National University (FNU) aims to strengthen strategic teaching and research partnerships with regional universities.

Under the University's Strategic Plan 2021–2026, this aligns with the priority of providing students with an enriching learning experience to help them grow and excel in their chosen field of study and work.

FNU hosted a team from the University of Otago to hold discussions on future collaboration towards the common goal of giving the best learning experience to students.

FNU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lyn Karstadt said the discussions reflected on the commitment of both universities in exploring partnership opportunities for the benefit of our students and staff.

"FNU is currently in a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Otago for the past five years," she highlighted.

"The MOU signed in 2017 between FNU and the University of Otago included staff capacity building and development; the exchange of academic and administrative staff; the exchange of research students and other staff mutually agreed upon; the sharing of teaching resources and curriculum; and collaborative research, lectures, and symposia."

"As the national institution, FNU provides accessible education to all our students in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education streams of learning."

"I believe the visit by the University of Otago will play an instrumental role in advancing our partnerships in

different fields of study with the same aim of enhancing the education of our future leaders."

University of Otago Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Murdoch said the vision of the FNU is aligned with the University of Otago.

"This is not the first time I have been here. I came here 20 years ago when I was working with the team from FSM (the former Fiji School of Medicine), and five years ago, I was hosted by Dr William May from the CMNHS, and it was the same year we signed the Memorandum of

Understanding," he said.

"At the University of Otago, we are really focusing a lot on our place in the world, and it is important to be viewed as a true university of and in the Pacific."

"I believe that is the case between University of Otago and FNU, especially after hearing about your strategic priorities and emphasis on the student experience and preparation for work ready graduates. I think we are very well aligned."



REDDY UPSKILLS IN AGRICULTURE STUDIES AT FNU

After attaining her dual Diploma qualification from the Fiji National University (FNU), Sanjeshni Reddy has decided to upskill her qualification by enrolling for Semester 1, 2023 studies.

Reddy is a graduate of the former Fiji College of Agriculture and the Fiji College of Advanced Education, which merged in 2010 to form part of FNU.

She is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Agricultural Science) offered by the College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

“After teaching for 18 years, I decided to upskill and learn new teaching knowledge and methodology from the University where I first gained my tertiary qualifications,” Reddy (*pictured right*) said.

“I have enrolled for further studies to strengthen my subject specialisation, attain new knowledge regarding the sector, stay involved in the agriculture industry, and prepare the next generations of students to feed the world.”

The Ba Sangam teacher said she had always wanted to become an agricultural science educator and was excited to receive her offer letter.

“Teaching agricultural studies has been enriching for me for the past 20 years. It is humbling to see students make a difference in agriculture and their communities. I become an agriculture teacher by choice and not by chance.”

“The Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Agriculture

Science) programme is an excellent programme for educators like me who need to enhance our qualifications. Updating my teacher credentials will, I’m sure, allow me to discover fresh approaches to instruction that I can apply to my regular classes,” the Rakiraki native added.

Reddy highlights that the best decision she ever made was to join the Fiji College of Agriculture, now known as the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

“I shattered the glass ceiling 20 years ago when I decided to study agriculture; back then, not many females wanted to step into traditionally male-dominated fields.”

“I specifically picked agriculture science as my major because I’ve always been interested in farming and food production. We teach the skills essential for human development, such as food production, environmental preservation, and resource management.”

“Therefore, I strongly urge students to apply to this programme”.

Reddy looks forward to returning to classes and being on the other side of the classroom as a student.

“I am excited to start studying again as a mature student. I am confident that the faculty and staff at FNU are approachable and will make my learning journey enjoyable,” she said.

To understand more about the changing educational paradigm, Reddy urges current teachers to take advantage of the Bachelor of Education (Secondary In-service) programme offered by CHE next year.



“The environment of education has undergone significant change. To improve outcomes for our children, teachers like myself must prepare for the constantly evolving educational landscape.”

“Additionally, there is a higher need for quality education; thus, teachers must enhance their class presentations to meet these standards.”

FNU is now accepting applications for Semester 1, 2023 studies.

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UNIVERSITY RAISES AWARENESS ON MENTAL HEALTH



Mental health is important for an individual’s well-being so that they can contribute to economic prosperity and enjoy their lives with their family.

In line with this, the Office of the Registrar launched a month-long mental health awareness campaign throughout its campuses in October for students and staff.

The theme for this year’s World Mental Health Day was Make mental health for all a global priority.

The activities organised during the awareness month included affirmation tree to encourage positive self-reflection among students, staff affirmation challenge, desk exercise; the performance of exercises at a desk as a means of promoting health and fitness and lunch hour music.

At the closing of the mental health awareness month, FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Lyn Karstadt said the activities organised by the University inspired others to

make the world a better place for all.

“As we emerge from the pandemic, it is clear that no nation was ready for the associated mental health crisis and the long-term effects of COVID,” Professor Karstadt said. “Many health systems are ill-prepared to deal with the physical and mental health challenges faced by their populations. Other global matters, such as the war in Ukraine, climate change, and the displacement of people, are also issues we struggle to cope with.”

“Rates of people experiencing suicidal ideas are increasing globally, and people with lived experiences of mental health, their families, and other populations have highlighted how their mental health was not prioritised.”

During the event, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health and Sciences (CMNHS) students performed a short drama showing how domestic violence, depression, and relationship problem could lead to mental health problems and how they can be addressed through support and counselling services available.

The patients and staff from St Giles Hospital were also part of FNU’s inclusive programme, where they staged a dance performance for the staff and Chief Guest at the event.

Speaker Renu Snowsill shared her experiences with depression and anxiety and how she overcame these through self-determination.

Snowsill is now an inspiration to others in the community through her testimonials and her life story to fight depression.

“Last year, I had a massive mental breakdown trying to reach out to people to help them during COVID-19. It was difficult for me to get up, and one day I decided to make a drastic change in my life,” she explained.

“Later, I realised who I was, and I realised that previously I forgot that I am valuable; instead of looking for love and acceptance elsewhere, I realised that I should love and accept myself first.”

“I fought the battle of my lifetime, and I hope this motivates others who are going through a difficult phase in their life to fight every moment.”

The University Registrar, Sarita Devi, congratulated the whole team for their effort and emphasised on the importance of the Mental Health outreach programmes and its alignment with The FNU strategic goals.

FNU, in 2020, has introduced the ‘Ask, Listen, Motivate, Ask again’ (ALMA) initiative inspired by the international “R U OK?” campaigns. The “R U OK?” is an Australian non-profit suicide prevention organisation, founded by advertiser Gavin Larkin in 2009 which advocates for people to have conversations with others.

FNU also provides Free counselling services for all FNU students and staff. Individuals are guaranteed a safe, comfortable and confidential space to talk freely and to be listened to with understanding, respect and care.

Students and staff can contact University Counsellors Varsha Naidu at counsellor-vn@fnu.ac.fj at the Nasinu Campus or Kantha Mani at counsellor-km@fnu.ac.fj at the Natabua Campus.

TEAM FNU ENGAGES WITH YOUTH

The Fiji National University’s (FNU) Outreach Team was part of the recent Walesi Carnival as a way to provide information to visitors on the study opportunities and entry pathways available at the University.

The team conducted academic counselling services and served in Year 12 and 13 students who were following up on their applications submitted online.

There were also parents and guardians who visited the Outreach and Information Booth on behalf of their

children who were studying in the maritime schools and those that were in the interior of Vitilevu. The team also received applications at the Walesi Carnival for TVET programmes such as the Certificate In Hairdressing (Level 3).

The team were happy to assist a group of Year 10 students of St Joseph’s Secondary school with their subject combinations. This was done to align their secondary school subjects to their career ambition and study programme available at FNU.



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Vice-Chancellor TOURS FNU CAMPUSES

Fiji National University's (FNU) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lyn Karstadt recently completed her tour of FNU's campuses in the Central, Western and Northern divisions to visit students and staff and gain insight on the College facilities and campus life.

Prof Karstadt said that the purpose of the tours was to get an eagle's point of view on ways to enhance the student learning experience at each campus.

"I want to make sure that the facilities offered at FNU are what our students need to succeed, that they are OHS-compliant classrooms, lecture theatres, walkways, and clean washrooms," she highlighted.

"Next year, I will be making a much longer trip to

each campus, and I look forward to that so I can spend more time talking to our students and staff."

During her campus walk through and tour, the Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), Professor Lisa Harrison and Division of Estates and Facilities (DEF) and FNU Students' Association (FNUSA) representatives.

The Fiji National University has campuses in the following locations:

- Koronivia Campus
- Narere Campus
- Nasinu Campus
- Pasifika Campus
- Hoodless House



- Tamavua Campus – School of Nursing
- Public Health Hospital
- Nabua Campus
- Derrick Campus
- Fiji Maritime Academy
- Nasese Campus
- Natabua Campus
- Namaka Campus
- Naceva Campus
- Natabua Campus
- Ba Campus
- Naduna Campus



FNU CONTINUES ENROLMENT DRIVE FOR SEMESTER 1, 2023 STUDIES

Wainimala Secondary School student, Melisio Labatavatava was excited to receive his provisional Offer Letter from the Fiji National University (FNU) after submitting his application at the Nasinu Campus.

"I was really inspired by the programmes which are offered at FNU, so I applied," Labatavatava (*pictured left*) shared.

"I look forward to sitting for my final examinations and receiving my results so that I can receive my final Offer Letter."

The year 12 student enrolled in the Diploma in OHS (Level 5) programme offered by the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

The programmes covers studies in areas that include Occupational Hygiene, OHS Injury Statistics &

Compensation, Personal Protective Equipment, Technical Communication, Working At Heights, Workplace Health and Safety, Introduction to Human Resource Management and OHS Introduction and Law.

"My advice to all students who are willing to join FNU in the future is to keep working hard towards your goals, stay motivated and make your dreams come true," he said.

FNU is now accepting applications for Semester 1, 2023 studies.

For ease and quick process of admission and registration, FNU has dedicated Enrolment Centers to serve new and continuing students at the Nasinu, Derrick, Koronivia, Ba, Natabua, Namaka and Labasa campuses.

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.

STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Fiji National University (FNU) combined its rich display of cultural diversity and awareness of the region's social issues during the annual Cultural Night organised by the Fiji National University Students' Association (FNUSA) and Fiji National University Fiji School of Medicine Students' Association (FNUFSMedSA).

Coordinated by the medical students' association (FNUFSMedSA) from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS), various student cultural groups performed items aligned to the theme Oceania: Voyaging to a Climate-Resilient Future.

The Attorney-General, Minister for Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, was Chief Guest at the event and commended the University and FNUSA on an event that brought people from different countries and cultures together.

"I thank the Students' Association for choosing climate change as the theme. All of us come from Pacific Island countries, and we are all facing different challenges as far as climate change is concerned," Hon Sayed-Khaiyum said.

Hon Sayed-Khaiyum said FNU is playing a pivotal role in the fight against Climate Change through its partnership with regional universities to work on solutions

to climate change issues.

"In Fiji, FNU has a climate change centre that partners with Monash University and FNU. The Centre's job is to look at all the different aspects of climate change and its impact on all of us," he said.

"One of the most critical issues is to do with health itself. Most of you here are doing MBBS and studying Public Health and various other areas of health. You will have a huge impact concerning how and to whom you will as a professional deliver the services and knowledge you have acquired to be able to ensure the respective countries you come from will be able to provide a particular level of comfort and new ideas and ways to deal with climate change itself."

CMNHS Dean, Dr William May said the College's Cultural Night was an important event in the College calendar.

"This event is dedicated to the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences students from different parts of the Pacific region. This is where they showcase their culture, and this event also allows them to be connected to their country and identity," he mentioned.

FNUSA National President Mohammed Iqbal said the event was a success, with the students, staff, and guests enjoying the Pacific performances.

"It was a grand event for the FNUSA/ FNUFSMedSA and the University where the students performed on the theme linked to climate change, and our main goal was for our students to enjoy the event, which has become an annual event," he said.



2023 ROADSHOW

Operating hours: 9am to 3pm



ROADSHOW - VITI LEVU

Location	Date
Nausori - Bus Stand	13, 14 Jan
Sigatoka - Wishing Well	19, 20, 21, 27, 28 Jan
Ba Town	19, 20, 21, 27, 28 Jan
Tavua	19, 20, 21, 27, 28 Jan
Rakiraki Market	19, 20, 21, 27, 28 Jan

FNUKONA - EXPRESS BOOTH

Location	Date
Nausori - Bus Stand	19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 Jan 1, 2, 3 Feb
Navua - Shop N Save	19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 Jan 1, 2, 3 Feb
Nadi	19, 20, 21, 27, 28 Jan
Lautoka	19, 20, 21, 27, 28 Jan

ROADSHOW - VANUA LEVU

Location	Date
Seaqqa Shopping Center	13 Jan
Savusavu Town	14 Jan
Dreketi Shop	20 Jan
Vuo Supermarket, Vunika	21 Jan
CJ Mall Supermarket	26, 27, 28 Jan



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#WeCare

FNU INTRODUCES NEW GREEN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD AT FBEA



Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) winning the President's award at the FBEA

The 23rd year of the Fiji Business Excellence Awards filled the Britannia Room of the Grand Pacific Hotel with an array of purple and glitter with ever growing interest from new and old organisations striving for excellence.

The Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) sets a framework and criteria for organisations to play an important role in adapting to achieve excellence through their company's vision and mission.

Fiji National University (FNU) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lyn Karstadt introduced the new Green Sustainability Award at the 23rd Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA).

"This Award is a special award that has been included by the Secretariat following lengthy discussions with the Panel Review," Prof Karstadt said.

"Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has moved from the periphery to the center on the corporate

agenda. The Chairman of the Panel of Review had placed a lot of emphasis on Societal Responsibilities for Fijian Organisations and for everyone to take their cue from the Honourable Prime Minister as the Champion on Climate Change."

The first 2022 Green Sustainability Award was won by the Fijian Consumer and Competition Commission (FCCC).

FCCC Chairperson, Isikeli Tikoduadua said this was a significant milestone for the company in its quest for quality and organisational performance excellence and an important step in its journey towards Sustainability and Development.

FCCC also won the highest honour at the FBEA, the President's Award.

"Our journey in Excellence included receiving the 'Achievement' award in 2018 and the 'Prize Award' in 2019 with our Quality Circles team also getting awarded in National Quality Conventions," Tikoduadua said.

The list of winners is as follows:

- Green Sustainability Award** – Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Commitment Awards** – Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service
- Achievement Awards** – Hygiene Sanitisation, Movements International Limited, Sugar Cane Growers Fund and Post Fiji
- Fiji Business Excellence Prize Awards** – Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Limited and Flick Hygiene Limited
- Fiji Business Excellence President Award** – Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Being the national university, FNU believes that there is an opportunity for every Fijian to have some form of qualification and training.

With this in mind, FNU had begun a nation-wide community visit to promote study opportunities. Director Marketing and Communications, Karen Lobendahn stressed on the University's commitment to community engagement.

"The Fiji National University's key value revolves around Care and we showcase care through providing access to quality and relevant training and education. We will ensure we reach out to communities in every division," she said.

The FNU outreach team recently visited the Kinoya village to promote TVET programmes and upcoming free reskilling and upskilling short courses.

Kinoya village secretary Taniela Moli said the people from the village were grateful to FNU team for raising awareness. "The outreach programme from FNU helps the people to know more about the courses and programmes and are made aware of the plans for them which they can take to excel in life. Most of them completed Year 11 level, but with the information given by FNU, they could make choices in terms of furthering their education."

The team also visited communities in the Ra and Tailevu Province in the month of November.

If you want the Outreach team to visit your community, contact us on outreach@fnu.ac.fj or call 3394000 ext: 2896.



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SCAN TO REGISTER

Talanoa with our Alumni



WAQABACA ACHIEVES ACADEMIC AMBITIONS AT FNU

course – Diploma in Accounting (Level 5) programme.”

Education

During high school studies at Jasper Williams High School, Waqabaca said she was certain that FNU would be her tertiary institution of choice as it was aligned to her academic goals.

“My family moved to the Central Division at the same time I began university studies, so I undertook the TVET course at the Nasinu Campus.”

“I made the right choice in studying at FNU as the compulsory component of industrial attachment supported my personal and professional growth.”

“My confidence level and ability to interact with people confidently was due to first-hand industry experience that I gained during the attachment. I was also able to apply my theoretical knowledge in real-world situations.”

Waqabaca also shared about the developments undertaken by FNU over the years to enhance the learning experience of all its students.

“I have noticed that the University infrastructure has changed over the years which has led to an enjoyable learning environment. For instance, in 2015 we used to use the tennis court beside the Main Hall for all kinds of sports. However, now that FNU has a Sports and Wellness Centre, we have alternatives.”

Career

“My tertiary studies have prepared me for my first formal employment at Ram Sami & Sons (Fiji) Limited, where I was the Accounts Officer. I recently joined Value City SPE Ltd as the Accounts Receivable Officer,” Waqabaca shared.

“My work as an accounts officer fueled my passion for Accounting and motivated me to pursue further studies and graduate with a degree.”

Waqabaca graduated from the TVET programme in 2018 and completed her degree four years later.

Family

“I had met my husband at FNU in 2016 and had my first child in 2017 and then welcomed my second child in 2018,” she shared.

“My small family was always my beacon of hope whenever I felt like giving up during my studies, particularly when COVID reached our shores.”

“The assignment and work deadlines, coupled with trying to juggle a young family was a challenge I was proud to overcome.”

“Learning to adapt to the new mode of learning was a challenge but I am grateful to the lecturers and FNU staff for checking on the student’s welfare and allowing time for students to complete assignments.”

“I thank God, my husband, children and family for the constant motivation and support.”

Words of Wisdom

Waqabaca said her student and graduate experience at FNU allowed her to motivate others to study at FNU.

“My studies at the Fiji National University have enabled me to be able to work well in a team and excel in my current field of work,” she said.

“If you have a dream of pursuing tertiary studies and becoming successful in life, then FNU is the place for you as it will help you turn your dreams into reality.”

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. To register, please scan the QR code at the top left corner of this page.

Apply Now

Students interested in pursuing a TVET courses at FNU can apply now for one of the 4,600 placements available through the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Services (TSLs).

Eligible students must obtain a pass in Year 12, Certificate I, Certificate II or secure a final offer letter for any Certificate Level III, IV or Diploma level 5 programmes offered at FNU.

FNU 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 youngest of eight children has never deterred Rachel Bula Lomani Waqabaca from reaching for the stars and achieving her aspirations.

From Waciwaci Village, Lakeba, Lau, Waqabaca proudly graduated from the Fiji National University (FNU) this year with a Bachelor of Accounting, Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management degree.

“Hard work and never giving up always pays off in the end and I strongly believe in that,” Waqabaca firmly said.

“I have amazing and fond memories of my time at the Fiji National University.”

“The University resources and lecturers were helpful during my student journey, which began in 2015 when I undertook the TVET

The **FNUNIKUA** is a monthly newsletter which aims to promote the University’s activities to the wider community. This newsletter is produced by the Public Relations and Communications team at the Division of Marketing and Communications.

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FNUNIKUA wants to HEAR FROM YOU

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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