

FNU NIKUA

ISSUE NO. 1 | JANUARY 2023



FNU – The First Step *into* **your Future**



CHOVHAN FOLLOWS
FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

DR SHARMA:
A PROUD MOTHER AND MEDALIST



Learning at FNU



reetings to you all.

I am excited to write my first FNUNIKUA message for 2023. This year, FNU looks forward to another year of providing quality and accessible education and research opportunities to all Fijians.

The theme for this month's edition is '*FNU – The First Step into Your Future*'. As a student, it is very important to choose the right career path so that you can achieve your academic ambitions. As the national University, FNU offers over 300 programmes through our Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education (HE) learning streams.

Deciding on a study pathway and which institution to learn at can be a daunting task for some, but with the right information and guidance, students should be able to confidently begin their tertiary education journey.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the students of Year 13, as their results were released earlier this month. All your hard work and sacrifices have paid off. Some may have not achieved the targets they have set out, but this should not stop you from exploring the many other learning opportunities available that can be tailored to your interests and ambition.

Prospective and registered students at FNU can enjoy various services and benefits of the University that are provided to aid in a student's academic and student journey at FNU.

The University has campuses and centres around the country to provide easier access to learning for students who may not want to travel far from home. As a new and dynamic institution, yet one with an illustrious history within its component Colleges, FNU is developing, innovating and expanding daily to provide Fiji and the region with the education and

training students need and deserve.

Whether you choose technical and vocational education and training (TVET) or higher education (HE), university will teach you the skills you need to succeed – not just today, but tomorrow and throughout the whole of your career. Unlike school, university teaches you how to think, not what to think – to prepare you for a future that will be very different from today. School gives you the right answers, but university encourages you to ask the right questions – to develop your critical thinking skills.

Our TVET courses enable people and those already working in the workforce to develop skills, experience, and competencies demanded by employers in the region and globally. TVET provides individuals with skill sets for lifelong employability and provides employers with the skilled workforce needed to compete and succeed. TVET has a crucial role to play in providing educational opportunities, reducing inequality, filling skills gaps, and supporting sustainable economic growth – especially in rural and remote communities.

Our programmes are offered in both face-to-face and blended modes, and we offer an excellent blend of theoretical learning and practical experiences. Many students and families also factor in the financial aspects when planning further studies.

At FNU, we offer flexible fee payment options that students can opt for. This will allow students to study and pay their fees throughout the duration of their study term.

Our academic staff possess industry experience and the relevant knowledge to provide students with learning and teaching that will allow graduates to excel in the world of work.

In addition to this, students can be assured that FNU will provide them with the required support in any area of learning. In this edition, our Pro-Vice-

Chancellor Learning and Teaching provides an in-depth report of the types of services we have and how students can access these.

The Year 12 national examination results are expected to be released soon. I'd like to reassure all students that FNU also has programmes available for those who wish to now begin their tertiary studies.

Students can visit our campuses and talk to our academic staff about the programmes they are interested in. Our staff will be more than happy to assist you through the enrolment process.

I would like to wish all our prospective, new, and continuing students all the best as we begin a new academic year of learning.

I would also encourage students to set your goals for this year and work hard towards them so you can excel in your studies and career and make your families – and FNU – proud.

Vinaka.



Professor Lyn Karstadt
Vice-Chancellor



CHOVHAN FOLLOWS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Jeeet Abhishek Chovhan believes being a Pharmacist is a noble profession and is eager to provide his service and contribution to the field.

The recent Bachelor of Pharmacy graduate of the Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) said seeing his father in the pharmaceutical field spurred the graduate to follow in his father's footsteps.

"Back in primary and secondary school, they would

ask students what we would like to be when we grow up. I would always give one answer – to be a pharmacist," Chovhan shared.

"My father and uncle are both pharmacists and I am honoured to have graduated in the same field. My goal is to help them with the family business and uphold the family name."

"I want to see myself become one of the best pharmacists in the West, just like my father."

Chovhan (*pictured above*) was also the recipient of the Deans Honour for Bachelor of Pharmacy during the

CMNHS December 2022 graduation ceremony.

In a brief reflection, Chovhan said the transition from high school to University learning was a challenge he had to overcome.

"I would get homesick often and this affected my studies and social life," he shared.

"However, I got used to the changes and started enjoying every aspect of campus life and the exciting experiences of University."

"This chapter of my life has also taught me how to be independent and I am grateful for it."

KAWANALAGI EAGER TO SUCCEED

Joana Kawanalagi was a shy face with bright eyes who visited the Fiji National University's (FNU) Roadshow booth at Nausori earlier this month.

Driven by the successful student testimonials shared on FNU's social media platforms, Kawanalagi (*pictured centre*) said this prompted her to become part of the FNU family of learners and achieve her own success.

After discussions with FNU staff, Kawanalagi left the venue with a huge smile on her face after completing her enrolment for Semester 1 studies in the Certificate in Cookery (Level 3) programme.

Offered by the University's College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS), the TVET programmes provide skills and training in areas that include Basic Cookery Skills, Bar Services in Mocktails, Cocktails & Beverage Mixing, Introduction to Cookery, Baking and Patisserie, Purchasing Food Commodities, the Basics of Catering Control, Computer Skills and Kitchen Safety, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Hailing from Tailevu, Kawanalagi said she was enrolled in the programme earlier but was unable to complete her studies due to a sudden and unfortunate



family incident. "Despite this, I was still determined to complete my further studies at FNU," the 24-year-old shared.

"I also want to encourage others – if you have encountered stumbling blocks and other circumstance in life, please do not think that this is the end of the road for you."

"You can pick yourself up again and continue on the path to achieving your dreams."

"Do not be scared to get what you want in life, just believe in yourself and if you have a positive heart, and a positive mind you can be anything in life - just go for it. In this world, only God can be that person for you to help," Kawanalagi said tearfully.

She added that she was inspired to apply for a cookery programme by a close family member who is employed at a prominent resort in Sigatoka.

"She is employed as a pastry chef at the Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort, and she is the one who inspired me to apply for this programme at FNU."

"I have already learnt a lot from the work she has done, from baking delicious pastry to making it an art, but I want to learn more."

2023 FNU

ACADEMIC DATES



TERM	EVENT	DATES
Semester 1, 2023	Orientation	6-10 February, 2023
	Week 1	13 February, 2023
	Mid Semester Break	3-7 April, 2023
	Study	29 May-2 June, 2023
	Examination	5-16 June, 2023
Quarter 1, 2023	Orientation	6-10 February, 2023
	Week 1	13 February, 2023
	Examination	3-7 April, 2023
	Quarter Break	10 April – 28 April, 2023
	Semester Break	19 June – 14 July, 2023





FACILITATING FIRST AND FURTHER YEAR EXPERIENCES @ FNU



reetings to all, and a special warm welcome to our new students who are joining the FNU family!

I would like to congratulate all our continuing students for your hard work, commitment, and determination during the 2022 Academic Year – we are very proud of your progress! Whether you are beginning your educational journey at FNU, or continuing with your education and training, remember that you don't have to do this alone.

Many enthusiastic and expertly trained people are here to offer advice, encouragement, and support, as you progress through the academic year – never be too timid in asking for help. We all encounter obstacles and at times find life a challenge – no matter whether we are new at FNU or not.

Doing this work is not “just a job” for the people of the Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT), Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (CLTE for short, pronounced as ‘see-light’).

We support students because doing so is our passion. Our commitment to your success begins even before you arrive on campus, and our friendly and dedicated Student Success Specialists are eager to help you start your higher education life. So let us look at a primer of our free-of-charge support services at CLTE.

Managing your Transition to FNU

Below are a few of the support services provided to help our students transition smoothly into University studies.

First-Year Experience (FYE) app

Most things at FNU may be new to you as a first-year: new friends, new expectations, and a distinct learning atmosphere. You might feel a little out of place at first, but don't worry—the FNU FYE app is here with multiple features to help you get the latest updates, create your personalised timetable, get your questions answered, and assist others by answering their questions. Download the app for free from the Google Play Store for Android devices and the App Store for Apple devices and log in with your username and password as soon as you enrol at FNU.

Succeed@FNU

Succeed@FNU is a free online course available on Moodle to prepare you for your learning at FNU. The course consists of four modules that will assist you in identifying your potential, becoming familiar with FNU's expectations and regulations, learning about the support systems, and learning the importance of taking care of yourself. If you complete this course, you can rest assured that you are an informed student and know where to get relevant support services.

First Year Fridays

You can learn about university life, share your experiences, and get your doubts cleared via discussion

with our friendly Student Success Specialists during these Friday virtual sessions from week 2 to 5. Join these sessions by clicking on the Zoom link provided on the schedule advertised on the CLTE website and FNU PR.

Introductory Academic Programme (IAP)

This is a two-week pre-semester course for DFAT-sponsored students newly arrived at FNU, to help adjust to everyday life in Fiji, FNU academic culture, and student life at each campus; to develop English language and academic skills; to diagnose areas of difficulty and recommend ongoing strategies.

Peer-Support Programmes:

NoquBuddy Programme

This programme, administered from week 1 to 7 of the semester, connects first-years (noquBuddy Mentees), both local and international, with second-year or above full-time FNU students (noquBuddy Mentors) who help them settle well at FNU by overcoming any hurdles. Both the mentors and mentees can apply by filling in simple registration forms on the CLTE website. The International Student Mentorship Programme also pairs first-year international students with mentors. Additionally, we have in place a first-year survival guide, and an international student guide for your navigation.

Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)

PAL, a structured peer support academic programme, is a great opportunity for group collaboration in your course to compare notes, discuss important topics, develop strategies for learning, and network with peers in a supportive environment. We welcome you to join our PAL sessions, facilitated by peer leaders, in targeted challenging courses to uplift your performance. These one-hour sessions run from weeks 3 to 15 of the semester. All you must do is check the PAL schedule on the FNUPR portal or CLTE website and turn up.

Study Groups

Another peer support programme for collaborative learning is Study Groups, in case your course is not supported under PAL. We can assist you to join or form a study group where you can ask questions to clarify your doubts, discuss and re-learn content.

Math Help Hub (MH2)

Maths Help Hub (MH2) provides you with mathematical and statistical support in both face-to-face and virtual modalities. You can attend a maximum of two sessions per week by booking in advance by emailing us after selecting a time slot from the schedule provided on FNU PR or CLTE website. Complementing this, Foundation Mathematics Proficiency Assessment, an optional, non-credit, online diagnostic tool helps you assess your mathematical skills. If you identify any areas that need more attention, you can drop in for an MH2 session.

English Language Hub (ELH)

ELH, an easily accessible tutoring service facilitated by our ESL-qualified Student Success Specialists dedicated to honing your writing and communication skills, is offered to all FNU students in both face-to-face and virtual modalities. You can view the schedule on FNU PR or CLTE website and attend as many sessions as you want. We also offer English as a Second Language courses (Beginning to Intermediate English as a Second Language, Intermediate English as a Second Language, Upper English as a Second Language) that you can register for by emailing us.

One-on-one consultation

One-on-one consultation is a private and confidential, personalised session with a Student Success Specialist where you get an opportunity to discuss, examine, and develop specific strategies to address your academic concerns. You can book a session by emailing us on clte@fnu.ac.fj.

Online Enrichment Courses

Learning to Learn Online (LTLO) and Learning with Academic Integrity (LAI) are non-credit, self-paced courses to provide you with the necessary skills to succeed at university. LTLO will develop your skills to become a competent online learner. You will learn strategies to manage your online learning, plan online assignments, communicate with an online instructor, and manage your assignments. LAI will help you better understand academic integrity regulations at FNU. You can register for both the courses by emailing us and access them by logging into Moodle.

Visit our website <https://clte.fnu.ac.fj/> for more information.

Best of luck!



Professor Lisa Harrison
Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching



CHAND DEFIES ODDS TO BECOME A DOCTOR



Mumta Chand was diagnosed with spinal bifida at birth and underwent a surgery at five days old.

Over two decades later, Chand (*pictured left*) is now a doctor after receiving her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree at the Fiji National University (FNU) graduation ceremony last month.

She is not letting her walking difficulties become an obstacle in her career as the 24-year-old displayed humility and warmth and was seen smiling and celebrating her achievement with friends and relatives.

Chand, who is originally from Rakiraki, stated that it was her commitment and enthusiasm that led her to her destination.

“I had myelomeningocele at birth and was operated on for that when I was five days old. I had a small bulge on my lower back when I was born which contained part of the spinal cord and fluid, so I underwent a surgery to have it corrected. One of the complications of that was slow growth of one leg leading to my walking problem.”

“I am thankful to my parents for their steadfast support in the hardest times of my life and for celebrating my every little success from kindergarden until today. They are the only reason I was able to do everything that I have done.”

The former Penang Sangam High School

scholar stated that she chose to work in the medical field to serve the people of Fiji.

“I feel that serving the people is the noblest and most important thing one can do, and perhaps I was picked to carry out this duty to the people of Fiji. The knowledge and skills I have gained will stay with me, and I will be able to help people by curing them,” she stated with a pleased smile.

“My ambition of becoming a doctor was achieved after many years of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication.”

“I became interested in being a doctor after seeing doctors in white coats moving around with stethoscopes. I was captivated, and from there a dream was born, which has now become a reality.”

According to Chand, the path of hardships, sacrifices, and devotion frequently led to rewarding destinations.

“A person’s disability should not be a barrier,” she remarked.

“You have high dreams, achieve them and make your parents proud. I feel that having to go around a lot at times may be challenging for me, but I will not let this stop me from helping people and doing my best.”

She said the move from Rakiraki to study in Suva was a transition she managed with the support of her family.

“You must be focused on your goals, but it does not exclude you from having a social life; one should constantly balance their lives. I had many sleepless nights throughout exams, although we did go out to chill out with friends afterward,” Chand shared.

“It is not that medical courses are difficult. I believe all courses have their challenges, nevertheless, do not discourage yourself from pursuing MBBS at FNU because the University offers quality education and learning facilities.”

Chand hopes to further specialise in Anesthesia.



PRASAD - NO AGE LIMIT ON LEARNING

Receiving accessible services such as academic counseling and application assistance is beneficial as it helps prospective students easily apply for University studies.

Swetha Komal Prasad was quick to highlight this after enrolling in the Diploma in Customs (Level 5) programme during the Fiji National University’s Nausori Roadshow.

“I am so excited to be studying again after a lapse of 12 years,” the 30-year-old shared.

“The FNU Roadshow team were helpful in making sure I was able to enrol and enter FNU. Bringing their teams and services to our towns also highlighted the priority they give to students.”

“I have decided to pursue my studies in this programme for better job opportunity in this field.”

“I have taken advice from my families and friends who are in this field and they have given me positive responses which has motivated me to join this course,” she added.

Prasad (*pictured above*) encouraged others to pursue their academic ambitions, regardless of their age.

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. There is no age limit on learning and gaining skills and qualifications,” she said.

“If you are determined to succeed then you will be able to overcome all the barriers.”

“FNU staff have been helpful in making students decide and be sure of their study options at the University.”

“After graduating, I hope to get a good job in this field so I can support my family,” she said.

TANIELA'S UNABATING PASSION FOR ENGINEERING

Iowane Taniela made the journey across rivers and valleys to ensure he completed the first step in fulfilling his ambition to study engineering.

The 18-year-old former Sigatoka Methodist College enrolled into the Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) with Honours programme at the Fiji National University’s (FNU) Enrolment Roadshow held at the Wishing Well in Sigatoka.

“I stay in Sovi Village, located in the interior of Nadroga. It is inside the valley and surrounded by trees, so there is no network there,” Taniela explained.

“My school is almost 40 kilometres away from my village and to reach my school, I have to ride on a horse from my village and cross mountains and valleys. I then must find transport to be able to attend school.”

Taniela (*pictured right*) added that he was

unable to attend the final two weeks of high school due to heavy rain and flooding at his village.

With a family background in farming, Taniela would be the first in his family to attain a degree once he completes studies.

“My parents are proud of my Year 13 marks, I scored 296/400; they have always motivated me and told me that anything is possible,” he shared.

“Engineering has been my ambition since I was young, and I have chosen Civil Engineering to be able to attain employment with a high pay scale.”

“Year 13 was difficult. I missed school for two weeks; I had to cross three creeks, and when it rained, it was flooded. There was no mode of transport for me to be able to attend my classes.”

Taniela said he was grateful to the FNU Enrolment Roadshow team in Sigatoka that allowed him to receive academic advice and submit his application with ease.



NAIDU THRILLED TO JOIN FNU



Naidu said she chose to study at FNU for its reputation, established excellence, and extensive list of outstanding alumni.

“I compared courses and decided on this programme, since it prioritised educational theory and practical application in professional experiences,” she explained.

“What drew me to FNU was the opportunity to complete my course in Lautoka. I am thrilled to be joining the University. I’ve always wanted to be a teacher and am excited to pursue my ambition at FNU.”

Naidu said she looked forward to entering the classroom after a lapse of 11 years, highlighting that she was at ease knowing that the University provided support for first-year students.

“It was a breeze for me to become acquainted with the learning environment at Natabua campus after obtaining my offer letter and completing the enrolment processes.”

“The student academic services ensured that I received all enrolment information and even assisted me enrol into my units.”

The former Drasa Secondary School student is looking forward to class presentations and collaborating with other students.

“The curriculum under the early childhood department will allow me to understand how children at a young age grow and develop at their own pace and, as educators, how we can support that through our knowledge and experience to develop them holistically,” she adds.

Naidu’s message to prospective students is to visit an FNU campus near them for enquiries, applications, and enrollment.

“It is not too late to seek academic assistance. Don’t be afraid to inquire. There is no such thing as a wrong question as the friendly FNU staff are available to help you.”

Ashwini Amita Naidu believes every child deserves a strong foundation as a basis for their education.

To play a significant role in this, Naidu (*pictured above*) decided to enrol in the Fiji National University’s (FNU), Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood programme. The course is offered through the College of Humanities and Education (CHE) at Natabua Campus in Lautoka.

The 33-year-old shared that one of her bucket list items was to begin her undergraduate studies after raising her two kids.

“As an early childhood teacher, I would have the opportunity to shape a child’s love for learning and instill a sense of curiosity and wonder in them,” Naidu said.

“I am drawn to this profession because of the impact an early childhood teacher can have on a child’s life. The years spent in early childhood education are critical for a child’s development, and the relationships formed during this time can have a lasting impact.”

DR SHARMA: A PROUD MOTHER AND MEDALIST

If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you. This was the philosophy shared by the Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) graduate, Dr Loreen Lonita Sharma.

The 31-year-old mother graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Anaesthesia during the University’s December 2022 graduation ceremony.

Dr Sharma (*pictured below*) was also a Special Award recipient for the Highest Academic Achievement in the Postgraduate Diploma in Anaesthesia, which is jointly sponsored by the Australia and New Zealand societies of Anaesthesia. She received a gold medal as part of the award.

“I am proud of my achievements, as it was a tough year for me personally, emotionally, and professionally. This was a dream that grew from the time I was five years old,” said Dr Sharma.

“Receiving the Special Award (Gold Medal) was an extremely emotional moment for me as all my sacrifices being away from my child and family to work and study had paid off.”

Sharma is currently employed by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services as a doctor at the CWM Hospital’s

Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Unit.

“I previously attained my degree in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from FNU as well and have practiced for five years now. This is my fourth year in my current employment.”

Dr Sharma also shared her experiences of maintaining a balance between her studies, work, and family.

“I am a wife and mother of a two-year-old. During my studies, I underwent full-time anaesthesia training and worked long hours away from home doing on-calls and night shifts.”

“This was combined with the need to stay updated with tutorials, assignments and studying and I am proud that this was a challenge I was able to overcome.”

She added that the biggest source of inspiration and motivation in her life was her family and highlighted that she was the first doctor on both her maternal and paternal sides of the family.

Dr Sharma’s advice to prospective FNU students was to remain dedicated to their dreams.

“Work hard, study hard and stay humble,” she said.

About 789 CMNHS students graduated during the December ceremony held at the Vodafone Arena in Suva.



TAUAGA ENROLS IN TVET STUDIES

After much thought, baking enthusiast Tupou Miriama Tauaga leapt at the opportunity to turn her hobby into a career.

To achieve this, Tauaga (*pictured left*) was one of the hundreds of students who turned up at the Fiji National University’s (FNU), Namaka Campus to enrol for Semester 1 studies.

The 23-year-old chose to pursue a TVET qualifications in the Certificate in Baking & Patisserie (Level 4) programme at FNU’s College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS).

“Returning to university after a break can be intimidating, but I am up for the challenge. I am driven and eager to succeed, and I am convinced that with the correct mindset and preparation, I will be able to make the most of my time at FNU,” she said.

The former Ratu Navula High School student said she is eager to learn new baking skills and excel in the field she is passionate about.

“I believe I have both the talent and potential as well as an interest in baking as a career. What I need would be the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

provided by FNU to allow me to achieve my career goals.”

“I joined FNU to get experience and professional abilities so that I could gain employment whereby I am able to prepare scrumptious pastries and cakes while also learning how to decorate cakes in an artistically beautiful manner.”

Tauaga said during her break from studies, she was able to reflect on her goals and aspirations.

“I had researched and selected FNU since the baking and patisserie programmes align with my goals, and I am looking forward to the opportunities and experiences that will come with being a student again.”

“FNU also offers a combination of hands-on training and class time. Not only will I learn how to bake, but I will also learn about the other crucial aspects of running a baking business,” she stated.

“I’m aware that it won’t be easy, but I’m excited about the challenge and the opportunity to shape my future. I hope to inspire others considering returning to university to take the leap and chase their dreams.”

Tauaga is set to begin classes in February and is looking forward to starting a new chapter in her life.



ANDREWS - EXCITED TO JOIN FNU

Nineteen-year-old Janita Andrews of Levuka could not contain her excitement and was overjoyed when she learned she was eligible to enrol and study at the Fiji National University (FNU).

Andrews (*pictured right*) was able to successfully enrol in the Certificate in Aging and Community Support Care (Level 4) programme at FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

"I am so glad that the FNU Roadshow team came to Levuka," she said.

"I was very happy. My mum saw the posters around town, so we made sure to attend the Roadshow."

"We ensured to complete our chores early so that I could come and enrol at FNU."

Andrews' mother, Mereni Logavatu, also accompanied her to the roadshow to provide support in choosing a study pathway.

"Children nowadays need some form of education to have a sustainable life," she said.

"I want her to stand on her own two feet and be able to support herself in life."



NAIDU - BLESSED TO BE A MIDWIFE



Being one of the first people to see newborn babies and helping expectant mothers safely deliver their babies is always a blessing.

These were the sentiments of Kartika Salona Naidu, who recently graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery from the Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) last month.

The mother-of-three has 14 years of experience in nursing and currently works as a perioperative nurse at the Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital in Suva. With her upgrade in qualification, she can carry out the responsibility and duties of a midwife in delivering babies.

"I am very delighted with my achievement, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. I was given a one-year study break by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and was also fortunate to study in a well-equipped facility provided by the University," she

proudly said.

"Over the years, I have served in Taveuni, Tamavua, and Sigatoka before moving to my current location."

"My mum has been the biggest source of inspiration and guidance and continuously motivates me to do my best."

Naidu (*pictured above*) said that with her knowledge and skills, she would continue to help expectant mothers deliver their newborns.

"The medical field is always a very challenging career, but if you want to join then you need to have a heart for it. If you have the heart to help people, then it will become easier for you. I encourage young people to join the nursing profession with their expertise."

"It is always thrilling to see life take form; you don't see the baby in the uterus, but when you see the baby come out alive and kicking, and the mother's reaction, it is a very precious moment."

Naidu is optimistic about pursuing further medical education at FNU.

ORIENTATION DATES

COLLEGE	DATES
College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies	Monday, 6th February
College of Humanities and Education	Monday, 6th February
College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Tuesday, 7th February
Fiji Maritime Academy	Tuesday, 7th February
Labasa Campus	Wednesday, 8th February
Ba Campus	Thursday, 9th February
College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences	Thursday, 9th February
College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies	Thursday, 9th February
College of Humanities and Education	Friday, 10th February
College of Engineering, Science and Technology	Friday, 10th February

HOPE KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED - PRASAD

Life is not the same for everyone, but one must never lose hope. This was the life motto of 19-year-old Nimish Prasad.

After learning about the Fiji National University's Enrolment Drive Roadshow in Rakiraki, Prasad (*pictured right*) eagerly made his way to the FNU booth to learn about the study opportunities available to him.

After receiving academic counseling from the FNU staff, Prasad enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture offered at the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

"I am so thankful to FNU for conducting these roadshows and making it easier for us to apply and complete our enrolment process," he said.

"It was always my dream to be part of FNU. I have worked hard to attain the marks needed for tertiary studies and make my family's dreams come true."

"I am looking forward to starting my studies next month. I am determined to succeed in my degree studies and this hope is what keeps me motivated."

His message to other students is to

make use of this opportunity which is provided by the FNU family.

"Visit FNU if you need counseling and advice. They have a programme for everyone, according to your interests and career goals."





SCAN TO REGISTER

Talanoa with our Alumni



PRASAD PURSUES SPECIALISED SKILLS

Emergency Nursing in 2021.

He proudly graduated last year with a Masters in Emergency Nursing.

“The Emergency nursing programme is new to Fiji. There were many people behind the scenes who worked tirelessly to develop and offer this programme to Fiji, and I would like to acknowledge them,” he said.

“I would also like to thank FNU for being the first university to offer the specialised course. This programme is evidenced-based with the latest research from around the country and covers many areas such as trauma, pandemics like COVID 19, disasters, early recognition of deteriorating clients, and the physiology of diseases.”

Career

“I always enjoy job satisfaction, even after being in the nursing field for the last 12 years,” he said.

Prasad has been employed as a Registered Nurse, specialising in General and Obstetric Nursing since 2011.

After completing his internship, Prasad worked at the Tamavua Twomey Hospital and Saint Giles Hospital before being transferred to his current location at the Labasa Hospital.

“I have worked in the Emergency Department at Labasa Hospital for five years and have held the positions of shift charge, acting Team Leader and Nursing Unit Manager,” Prasad shared.

Motivation

Prasad acknowledged his wife and parents for their support as he juggled being a full-time working student over the past two years.

“I was always travelling to Suva often to attend workshops and classes and my wife undertook most of the family responsibilities,” he shared.

“My parents are also supportive of my commitment to serving people, and I hope to achieve this after doing further studies in emergency nursing.”

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.

Ajнеш Prasad is no stranger to hard work, as he grew up with the motto that nothing can be achieved without commitment and a plan to succeed.

Prasad (*pictured above*) was part of one of many families who lived in Lajonia, Labasa in Vanua Levu.

“I had a great childhood and am most proud of the love, mentorship and support I have received from my parents over the years,” Prasad shared.

“Although my father also worked for Energy Fiji Limited [EFL] for over three decades, we also practiced subsistence farming to help our family survive. This allowed us to use the income earned for other necessities.”

“My mother was a housewife who ensured we enjoyed meals cooked with love.”

Education

Prasad shared that after completing high school at Labasa Muslim College, he began having discussions with his mother about pursuing studies in the Nursing field.

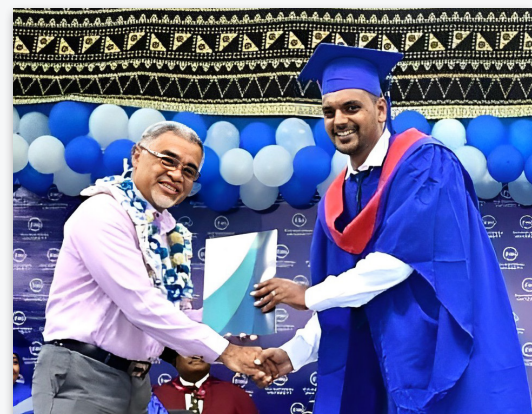
“My mother had the foresight to encourage me to consider the opportunities in this field,” he said.

“She saw that the workforce was full of other required professions and realised the potential and demand of becoming a nurse.”

“Due to societal perceptions at the time, I was hesitant to join this field as it was seen to be a traditionally female-dominated sector. However, I am grateful this did not stop me from pursuing Nursing studies, as it is a noble profession.”

To emphasise the importance of the profession, Prasad was quick to attribute Christine Bell in saying that “Nurses are there when the last breath is taken, and nurses are there when the first breath is taken. Although it is more enjoyable to celebrate the birth, it is just as important to comfort in death”.

Prasad undertook studies in the Bachelor of Nursing at FNU and graduated in 2017. He returned to undertake a Postgraduate Diploma in



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.

Publisher: Fiji National University | **Editor:** Charlene Lanyon | **Design & Layout:** Ashlyn Vilash
Division Head: Director Marketing and Communications, Karen Lobendahn
Contributors: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lyn Karstadt, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Professor Lisa Harrison
Writers: Aachal Chand, Jennis Naidu, Pravin Narain, Vishal Lal, Salesni Chaudhary, and Fotagkauriro Aisea

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

Published in partnership with



Follow us on

