



# *Celebrating Dreams with*

# FNU



**HEAD OF STATE URGES BUSINESSES** TO INVEST IN CYBERSECURITY MEASURES

**FNU-REAVI'S BEACON OF HOPE** IN THE SHADOWS

SCAN  
FOR ECOPY





*FNU Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba (fourth from left) with His Excellency, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere and distinguished guests the 2023 Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) Night at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa earlier this month.*

# FNU

– Where Every Dream Matters

Celebrating Dreams at FNU is not merely a theme; it is a testament to the resilience, the tenacity, and the unyielding spirit that defines every member of our beloved institution.

In the hallowed halls of every FNU campus, dreams are not just temporary wisps of imagination, they are the pulsating heartbeat of our community. They are the compass that guides us through the challenges, the vision that beckons us towards excellence.

Our journey at FNU is one marked by countless stories of triumph over adversity, of dreams that have soared against the wind of doubt, and of aspirations that have found wings in the fertile soil of collective determination of students from all over the country and the Pacific.

As the Acting Vice-Chancellor, I am proud to witness the dreams of our students being realised in our classrooms, laboratories, and libraries. I have seen the sparkle in the eyes of students as they grasp knowledge, the unwavering dedication of educators shaping the minds of tomorrow, and the selfless commitment of staff members ensuring the seamless functioning of our university and its affiliated institutions.

Celebrating Dreams at FNU is an acknowledgement of the fact that dreams are not solitary endeavours; they are shared visions that intertwine to create a tapestry of hope, ambition, and achievement. Each degree earned, every discovery made, and every innovation birthed is a testament to the dreams that find a home within these walls. Today, let us not only celebrate the milestones achieved but also the dreams that have fuelled these accomplishments.

Together, let us continue Celebrating Dreams at FNU, weaving a legacy that transcends time and leaves an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of generations to come.

#### **FSMedSA Cultural Night/Flagraising**

My heart swells with pride and joy as I reflect on the recent flag-raising ceremony and FMedSA cultural night. The air was vibrant with the harmonious melodies of diverse Pacific cultures coming together in a celebration of unity and understanding. As the flags of our Pacific Island nations ascended gracefully, I couldn't help but be moved by the symbolism of shared heritage and collective strength.

Each flag, a tapestry of stories and traditions, stood tall, embodying the resilience and beauty of our Pacific family. The cultural night that followed showcased the richness of our students and their roots. From the hypnotic beats of the Fijian meke to the graceful siva, every performance resonated with a deep sense of pride and belonging.

The cultural night was a testament to the power of diversity and the beauty that emerges when different cultures intertwine at FNU.

I am filled with gratitude for the rich and varied backgrounds of our students, and I am confident that these shared moments of celebration will continue to foster understanding, appreciation, and a deep sense of unity among our students and faculty.

#### **Final Exams**

As we approach the culmination of another academic

year, I am confident that our students have managed to absorb the information imparted to them during the course of their studies.

For many, this will be gauged during final examinations and highlights the dedication, perseverance, and intellectual growth of our community of learners.

I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each student, especially to our final-year students who are on the brink of graduation. This moment signifies not only the end of an educational chapter but the beginning of a new and exciting journey.

As you sit for your final exams, remember that you are equipped with knowledge, resilience, and the skills necessary to overcome any challenge. May you face each question with confidence, draw upon your strengths, and showcase the depth of your understanding.

Your hard work and commitment have brought you to this point, and I am confident that you will emerge triumphant. Wishing you all the best in your exams and the bright future that awaits you.

#### **2023 Fiji Business Excellence Awards**

I was honoured to be part of the Fiji Business Excellence Awards this year. These awards play a pivotal role in recognising and celebrating the exemplary achievements of businesses and organisations across our nation.

The pursuit of excellence is a fundamental aspect of our academic and professional ethos, and these awards provide a platform to showcase and honour organisations that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to innovation, sustainability, and ethical practices.

This event not only fosters a culture of healthy competition but also inspires others to strive for excellence in their respective fields. By acknowledging and rewarding excellence, we contribute to the overall growth and development of our business community, promoting a culture of continuous improvement that is vital for the prosperity of Fiji.

I extend my sincere congratulations to those who contributed to the vibrant and dynamic business landscape of our nation and walked away victorious on that night.

#### **2023 December Graduation**

The upcoming December graduation is not just a ceremony; it is a celebration of our student's dedication, late-night study sessions, the bonds forged in classrooms or through a talanoa session in the cafeteria or labs, and the dreams that fuelled their pursuit of knowledge.

Students, remember your success is not measured solely in grades and degrees; it is reflected in the impact you will make on the world. As you step onto the stage to receive your well-deserved honours, remember that this moment reflects your hard work, tenacity, and unyielding belief in your potential.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates and their families, who have supported them through thick and thin. May the future hold boundless opportunities for you, and may you continue to make us proud as you venture into new horizons.

Vinaka!



**Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba**  
Acting Vice-Chancellor

# FNU – Reavi’s

## Beacon of Hope in the Shadows

In a world where access to technology and electricity is often taken for granted, Reavi Moilase’s journey is a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of education.

Hailing from humble beginnings, the Kadavu native’s family has struggled with having no access to electricity or internet connectivity.

Born to parents whose daily grind revolved around manual labour and domestic duties, the Moilase family has faced challenges that Reavi is not ashamed to hide. Her father, a grass cutter, toils under the scorching sun to provide for his family, while her mother diligently tended to domestic duties and her younger sister, who is a Year 1 student.

“I am not ashamed of where I come from and the struggles I had to go through to get here, they have given me the determination to change the future not only for myself but for my younger sister,” she shared.

“I did not finish high school because my mother had found out about the programmes offered at FNU that were available to students as young as 16.”

“Seeing the struggles of my family and the urgency to be able to provide for them as soon as possible, I took the opportunity to pursue a Trade Diploma in Information Technology (Level 5) at the Fiji National University’s (FNU), College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) despite my young age.”

Moilase said that her mother had seen her passion for technology and often did odd jobs around the community to allow her funds to purchase her gadgets and resources to develop her passion.

“My mother believes in me a lot and I do not want to let her down. I will be forever grateful to FNU for providing free Wi-Fi and access to the campus facilities like the library after hours so that students

who come from low-income earning families like me can turn our dreams into reality,” said the final-year student.

“I joined university when I was 16, I was terrified, but I remembered my parent’s sacrifices. These sacrifices only fuelled my determination to succeed.”

She said she was grateful for the friendly staff and learning environment at FNU which made her feel welcome and at home.

The former Suva Grammar School student hopes to inspire other young people who are struggling economically to press on and take up the various opportunities that are available at FNU.

“My story isn’t about my struggles, it is about how I overcame those struggles with help from my family, FNU and my friends. I hope my story inspires my younger sister and those who are from low-income earning families.”

### Semester 1, 2024 Enrolments

Students who are interested in establishing a career path in engineering, sciences and technology can view the programmes offered by the College of Engineering, Sciences and Technology on the link <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/engineering-science-technology/>

Interested students can Apply Now for Semester 1, 2024 studies via the FNU website on <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/student/> or email to [admission@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:admission@fnu.ac.fj)

For further information or queries, students can also **Text (Toll-Free) to 857** for Vodafone and Inkk users.

Alternatively, applicants can visit any of the FNU campuses to submit applications.



*Diploma in Information Technology (Level 5) student, Reavi Moilase.*

## Tavo Aims to Make a Difference

Since childhood, Gideon Tavo witnessed his mother’s transformative impact within the classroom, instilling knowledge, fostering curiosity, and nurturing young minds.

It was this maternal influence that ignited a flame within him, compelling him to follow in her footsteps and embrace the noble profession of teaching.

The first-year Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Industrial Arts) student at the Fiji National University’s (FNU), College of Humanities and Education (CHE) said that he was intrigued by the way his mother was able to inspire her students.

“When I was given the opportunity to join FNU, I knew that I wanted to become an educator and I do not regret my decision at all,” said Tavo.

He added that he was also motivated to teach Industrial Arts due to the positive impact his female industrial arts teacher at Nasinu Secondary School had on his studies.

“Teaching is often underestimated as a profession. However, I believe it is a gift and an honour to be a teacher. As a teacher, you get to mould and shape countless lives and you have the

power to have a positive impact on someone’s life.”

Tavo was grateful that psychological support skills were taught to students at FNU, as mental health support for young people needed to be prioritised.

“Young people face so many issues on a daily basis and when they are not given the right support, they can often make decisions that can have a negative outcome in the future,” added Tavo.

“I am hoping that I can be able to make a positive difference when I become a teacher so that the students I teach are inspired to do the right thing when faced with challenges.”

He said that the practical training and assessments at FNU will provide him with the opportunity to be able to put his theoretical knowledge to the test.

“I am looking forward to my practical attachment because it will give me a hands-on experience of what it is like to be an educator.”

The Rotuma lad said that he hoped to see more young people pursue teaching in the future.

“I want to encourage other young people, especially men, to take up the challenge and join the teaching profession.”



*Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Industrial Arts) student, Gideon Tavo.*



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# Head of State Urges Businesses to Invest in Cybersecurity Measures

Organisations must invest in robust cybersecurity measures and ensure the protection of customer data, says Fiji's Head of State, His Excellency, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere.

His Excellency made the comment while officiating at the opening the 2023 Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) Night at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa on Denarau Island in Nadi earlier this month.

This was the 24th FBEA Night hosted by the FBEA Secretariat at the FNU's NTPC, together with the Fiji Business Excellence Framework.

A total of 14 renowned business houses were recognised and awarded for their achievements in areas such as leadership, customer focus, innovation, and sustainability.

"As we adopt technology, we must also prioritise cybersecurity and data protection," said His Excellency.

"With the increasing reliance on digital platforms, safeguarding sensitive information has become paramount – by doing so we not only protect our businesses but also maintain the trust and confidence of our customers."

He also urged businesses to promote and implement sustainable practices in all business strategies.

"As a strong champion of the preservation, conservation and sustainable management practices and most importantly



His Excellency, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere delivering his welcoming speech at the 2023 Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) Night at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa.

being responsible business leaders, it is our duty to contribute to a greener and more sustainable future," he added.

"Integrating sustainability into our operations not only benefits the planet but also enhances our reputation and attracts environmentally conscious customers."

FNU's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba said that the FBEA was more than just a celebration of success, but rather a platform for sharing best practices and learning from others.

"By sharing our experiences, we can all improve our businesses and make Fiji a better place to do business," said Professor Nabobo-Baba.

"As Acting Vice-Chancellor of the FNU, I feel a sense of accomplishment as our vision for business excellence in Fiji is not in vain."

"The efforts of the NTPC in promoting business excellence, is bearing fruit and the dramatic increase in the number of applicants for the past three years attests to this."

## Sweet Victory for Zen's



Staff of Zen's Medical Centre receiving their award for the Fiji Business Excellence Prize.

It was a historical victory for Zen's Medical Centre at the 2023 Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA). Zen's Medical Centre is the first ever medical and healthcare organisation to participate in the evaluation process of the Fiji Business Excellence Awards in the past 24 years.

It was also their first time participating in the FBEA awards and being recognised nationally at an organisational level.

The team walked away with the Achievement in Business Excellence award on Saturday 11 November 2023.

Prior to the announcement, Chief Executive Officer, Ravitesh Singh, said that the team was motivated to participate in the FBEA because of their vision of "Caring as Family".

"In order to provide value to our patients, we felt like we needed to take up a well-structured business approach which is uncommon amongst healthcare providers," said Singh.

The Bachelor of Medical Imaging Science graduate from Fiji National University's (FNU's), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) said that the Zen's family were overwhelmed and excited about attending the FBEA.

Singh commended FNU's National Training and

Productivity Centre for setting up a platform for even the smallest of organisations to be recognised. After being announced as the winners of the award, Singh and his team were in a celebratory mood as their hard work had paid off.

"It is incredible that our journey has led to the Achievement in Business Excellence award. Our team has worked hard over the past few months, and I think we are deserving of this award."

Zen's Medical Centre Founder and Executive Director, Dr Zen Min Low, has his eyes set on the highest level of recognition next, the President's Award.

"We aim for quality! Quality is paramount in our day-to-day patient care," said Dr Zen when asked about how he aims to attain the President's Award.

"It has been quite a journey for us at Zen's and we are dedicating this award to the families that have used our services, it is humbling to be able to serve them."

"We also like to dedicate this award to those from whom we have learnt. We are not perfect, but we now have a process to make our service delivery better."

The Zen's Medical Centre family aims to continue providing quality medical and healthcare services across all their locations in Fiji.

## CEO dedicates Award to cane farmers

Sugar Cane Growers Fund (SCGF) Chief Executive Officer, Raj Sharma has dedicated the organisation's recent win at the 2023 Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) Night to over 10,000 sugarcane farmers around the country.

The SCGF was one of the five recipients of the Fiji Business Excellence Prize Award. Other recipients included Flick Hygiene Pte Ltd, Hygiene and Sanitisation Fiji Ltd, Life Insurance Corporation of India and Datec Fiji Pte Ltd.

The FBEA Night took place at Denarau's Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa in Nadi.

Sharma said following the organisation's first win in 2021, the recent one meant a lot to all its staff and customers – the growers.

"With the first award, which was the Achievement

Award, we took the awards to the farmers, they held it in their hands and felt very proud of it," he said.

"This win of course raises the bar for us and we will continue to make continuous improvements to strive for the better."

He said the award was not only about receiving the plaque, but about continuously putting its customers, which were the growers, at the centre of everything.

"At this time, it is important for the industry and the sugarcane farmers to know the importance of efficiency and productivity," he added.

He acknowledged the Fiji National University (FNU), the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) and the Fiji Business Excellence Framework that all worked alongside each other to help the SCGF do better.



Sugar Cane Growers Fund (SCGF) team accepting the award for the Fiji Business Excellence Prize.

# 2023 FBEA Winners



**Green Sustainability Award:**  
Fiji Ports Corporation Pte Ltd

**Commitment to Business  
Excellence Award:**  
Food Processors Fiji Pte Ltd  
Kastle Fiji Pte Ltd  
Tertiary Scholarship and  
Loans Service



**Achievement in Business  
Excellence Award:**  
Zens Medical Centre  
Raffe Hotels and Resorts  
R.C Manubhai and Company  
Pte Ltd Post Fiji Pte Ltd



**Fiji Business Excellence  
Prize Award:**  
Flick Hygiene Pte Ltd  
Sugar Cane Growers Fund  
Hygiene and Sanitisation  
Fiji Ltd Life Insurance  
Corporation of India  
Datec Fiji Pte Ltd

**President's Business  
Excellence Award:**  
Fiji Ports Corporation Pte Ltd  
Unit Trust of Fiji



## 2023 FBEA Evaluators Recognition

**Recognition of 5 Years of  
Service to the Fiji Business  
Excellence Process:**  
Jemesa Baleijamani  
Joel Abraham  
Kinisimere Koroadrau  
Salend Kumar  
Vinitesh Kumar



**Recognition 10 Years of  
Service to the Fiji Business  
Excellence Process:**  
Maraia Vosawale  
Savenaca Raiwalui



FNU's Ba Head of Campus, Niraj Dharmendra.

## FNU's Ba Campus to Introduce 8 New Programmes in 2024

The Fiji National University's Ba Campus will be introducing a total of eight new programmes from Semester 1, 2024.

The eight new programmes range from various courses such as Agriculture and Customs.

The courses will allow interested students to become future employees at a call centre, an office assistant, a clerical officer, front office employee, a customs officer, an employee at the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service or even a field and forest officer.

The courses and Minimum Entry Requirements (MER) include;

- **Certificate in Contact Centre Operations (Call Center)** requires a completion of Year 11 studies.
- **Certificate in Office Assistant (Level 3)** requires a completion of Year 11 studies.
- **Certificate in Agriculture (Level 3)** requires a completion of Year 11 studies.
- **Certificate in Office Administration (Level 4)** requires a completion of Year 12 studies and 50 per cent in English.
- **Certificate in Customs (Level 4)** requires a completion of Year 12 studies and 50 per cent in English

• **Diploma in Office Administration (Level 5)** requires completion of Year 12 and 50 per cent in English.

• **Diploma in Customs (Level 5)** which requires a completion of Year 12 studies and 50 per cent in English and Diploma in Forestry (Level 5) which requires a completion of Year 12 studies and 50 per cent in English and Mathematics.

FNU's Ba Head of Campus, Niraj Dharmendra said the introduction of the new programmes was due to the high demand from residents in the Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki areas.

"Ba Campus will benefit from this by increasing its student numbers and we will ensure our campus facilities and services are enhanced to cater to all our students," he said.

### Apply Now

Interested students can Apply Now for Semester 1, 2024 studies via the FNU website at <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/student/> or email to [admission@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:admission@fnu.ac.fj)

For further information or queries, students can also **Text (Toll-Free)** to 857 for Vodafone and Inkk users.

Alternatively, applicants can visit any of the FNU campuses to submit applications.

## Bulai inspired by mother's nursing career

Inspired by her mother's struggles and humble beginnings, Inise Bulai is now following in her mother's footsteps by pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing at the Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS).

The 21-year-old (pictured right) proudly shared that her mother was her source of inspiration.

"She was just a village girl in the islands, and she would always tell us that she was not as bright as some of the students in her class," Bulai shared.

"She has always said that she didn't think that she was going to make it big in life and was going to be content with whatever work was given to her. However, due to hard work and perseverance, she was able to attain her Diploma in Nursing at the former Fiji School of Nursing (which is now part of CMNHS)."

The first-year student added that her mother continued to strive for higher education by graduating with her degree from James Cook University and returning to FNU to complete her postgraduate studies.

"She is the first person to be a nurse in the whole of the Yasawa Group and is currently the Director of Nursing for Aspen Medical Lautoka and Ba," she said proudly.

"From walking to school with a plastic bag to carrying her books to running hospitals, I am amazed and in awe when reflecting on how far my mother has come in life. This included the struggles and challenges she went through just to provide a better life for me and my siblings."

Bulai added that her mother always inspired her to do better and strive towards achieving her goals.

"She always told me to work hard and be better than her, live a better life and learn new things that will help me in my career. She is my role model, my life coach, my therapist, my counsellor, my helper, my source of strength and my best friend," added the Rewa native.

"I would not have the courage to take up nursing if it wasn't for her."

Bulai said that seeing nurses like her mother going out of their way to attend and provide clinics and services to villagers living in the highlands and in the islands motivated her to pursue studies in this programme.

"When it was time to apply for tertiary studies, I chose FNU because this was the place where my mother achieved her education that set her on the path

to achieving her dreams. I knew this was the place for me too."

Bulai hopes to join her mother by working for Aspen Medical after graduating.



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*Fiji National University students performing at the 2023 FSMedSA Cultural Night.*

# Students promote diversity

Students at the Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) were reminded of the significance of cultural togetherness during the 2023 FSMedSA Cultural Night at the Vodafone Arena.

Chief Guest and Fiji National University Chancellor and Council Chair, Semesa Karavaki spoke on the Cultural Night's theme of Tales of the Tides: A Cultural Odyssey of the Pacific.

Karavaki said the principles of cultural togetherness held particular relevance and significance and it was not merely a matter of tolerance or coexistence but the cornerstone of a harmonious, prosperous, and enlightened society.

"As the leading educational institution in Fiji, the Fiji National University (FNU) has a pivotal role in promoting and exemplifying the values of cultural

togetherness. The university, with its diverse student body and faculty, embodies the idea that understanding and empathy among people of different backgrounds are crucial for creating a harmonious and inclusive learning environment," Karavaki said.

"Students and educators from various cultural backgrounds come together at FNU, facilitating a daily exchange of ideas, experiences, and perspectives.

FNU Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Dr Jimaima Lako added that FNU was more than just a centre of academic excellence; it was a melting pot of traditions, customs, and beliefs.

"The Cultural Night is a testament to the fact that we can coexist harmoniously, appreciating the uniqueness of each culture while finding common ground in our shared values. It is a reminder of the responsibility that comes with our diversity. It reminds us that we must strive to

foster an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all," Dr Lako said.

"In a world often marked by division, FNU stands as a beacon of unity. It is a place where students from across the Pacific and beyond can come together to learn, grow, and build a better future. It's a place where friendships transcend borders, where the global perspective is embraced, and where we celebrate the beauty of cultural exchange."

Fiji National University Student Association (FNUSA) President, Mohammed Iqbal added that the event fostered unity and served as a platform for various nation to proudly showcase their heritage.

More than 3000 students and people attended the event to witness the cultural performance from Fiji and the Pacific.

## From Rural Roots to Healing Hearts: A Mother's Inspiring Legacy for Her Daughter's Nursing Journey

Devoted village nurse, Litea Taraua, found unexpected fulfilment in her role of serving the people of Dakuni in Beqa Island for over 11 years as a village nurse.

"I am a health worker in the village of Dakuni. I never imagined that I would take up the position of being a village nurse. However, I am so happy and get satisfaction from helping people for more than a decade now," she said.

"The village chose me to take up the post as I have a passion for helping others in terms of their health. After seeing me helping people, my daughter was really inspired and one day she told me that she wanted to join this profession and become a qualified nurse."

"I am happy that I inspired her to choose her career and she is now working hard to achieve her academic dreams."

The FNU team were able to hear of Taraua's journey during a recent community outreach visit to the island of Beqa. The visit was conducted as part of the University's collaboration with the Rewa Provincial Council to provide awareness on FNU's programmes and services to all villages within the districts.

"My daughter Elenoa is currently a Year 12 student at Ballentine Memorial School, and we are pleased to learn that FNU has a College that offers nursing

programmes for those interested."

"As my only child, I am proud she has decided on a study path to achieve after high school and will provide her with all the support she needs as she hopes to pursue further studies at FNU."



*Dakuni Village Nurse, Litea Taraua*

## Charismatic Kunasau Eyes A Seat in Parliament

There is so much more about Meli Kunasau than what meets the eye!

The third-year Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Industrial Arts) student, who is also the student president of Fiji National University's (FNU) Derrick Campus Student Association, decided to join FNU because it was Fiji's own university.

"FNU is our university! It belongs to our nation and that is something that motivated me to join the institute," declared Kunasau.

"I am honoured to also be a student president whereby I am responsible for the welfare of over 3500 students."

The Nadroga native, who lost his father at a young age, recalls his humble beginnings being raised by his maternal grandmother in the district of Naqalimare together with his siblings.

"When I first arrived at FNU, it was a totally new environment for me. At first, I struggled but thankfully due to the amazing support services and the friendships that I made, I was able to fit in well."

Inspired by her older brother's success at FNU, Kunasau's younger sister is aiming for a spot at FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences to pursue a career in nursing.

Kunasau said that he worked hard with his team to make hostel life at FNU as comfortable as possible for students.

"We run weekly devotions to provide emotional and spiritual support to our hostel students," he shared.

"Students are also actively engaged in extracurricular activities such as tie-

dying and sports. I am proud to say that our Derrick campus sports team won six gold medals at the Fiji University Sports Association games earlier this year."

Kunasau has big plans for his future and aims to join politics to continue to make a difference in the lives of young people.

"I am hoping to graduate from my undergraduate studies and pursue further studies right here at FNU. In the future I hope to run for a seat in parliament, where I can continue to empower our talented young people."

The charismatic young leader said he hoped to become the Minister of Education or Minister of Youth some day.



*Meli Kunasau*



## FNU hosts Three-Minute Thesis competition



First prize winner and PhD candidate, Baadsha Sharma presenting his thesis statement.

Nine talented scholars participated in the University's Three-Minute Thesis competition (3MTC) hosted by the Research Office last month.

The finalists from the university's five colleges not only showcased the depth of research within the institution but also underscored the dynamic range of research pursuits across various disciplines.

Professor Paul Iji, the Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) at FNU, emphasised the benefits of the 3MTC during the event.

"The competition allows contestants to simplify their research for the public, helping researchers understand their project plans and potential outcomes," Professor Iji said.

"A distinguished panel of judges, composed of

FNU staff and partners from the Pacific and Australia, evaluated the compelling presentations. Led by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning & Teaching Dr Jimaima Lako, the panel included Dr Avanish Shukla, the Associate Dean of Research of the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS); Dr Mark Ero from the Pacific Community (SPC), and Dr Bree Wilson from the University of the Sunshine Coast."

Professor Iji described the competition as intense, with participants skillfully explaining their extensive research through engaging three-minute presentations.

"The success of the event was attributed to the invaluable support of sponsors, including The Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research of the University of the Sunshine Coast, the Australian Centre for International

Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and the FNU Students Association," Professor Iji said.

"The FNU Research Office extended congratulations to the winners and expressed gratitude to the colleges for organising local competitions and supporting contestants at the university level."

Baadsha Sharma, a PhD candidate from CBHTS, emerged as the first prize winner, earning a coveted \$1500 cash prize. Kunal Gounder from the College of Humanities and Education (CHE) secured the runner-up position and a well-deserved \$1000 cash prize. Radhisha Nath, also from CHE, won the "People's Choice" award, receiving a prize of \$500 based on audience votes.

Sharma, as the winner, will represent FNU at 9 regional competitions.

## Nath's Journey of Dedication and Success at FNU

In a tale of dedication and passion, 22-year-old Ashteev Anmol Nath is adamant to become best in the field of Electronics and Instrumentation.

Nath (*pictured right*) graduated from Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Engineering, Science and Technology's (CEST) Diploma in Engineering (Electronics/Instrumentation and Control).

He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree with honours in the same field.

Nath has said hard work, commitment and dedication have rewarded him with success.

"I attended MGM Primary and MGM High School. I am proud of the support I have received from my family, which consists of my parents, my elder brother and I," he said.

"My family have also undergone studies at FNU in our various fields of interests."

Nath's father holds qualification in Architecture, Building, and Interior Decoration and works for the Suva City Council. His mother attained a Master of Commerce from FNU whilst his elder brother is also a graduate of FNU from the Bachelors in Civil Engineering (Civil)

with honours programme.

"When I did my industry attachment at Energy Fiji Limited [EFL], I realised the potential in advancing my skills in electronics. That's when I decided to pursue a Bachelor's degree and be at the forefront of future technologies," Nath explained.

"The most interesting thing is that you get to design new devices. Studying well is crucial in this field because it requires dedication and hard work. There are many advantages, from inventing to designing new devices."

Reflecting on his time at FNU, Nath said he was fortunate that FNU assisted him in achieving his goals.

"My experience at FNU has been amazing. All the staff and lecturers were very helpful and I acknowledge them for assisting me throughout the programme," he said.

"Being at University also taught me the importance of time management so that I was able to complete my assignments and projects as well as extracurricular activities."

Nath sees a promising future in the high-demand field of Electronics and



Ashteev Nath (right) with his elder brother Akash Nath.

Instrumentation.

"While doing my attachment at EFL, I noticed that there would be weekly vacancies for people in my field," he shared.

"In the next five years, I see myself graduating with my Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and working."

Nath ended saying, "As long as you have the desire, the motivation, the focus, and the support, you can achieve anything."

Nath's story is a testament to the potential within the field of Electronics and the impact of dedication and family support towards one's academic success.

Students who are interested in establishing a career path in engineering,

sciences and technology can view the programmes offered by the College of Engineering, Sciences and Technology via the link <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/engineering-science-technology/>

### Enrol at FNU

Interested students can Apply Now for Semester 1, 2024 studies via the FNU website on <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/student/> or email to [admission@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:admission@fnu.ac.fj)

For further information or queries, students can also **Text (Toll-Free) to 857** for Vodafone and Inkk users.

Alternatively, applicants can visit any of the FNU campuses to submit applications.



# MY FNU

# Talanoa

## with our Alumni



## Unaisi Rokotuiwakaya – A Celebration of Resilience

employment to care for their family.

### Education

Inspired by her mother, she graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics, Industrial Relations, and Human Resource Management from FNU's College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) in 2021.

“During my time as a student at FNU, I had the best yet challenging experiences. I attended university without a laptop, but thanks to the available resources

allowed her to contribute her skills and knowledge to a critical aspect of hospital operations.

However, destiny had other plans for Rokotuiwakaya and her family. A new opportunity arose when her husband, a Laboratory Scientist, received an offer from the Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health in the Cook Islands. Embracing the prospect of a new adventure, they made the decision to relocate from Fiji to the Cook Islands.

The transition didn't deter Rokotuiwakaya; instead, it presented her with an opportunity to embark on a new chapter in her professional journey. In the Cook Islands, she secured a position as an HR Support and Administrator at The Edgewater Resort & Spa in Rarotonga. This role showcased not only her adaptability but also her ability to thrive in diverse work environments.

“FNU taught me resilience and being ready for any challenge and for that, I am truly grateful. The education, knowledge, and practical experiences that I attained from experienced lecturers contributed to ensuring that I was ready for the workforce even though it is overseas.”

### Words of Wisdom

“For graduates embarking on their careers, the top three tips to keep in mind are continuous learning, networking, and adaptability,” she shared.

“Embrace lifelong learning to stay current in your field and remain adaptable to change. Build a robust professional network by connecting with colleagues, mentors, and industry experts, and nurture these relationships over time.”

In conclusion, Rokotuiwakaya encouraged others to view setbacks as opportunities for growth.

In the heart of Davuilevu Housing, Unaisi Rokotuiwakaya's childhood was a blend of family, faith, and hard work. Nestled in the warmth of her father's guidance, a dedicated schoolteacher, and surrounded by seven siblings, their home was a bustling hub of constant activity and shared values.

Her father, Sitiveni Rokotuiwakaya, played a central role in shaping their family's ethos. He served as a teacher at various schools, including Lomaivuna, Dudley High School, and Ratu Sukuna Memorial High School. Their family extended beyond siblings, embracing cousins, nieces, and nephews who sought education under her father's caring guidance.

Her parents emphasised that God came first in their lives, instilling in them a deep sense of gratitude for every blessing, regardless of size. Education and church held the highest priority, setting the foundation for a value system that would guide Unaisi throughout her life.

As Rokotuiwakaya progressed from Assemblies of God Primary to Assemblies of God High School and Mahatma Gandhi High School, evenings were far from idle. Chores awaited her daily and instilled in her a strong work ethic and a sense of responsibility. The lessons weren't confined to textbooks; they extended to her father's backyard garden, a practical classroom where independence and entrepreneurship were taught alongside the cultivation of cucumbers and tomatoes.

Rokotuiwakaya shared that her mother, Kasanita Wati Qica, a dedicated clerical officer, sacrificed her

at FNU, I was able to complete my projects and assignments,” she said.

“Late nights filled with schoolwork and tight deadlines became the norm for me. One of the highlights of my experience at FNU is the invaluable friendships forged along the way. The mutual support and collaboration with my peers made us form a tight-knit academic community, whereby we assisted and uplifted each other throughout our educational journey.”

Rokotuiwakaya also acknowledges the exceptional role played by FNU's lecturers in her success. She highlighted that the educators ensured that the learning experience was not only enriching but also accessible.

### Career

Unaisi Rokotuiwakaya's professional trajectory is a narrative marked by resilience, adaptability, and a continuous pursuit of growth. From her early days as a cashier at Damodar to her current role as HR Support & Administrator at The Edgewater Resort & Spa in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, her journey reflects a remarkable evolution in her career.

After settling in Nadi with her husband and son, Rokotuiwakaya initially found employment at Nadi Hospital, where she took on the role of a Procurement Officer. This experience in a healthcare setting



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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](mailto:mprc@fnu.ac.fj)

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