

New graduates encouraged to stay humble in life

Always be humble, respect your elders and never become big headed. These were the words of wisdom shared by the Chief Guest, the Chief Executive Officer ANZ Fiji and Head of Commercial and Retail Banking ANZ Pacific, Saud Minam with graduating students from the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism (CBHTS) yesterday morning.

"Maintaining learning, setting the goals and reaching a higher level, that's the most important part in your life and once you achieve that, you don't need to become a big headed person, you still be down to earth because when you will look back you won't be the same person as before," said Minam.



Chief Guest, the CEO ANZ Fiji & Head of Commercial & Retail Banking ANZ Pacific, Saud Minam presents certificate to Schunika Alithea Gilgeours at the graduation ceremony today.

Speaking to 333 students, the senior bank executive also reminded them to be ready for the challenges ahead in life.

"Starting tomorrow morning you will be looking for a job or you may have a job. Challenges will come on you not on a daily basis but an hourly basis. You have to get ready to face the music of the real world," said Minam.

Reminiscing his University days, Minam said education is for a lifetime and everyone learns something each day.

"In high school I realised I have some business skills in me and I wanted to make money overnight. My father was in Saudi Arabia and I was studying in Pakistan, so I started bunking classes and I said enough of the studies and I now want to start my business. I called my father and he said you need to finish your education. He said I will pay for your education and you need to get that piece of paper which will open the doors for you in future. My father passed away 25 years ago and today I can not thank him enough for his encouragement," he said.

"You don't need to go to the class to learn but you have learning everyday."

The CBHTS graduation is the second of four graduation ceremonies FNU is hosting this week where students received their certificates, diplomas, degrees, postgraduate diplomas and masters.

FNU Chancellor Dr Rajesh Chandra encouraged the graduates to be bold and persevere with their vision in order to succeed in life.

"Do not be afraid of trying and making mistakes. You have already proven that despite the many obstacles, you persevered with your vision and are sitting here today. Use this achievement and confidence to keep progressing through life for lifelong success," said Dr Chandra.

"Work hard, but more importantly, work smart. And above all, be ethical in whatever you do" FNU Chancellor said.

Dr Chandra also commended the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies for developing and refining the Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) programme in association with CPA-Australia which will be offered from Semester 2 this year.

"This is the first of its kind programme offered in Fiji. Upon completion of this programme students will not only graduate with a MPA degree, but will also attain CPA status which is a prestigious and internationally renowned professional qualification," said Dr Chandra.

He also added that CBHTS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) which paved the way for the College to enter into a Franchise Agreement five months ago to commence offering its Certificate and Trade Diploma programmes through the Vanuatu Institute of Technology.

A total of 1396 students will graduate from FNU's five Colleges and the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) with certificates, diplomas and degrees this week.



Bachelor of Law graduates pose for a picture with FNU Head of Law Department Ana Rokomokoti.