

From the President

Dear Fellow Alumni,



Greetings from the President's desk!

I am deeply humbled to welcome you to the New Year as your President. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be serving a robust organisation that looks after the Alumni affairs of the nation's largest University. Fiji National University continues to leap towards being the best tertiary education provider locally and internationally.

The FNU Alumni Association (FNUAA) is committed towards fulfilling the aspirations of the University by engaging our Alumni in various ways. The year 2016 was a success in its own way and the highlight of the year was the Alumni Homecoming Event. In addition to that, there were many projects initiated to support the Association and also our students as highlighted in the Annual Report.

This year we undertake to make the Alumni Homecoming Event bigger and better by improving on its duration, activity and timing. Furthermore, the Alumni Association is determined to complete all pending projects especially those which are directly going to

support our student learning outcomes.

I assure all alumni that the professional development and career planning pathway is our priority and as such we have lined up numerous lecture series and CV writing workshops for this year.

The affair does not end here as we are currently liaising with business stakeholders and vendors on alumni benefits.

The FNU Alumni Association, however, is constrained by the budget and as such wishes for support from the Alumni so that we can realise our vision.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Fiji National University Fraternity, the current Executives and all the Alumni members for being cooperative and considerate in 2016; it may be the opportune moment too, for the Alumni Association to sincerely solicit for the support and solidarity of all stakeholders and members.

Wishing you all a successful 2017.

Sincerely,

Netani Sukanaivalu (Class of 71)
President, FNU Alumni Association
Outstanding Alumni Award recipient 2015

Vice Chancellor's Message

Bulala! University's alumni are its most important stakeholders. As a university, we are judged on the quality of the graduates we produce and on the contribution our alumni make to business, government and society. In turn, the value of a degree or diploma on a graduate's curriculum vitae depends critically on the reputation of the awarding university. There is a symbiotic relationship between a university and its alumni – if one is successful, the glitter rubs off on the other; and vice versa.

Here at Fiji National University, we are proud of the achievements of our many thousands of alumni. In turn, we aspire to make you, our alumni, proud of your alma mater. Our university dates back to 1885, when Suva Medical School was founded. Today Fiji National University enjoys a unique place in the landscape of Pacific tertiary education. As a 'dual sector university', FNU offers both technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education from diplomas through to doctorates.

In addition, FNU is home to the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC), which provides in-service training for employees, so that they can continually upgrade their skills and qualifications. With 17,000 students enrolled in our colleges and another 10,000 students taking short courses at the NTPC, FNU provides a comprehensive system of post-secondary education and training that reaches every part of the Fijian society.

We are pleased to work with the Fiji National University Alumni Association to better support our global family of alumni and, in turn, to reach out to our alumni for your support in making FNU even stronger in the years ahead. There are many ways in which our alumni can support current staff and students. Many of you have enjoyed successful careers and can give something back to your alma mater by mentoring current students, giving guest lectures and seminars or hiring our students as interns or employees. You may like to offer some financial support, by supporting our hardship fund for students or helping us with scholarships. Please let me know if you are interested in contributing in any way to the work of FNU.

Vinaka vakelevu!



Upcoming Events

Alumni Weekend
28 - 29 July 2017

Graduation Ball
December 2017

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FNUAA Vision Statement

To become a key and active member of the FNU community in building and fostering lifelong commitment, pride and passion for the University.

FNUAA Proposed Projects

The FNU Alumni Association has a number of proposed projects which will benefit Alumni members who are in the industry as well as the current students who are attending FNU and lecturers teaching at the university. Students who are studying Bachelor of Engineering, Diploma in Engineering or Certificate level courses for Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering will benefit with the “hands on training”.

The current projects benefit the students especially those in the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) for their practical experiences. The FNUAA would like to bring similar projects for other colleges in future.

The current projects are:

• **Centre for Water and Energy Engineering (CWEE) Lab:** The FNUAA assisted the Dean CEST in negotiating with Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) for a Centre for Water Engineering and Energy (CWEE) Laboratory to be built at the Derrick (Samabula) Campus which would

provide FNU/WAF/Pacific students state of art training in Water Engineering.

• **Kinoya Biogas Turbine Project:** The FNUAA supported FNU and RMIT University in a joint request to WAF to install a 75 kW bio gas Turbine at their Kinoya Sewage Plant so that the FNU Engineering students can carry out research to convert bio gas into electricity using less than 1% of bio gas. If research is successful we will request WAF to burn 100% bio gas which will benefit our Fiji-wide electrical consumers.

• **PWD Workshop Project:** The FNUAA worked with the Dean CEST to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FNU and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Trade (MoIT) to utilise PWD Workshops in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa to enable all engineering TVET trade courses students to have their “Hands on Training Attachment” and fulfilling their workshop requirement for graduations.

A meeting with the PS for Ministry of Infrastructure and Trade - Mr. Paul Bayly - was

held on the 16 February 2017. PS MoIT is fully supportive of the PWD Workshop Project and has requested for finer details to finally complete the paper and submit to Cabinet. Another meeting with the CEO of Fiji Commerce and Employer’s Federation - Mr. Nesbitt Hazelman - was held on 27 February 2017. The concern was the lack of “hands on training” for the students.

This issue can be reduced for the TVET students with the use of PWD workshop facilities.

• **Greek Shipping Project:** The FNUAA prepared a concept paper on Open Registry to Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to allow 300 FMA Cadets in Deck and Marine Engineering to sail on Greek Shipping Companies in Europe.

• **Capt. Rufus Project:** The FNUAA negotiated with Chacal Maritime Shipping Company of Malaysia/Singapore to allow 150-200 FMA Cadets in Deck and Marine Engineering to sail on their ships outside Fiji waters and around South East Asia and other international ports.

FNU Alumni Lecture Series

Last year was the inauguration of the FNU Alumni Lecture Series. This year the FNUAA with the collaboration of the Alumni Office plans on numerous lecture sessions for the different campuses. As part of the preparations, the President of the FNUAA and the Alumni Office held meetings with several stakeholders namely, the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts & National Archives of Fiji, Tourism Fiji and Fiji Higher Education Commission, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation and Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Environment and Infrastructure & Transport.

The meeting with the Permanent Secretary (PS) for Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation - Dr Josefa Koroivueta was held on the 15 February 2017:

• The PS highlighted a few areas of concern which are gender inequality, gender violence,

NCDs, family issues and poverty.

• A MoU will be signed between FNU and the Ministry for certain programs to help reduce the issues highlighted by the ministry.

The meeting with the PS for Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts - Honourable Mr Iowane Tiko was held on the 15 February 2017:

• The issue identified by the PS was in the area of numeracy and literacy. Also the need to strengthen on the classroom delivery.

The meeting with the Operation’s Manager-Tourism Fiji- Mr. Thomas Valentine was held on the 22 February 2017:

• The issues identified by Mr Valentine were that local employees in the tourism sector need to be empowered to hold key positions.

• The approval rating for the tourism industry is presumably dropping therefore, there is a great need for a solution to address this and

empowering and training our human resource through capacity building is the best solution.

The meeting with the Chair for the Fiji Higher Education Commission - Dr Milika Sobey and her team was held on the 24 February 2017:

• The key issue identified was the quality of teachers; the commitment and moral aspect is missing.

• For teachers to take ownership of the teaching profession, it was suggested to bring back the Teachers Competency Framework.

• A working committee is to be set up including Ministry of Education to derive solution to the issues discussed.



Member Card Benefits

The current member benefits include access to the FNU library, professional development programs, expert alumni lecture series and alumni events.

The FNUAA is working on increasing card benefits for its members. Meetings with the following parties have been held:

- Janty Bondwell Ltd,
- Niranjans for Budget rentals,
- Post Fiji Limited,
- Pacific Energy.

Alumni members will be notified regarding the benefits in due course.

FNUAA President Attends Nasinu Students Association Dinner

The FNUAA President Mr Netani Sukanaivalu received an invitation from the Nasinu Students’ Association for their welcome dinner. This provided an opportunity for the Students’ Association and the FNUAA to strengthen its working partnership.

FNUAA President Visits the PWD Workshop in Labasa

As part of the current projects supported by the FNUAA, the president, Mr. Sukanaivalu visited the Labasa PWD workshop to inspect the facilities to ensure it

can be utilised by the engineering students for the “Hands on Training Attachment”.

The Lautoka and Walu Bay facilities had previously been visited. The MoU paper is currently, with the Solicitor General’s office awaiting approval.

FNUAA Points of Contacts Appointed

FNUAA has appointed four alumni campus point of contact (POC) namely, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi and Labasa campuses. The POC’s appointed are as follows: Mr Shasnil Chand for Ba, Mr. Indar Deo Bisun for Lautoka, Mr Eric Jioje for Nadi and Ms Ashrita Prakash for Labasa.

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