



The University of Fiji

Annual Report

2009



NOTE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



The highlight of the year was of course the arrival of the new Vice- Chancellor, Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar.

The second graduation was held on 3 April 2009 with the diplomas and degrees conferred to 58 graduants by our Chancellor, H.E. Ratu Josefa Iloilovatu Uluivuda, President of the Republic of the Fiji Islands.

Another significant highlight was the official opening of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine on 24 October by the Honorable Prime Minister, Commodore Frank Bainimarama.

In 2009, the Public Service Commission had allocated 20 scholarships amounting to \$310,000 for our students based on the assurance that the University would arrange for a review of the MBBS programme by a team of medical

Vice- Chancellor, Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar educators as requested by the Fiji Medical Council and the Ministry of Health. The MBBS programme was later reviewed by a three-member international team of Medical Educators led by Professor Toshimasa Yoshioka.

Foundation programme gained its official recognition in the early 2009 from the Ministry of Education. This meant that Foundation Programme “is equivalent in standard to the Fiji Form 7 programme”, as stated in a letter from Mr. Filipe Jitoko, the new Permanent Secretary for Education. The University acknowledged the Director of Foundation Studies, Mr. Cliff Benson, and his team of dedicated tutors for gaining this recognition.

In June UniFiji acquired its Master Plan through the Services of Australian Business Volunteer Mr. Felix Riedweg.

In October the construction of the Library and Information Centre began at a cost of \$1.3 million, the foundation stones of which were laid by Mr. and Mrs. Ram Narayan Sharma of Sharma’s Enterprises Limited, Saweni.

The University would like to thank the Chairman of Council, the National President of APS, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Audit Committee for their guidance and assistance. The University of Fiji also acknowledges the input from to the Registrar, the Acting Manager Finance and Facilities, the Deans, Heads of Department and Centre Directors for their support and cooperation, and all members of staff, including support staff; without whose contributions, our work would not have progressed so far.

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1. COUNCIL MEMBERS

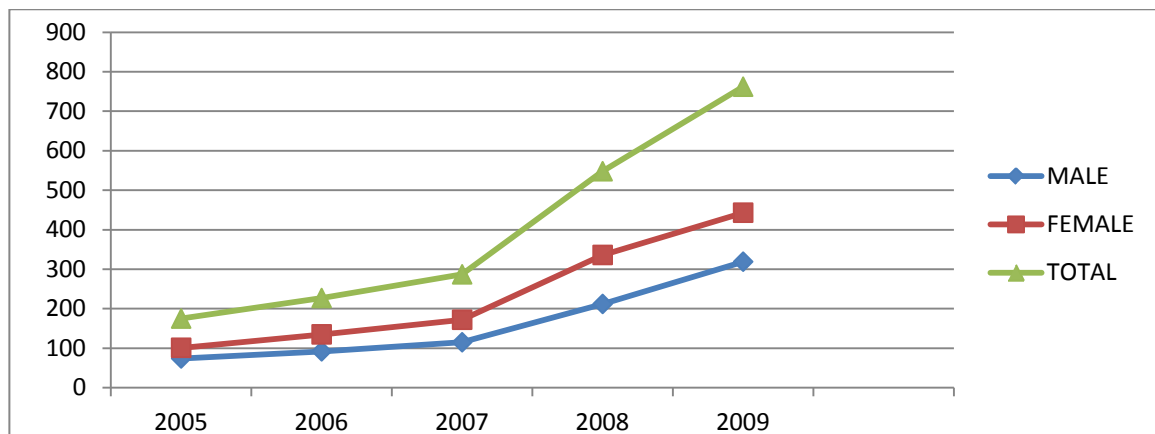
Name	Appointment by
APPOINTED MEMBERS	
Pt. Bhuwan Dutt	Ex-Officio
Pro Srinivasiah Muralidhar	Ex-Officio
Pt. Kamlesh Arya	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Arun Padarath	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Ms Sushila Pathik	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Krishna Rai	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Shanti Saroj	Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji
Mr Agni Deo Singh	Fiji Teachers Union
Mr Abdul Qayyum Khan	Fiji Muslim League
Mr Kamal Shasaiya Mani	Dakshina India Andhra Sangam of Fiji
Mr Swami Tadananda	Ramakrishna Mission
Mr Dewan Chand Maharaj	Shree Sanatan D P Sabha of Fiji
Mr Dalabar Singh	The Sikh Association of Fiji
Honorable Filipe Bole	Government – Education Department
Vacant	TISI Sangam
Vacant	Gujarat Education Society in Fiji
Vacant	Ba Provincial Council
Prof. Rajesh Chandra	University of the South Pacific
Mr Joji Uluinakauvadra	Appointed by Senate
Dr Asinate Mausio	Elected Member by Staff
Mr Mohameed Nafeez	Elected by Student Association
Dr Gunsagar Gounder	Co-Opted Member
Ms Sivia Qoro	Co-Opted Member
Mr Anil Tikaram	Co-Opted Member
Mr Radike Qereqeretabua	Co-Opted Member
Ms Sarojini Pillay	Secretary
Deans of Schools	In Attendance
Mr Ravineet Sami	In Attendance- Manager Finance and Facilities

2. STUDENT ENROLMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIJI - STUDENT POPULATION: 2005 – 2009

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2005	74	101	175
2006	92	135	227
2007	115	172	287
2008	212	336	548
2009	319	443	762

The graph shows the student enrolment from 2005 to 2009



3. GRADUATION

The second graduation was held on 3 April 2009 where the diplomas and degrees were conferred to the graduants by our Chancellor, His Excellency Ratu Josefa Iloilovatu Uluivuda, President of the Republic of the Fiji Islands.

Altogether, 58 students graduated; 3 with Diplomas, 20 with Bachelor's degrees, 32 with Postgraduate Diplomas and 3 with Masters Degrees. This year, 60% of the graduates were women and 46% of those graduating completed postgraduate studies. It was also pleasing to note that 5 students from Vanua Levu received their Postgraduate Diplomas in Educational Leadership.



Second Graduation held on 3 April 2009

4. STAFFING

ARRIVALS: The following staff members were appointed in 2009:

- Ms Sandhiya Roy, Tutor in Accounting
- Dr Kunneeth Ramakrishnan, Senior Lecturer in Management
- Mr Sam Gounder, Lecturer in Computer Science & Information Technology
- Ms Razeen Ali, Lecturer in Social Science
- Ms Mere Vadei, Lecturer in Education
- Ms Vijayta Singh, Tutor in Hindi
- Mr Zaheer Hassan, Marketing & Public Relations Officer
- Ms Siwagami Devi, Senior Library Assistant, Saweni
- Ms Nazmun Nisha, Library Assistant, Suva Campus
- Mr Shaneil Narayan, IT Manager
- Mr Mohammed Irfaaz Ismail, Database Officer
- Mr Kavitesh Reddy, IT User Assistant
- Dr Shaista Shameem, Associate Professor, School of Law
- Mr Humphrey Marau, Lecturer, School of Law
- Ms Olivia Singh, Lecturer, School of Law
- Ms Salome Rokuta, Assistant Lecturer, Centre for Indigenous Studies
- Ms Lynette Bali, Office Manager, UPSM
- Ms Alka Sewram, Assistant Lecturer in Pharmacology, UPSM
- Professor Saeed Ahmed, UPSM
- Professor Fred Merchant, UPSM
- Professor Shubhangi Verma, UPSM
- Mr Prem Sinha, Assistant Registrar
- Professor Richard Herr appointed as Deputy Director, CIRA
- Mr Pankajeshwar Sharma, Lecturer in Computer Science & Information Technology
- Dr Ranasinghe Amaradasa, Senior Lecturer in Management
- Ms Aruna Goundar, Lecturer in Economics
- Ms Priteshni Chand, Tutor in Economics
- Ms Violet Prasad, Clerical Staff, Suva Campus
- Ms Sandhiya Gounder, Tutor in University Wide Programme

DEPARTURES: The University of Fiji thanks the following staff for their contributions to the University during the period of their service:

- Dr Kunneth Ramakrishnan, Senior Lecturer in Management
- Mr Sam Gounder, Lecturer in CS & IT
- Mr Kaylash Chaudhary, Assistant Lecturer, CS & IT
- Ms Razeen Ali, Lecturer in Social Science
- Ms Siwagami Devi, Senior Library Assistant, Saweni
- Professor Saeed Ahmed, UPSM
- Ms Ashna Chand, Clerical Staff, Suva Campus
- Dr Chandra Dulare, Senior Lecturer in Economics
- Ms Mere Vadei, Lecturer in Education
- Mr Sakiusa Rabuka, Senior Lecturer in Law

5. ACADEMIC MATTERS

Some of the developments that have come into effect:

- Physics has been introduced at the Foundation level, thereby completing the science strand;
- Hindi and Fijian have been added to the Foundation Social Science strand to offer a greater choice to students;
- A programme in French language is ready to be offered either as a minor or as a major area of study. French can also be studied as an elective. Students will also have the opportunity to appear for examinations conducted by the Alliance Franchise;
- A postgraduate certificate and diploma programme in International Relations will be offered in Suva during January 2010 through the Centre for International and Regional Affairs (CIRA). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Fiji has agreed to sponsor a number of officers to do the programme. There is also interest from private individuals to do the programme.
- The Senate's strong endorsement of the postgraduate programme in Governance and Public Policy, and the Master of Teaching degree signals our firm commitment to postgraduate studies at the University; and
- The Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership is flourishing with more than 60 students from all parts of Fiji enrolled in the programme. Around 15 students are doing postgraduate studies in English, and there is potential to offer the programme to teachers in Suva and Labasa.



UPSM Students in front of the newly built Medical school building

6. STUDENT MATTERS

The Interim Student Council of The University of Fiji (UFSA) was formed in early 2008, and the Council constitution was developed by the UFSA. The Student Council conducted elections in Semester 2, 2009.

During Semester 1, the Student Council organised a university sports day, celebrated the festival of Holy and had a student social gathering. The Council has been part of various committees such as Canteen Committee, Library Committee and the Social Action Group.

Students participated in the inter-tertiary games at the University of the South Pacific in Suva in October. UniFiji fielded soccer and netball team; encouragingly the soccer team reached the semi-finals and the netters played the finals.

The Student Council held meetings whenever necessary, especially when events were to be organized. In Semester 2, Eid and Diwali festivals were celebrated. The student council also met with the university administration and had discussions regarding matters that affect students.

The Student Council of The University of Fiji, on behalf of its council members and students, would like to thank the University's effort in regards to the developments and improvements that have taken place in semester 1, 2009. The Student Council was honored to be part of the University of Fiji. The university is growing rapidly and developments and improvements are undoubtedly of paramount importance.

The next election would be held in the beginning of Semester 1, 2010.



*View from the
of the University*

frontage

7. GOVERNMENT GRANT ACQUITTALS

We are grateful to the Government, especially to the Minister of Education, for granting us \$3,600,000 in the 2010 budget under operating grants and transfers.

We convey our appreciation to Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar who had a principal role in putting the grant proposal together.

All Government scholarships are now tenable at The University of Fiji.



UPSM Dean, Dr Umanand Prasad (third from left) with other distinguished guests.

8. SCHOOLS & CENTRES

Foundation Studies Programme

A major breakthrough during Semester 1 was the official recognition from the Ministry of Education that our Foundation Programme “is equivalent in standard to the Fiji Form 7 programme”, as stated in a letter from Mr. Filipe Jitoko, the new Permanent Secretary for Education. The University acknowledges the Director of Foundation Studies, Mr. Cliff Benson, and his team of dedicated tutors for gaining this recognition.

The Foundation Studies Programme is crucial to the University’s overall functioning. With our Unclassified Studies option, the number of enrolments in courses (e.g. 76 in English) is high and thus

generating a good income in Semester 1. In addition, the Centre strived hard to give a good experience to the students at Foundation level in the hope that they will continue studying at the University after completing their Foundation year.

Students in the Foundation programme in 2008 who met the requirement (passes in at least seven courses, including both English courses) were presented with certificates at the first such ceremony held on Friday, 5 June 2009. The Pro Chancellor, Pundit Bhuwan Dutt presented the certificates to the students.

‘WAKA SIX’

The University of Fiji paid for the third printing of 4,000 copies in early 2009 at a cost of \$10,500.00. Sales to date (of this print run) are as follows:

Copies Sold	=	2,071
Income	=	\$8,185.60

The approval from the Ministry of Education and a subsequent circular to all head teachers on 20 February 2009, advised them that ‘*Waka Six*’ is ‘now recommended as a new supplementary text for Class Six English; this has boosted sales.

‘WAKA FIVE’

Owing to the reasonable success of “*Waka Six*”, Associate Professor Cliff Benson also wrote a similar text for Class Five. .

‘WAKA FOUR’

Cliff Benson began to work on a Class Four text along the same lines as ‘*Waka Five*’ and ‘*Waka Six*’.

School of Humanities and Arts

The School of Humanities and Arts is moving forward with enthusiasm and intellectual energy. A number of exciting ideas are in the pipeline to make the School of Humanities and Arts into a vibrant, community-oriented, student-centered School: among them development in Creative Arts and Writing, an international conference and new programmes in teaching and postgraduate studies.

The School of Humanities and Arts recorded our appreciation to the Head of Education, Mr. Ken Nobin, and the Head of Language, Literature & Communication, Dr Jyoti Nandan, for their conscientious leadership, and to the staff for their understanding and co-operation in teaching, designing courses and organizing several university-wide activities.

The School of Humanities and Arts had a meeting in October for planning next year’s calendar of activities, including an international conference in Arts & Education, Literature & Communication.

The Dean of School of Humanities and Arts, Professor Satendra Nandan, has been elected as a Director of Transparency International (TI), Fiji. He participated in the ANU’s *Fiji Update*, Australian Federal Parliament, in August. Professor Nandan was also invited to the Canberra ALP meeting in July. One of the speakers at this seminar, held in Australian Parliament, was Mr. Robin Nair, Director, CIRA.

Professor Nandan also contributed to the 2010 Budget Forum held on 17 September 2009 in Suva at the invitation of the Prime Minister. He took a delegation from UniFiji to make a presentation to the Commonwealth delegation led by Sir Paul Reeves on 9 September 2009 to the Parliamentary

Complex, Suva. Dr Umanand Prasad, Dean, UPSM, and his assistant Dr Uma Dutt Sharma made their presence felt at this meeting of senior academics from Fiji's tertiary institutions.

Professor Nandan visited Canberra and Sydney this year and had talks with a number of academics at the ANU, University of Canberra, and University of New South Wales and discussed ways of assisting UniFiji. The University of Canberra is keen to renew its MOU with UniFiji. He has been invited to participate in the *Pacific Islands Update* at the Lowey Institute in Sydney.

The School of Humanities & Arts organized a meeting of Writers and Artists to establish an Association in the Western Division for the benefit of students, staff and the community interested in Creative Arts. UniFiji hopes to play an important role in these areas to enrich the educational environment at UniFiji and community involvement. The *Close-up* TV programme on *Writing* on Sunday 4 October featured a number of UniFiji Staff being interviewed regarding writing and teaching Literature.

The School of Humanities and Arts hopes to bring scholars and writers from the Asia-Pacific region in 2010 to Fiji in October for a major International Conference in which UniFiji will play a leading role. Details are to be worked out early next year in collaboration with other institutions willing to fund and participate in this meeting towards developing international understanding through the works of our thinking and teaching, and writing fraternity. The conference will aim to raise the profile of UniFiji internationally.

The School of Humanities and Arts staff participated as guest speakers and conference presenters and at public functions during the year.

Department of Language, Literature and Communication

The Department of Language, Literature and Communication has continued to develop its profile in the community and its activities and achievements serve to encourage the people of Fiji (as students of the University and members of the wider community) to develop their skills and knowledge in language, in communication and in the field of literary studies. Other scholarly and creative publications were produced and LLC's contributions to the community were manifested in a number of public talks and official roles: the Department organized Gandhi Day celebrations on 2 October; Mrs. Suklesh Bali was the chief judge for two oratory competitions.

Publications

The Department of Language, Literature and Communication continued to build the publication profile of staff and students through the publication of two books, a book chapter, newspaper articles, one short story, and two scholarly articles. Specifically:

Professor Satendra Nandan continued to contribute to Fiji's literary heritage through the publication of a book, together with newspaper and academic journal articles; specifically:

- Book of selected prose, *Between the Lines* (Ivy Press International, 2009), launched on Girmity day. *Between the Lines* is a collection of essays on a range of topics: colonialism and corruption; education; ethics; identity; leadership; literature and writing (including the works of Gandhi, Nehru, V S Naipaul, Patrick White, and Wole Soyinka); nationhood; religion and fundamentalism;

A number of articles in the papers published;

- Article 'Colonial, Cultural Encounters in Fiji' will be included in *Literatures in English: Ethnic, Colonial and Cultural Encounters* to be published this year by the University of Barcelona;
- Professor Cliff Benson's *Waka Five: A Language Text for the Lower Intermediate Level*, will be launched this year: "Associate Professor Cliff Benson's English textbook

publication, The book is aimed at Class Five students and is a follow-up to the success of Waka Six, which is now a recommended supplementary text for Class Six English. A highlight of the launch includes cultural performances by university students.” [From the *Fiji Times* online: <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=133014>]

- Dr Jyoti Nandan's article, 'Indian Nationalism's Legacy for Women,' included in *Literatures in English: Ethnic, Colonial and Cultural Encounters* to be published this year by the University of Barcelona; and
- Shelvin Prasad's: Story entitled 'Maa' in the Mother's Day supplement in the award-winning Hindi-language Suva-based newspaper, *Shanti Dut*.

Works in progress

The Department's works in progress reflect continued attention to scholarly and academic-related publication.

Cliff Benson: *Waka Five* (completed)

Kamala Naiker: Review of Patrick French's Authorized Biography of V.S. Naipaul *The World is What It Is* (2009).



Launch of Waka Five at UniFiji

Community Service

1. Minakshi Maharaj: Took classes in moral values, culture and ethics at the Seva Ashram Youth Camp in Lautoka 6 – 11 May 2009
2. Artita Devi: Project Officer (Women's Information Network)
3. Shelvin Prasad: Community visits as representative of the Consumer Council of Fiji
4. Vijayta Singh: Talk on Shiva Ratri at Samabula Shiv Mandir, Suva
5. Suklesh Bali: Ved Prachar at Lautoka Arya Samaj Primary school and at DAV College Ba

Seminars

One lecture and two seminars were organized by the Department this semester:

1. Professor Greg Battye from the University of Canberra gave a seminar on the importance of inter-disciplinary programs.
2. Georgia Tayler, a practising psychologist from Canberra, gave a seminar on the psychological critical approach to Literature. Both seminars were well attended.
3. Mrs Minakshi Maharaj gave a talk entitled 'Role of the Mother' at the Seva Ashram, Suva.

Department of Education

Introduction

The Department of Education continues to make incremental gains in student numbers in 2009. This is due to:

1. Innovative course offerings;
2. Flexibility of delivery (evenings, Saturdays, school holidays);
3. High quality and up-to-date lectures, tutorials and workshops that reflect current thinking and practices in education and model exemplary adult learning principles; and
4. Priority placed by staff members on responding to students needs promptly and respectfully.

Programmes offered in 2009

A. Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching (PGDT)

The one year full time PGDT focuses on preparing students to teach two specialism in secondary schools. In 2009, 10 students were enrolled in the programme.

Significant changes include:

- Offering the programme to teachers currently teaching in secondary schools who do not have a teaching qualification.
- Scheduling the courses in the late afternoon (4.30pm – 6.30pm) to enable full time teachers to attend after school.

B. Postgraduate Studies in Educational Leadership/ Master of Education in Educational Leadership.

This programme continued to attract very large numbers of experienced teachers for the reasons mentioned in the introduction. 65 students are enrolled in various courses offered at Saweni and Suva Campus and also in Labasa (Sangam SKM College).

C. Doctor of Philosophy

There are 2 students who are perusing their doctoral studies in education. Both are being supervised by Prof. Srinivasiah Muralidhar.

Research

Mr. Ken Nobin began his research on Literacy teaching and learning in senior primary and junior secondary schools in the Western Division. Surveys were sent to all schools in April. His research paper has been accepted by the University of Sydney for their 'Future Directions in Literacy' Conference which was held on 11th and 12th Sept. 2009.

The research project was made possible through a FJD20, 000 grant from Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation.

Conferences/ Seminars/ Workshops

Mrs. Mere Vadei continued to play a pivotal role in collaborating with the Curriculum Development Unit and FCAE in re-writing the Mathematics programmes and texts for Forms 3 and 4. This was trialed later in the year.

Mr. Ken Nobin recently attended a 'Future Directions in Literacy' Conference at The University of Sydney on 11-13 September 2009 where he presented a workshop paper on '*Literacy in the 21st Century. Prospects and challenges for small island nations. Perspectives from Fiji.*'

Academic achievement

Ms Suraj Kanta Singh graduated with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Fiji

Fiji Teacher Registration Board Meeting

Mr. Ken Nobin was invited to first meeting in Suva of the newly established Fiji Teacher Registration Board. Meeting officially opened by The Honorable Minister Filipe Bole and chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Education, Mr. Filipe Jitoko.

Mr. Nobin will also serve on the Teacher Registration sub-committee.

External Advisor

Prof. John Loughran from Monash University, Australia, has accepted our invitation to act as External Advisor. He is a scholar of international repute with an impressive list of publications and research papers.

Directions for 2010

Increasing student numbers will continue to be a very high priority within the Department. Advertising of Courses, Programmes and Seminars in schools will be a priority.

It is envisaged that an innovative Master of Teaching degree will also be offered in 2010. It will be the first of its kind in the region and will place The University of Fiji as a significant provider of innovative Courses and Programmes in Education.

Professor John Loughran (Monash University) who has been appointed as our external advisor will visit the University in April 2010 to evaluate current offerings and advise on future programmes and directions. The Department is very fortunate to have secured his services.

Professor Michael Bezzina (Australian Catholic University, Sydney) who has accepted to be our adjunct professorship in educational leadership offer will also visit in 2010 and will teach in the MEd and MTeach programmes.

Collaboration with the University of Canberra (Creative Arts) and The University of Sydney (Literacy in the Middle Years) will be actively pursued.

‘Literacy in the Middle Years’ train-the-trainer package will be constructed and offered to teachers as in-services. This will be the culmination of the Vodafone Research grant.

With the appointment of Prof. Srinivasiah Muralidhar as Vice Chancellor, the Department is seeking a suitable replacement for this senior position. When this appointment has been finalized, it is anticipated that a greater Departmental presence in Labasa and Suva for our students in the Educational Leadership Programme will be realised. There is also the possibility of offering our PGDT and Master in Teaching programmes in innovative ways at these centres.

School of Science and Technology

Department of Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics started offering Postgraduate studies from the second Semester of 2009 and is in the process of preparing to offer Postgraduate programmes in Statistics from next year.

The Head of Mathematics, Dr. Kuldeep Mathur, is actively engaged in research, keeping in view the changing trends and the application of computers in practically all the branches of science and technology. Kuldeep Mathur is the editor of the research Journal “Impact Journal of Science and Technology” and is on the Editorial Board of “Journal of Mathematics Research” (Published by Canadian Centre of Science and Education, Toronto) and “MASAUM Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences (MJBAS) Pakistan.” Dr. Mathur has received invitations from universities in China, Ukraine, Turkey and Malaysia this year to present research papers.

The other two members of the Department, Ms. Sangeeta Menon and Mr. Karuna Reddy are both pursuing postgraduate studies in Mathematics.

Department of Computer Science and IT

The Department of Computer Science and Information Technology started with major staff constraints. A total of nineteen (19) courses offered as part of semester 1 and teaching, especially at senior levels was of concern.

The appointment of a new lecturer in week four (4) of the second semester to ease the problem to some extent, and the workload was re-organized to optimize on delivery. The tutors in the Department have done an excellent job in coordinating some courses with guidance and support from lecturers.

Moderation of final examination papers have commenced with External Moderator, Professor Dharmendra Sharma from University of Canberra agreeing to continue in that role.

The internal committee to review IT courses met during semester break to re-look at CS and IT courses and the entire program structure.

The department is still without a Professor/Associate Professor to provide academic guidance and leadership in the Department. The University will have to address the recruitment issue head on, especially after the recent 20% devaluation of the Fiji dollar.

School of Business and Economics

Dr KL Sharma, Dean of the school was invited to participate in the Fiji Food Summit at Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi during 14-16 October 2009. He chaired a session on agricultural production and contributed to discussions in working groups of sessions. The Summit was organized by the WHO and the Ministry of Health.

Special Administrators and Chief Executives of the City Councils of Sigatoka, Nadi and Lautoka approached Dr KL Sharma and Mr. Ben Coutman for establishing a local government institute/program for City Councils. A meeting was held with the group in September 09. Another meeting was scheduled in November for discussions on their proposal with the Vice Chancellor and Director Centre for Indigenous Studies.

Mr. Ben Coutman, HOD Accounting and Finance completed the consulting contract with the Ministry of Finance. He conducted seven training programs from internal control to forensic auditing and management control for managers and supervisors. He had subsequent meeting with training division of the Ministry and The University of Fiji is acknowledged as one of their trainers.

The Accounting Department has organized a series of seminars for younger staff to develop their academic and scholarly work. Three such seminars have been conducted and will continue in future for the school's prospective.

KPMG visited the University of Fiji to interview third year students in accounting for job opportunities for next year. Number of students already got offers for positions next year in their accounting firm.

Mr. Jai Chandra and Ms Sandhiya Roy attended a seminar on the topic "Savings and Investments above Consumption" on 10 September at Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi organized by the South Pacific Stock Exchange.

Workshops attended by Wilson Hoerder, Acting HOD, Management Department

- Fiji Trade Union Congress (FTUC) Workers Education Programme International Labour Organization (ILO)/FTUC Trade Union Leaders Review Meeting on Employment Relations Promulgation (ERP) 2007 12 – 13 June 2009, Capricorn Hotel, Nadi
- ILO/FTUC Trade Union Leaders Workshop on "Formulating A Decent Work Country Programme for Fiji" 6 – 7 August 2009, Hexagon International Hotel, Nadi
- The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)/ILO Taking Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) Divisional Training Workshop 17 – 18 September 2009, Airports Fiji Limited Training Centre, Nadi

Guest Lectures & Site Visits

- Mr. Vishnu Deo, the former Director for Human Resources, FEA, presented a paper on the formulation of the ERP of 2007 to management students. Mr. DEO is currently holding the position of Director HR for the Sheraton group in Fiji.
- Ms. Adeline Lee-Erasito, Marketing Services Manager, Tourism Fiji (formerly referred to as the Fiji Visitors Bureau), presented a paper to management students on FIJI ME, the new brand identity created for Fiji as part of its destination branding strategy, and also touched on the Wedding & Honeymoon market, and the MICE market, and new developments in the Tourism Industry.

Dr Wasantha Amaradasa, Senior Lecturer in Management, attended “Stakeholders Forum for Developing Enterprises for Suitable Income” on 30 October 2009 at RSL Hotel, Lautoka organized by FRIENDS.

School of Law

The School of Law began the year with around 70 students, with 24 in the first year and 46 in the second year. Once again, it has been a challenging year in terms of teaching and keeping the moral of the students high. The SoL wishes to thank Mr. Sakiusa Rabuka, Judge Dr Ajit Singh for motivating the students and to Ashna for providing the administrative support. Justice Devendra Pathik and Mrs Sushila Pathik continue to keep an overall eye on the School. Thanks to the efforts of Justice Pathik, our students had the rare opportunity of being taught by sitting judges.

In keeping with the increase in enrolment, the campus has undergone a renovation in terms of additional teaching and office space, and washrooms.

The foundation lecturer, Mr. Sakiusa Rabuka left for the Solomon Islands and Humphrey Marau joined the Law School. With the appointment of Dr Shaista Shameem as Associate Professor, we now have a strong academic base, and can plan our teaching with great vigour and confidence.

The Law programme now offered at both Suva and Saweni Campus from 2010.

Umanand Prasad School of Medicine (UPSM)

Running a medical school is challenging at the best of times, and given the situation at The University of Fiji in terms of staffing and resources, the University has done itself proud. UPSM students are highly motivated; staff has the dedication and commitment to the School and their students, a comprehensive collection of teaching and learning resource materials, especially for Anatomy, and a brand new building almost nearing completion. UPSM has come a long way in one-and-a-half years, but there is much to be done. As UPSM moves to the third year, we need to recruit high-quality teaching staff in all the major areas, and as mentioned earlier, this is proving very difficult, because our salaries and conditions of service are simply not competitive. The University does not see any alternatives except providing substantial incentives to recruit staff.

The Fiji Medical Council and the Ministry of health have asked us to arrange for a review of the MBBS programme by a team of medical educators, and the University has given an undertaking that it will be done. Based on this assurance the Public Service Commission has allocated 20 scholarships amounting to \$310,000 for our students.

There were two significant events during the year in relation to the UPSM:

One was the independent review of the MBBS programme commissioned by the University in August 2009. The three-member team with Professor Toshimasa Yoshioka as the leader and Professor Daniel R. Wolpaw and Dr Terry Wolpaw as members spent about two weeks on Campus and produced a comprehensive report using the World Federation for Medical Education Standards. Copies of the Report have been presented to the Minister for Health, the Fiji Medical Council, the Public Service Commission, and the Fijian Affairs Board Scholarships Division. UPSM has received positive and encouraging responses from the Minister of Health on the Report. The Minister has also given us guidance on the preparations the University needs to make for student attachment for the clinical years at Lautoka Hospital.

The other major event was the opening of the new building of the UPSM on 24 October by the Prime Minister, Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama. It was a grand function which included six Ministers of Cabinet and many dignitaries. UPSM is eagerly waiting for the completion of the electrical, plumbing and sewerage works so that staff can move into the new building before the end of November 2009.

With these developments, and the promise of the continuation of scholarships for the MBBS programme by the PSC and the FAB, UPSM hopes to see more students wanting to enrol in our MBBS programme in 2010.



This picture was taken during the opening of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine

Centre for Indigenous Studies (CIS)

CIS wishes to thank the APS & UOF Management Boards for allocating a site to build the CIS Building. It is a two-storey building, and the Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor have seen the draft plan and have made the necessary alterations. The master planner from Australia has given his technical advice and this will be forwarded it to the architect in Suva. When the final plan of the building is completed then our CIS Programme Advisory Committee with Mr. Radike Qereqeretabua and others will proceed with funding activities already planned. The Minister for Education, Mr. Filipe Bole, is well informed about this progress and has given his suggestions regarding the funding of the CIS building.

Mr. Usaia Gauna and Mrs Salome Rokuta have developed three new courses this year:

- FIJF11 – Foundation Fijian;
- FIJ103 – Translation Technique and Practice I; and
- FIJ204 – Translation Technique and Practice II

FIJF11 has been approved by the Senate and Mrs. Rokuta is teaching it to 9 students this semester.

FIJ103 and FIJ204 are near completion and will be presented to the Board of Academic Staff once it is ready.

The Fijian translation of Dr Rusiate R. Nayacakalou's book, *Leadership in Fiji*, was launched on 9 October, on the occasion of the Fiji Day, by the Hon. Samuela Saumatua, Minister for Local Government, Urban Development and Housing. The University of Fiji was delighted to have Mr. Apakuki Nayacakalou from Sydney for the launch of his father's book. This is the first publication from the Centre, and many more monographs and research reports will follow in 2010.

Centre for International and Regional Affairs (CIRA)

The Director of CIRA, Mr Robin Nair, and the Deputy Director, Professor Richard Herr, have designed postgraduate certificate and postgraduate diploma programmes in International Relations, and these have been recently approved by the Postgraduate Committee. The initial courses will be offered towards the end of the year, and are expected to attract senior civil servants and trainee diplomats from Fiji and the region. The courses are also open to anyone with an undergraduate degree and an interest in international affairs.

Following Mr. Robin Nair's recent participation in a conference organized by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), SIIS expressed keen interest in sending a high-powered delegation to Fiji, and wanted UniFiji to host and organize their visit in conjunction with the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Fiji.

In consultation with Mr. Nair, the Vice-Chancellor has written to the SIIS inviting them to visit Fiji from 1 to 5 March 2010. 2010 also happens to be the 35th anniversary of the signing of Diplomatic Relations between the Fiji and China.

If our invitation is accepted by the SIIS, it will generate good publicity, and our association with a leading institution such as the SIIS will be a major boost for The University of Fiji.

English Language Centre

The English Language Centre is yet to fully develop along the lines we envisaged. The main activity should be the mounting of the Basic to Advanced English Conversation Courses for foreign students. The University of Fiji has until now relied on a sole agent to recruit students. As this has not borne fruit, ELC has requested our new Marketing Officer, Mr. Zaheer Hassan, to take over the promotion of the Centre's activities.

A one-week course was delivered by Ms Harumi Shimada, a laboratory assistant, from Osaka, Japan.

IELTS Tutorials have been conducted in March and April. Only one person was tutored for two sessions in March and four students took a series of four tutorials on April 6th, 15th, 20th and 27th.

This activity will grow as word spreads of our mounting these tutorials.

With a boost in promotion, targeting potential markets, it is anticipated that the English Language Centre will contribute much more significantly to the University's finances in 2010.

Centre for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (CEESD)

The Vice-Chancellor is negotiating with the Director of TERI (The Energy Research Institute, New Delhi) and the Chancellor of TERI University, Dr Rajendra Pachauri, to nominate a senior academic from TERI as honorary Director of CEESD so that we can begin some interesting activities and courses on environmental and climate change issues as soon as possible. The Vice Chancellor has received positive and encouraging responses from Dr Pachauri, and an MOU between UniFiji and TERI is expected to be signed in January 2010. Dr Pachauri is the Patron of CEESD, and is Chair of the Inter-Government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the former US Vice-President, Mr. Al Gore.

9. MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Our new Marketing and Publicity Officer, Zaheer Hassan, has made a difference to our marketing and publicity by giving a new corporate look to our advertisements and by starting the University's newsletter, *Uni MATTERS*.

Media Coverage

- Extensive media coverage was done during the graduation ceremony. The graduation featured on Fiji One National News, The Fiji Times and The Fiji Sun. An online photo gallery was also created on Fiji Live. Graduation photos were also placed on the home page of the Fiji Live website. There was also a special graduation supplement that was published in The Fiji Times on April 15 2009.
- The Fiji Times did a feature on a Mother/Son team enrolled here at Uni Fiji. The story was published in The Fiji Times 3 days later.
- The article on the Research grant provided by Vodafone ATH Foundation was also published in the Times on 16th April.
- A story was published in The Fiji Sun on May 13 about the new Library Management System at the University.
- The Gimit Day celebration was also well covered by Fiji One National News, The Fiji Times and The Fiji Sun.

Other Matters

- An Annual Marketing Plan is being compiled. Key components of the marketing plan are as follows:
 - Executive Summary
 - SWOT Analysis
 - Forecasts
 - Marketing Research Information
 - Market Segmentation
 - Demographic
 - Marketing Objectives
 - Marketing Strategies
 - Budget

Revamp Marketing Materials

There is a need to revamp our current marketing materials. The following materials need to be developed as soon as possible:

- Folders;
- Prospectus;

- Plastic Bags with UniFiji logo;
- Individual brochures for different departments and centers;
- A2 size Posters for each department; and
- A5 booklets for different schools.

10. IT SERVICES

The following are the achievements and activities of the IT Services for 2009;

- Installation of Wireless hotspots around the Saweni campus to allow staff and students to access internet and network resources through their laptops. The Hotspots have been installed in the Library, Canteen and Hall. Hotspots will also be put in the Law Campus at the Samabula Campus in Suva, and the new UPSM building;
- Membership to the Microsoft IT Academy. This allows staff and students access to Microsoft study materials and online tutorial. Students can sit for online exams and achieve internationally recognized Microsoft qualifications. IT Tutors/Lecturers can get certified and then can incorporate the Microsoft curriculum into the existing IT programme;
- Automation of the library and barcoding of ID cards;
- Payroll software has been implemented. It went “live” from mid June;
- Multimedia lab was upgraded with 20 new computers. This now enables students to use specialty applications for programming and multimedia/web development. 1 new computer has also been placed in the General Lab;
- Upgrade of Print server now enables users to view their printing quota balance;
- Implementation of Financial Software scheduled for end of June;
- Implementation of computerized Point of Sale (POS) system. This will enable effective inventory management and reporting, automated transaction processing, and makes it easy to track sales and maintain customer/sales histories in the Bookshop;
- Upgrade of I.T facilities and servers at the Law Campus at Samabula Campus in Suva;
- Development of student information system is taking place;
- Separation of student and staff internet;
- Implementation of internet quota for users;
- Automation of the payroll system;
- Membership to the CompTIA learning alliance. The University can now offer internationally recognized CompTIA courses (PC maintenance, Networking etc) at the campus. These courses are expected to be run in December;
- The University is now an authorized Prometric testing centre. We can now offer online professional IT exams at the campus;
- Library Catalog system is now accessible from the internet;
- The bookshop cash register system is now fully computerized. All sales and staff issues can now be tracked. Inventory is also maintained on the system;
- Financial software has been implemented and Finance users have been trained. Live data is to be entered into the system for full testing. Cheques and Purchase orders are expected to be printed from the system. The software has good audit and security features; and
- Suva campus student lab computers have been relocated to the library.

Planned Activities for 2009/2010

- Law campus I.T infrastructure upgrade. Currently waiting for financial approval from Finance committee.
- Improve security features on the academic transcript.
- Improve University I.T security.
- Set up Online Learning management system.
- Develop local intranet for hosting staff/student forms, policies, newsletters, timetable etc.
- IT Disaster Recovery planning and site setup.
- Investigate options for implementing Desktop/Server virtualization to reduce hardware costs and reduce power consumption.



Multimedia lab was upgraded with new Computers.

11. LIBRARY SERVICES

Computerization of Library: The Library was computerized after the implementation of Liberty 4, purchased from Softlink Australia. This will facilitate effective online searching of library materials, cataloguing resources, and also in circulation. For Library users, it will help to search for the resources online, its availability and also for its status. For Library staff Liberty 4 will give advantage in z-cataloguing, fast circulation, affective acquisition and also in all other activities carried out in Library. The Liberty 4 has also got the technological features which will enable the university to launch it as the Library website later. The libraries in Suva and Saweni Campuses will be fully integrated by the end of 2009.

Library Extension: In order to provide enough space for the library users and accommodate more resources, library space was extended. Now, this provides a good study environment for the library users.

ProQuest Presentation: UniFiji library in tie-up with ProQuest New Zealand, arranged a demonstration program on electronic resources available in the ProQuest database on 27 August which was attended by students and staff from various departments.

Library Orientation Program; In order to introduce and familiarize the new library system, 11 sessions of Library orientation programs were organized for library users in July and August.



Students using the computers in the Library during orientation.

12. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Research and writing are essential aspects of the life at any university, and we are committed to developing a scholarly culture at UniFiji. The Senate approved membership and Terms of Reference for the University Publications and Press Committee, and the Research Committee.

The management has already put in a notional figure of \$20,000, a new line item for research, in the 2009 budget, and we will soon be calling for applications from staff for small grants.

The University of Fiji welcomes the decision of the Cabinet to establish the Fiji National Research Council, and we look forward to contributing to the work of the research council.

The University of Fiji Press has so far published the following three titles:

- *Waka Six* by Cliff Benson;
- *Waka Five* by Cliff Benson;
- Fijian translation of Dr Rusiate Nayacakalou's *Leadership in Fiji* by Rejieli Racule et al.

International publications and research outputs

Nandan, Satendra (2009) 'A Journey into White Australia' in *Shifting Location* 2009.

Satendra Nandan has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the biennial conference to be held at Goa next year by the Indian Association for the Study of Australia (IASA).

Nandan, Satendra (2009) *Between the Lines* (book of essays) Lewes: Ivy Press International

Nandan, Satendra (2009) 'Colonial, Cultural Encounters in Fiji' in *Literatures in English: Ethnic, Colonial and Cultural Encounters* Barcelona: University of Barcelona Press.

Nandan Jyoti (2009) 'Indian Nationalism's Legacy for Women' in *Literatures in English: Ethnic, Colonial and Cultural Encounters* Barcelona: University of Barcelona Press.

Prasad, Shelvin (2009) "Maa" in the Mother's day supplement in *Shanti Dut*

Kamala Naiker, Review of Patrick French's Authorized Biography of V.S. Naipaul *The World is what it is*.

Satendra Nandan, Presentation to Transparency International conference,

Satendra Nandan, Executive Member of Transparency International, Fiji

Satendra Nandan, Presentation at Sydney Writers Festival. 22-29 May 2009

Mathur, Kuldeep Editorial Board of '*Journal of Mathematics Research*' (Published by Canadian Centre of Science and Education, Toronto)

Editorial board '*MASAUM Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences (MJBAS), Pakistan.*' Dr. KL Sharma was invited to participate in the Fiji Food Summit Nadi 14-16 October 2009. The Summit was organized by the WHO and the Ministry of Health. He chaired a session on agricultural production and contributed to discussions in working groups of sessions

13. MASTER PLAN AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Mr. Felix Riedweg, a qualified and experienced physical planner has made available to us under the Australian Business Volunteer scheme, spent four weeks at the University and produced a 5-year Campus Development Plan in June this year. He also visited the Suva campus on two occasions.

Future buildings and developments are located on the plan in relation to the already existing UPSM building. The foundation work on the new Library complex has begun at the location indicated in the development plan.

The onus is now on the Council, through the Physical Planning and Development Committee, to give life to the plan starting with the development of the new entrance and a new bus bay, followed by other structures.

The Chairs of The Council and The Finance Committee, and senior executives of the APS are well aware of the need to improve and expand the physical facilities both at Saweni and Suva. There has been agreement that we need to attend to the following tasks at Saweni immediately:

- Extension of the canteen;
- Renovation of the bookshop;
- Student amenities including recreation facilities;
- Staff common room;
- Creation of staff offices; and
- Renovation of administration block including Registrar's and VC's office

In parallel with the above, similar tasks need to be undertaken at the School of Law to cater to around 100 students and additional academic staff expected in 2010.

14. UNIVERSITY EVENTS

A number of events were held at the University during the period of this report:

Jazz Ambassadors Program ~ 18 March 2009: The staff and students of the University were entertained to a brilliant exposition of jazz by the four visiting artists from the United States of America. The artists were: Liz Chibucos (guitar, violin and vocals), Mark Gerolami (Banjo, Guitar and Vocals), Julio Appling (Bass and Vocals), and Chad Kimbler (Mandolin and Vocals). The event was jointly organized by the University and the US Embassy in Fiji.

A Roundtable with Professor Jerry Jordon ~ 22 March 2009: Again, a programme jointly organized by the University and the American Embassy at the Waterfront Hotel in Lautoka provided an opportunity to hear Professor Jerry Jordon, an expert on US Economic Issues, speak on the current US Economic and Financial crisis, its origins, its status, and its impact around the world.

Second Graduation ~ 3 April 2009: (Please see the introduction to this report)

Girmit Smriti--a remembrance ~ 15 May 2009: Members of the University community and invited guests experienced the story of Girmit through songs, readings, reflections, journeys, remembrance and writing. Two books, *Shifting location* by Subramani, and *Between the lines* by Satendra Nandan were also launched during the programme which included contributions from Minakshi Maharaj, Srinivasiah Muralidhar, UniFiji students, Asinate Mausio, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, students from the Lautoka Teachers' College, Rejeli Racule, Nazhat Shameem, Jyoti Nandan, Satendra Nandan, Cliff Benson, Joji Uluinakauvadra and Satish Rai.

A seminar with Mr Terry Michael ~ 25 May 2009: Dr Asinate Mausio chaired a seminar presented by Mr Terry Michael on the topic, *Five Eras in American Media & Politics History and the Evolution of American Journalism in Service to Democracy*. Mr Michael's visit was made possible by the US Embassy in Suva.

Face Theatre Presentation ~ 27 May 2008: Friend's Art & Cultural Enterprises a dynamic youth theatre group from the Western Region, entertained the University communities with a stage play *Birds and Bats*.

Ratu Sukuna Day ~ 28 May 2009: The life and times of Ratu Sukuna, and his contributions to Fiji were celebrated by the University community and invited guests through songs, readings and speeches. The programme included contributions from Mrs Minakshi Maharaj, Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar, UniFiji students, Dr Asinate Mausio, Mr Usaia Gauna and Ms Mere Vadei. The event was planned by the Director of the Centre for Indigenous Studies (CIS) and his team of dedicated staff.

Foundation Graduation Ceremony 5 June 2009: Certificates were presented to students who had completed their Foundation Programme by the Pro-Chancellor, Pt. Bhuwan Dutt.

Special Lecture on Underserved Medicine – 15 July 2009: Dr. Animesh Sinha visited the University accompanied by his mother Mrs Arunima Sinha and the Director of FRIENDS, Sashi Kiran, gave a lecture on underserved medicine to UPSM Students.

29 July 2009 - Official Welcome Ceremony for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar.

University Seminars – 30 July 2009: Seminars were conducted by Associate Professor Greg Battye (The Associate Dean Education for the faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra, Australia) and Ms. Georgia Tayler (Psychologist from Australia)

Book donation - 10 August 2009: Officials from the Latter Day Saints Church kindly donated some books to the University of Fiji Library. Mr. Nemani Buresova, the Director of the Fiji Public Affairs Council along with two full time missionaries from Salt Lake City, USA made the donation to the Registrar.

Presentation of Proquest Database 27 August 2009: Mr. John Hall from ProQuest New Zealand demonstrated the database which covered all available resources in Arts & Humanities, Business, Finance, Management, Information Technology, Medical Sciences and General Reference

Eid-UI-Fitr Celebrations – 23 September 2009: The Students' Association organized a function to celebrate Eid-UI-Fitr.

Gandhi Day Celebrations – 2 October 2009: 140th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated by staff and students of the University.

Fiji Day Celebrations – 9 October 2009: Fiji Day was celebrated at the University. Also that day, the Fijian translation of the book 'Leadership in Fiji' was launched. The chief guest was Hon. Samuela Saumataua, Minister for Local Government, Urban Development and Housing.

Diwali Celebration – 21 October 2009: The Students' Association organized a function to celebrate Diwali.

Opening of the Umanand Prasad Medical School building – 24 October 2009: The Chief Guest was Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Fiji Islands.

Book Launch – 6 November 2009: Mr. Cliff Benson's book '*Waka Five*' was launched by Mr Lorima Voravora, Division Education Officer, Western.

Foundation-Laying Ceremony – 10 November 2009: The Sharma family of Saweni and the University of Fiji jointly held the ceremony for the new Library Complex.

15. VISITORS

A number of prominent and distinguished individuals visited the Saweni Campus during the period of the report:

- 5 February 2009: H E Michel Monnier, Ambassador de France; Mr Pascal Dayez-Burgeon, Counsellor for Cooperation and Culture; Mr. Jeremie Faucon, Vice-Consul; Ms Karen Martin, Cooperation Attache.
- 12 February 2009: Mr. Filipe Bole, Minister for Education
- 16 February 2009: Dr Jenny Hayward-Jones, Lowy Institute, Australia
- 26 February 2009: Dr Neil Sharma, Minister for Health; Dr Sala Saketa, Permanent Secretary for Health; team from the Ministry of Health
- 10 March 2009: Mr. Patrick Dunand, Director, Alliance Francaise, Fiji
- 21 April 2009: Mr. C. Harinarayana, Chief Manager, Bank of Baroda, Suva
- 11 May 2009: Professor Ian Rouse, Dean, Fiji School of Medicine; Mrs Carolyn Rouse
- 15 May 2009: Ms Nazhat Shameem
- 15 May 2009: Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General
- 15 May 2009: Mr. Anthony Gates
- 25 May 2009: Mr. Terry Michael, Washington, DC
- 25 May 2009: Mr. Shane Hussein, US Embassy, Suva

- 11 June 2009 – Dr Uttiyo Raychaudhuri – University of Georgia, USA
- 22 July 2009 – H.E. Alexander Blokhin, Ambassador of Russia
- 22 July 2009 – Mr. Sergei Derevyagin, Counsellor, Embassy of Russia
- 22 July 2009 – H.E. Kamlesh Arya, Fiji’s High Commissioner to Australia, and Mrs Urmila Arya
- 22 July 2009 – Jokatama Fotu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji
- 30 July 2009 – Georgia Tayler – Psychologist (Canberra)
- 30 July 2009 – Dr. Greg Battye, University of Canberra, Australia
- 7 August 2009 – Professor Toshimasa Yoshioka, Tokyo Women’s Medical University, Japan
- 7 August 2009 – Drs Daniel & Terry Wolpaw, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
- 10 August 2009 – Mr. Richard O’Rourke, U.S. International Institutes of Education, and the Regional Educational Advising Coordinator for South East Asia and the Pacific region
- 10 August 2009 - Mr. Douglas Carey, Country Desk Officer for South Pacific Islands at State Department in Washington D.C,
- 16 August 2009 – Dr. Neil Sharma, Minister for Health
- 26 August 2009 – Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor, USP
- 26 August 2009 – Dr Pal Dhall & Tehreen Dhall, NSW Australia
- 27 August 2009 – Swami Aparokshanandaji, Rama Krishna Mission, Nadi
- 31 August 2009 - Dr. Anil Mangal, Clinical Asst Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada
- 2 September 2009 - David Robinson, Strategic Directions, Brisbane Australia
- 7 September 2009 – Mr. Liladhar Jeeraj, Victoria, Australia
- 9 October 2009 - Abdul Latif, Surry Hills, Victoria, Australia
- 9 October 2009 – Hon. Samuela Saumatua, Minister for Local Government, Urban Development and Housing, & Alisi Saumatua
- 24 October 2009 – Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Republic of the Fiji Islands
- 24 October 2009 – Hon. Filipe Bole, Minister for Education, National Heritage, Culture & Arts, Youth and Sports, Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment
- 24 October 2009 – Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation
- 24 October 2009 – Hon. Dr Neil Sharma, Minister for Health
- 24 October 2009 – Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Minister for Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation
- 24 October 2009 – Sir Moti Tikaram, Suva
- 24 October 2009 – Professor Ian Rouse, Dean, Fiji School of Medicine, & Carolyn Rouse
- 24 October 2009 – Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney General, Minister for Justice, Electoral Reform, Public Enterprises and Anti-Corruption, Industry, Tourism and Trade
- 24 October 2009 – Hon. Samuela Saumatua, Minister for Local Government, Urban Development and Housing, & Alisi Saumatua
- 24 October 2009 – Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor, University of the South Pacific, & Mrs Dharma Chandra
- 24 October 2009 - Dr. Ganesh Chand, Director, Fiji Institute of Technology



H E Michel Monnier, Ambassador de France; Mr Pascal Dayez-Burgeon, Counsellor for Cooperation and Culture; Mr Jeremie Faucon, Vice-Consul; Ms Karen Martin, Cooperation Attachee with Prof Muralidhar

16 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Welcome address at the Launching of 'Waka Five' by Mr Cliff Benson, The University of Fiji, 6 November 2009.

Chief Guest at the Form 7 Graduation Ceremony, Lautoka Central College, Cane Growers Council Hall, Lautoka, 5 November 2009.

Welcome address at the opening of the new facility for the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine by Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Republic of the Fiji Islands, at the Saweni Campus, 24 October 2009.

Diwali address presented to the University community, The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka, 21 October 2009.

Invited Guest, Opening of the Fiji Food Summit 2009, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, 14 October 2009.

Chief Guest at the Diwali Celebrations organized by the Fiji Hindu Society, Kshatriya Hall, Suva, 10 October 2009.

Welcome address at the Fiji Day Celebrations, The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka, 9 October 2009.

Welcome address at the Gandhi Day Celebrations, The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka, 2 October 2009.

Invited guest at the traditional Welcome Ceremony to Momo Levu na Tui Vuda, Ratu Josefa Iloilovatu Uluivuda in Viseisei Village, 1 October 2009.

Invited presentation at the Consultative Workshop on Five year Road Map for Lautoka City, Lautoka City Council, Lautoka, 30 September 2009.

Empowering people by creating a learning organization. An address presented at the 104th Conference, Fiji Principals' Association, Xavier College Auditorium, Ba, 24 September 2009.

Invited guest, Opening of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Forum 2009, The Sheraton Fiji Resort, Nadi, 14 September 2009.

Invited Guest, Opening of the Housing Authority Nadi Office by Col. Samuela Saumatua, Minister for Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment, Namaka, 10 September 2009.

Leadership with a new vision. Keynote address delivered at the Lautoka, Yasawa and Nadi Head Teachers' Professional Development Workshop, Lautoka Teachers' College, Lautoka, 6 August 2009.

Response given at the welcome accorded to the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Srinivasiah Muralidhar, The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka, 29 July 2009.

Chief Guest, Pandit Vishnu Deo Diwas, Pandit Vishnu Deo Memorial College, Saweni, Lautoka, 17 July 2009.

Rotary ideals and social entrepreneurship. An address given at the Changeover Dinner, Nadi Rotary Club, Restaurant 88, Martintar, Nadi, 4 July 2009.

Invited Guest, National Address by the Prime Minister on Fiji's Strategic Framework for Change and 2010 Budget Framework, Tradewinds Convention Centre, Lami, 1 July 2009.

Opening address at the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Seminar 2009 at the Anchorage Beach Resort, Vuda, Lautoka, 4 June 2009.

Welcome address at the Ratu Sukuna Day Celebrations, The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka, 28 May 2009.

Of suffering and celebration. A welcome address given on the occasion of *Girmit Smrithi: A Remembrance Day*, The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka, 15 May 2009.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STAFF ASSOCIATION (SAUF)

The relationship between the management and SAUF has continued to be cordial. The Joint Working Group (SAUF and the University) has successfully developed Performance Review forms and procedures for Academic and Academic-related staff. These documents are being used for the first time in the Performance Review exercise which is scheduled for the second week in June 2009. The University of Fiji wants to nurture this relationship with SAUF to help us shape the University together.

17. CONCLUSION

A number of exciting challenges face the University of Fiji next year, but with the support of Council and colleagues in the University, management can face them with confidence.

In the next two months staff must work hard to recruit more students at all levels in all programmes. As the University enters the third year in the MBBS and LLB programmes, the University must ensure that what we offer our students is of the highest quality in terms of the curriculum, teaching, assessment, learning support, and resources. The Law School must start preparing for the accreditation of the LLB programme. The advisory committee for the Law programme needs reconstituting and planning for the launch of the LLB programme to take place.

The completion of the Strategic Plan, developing guidelines for quality management, and the formulation of a teaching-learning policy for the University must all be in place by the middle of next year.

Now that the University of Fiji has a Staff Policy Committee, it needs to develop a comprehensive staff development plan across the university, and also to introduce additional incentives from time-to-time to attract and retain high-quality staff. Incentives might include provision of medical benefits, increasing the annual leave from 20 to 30 days for academic staff, and subsidizing the fees for courses taken by the children of staff.

Fund-raising for both our loan scholarship scheme and for capital projects is vital, and management needs to make a firm commitment to it, by assigning groups to target specific donors and specific areas.

The University of Fiji needs to develop working relationships with the University of the South Pacific and the National University of Fiji so that our students and staff can benefit from the extensive pool of academic expertise available in Fiji. University of Fiji can also work collaboratively in many areas for our mutual benefit.

