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UPCOMING EVENTS



The University of Fiji
"The People's University"

SIR MOTI TIKARAM MEMORIAL LECTURE



Late Sir Moti Tikaram

The University of Fiji will host the 6th Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lecture on Friday, 27 September, 2019.

Brief Background on Sir Moti Tikaram:

Sir Moti Tikaram, KBE, CF, LLB (NZ) (18 March 1925 – 17 May 2012) was an outstanding citizen of Fiji. He was born a British subject in colonial times; and became a long time Commonwealth citizen. Sir Tikaram was a judge of the Supreme Court of Fiji, the first Ombudsman of independent Fiji and a football administrator. He was the first local person to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

He also served a wider world. He advanced the principles of universal human rights, justice and the rule of law. His able discharge of diverse public duties in Fiji was recognised by the Queen in 1980 when he was bestowed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE). In 1985, he was elected by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) to be the first Commissioner chosen from Fiji. In 1993, he became Acting President of the Fiji Court of Appeal and served as Acting Chief Justice of Fiji on many occasions.

The Government of India conferred on him the Hind Rattan Award and, in January 2007, the President of India conferred the Parvati Bharatiya Samman Award. In 2009, he was awarded the "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Award" in New Delhi, India at the Indian Diaspora Celebrations.

UniFiji Signs MoU with Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani and Secretary General, PIDF, Mr. François Martel signing the MoU.

The University of Fiji's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF) on Thursday, July 18, 2019.

The MoU is in relations to the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDP SoL's) Institute of Human Rights Research (IHRR) which was also launched at the signing ceremony. The focus of the Institute is to carry out cutting-edge and policy-oriented research and analysis in human rights.

Giving his keynote address, Speaker of Parliament of Fiji and Chancellor of The University of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, said the Institute was an important initiative of The University of Fiji and its partners and stated that change brought about by the research and policy could take many forms.

These included removing discrimination in laws and policies, improving the practices of law enforcement and government officials, promoting better

ways of doing business, and challenging negative stereotypes about vulnerable groups in the community.

"However, it is long term work and requires everyone to get involved and who will work as partners- civil society organisations, governments and international organisations- to help build communities where human rights of all people are respected, protected and fulfilled. Which is why this partnership is important- while the academia focus on the research, the development organisations focus on the applicability of the research blending this with international practice and experiences. Research done through this institute should be done with the aim to inform national policy and review laws," he explained.

Dean of JDP SoL, Professor Shaista Shameem explained that the Institute would provide a deeper understanding of human rights norms.

She mentioned that the Institute aimed to facilitate a rigorous exchange of ideas where both practical human rights work and new approaches to policy would be debated and analyzed in an environment

of collegiality and common purpose— not only to understand the world, but to transform it for the public good.

She said that the MoU represented a milestone for the University.

“The University of Fiji’s Strategic Plan states that the University’s work includes being the critic and conscience of society and thus we see this Institute as epitomizing for us that progressive KPI; not only that, but it will employ academic freedom, which is protected by a special provision in the University of Fiji Act, in achieving it,” she said.

July 18 is also known as Mandela Day, in memory of Nelson Madela, one of the pioneers of human rights advocacy in the world.

His Excellency, Bingo Thamanga, Chargé d’Affaires, South African High Commission to Fiji said that the late Mandela personified human rights and the struggle for justice and equality for all.

He also said that Mandela embodied the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including the 9 core human treaties.

“As our greatest human rights champion of our time, the late Mandela cherished, lived and was prepared to die for an ideal world of democracy, human rights, social justice and equality for all. He exuded paramount values of compassion of compassion, love, forgiveness, forgetting, healing, reconciliation, peace, dialogue, unity, solidarity, fairness and shared prosperity. As the South African Commission, we fully embrace the launch of this Research Institute, which undoubtedly destined to provide a pedestal for the cutting edge research in the Pacifica,” he concluded.

Those attending the MOU Ceremony were members of the diplomatic corps, NGOs and academics. Professor Shameem said the University was fortunate to have attracted the partnership of the PIDF and OHCHR to this initiative and the JDP School of Law looks forward to working closely with both the partners to produce world class research in human rights.

Successful UniFiji Open Day



Dr. Sant Raj



Mr. Jagdish Chand

The University of Fiji had a successful Open Day, on July 11 and 12, 2019. The Open Day saw a number of Secondary Schools visiting the University to explore the programmes and facilities at both, Samabula and Saweni Campuses.

“We are confident given the ingredients we are able to put together and the lessons we have learned this far, we have earned the tag of ‘the People’s University’. As a professor here of one of the biggest Schools in our University, I invite you all, young students, and young scholars to ‘come and learn from the best’,” he stated.

Giving the keynote address at the Saweni Campus Dr. Sant Raj stated that quality education was critical in Fiji because of the issues the country was facing and it needed highly skilled and qualified people who would invest back into their country.

“This University acknowledges that tertiary education should not have restrictions within national borders but also prepares its students for the global environment. The University is developing to have a global academic presence and to be a globally-networked University. UniFiji is in full compliance with international best practices and standards to forge its relationship with the global community. With such high standards, The University of Fiji has an excellence agenda: excellence in learning and teaching; excellence in research; student experience; partnerships; environment; and leadership and governance,” he explained.

In addition, he commented that the University had already produced graduates who were making a difference in varied fields not only locally but in other countries.

“We are confident given the ingredients we are able to put together and the lessons we have learned this far, we have earned the tag of ‘the People’s University’”

Mr. Jagdish Chand was the keynote speaker on July 12, 2019 at Samabula Campus. He reiterated that The University of Fiji is a young but dynamic and ever growing institution with great potential to outshine other universities in the country. He told the students that when they became part of the University, they would have the opportunity

and be empowered to be associated with the exciting future developments at UniFiji.

Students had positive responses to the Open Day. Lekima Vuladawa, a Year 13 student of Saint Thomas High School stated that the Open Day was an exciting experience for him. He said that he enjoyed the time spent visiting the booths and getting to know about UniFiji programmes. He also mentioned that he wishes to study at UniFiji in the coming year.

An elated Simran Kumaran, a Year 13 student of A.D. Patel College, Ba said that the time they spent visiting the booths was a productive one. She particularly liked the presentations conducted by the Schools and the way the staff interacted with the students. She intends to study Medicine next year stating that studying at UniFiji would be a great opportunity for her to become a successful doctor.

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On behalf of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, the Community Relations Manager, Ms. Shirley Prasad, thanks sponsors: Vodafone for providing free giveaways for the Open Day; Kontiki Finance, Digicel and Vodafone for having information booths for the students; and Student Volunteers for not only distributing posters and banners prior to the Open Day but also for ushering and showing around the labs, rooms, booths, library, and collecting survey forms.

Subramani's New Novel Launched



Professor Subramani (middle), with other attendees at the book launch.

The University of Fiji's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani's novel *Fiji Maa; Mother of a Thousand*, 2018 was launched on July 15, 2019 during the inaugural International Conference on Forced Labour hosted at the Saweni Campus. The renowned author spent 14 years researching and writing this astonishing novel in Fiji Hindi.

He described the 1026 pages long novel as not only being a novel but also an archival work which can be read as a 'dictionary' of Fiji Hindi.

"It begins about 1940s and arrives at the contemporary period and many things change during that period- the language changes, the way people dress changes, technology changes, transport, house, clothing, entertainment, and more. And when we are writing a novel, in the background you have to keep all that in mind. To write an epic novel like that is an obsession. It is dedicated work, digging deep into your memory, defining not only the characters, but looking into yourself dredging out all the residual substance," he explained.

Professor Biman Prasad mentioned that the narrative has retained what would probably have been lost forever.

"Professor Subramani spent 14 years writing this book. This is one of the finest contributions not only to Girit Literature, but indeed Indian literature as a whole," he stated.

Mr. Daneshwar Sharma in "Subramani's *Fiji Maa: A Book of a Thousand Readings*" explains that there are a thousand ways to read the book.

"*Mother of a Thousand* has been in gestation for more than a decade and Subramani has exhausted all of his personal memories and literary acumen to meander through the lifetime of the protagonist Vedmati. The novel follows Vedmati from her early childhood, schooling and married life in a rural Labasa village to her widowed old age in urban Suva," he wrote.

Furthermore he wrote "These narrations of her life story are scattered with histories of a no longer-existing rural life and its people. The novel can be explored using various themes, including women's emancipation, subaltern history, the global extension of Mother India, lost rural life of the remote islands, Indian culture in a foreign land and the trauma of forced migration."

This 1026 pages long novel is published by The University of the South Pacific Press. It is available at the USP Bookshop and at the Enlightenment Book Centre at The University of Fiji. The book will be launched in Bhopal and New Delhi in November, 2019.

UniFiji to Inaugurate an Institute of Hindi Language & Culture Studies

With rapid loss of culture, traditions and language which accompanies the modern

era, keeping them alive is our great challenge. It is a grave concern that the students taking Hindi is declining at all levels, and the knowledge of Devanagiri is rapidly fading.

The University of Fiji, which we call People's University, has taken action to reverse this trend. It has established the Institute of Hindi Language and Culture Studies. The Institute incorporates Hindi Studies, Centre for Diaspora Studies and the Rabindranath Tagore Centre. This complements the work done by the Centre of iTaukei Studies.

The Institute's primary objective is to promote the learning of Hindi Language and keep alive relevant values and traditions. The Institute is also the repository of Hindi and Literature and will promote writings in Hindi language. The Institute will have an Acting Director until full term Director is appointed.

The Acting Director will have three main responsibilities: Strengthen the study of Hindi at The University of Fiji; revitalize the Centre for Diaspora Studies and the Tagore Centre and negotiate with benefactors to set a sound foundation for the continuity of the Institute.

Hindi Studies commenced at the University in 2008 with an amalgamation of language and culture and has progressed satisfactorily thereafter. The Department offers Diploma in Hindi Language and Indian Culture; Bachelor of Arts, single major; Bachelor of Arts, double major; Postgraduate Diploma in Hindi Literature and Master of Arts in Hindi.

The Centre of Diaspora Studies was established with the objective of encouraging learning and scholarship on the Fijian diaspora and to promote interaction at various levels between the diaspora and homeland.

The Rabindranath Tagore Centre was established with the objective to stimulate students' interest in humanistic perspective in understanding works of literature, including the works of Tagore.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani, said the Institute of Hindi Language and Culture would contribute to our ambitious goal of making The University of Fiji the intellectual and cultural centre of Western Viti Levu.

Community Relations- New Direction for University Promotions

The University of Fiji's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 states 'empowering the University's people' as a strategic goal. The term 'the University's people' constitutes for communities around the University. As such the University is steering in a new direction for University promotions- a direction into building better community relations.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani stated that it was vital to identify the coteries of leaders around the community and take note of their social, professional and educational needs, and connect them to the University.

"We must know who the major actors/protagonists/players are in these organisations, and create public places within the campus where they can regularly experience, meaningfully, the feeling of

belonging to this University," he explained.

Moreover, he mentioned that by creating this model of community relations for promotions, there was scope for research, cultural, educational and service work.

"Research will inform how the University can become relevant to its 'people' and develop capacities to serve a diversified population. Examples are what organizational changes are necessary to engender successful relationship with surrounding communities, and balance that with the core research values of the critical enquiry, intellectual integrity and dedication to learning," he commented.

As such the Marketing and Public Relations Department was renamed Community Relations Department. The Department has commenced its work and gathered

numerous contacts for the people around the University.

Ms. Manisha Ramrakha visited the temples to build networks and talk about the Hindi programme. After the visitation, she stated that the people were enthusiastic about the information imparted and said that it was a great initiative by the University to be more present in the communities.

Through the contacts collected, community people were invited to the Open Day and the Forced Labour Conference. This was means to show the communities what the University had to offer as well as get a better understanding of the University's roles and core values.

More of such community relations events are ongoing and have also been planned for the future.

Academic Wins Best Research Paper Award

Ms. Priyatma Singh, of the School of Science and Technology, won the best research paper award of her paper on "Integrated Coastal Management –A focus on Gender and Social Elements of the Community" at the workshop programme on "Pacific Research Colloquium". The programme was held from November 26, 2018 to December 7, 2018.

The programme was organised by the

Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University College of Asia & the Pacific.

The focus of the Pacific Research Colloquium (PRC) was to assist develop a better understanding of issues related to, and the skills involved in, doing integrated social and natural science research in the special circumstances of the Pacific

Islands region.

The PRC brought together 'early career Pacific researchers' to work with experienced academics who specialise in the conduct of social/natural science research in the region. The PRC also facilitated networking and broader professional development amongst researchers from the region.

Girmit Day Oratory Competition

Ms. Manpreet Kaur of Department of Language, Literature and Communication (LLC) was one of the judges for Girmit Day Oratory Competition organized by Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Ba-Tavua District on May 10, 2019 at Xavier College, Ba.

The Chief Guest for the celebrations, Assistant Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts (MoE), Honorable Joseph Nitya Nand, stressed on the contributions of the forefathers and recognize their efforts in building Fiji.

He further applauded the efforts of Ba-Tavua District for organizing the Oratory Contest for Primary and Secondary schools.

A total of 23 orators shared their deliberations on the theme: **Girmit: Treasure, Share and Respect**. The judging panel comprised three academics from the three Universities in Fiji.

Ms. Manpreet Kaur was elated to be given an opportunity to assist MoE in this noble task. She was equally thankful to LLC Department for allowing her to serve in the judging panel. The Dean

for School of Humanities and Arts, Professor Baba continually encourages academic staff to venture in community engagement programmes. Similarly, Head of Department, Dr. Naiker supports LLC staff in taking up community service such as this.

Ms. Manpreet Kaur shared her delight in being able to network with other key stakeholders, educationalists and students who all share a common goal. She said she was willing to render her service for a noble cause.

Commemorating the 140th Anniversary of Girmit Diwas

The University of Fiji commemorated the 140th Anniversary of Girmit Diwas with the poignant theme of **'Remembering our Ancestors'** on Friday, May 10th, 2019 at its Saweni Campus.

The Girmit Diwas celebrations contributed to UniFiji's strategic plan initiative, in building and sustaining quality knowledge

based development framework that engages and transforms the local and global communities.

The keynote speaker at the event was the Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts, Professor Tupeni Baba.

Professor Baba recounted the story of

the five iTaukei men of Kadavu who had stowed away aboard a ship that had anchored in Galoa Bay in Kadavu and how they had come back to Fiji with a boat load of girmitiyas.

Professor Baba went on to speak about how the initial sacrifices of the indentured

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Students during the parade depicting the everyday clothes that Girmityas' wore.

labourers had bred renowned academics such as Professors Satendra Nandan, Subramani and Dr. Brij Lal to name a few. Most importantly, the establishment of The University of Fiji was a direct result of the dreams and aspirations of the descendants of the indentured labourers. It was a proud testament that the struggles and hardships faced by the girmityas did not go in vain.

The black and white photographs on display brought to life the hardships, struggles and back-breaking conditions under which the indentured labourers lived. The interactive session also saw a display of dramas, songs, costume parades, and traditional music

instruments which depicted the struggles of the Girmityas while in Fiji, as well as the various relevant cultures from India.

Announcement of the winners of the Essay and Poetry Competitions were also done at the ceremony. The winners recited their winning essay and poetry to all attendees of the ceremony.

UniFiji is pleased to be associated with such a prestigious historical event and hope that the attendees were able to positively reflect and contribute to the messages, teachings and the important facts about Girmity history in Fiji.

Academic Admitted as Fellow of CPA



Professor Ruwendra Nandan.

Professor Ruwendra Nandan of the School of Business and Economics was admitted as a fellow of Certified Practicing Accountants (FCPA) Australia, on May 8, 2019.

Progressing to Fellow of CPA (FCPA) provides members with deserved recognition and respect as an expert in their chosen field. FCPA's are renowned the world over for their experience, expertise and leadership in the field of accounting and finance.

Professor Nandan is an esteemed Accounting Scholar with numerous publications to his name. Two of the recent ones being 'Climate Change Accounting: The challenge of uncertainty in Pacific Islands, International Journal of Critical Accounting,' Volume 9, (2017) and 'Networks in knowledge-intensive industry: the case of a regional accountants' network, Journal of Accounting and Organisational Change,' Volume 10, (2014).

He was instrumental in getting the Certified Practicing Accountants Australia's (CPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) accreditations for the Bachelor of Commerce programme at UniFiji.

UniFiji Students Volunteered in Inaugural ADB Conference

Numerous students from UniFiji were among the 400 volunteers at the inaugural Asian Development Bank (ADB) Conference from May 1 to May 5, 2019 in Nadi.

The students who participated in the conference were given varied number of works to do such as ushering, registration, conference room monitors, information desk and much more.

Speaking about her experience at the event, Ms. Christal Kapoor said that she learnt many important lessons that would last a lifetime.

"The importance of punctuality, self discipline and having the Bula spirit even in the most trying times, were some of the things I learnt during the conference.

This has greatly improved outlook of life by inspiring me to work harder in University and in life to maybe one day be part of another international conference not as a volunteer but as a representative of my motherland, Fiji. The training given to us has taught us the importance of protocol and diplomatic and bilateral relations between Fiji and other countries," she explained.

Another student, Mr. Maciusela Waqai, stated that he was fortunate to be part of the conference.

"Being able to meet and greet some ministers from the Asian countries and even ministers from our own country was in my point of view, the highlight of my volunteering experience. Volunteering at the conference has built my confidence and I also intend to volunteer in programmes of such," he said.

Fiji hosted over 3400 governors and delegates from around the world, the largest international conference in Fiji's history.

UniFiji's MBA Programme Making Headway Towards External Accreditation



First row from Left: Professor Ruvendra Nandan, Professor Amaradasa and Dr. Amar Singh with other attendees at the MBA Alumni meeting.

The MBA programme has produced over 97 graduates who are successfully making a difference in the business sector in Fiji and abroad. UniFiji is continually focused on providing quality education to students and as such it is making headway to get its Masters in Business Administration programme externally accredited.

The external accreditation would bring about many benefits to the students pursuing the programme. It would allow students to get suitable positions in countries such as New Zealand and Australia.

One of the key areas required by the accreditation is to establish a body including MBA alumni and current MBA students. This would allow for a good channel of communication for improvements in the programme.

The objectives of the association would be to establish network of professional relationships with the University as well as among the individual members of the MBA Alumni; provide feedback to the University to design and develop new courses, programmes and activities; to enhance professionalism among existing MBA students and members of the MBA Alumni; to share new initiatives and success stories of members to energize professional growth; and to generate momentum to improve culture and practices.

The MBA association held its first meeting on June 22, 2019.

Numerous Alumni attended the meeting with the vision to learn, use, change and flourish by sharing.

Speaking at the event, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani highlighted the important role that Alumni can play in the University.

“Many public universities in the world are supported by Alumni through the endowment funds. Alumni can play a very important role in securing the future of the University. As alumni, you need to cultivate passion to see that the University doesn't fail. You should be vigilant and see how the University is developing and wherever possible, help in whatever way you can,” he stated.

He also mentioned that UniFiji was a People's University as it was the people of the country that had the vision of the importance of education and established this University.

Professor Ruvendra Nandan of the School of Business and Economics, while speaking to the attendees of the meeting explained the importance of having the MBA Alumni Association. He stated that the association would build alumni network, promote goodwill of the University and reconstitute ongoing ties. He highlighted that the members of the associations would become role models, mentors and ambassadors for students at UniFiji. He further elaborated that the association would promote the growth of the School of Business and Economics and the University through contributions to the development of curriculum.

Elections were also held at the meeting where the President and other members of the Association were picked. Moving forward, the Association intends to make substantial contributions to the University, both monetary and other ways.

Western Secondary Schools' Poster Competition-2019

Under the coordination of Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Ms. Sera Lockington, the Department of Language, Literature and Communications organized a Poster Drawing Competition on the theme: **Reading for Pleasure**, for the Western Secondary Schools in Week 2 of Term Two for the schools. The Competition closed in Week 10 of the same Term.

The competition was organized in two categories: Junior (Years 9-10) and Senior (Years 11-13). 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were awarded for each division. The winning schools would receive books as well.

In total, a number of 30 Secondary schools participated and 361 entries were received. The judges were the Dean for School of Humanities and Arts, Professor Tupeni Baba, Dr. Kamala Naiker and Ms. Salome Rokuta of Centre for iTaukei Studies.

The posters were displayed during the International Conference on Forced Labour and Migration held here at The University of Fiji from the July 15-17, 2019.

The Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Honorable Rosy Sofia Akbar was elated with the overwhelming response received and she commended LLC Department for the initiative taken.

The Department will host an Awards Ceremony in Week 1 of Term 3 for the schools as per their school Calendar where lucrative prizes would be awarded to the winners and each participant will be receiving a Certificate of Participation.

The University and the LLC Department conveys appreciation to the Permanent Secretary for Education, Ms. Alison Burchell for approving this undertaking and to the Minister for Education, Honourable Rosy Sofia Akbar for her support and encouragement.



Posters displayed during the Forced Labour Conference.

Plastic – A Growing Concern in the Pacific

Plastic problem is a worldwide challenge. In the Pacific Islands, the plastic problem is rising and causing serious concerns. The plastic thrown away by people even on the streets gets washed away and end up in the Oceans threatening the livelihood of the marine organisms. Globally, there is limited data on plastic debris and its impacts on the marine ecosystems.

Mr. Anish Maharaj from the School of Science and Technology, together with other researchers have compiled a research paper

titled “Plastic debris on Pacific Islands: Ecological and health implications”.

The research aimed to address the need for more research through a systematic assessment of the ecological and health impacts of plastic debris on Pacific Islands.

The study identified pollution and contamination trends and risks to ecosystems, and suggested some measures which may be deployed to address the identified problems using pertinent

historical qualitative and quantitative data of the distribution of plastic debris in the region.

The study illustrated the fact that Pacific Island Countries were disproportionately affected by plastic, and reiterates that further studies and integrated strategies were needed, involving public education and empowerment, governmental action, as well as ecologically sustainable industry leadership, and focusing on manufacturing and using fully biodegradable plastic.

Science Academics’ Research Published in A Ranking Journal

The University of Fiji’s Science academics in collaboration with researchers from the College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, Tampa, United States and Geoscience Division, Pacific Community, Suva wrote the research paper titled “Developing High Resolution Baseline Coast Resource Maps Using World View 2 Imagery for a Coastal Village in Fiji”.

The research paper was recently published in the *Frontiers in Marine Science Journal*.

The research paper was a product of the

US-AID Funded Pacific-American Climate Fund Project (PACAM).

The purpose of the study carried out was to develop a baseline habitat map of the intertidal benthic cover in Komave Village, Coral Coast, Sigatoka, Fiji.

A community participatory research approach was used to conduct interviews to assimilate information on fishing sites and coastal land use activities. The exercise explored the social-ecological approach in natural resource management and how it

could become an important tool in coastal conservation practices.

The coastal resource map generated through the study would serve as a baseline for monitoring the status and spatial distribution of the coastal resources in Komave.

This high resolution map is particularly relevant to Fiji as it is the first of its kind for the country. This work also serves to reduce the global information gap of coastal resource status for Fiji.

Long Serving Staff Felicitated



Professor Subramani (first row- middle), with staff who were recognized for long service to UniFiji.

The University of Fiji is continually striving towards excellence, academically, research and providing service. The University staff play a pivotal role in achieving these goals and as such the University is at the forefront of appreciating staff for their tremendous contribution to the University.

As stated in the Strategic Plan 2017-2021, one of the mission’s of the University is to be a model employer, showing respect to staff and promoting their welfare and development.

Wednesday, June 26, was an auspicious occasion where the University, through the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, honoured and awarded long service appreciation certificates to numerous staff for tirelessly serving the University community for 10 exceptional years.

Speaking at the event, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani highlighted that institutional knowledge was key to institutional advancement.

“In honouring you today, we want to ask

for your cooperation and request some researchers to talk to you. Give them the stories that you have, so we can build on the memory of this institution,’ he explained.

Ms. Shirley Prasad, Community Relations Manager reiterated that the University needed employees with strong institutional knowledge and this knowledge can be given by those who have served the University for a long period.

“To be able to have these many staff who have served the University over a decade speaks a lot about the University. It shows that the University provided good culture. Employees feel like their work has a purpose and it makes a difference. This culture has built up the UniFiji brand which in return has brought in loyalty and retaining institutional knowledge,” she explained.

The elated awardees then had an informal session where they discussed their stories during their years of service where they started from the very basics and have seen the University grow. They also thanked the University for bestowing the honour on them.

**29th April, 2019 - Graduation
AVC – Message Hindi Translation**

ये जानते हैं कि यह एक नवनिर्मित विश्वविद्यालय नहीं है अतः वरिष्ठ सहयोगियों एवं साझेदारों के साथ मिलकर विकास एवं नव-निर्माण की योजनाएं बना रहे हैं। विश्वविद्यालयों को सामाजिक - सांस्कृतिक प्रगति की जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए, यह समझते हुए कैम्पस में सार्वजनिक स्थान बढ़ाना, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन, महत्वपूर्ण सेमिनार, सार्वजनिक व्याख्यान, रीडिंग और कला-उत्सव जैसी प्रक्रियाएं कार्यान्वित की जाएंगी।

नैतिक मूल्यों पर हमारा ध्यान केवल वयान ही नहीं है। बढ़ती नफरत और वर्चस्ववादी दुनिया में नैतिक मूल्यों की शिक्षा केवल हमारा एजेंडा ही नहीं बल्कि सभी शिक्षण संस्थाओं की ज्वलंत चिन्ता होनी चाहिए। मानव मूल्यों पर आधारित अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सेमिनारों की योजना के माध्यम से नैतिक मूल्यों का बीज बोना शुरू कर दिया है। हम अपने सह-साथियों का जीवन दया, करुणा, देखभाल और प्रेम से डूबा हुआ देखना चाहते हैं, जिसे आधुनिक शिक्षाविदों ने शैक्षिक एजेंडा से मिटा दिया है, परन्तु ये ही वे मूल्य हैं जो जीवन को सुरक्षित एवं उन्नत बनाते हैं और महान कार्यों एवं महान संस्कृति को बढ़ाते हैं।

भाषा हमारे सांस्कृतिक उद्यम का केन्द्र-बिन्दु है, खास कर हमारी मातृ भाषा। अभी हमारे पास 'ई तौकेयी भाषा' अध्ययन का एक मात्र संस्थान है। शीघ्र ही इस विश्वविद्यालय में 'हिन्दी भाषा एवं सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र' की भी स्थापना की जाएगी। इन दोनों संस्थानों का यह उत्तरदायित्व होगा कि ये स्थानीय मातृ भाषाओं के संरक्षण की जिम्मेदारी निभाएं। आज यह विश्वविद्यालय दूसरी डॉक्टरेट की उपाधि प्रदान कर रहा है। हमने एक ऐसे ग्रेजुएट स्कूल की अवधारणा की है, जो उन विद्वानों और पेशेवरों को तैयार करेगा, जो देश में संभ्रान्त पदों का उत्तरदायित्व सम्भाल सकेंगे।

ऐसे ग्रेजुएट स्कूल की अवधारणा की है, जो उन विद्वानों और पेशेवरों को तैयार करेगा, जो देश में संभ्रान्त पदों का उत्तरदायित्व सम्भाल सकेंगे।

मैंने एक और सुविधा का प्रावधान किया है- 'टैगोर सेंटर', कवि-दार्शनिक रविन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने उच्च स्तर की शिक्षा को बढ़ावा दिया और कविता की ये पंक्तियाँ लिखीं:

जहाँ मन भय रहित है

जहाँ ज्ञान मुक्त है,

जहाँ संकीर्ण घरेलू दीवारों द्वारा दुनिया को टुकड़ों में नहीं तोड़ा है

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**29th April, 2019 - Graduation
AVC – Message iTaukei Translation**

Ena kena vakavotukanataki na veituvatuva qo sa mai taurivaki kina edua na lawa buli vou me sa da na Taukena vata na lewa ni kena cicivaki na Yunivesiti ni Viti. Era sa mai digitaki kina eso na iliuliu vinaka ka ra vakoro'i ena vuku cecere me ra liutaka (Deans) na veitabana ni vuli ena Univesiti. Era yaco mai ena kena gauna donu vaKalou mera mai kavetanitaka na ilakolako ena gauna dredre eda donumaka. Sa iratou oqo:

Parofesaa Tupeni Baba na Dean of School of Humanities and Arts; Parofesa Frederick Merchant na Dean ni Umanand Prasad School of Medicine & Health Sciences; Parofesa Shaista Shameem, na Dean ni Devendra Pathik School of Law; Parofesa Ruvendra Nandan Dean ni School of Business and Economics; kei Parofesa Anirudh Singh Dean ni School of Science and Technology.

Edina ga ni ra okati ena duidui tabana vakavuli, era wasea vata ga na vakabauta me dau cici ga vakataki koya na Yunivesiti me maroroya/taqomaka na dina, dodonu, savasava ka tutaka na veika vinaka kece ga ena taudaku ni nanumi koya vaka I koya.. Era kila ni da sega ni rawa ni vakatokai keda me da Yunivesiti gone ka curuma tiko na veisau; e dodonu meda kaya ni da sa yacova na ivakatagedegede e vinakati. Era cakacaka vata na iliuliu ni veikoronivuli duidui ena loma ni Yunivesiti kei ira na dauniveituberi matua ena kena veitalanoataki na pasitaki ni veiporokaramu duidui e soli ana Yunivesiti vata kei iratou na Matabose Cecere ni Vuli Torocake se Higher Education Commission. E tiki ni veitalanoa qo na veicoqacoqa ni so na vakasama ena kena sagai me veiganiti na porokaramu ni vuli kei na tatadra ni matanitu o Viti kei ira na vanua ni cakacaka e Viti. E dua na itavi eda ciqoma ena yalo e bole kei na dauvosota.

Era na railesuva vakabibi na levu ni dredre curuma tiko na Koronivuli ni Vuli Vuniwai ka cakacakataka me levu cake na veitokoni ni ra tarai o ira na itokani ni koronivuli na UPSM e Viti kei vuravura. Sa toso cake tiko ga na kaukauwa ni Koronivuli me veivakacokotaki kei na veivakabulai, me vakayagataka na veika vakavuniwai. Eda kila ni vure mai na duri ni koronivuli ena nona tatadra e dua na na dau soli loloma ni Viti, ka dodonu me rawa-ka na Koronivuli ni Vuli Vuniwai ka me cici vakadoudou ena veitaba ni vuli vou me vaka na vakadidike ena veika vakavuniwai kei na tabana ni bula

Ni oti na imatai ni kalawa ni veikerekerei kei na vuli mai vei ira tale eso, eda sa tu vakarau meda taroga na taro ka sega ni rawa ni dua e levea: "Na cava e rawa ni cakava na Yunivesiti ni Viti ka ra valkawelevetaka, guilecava se sega ni rawa ni solia na Ynivesiti tale eso." E sega ni rawa ni dua tale na Yunivesiti me tautauvata kei na Yunivesiti ni Viti ena vanua e dabe toka kina. Toka ena kedrau tadrua na siti ni suka kei na tauni levu o Nadi, e toka kece vei keda na veika bibi me da yaco meda isotasota ni veika vakavuli vakavakasama, vakaitovo se ivakarau vakavanua ena muaira. Taumada, eda na yaco meda na yavutaki dei vei ira na veitikotiko kei na koro vakavolivoliti keda ena veika vakasainisi kei na taba ni vuli duidui. E dodonu me colata na Yunivesiti na itavi ni kena tosoi na bula torocake vakavanua vakaveimaliwai. E baleta qo ni da vakamacalataki keda meda Yunivesiti ni lewenivanua raraba ka sega ni vakaibi ki na dua ga na iwasevase se ikumukumu lewenivanua. E dina kina ni na levu sara na bolebole ni da colata na itavi ni veika vakavanua vakaveimaliwai kei na veika vakaumavosa ni lewenivanua e Viti, oya ena kena vakarabailevutaki na nodra digidigi, vakadeitaki ira

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