

UniFiji Hosts Nipah Virus Awareness Seminar



Dean of UPSM & HS, Dr. Elick Narayan with Dr. Abhijit Gogoi, Dr. Ricardo Corpuz and Dr. B.P. Ram and students at the Nipah Virus Awareness Programme.

On May 31, 2018, The University of Fiji organized an awareness programme on Nipah Virus (NiV), an emerging threat that has caused a recent outbreak in Kerala, India. Health experts from Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) came together to create awareness about the multiple issues that surrounded the Nipah Virus outbreak.

The team ran a campaign by bringing in health experts for a better insight on the outbreak in hopes of building awareness on health care practices, signs and symptoms and understanding the mode of transmission of Nipah Virus.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narendra Reddy, Dean of UPSM & HS, Dr. Elick Narayan with his team, Dr. Abhijit Gogoi, Dr. Ricardo Corpuz and Dr. Diva Singh, and medical students took part in the panel discussion on building awareness and understanding of the Nipah Virus.

Nipah Virus (NiV) infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats of the Pteropodidae Family, 'Pteropus genus'.

that the first identified outbreak of the disease took place in Kampung (a small village in Malaysia) in 1998 where the pigs were the intermediate hosts. In Bangladesh humans became infected with NiV as a result of consuming date palm sap that carried the virus in 2004.

This was transmitted by infected fruit bats. Human-to-human transmission has also been documented, including in a hospital setting in India. As of May 31, 2018, The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported, death of 13 people and 2 being-hospitalised due to the growing outbreak of NiV in India.

Symptoms from infection vary from none to fever, cough, headache, shortness of breath, and confusion. This may worsen into a coma over a day or two. Complications can include inflammation of the brain and seizures following recovery.



Dr. Abhijit Gogoi presenting to the students.

A brief background of the NiV reveals

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Gurukul Primary School Centennial Celebration
- Consumer Rights Workshop
- Fiji's Only Masters Level Programme in Renewable Energy Makes Steady Progress
- UniFiji Holds Blood Drive
- Hawking Lifetime Achievement Lecture
- UniFiji Bridging Nursing Programme Extends to the South Pacific
- International and Regional Relations Programme
- UniFiji Offers Comprehensive MBA Programme
- National Stakeholder Workshop on the Fiji Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS)
- Early Career Academic Scoops Award for Excellency in Research and Publications
- Pro-Chancellor Addresses Staff
- Talking Renewables – a New Book on Renewable Energy by Local Author
- Subramani Publishes New Book
- Vetting of Year 9 English Syllabus and Text Book
- UniFiji Offers New Course
- UniFiji Sponsored Sunny West Bowling Carnival
- Practical Lessons Paramount in CIS
- The University of Fiji's JDP School of Law's Jiten Singh Appointed Judge Advocate for Court Martials
- Maggot Workshop

Gurukul Primary School Centennial Celebration



Ambassador, Mr. Kamlesh Arya and his wife, Mrs. Urmila Arya with staff and students of Gurukul Primary School.

Gurukul Primary School, the first formal school for Fijians of Indian Descent in Fiji, celebrated 100 years of existence on May 24, 2018.

The keynote speaker at the celebrations, the Registrar of The University of Fiji Ambassador Kamlesh Arya, expressed his emotions for the 60,553 Girmitiyas who toiled the Fijian soil and were able to conceive the idea that the future lay in education.

“We appreciate the hands that put the blocks together, carting the building materials on wooden sledges from the supply depot to the building site. Their determination is overwhelming. The seed they sow in the form of the Gurukul saw mushrooming of schools throughout the Colony over the last 100 years by various faith based organisations. The Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji is part of that community of educators,” he emphasised.

Mr. Arya noted that when the idea for establishing the Gurukul was mooted, the backdrop in the feelings of ecstasy would be the words from attributed to the then authorities, in the book *Our In-*

dian Work in Fiji, written by Methodist Missionary Reverend J. W. Burton, the colonial administration is quoted to have advised that “It would be better use of time to instruct the field mules. The “coolies” might be spoilt for labour, if they were taught by missionaries.” Ambassador Arya quoted.

“We are independent of servitude and enjoy a dignified and respectful status in today’s Fiji, thanks to the founding fathers of Gurukul Primary School and hundreds of other schools around Fiji. Today, as we stand to celebrate the Centennial of Gurukul Primary School, and partake in the electrifying gaiety of this momentous milestone, we all need to be resolute in our drive to improve ourselves and those who are integral part of our diverse society,” he concluded.

The University of Fiji is grateful to be associated with the Gurukul Primary School and owes it origin to the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji who began its fight to promote education over 100 years ago.

Consumer Rights Workshop



Ms. Bindula Devi during her presentation.

The University of Fiji in collaboration with the Consumer Council of Fiji (CCOF), hosted a “Consumer Rights and Issues” workshop on April 20, 2018.

The workshop afforded the University staff to discuss their concerns as consumers directly to the body looking after consumer rights in Fiji.

Ms. Bindula Devi, Senior Manager Corporate, Consumer Council of Fiji explained the CCOF’s role in Fiji and discussed some cases of consumers and how the CCOF helped them in mediating with the businesses and how they were able to

reach a median point of understanding.

During the interactive session, Ms. Devi also explained the roles of a consumer and rights of a consumer if they were dissatisfied with the service or product. She also discussed the importance of price control and listed some of the items that were under price control in Fiji.

Staff and students were able to voice out their various concerns in regards to some products and services as well as offer suggestions and recommendations for improved consumer satisfaction.

Fiji's Only Masters Level Programme in Renewable Energy Makes Steady Progress



Part of the MREM group at Nadarivatu hydro.

UniFiji's Masters in Renewable Energy Management (MREM) programme will be producing its first batch of graduates by the end of this year, and there are already signs that demand for these new management-level personnel will be high.

The twelve students who started in early 2017 in this two-year programme are now in the second and final year of their studies. Interest in this Renewable Energy training programme has been coming from diverse areas of the economy, including teaching, research and industrial sectors. Those registered for the programme include practicing scientists, engineers and power generation project managers in addition to teachers and young University staff.

The last semester will be dedicated to the research component of the programme, which is offered by coursework and thesis. Eight of these students will be completing the experimental components of the minor thesis by the end of semester 2 this year.

One of the primary purposes of the programme is to up-skill and train middle-management level recruits in the area of Renewable Energy Management. Co-ordinator for the programme, Professor Anirudh Singh, stated that the MREM programme incorporates multi-disciplinary aspects of energy including energy

management, energy economics and sustainable development to help create holistically developed energy graduates in the Pacific.

"Global warming and the consequent climate change are high on the agenda of international organizations as well as the governments of the Pacific Island Countries including Fiji. Renewable Energy offers one of the two main solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Most countries are now working on their Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris agreement for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The market for renewable energy graduates in the near future is thus tremendous. However, there are very few institutions offering renewable energy management programmes. With the MREM programme, UniFiji's intention is to fill the void of energy graduates not only in Fiji but throughout the South Pacific," Professor Singh stated.

Students as well as people in employment having a science background are encouraged to register for this programme as it allows for flexible study times suitable for both part-time and full-time studies. An added advantage that this programme offers is the ability to join at any time during its first year of studies.

UniFiji Holds Blood Drive

The University of Fiji held a blood drive workshop themed "Blood Donation & Donation of Life: Youths Take Action!" on April 20, 2018.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Ashok Muni, Director of Smart Lab, Fiji, stated that there were positive implications of regularly donating blood.

"Donating blood will not only help a person in need of blood transfusion but it also has various medical benefits for the donor including lowering the chances of cardiovascular disease by 33%, removing excess iron in the blood and lowering the chances of having a heart attack," he stated.

The Registrar, Ambassador Kamlesh Arya, a regular blood donor, said that he had saved the life of a family member and his health benefitted from donating blood. He urged students as well as other attendees to become regular blood donors.

Nearby communities including Viseisei, Lomolomo and Saweni actively took part in the blood drive.

Apart from the blood drive people also benefitted from the free health check up including blood sugar test, blood cholesterol test, blood pressure check-up, BMI (height and weight status), cardio check up (ECG), eye and ear check-up and CPR demonstration.

They also enjoyed the activities organised and conducted by UPSM & HS students and staff.

The blood drive is hosted twice annually at the University to help save lives and also acts as a community engagement project under corporate social responsibility as enshrined in the Strategic Plan 2017-2021.



Deepika Prakash, Year 1 student of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences, donating blood during the blood drive.

Hawking Lifetime Achievement Lecture



Professor Anirudh Singh presenting the life of Professor Hawking to the attendees.

Close to a hundred secondary and tertiary students attended a public lecture on the life and work of Stephen Hawking, renowned British theoretical physicist, cosmologist and author, at UniFiji's main hall on April 20 this year.

The event, organized by the Science Department at The University of Fiji in collaboration with the South Pacific Physics Society (SPPS) to celebrate the life of Professor Stephen Hawking, who passed away on March 14 this year at his home in Cambridge, England at the age of 76.

The lecture was introduced by Ms. Dhrishna Charan, spoke about Professor Hawking's life and revealed that he had been wheel-chair bound from the age of 21. Despite his extreme physical handicap and predictions by doctors of a short life, he continued his quest for new knowledge about the universe throughout the rest of his living years. He was described by millions as one of Science's brightest minds and a visionary physicist.

In his presentation, Professor Anirudh Singh from the School of Science and Technology introduced the four main fields of gravitation, cosmology, quantum theory and thermodynamics of mainstream physics that were brought together by Stephen Hawking in his work. He showed how Einstein's General Theory of Relativity explained the curvature of space and predicted the existence of

space-time singularities and black holes. He next introduced Quantum Theory and its prediction of the existence of virtual particles in the vacuum, and showed how the Second Law of Thermodynamics revealed that entropy always increased in the universe.

Professor Singh next presented how Stephen Hawking brought these major streams of physics together with the Big Bang Theory of the universe to explain its existence and behaviour. Through such a union, Hawking was able to show that the universe did have a beginning as a space-time singularity, and that black holes could radiate energy in the form of Hawking radiation. Hawking also theorized that the early universe was made up of mini-black holes that absorbed particles from the surroundings, which then heated up and eventually exploded.

In addition to his excellence in physics and cosmology, Hawking was also a very popular author. The publication of his book, *A Brief History of Time*, in 1988 became an instant best-seller, and remained at the top of the list for several years.

The forty-minute lecture received rapturous attention from the audience throughout its delivery, and was followed by an open forum for discussions.

UniFiji's Bridging Nursing Programme Extends to the South Pacific



The Nursing Department staff with the UPSM & HS Dean, Dr. Elick Narayan and Nursing Coordinator, Ms. Iloi Rabuka (standing on the top left handside).

The University of Fiji in collaboration with the World Health Organization, Pacific Open Learning Health Net (POLHN) is now offering the Bachelor of Nursing Bridging programme to other Pacific Region.

The full bridging programme is online for students in the Pacific region.

Speaking about the programme, Nursing Coordinator, Ms. Iloi Rabuka, stated that the online programme would allow nurses to better skill themselves, and would open opportunities for convenience and ease of access bringing the courses to the students' door steps.

"Upon completion of the programme, the nurses will be able to align themselves to higher standards of nursing practices and we will have better-trained, competent, and well-qualified nurses in the region," she commented.

The online programme has many other benefits including being effective in cost reduction for students' obligations and a good community outreach.

The theoretical components are put online while clinical component is done by selected focal coordinators on site throughout the selected Pacific countries.

The programme will commence proper in Trimester 3 towards the end of August.

International and Regional Relations Programme



JDP School of Law Dean, Professor Shaista Shameem.

The University of Fiji's Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDP SoL) offers a unique International and Regional Relations (INR) programme.

The programme is unique in that it offers students, usually in the workforce the opportunity to undertake courses of intensive duration to accommodate their work and overseas posting commitments.

Speaking about the programme, the Dean of JDP SoL, Professor Shaista Shameem stated that the courses offered were in three categories: security, communications/media and politics.

"The courses are offered after hours to cater for working students. We have students attending from various areas including the military, police and senior public service, as well as media," she mentioned.

The programme is offered at Postgraduate and Masters Levels by Adjunct Professors who are experts in the field.

Professor Jose Luis del Prado, a senior UN staffer working in conflict resolution and setting up the UN systems after the Rwanda and Bosnia massacres, Professor Malakai Kalomatangi from Massey University, expert on Pacific regional relations and Professor Doug Brooks from Washington DC, expert on private military and security companies are some of the Adjunct Professors of the INR programme.

A recent graduate of Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations, Mr. Nigel Spencer Robinson, stated that the INR

programme enabled him to appreciate the dynamics of International Relations and Diplomacy both in the context of the Pacific and the wider globe.

"Other than the rich and relevant theoretical aspects of the programme, the curriculum is crafted more on a practically-oriented approach made possible by qualified, experienced and renowned academics both locally and internationally through their lecture deliveries. The teaching environment is equally conducive as it prioritizes the importance of student participation especially in discussions and debates," he commented.

Classes are delivered on face to face mode over a semester or over 4 weeks (depending on the requirements).

Two courses are currently running during the June-July period while the next one is in Semester 2, 2018.

Students from security, communications and politics background who wish to study in a flexible and conducive environment are encouraged to register in the programme.



Mr. Nigel Spencer Robinson.

FCGP Conference

Dr. Sakiusa Mainawalala, from the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) did a presentation at the recently held Fiji College of General Practitioners Conference (FCGP). His presentation topic was common dermatological conditions prevalent in Fiji.

Ms. Darshana Singh, Year 3 UPSM & HS student stated that the conference acted as a barrier breakthrough because it assisted her in gaining expertise knowledge from various personnel in numerous fields that were present at the conference.

There were numerous presenters at the the FCGP Conference including medical personnel from Griffith University, Heart International and MIOT Pacific Hospitals who presented on a wide range of medical issues prevalent in the world as well as important medical practices globally.

Dr. Shridharan of MIOT Pacific Hospitals, Suva, presented a very striking presentation on Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) and Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgeries as well as the total number of individuals who have undergone surgeries from Fiji in Chennai, India. A very comprehensive account on filling of the death certificate was provided by Ministry of Health personnel.

Dr. Frank Stadler, of the Griffith University, spoke about the fiscal ways that he and his team were trying to study the clinical, supply chain management and Maggot Debridement Therapy consideration to help in medical treatment by shifting focus from drug derivative methods to something that could be much cheaper, accessible, resources that can be managed which may help decrease chronic wound burden.

Dr. Ali Khan, Interventional Cardiologist of Heart International, spoke on coronary disease and prevention. He showed interesting and technical procures that he and his team did and also gave a little insight on the stenting procedures that are performed now locally in their Namaka facility.

Taking part in such conferences boosts students knowledge in the practical areas of medicine and ensures a holistic development of future doctors of Fiji.

UniFiji Offers Comprehensive MBA Programme



Dr. Ranasinghe Amaradasa.

The University of Fiji's offers a comprehensive Masters in Business Administration programme which has three streams of specialization; General Management, Human Resource Management and Tourism and Hospitality Management.

MBA programme is one of the most sought after programmes at The University of Fiji having produced numerous graduates and diploma holders who are now working at top-level jobs in the corporate sector. The MBA programme also has the highest number of graduates so far.

Talking about the MBA programme, Dean of the School of Business and Economics and Director of the MBA programme, Dr. Ranasinghe Amaradasa said that the MBA programme offers a detailed insight into the modern management practices in the corporate sector and make the students ready to incorporate them at their workplace with appropriate changes to suit their work culture.

"We offer an MBA programme that is research-based and is taught by well-qualified lecturers who are experts in their re-

spective fields. The programme broadens a students' knowledge to think globally and act locally" he stated.

Mr. Anil Kumar, Relationship Manager, West, ANZ Business Banking and a recent MBA graduate stated that he was recognized as a good performance employee but felt demotivated when fairly new graduates were promoted to higher positions within the organization. By upgrading his academic credentials to a Masters level, he was able to achieve a promotion.

MBA programme is offered at both, Saweni and Suva Campuses. The lecture hours are spread out conveniently over a period of 12 weeks and are suitable for part-time as well as full-time students.

Students can also enroll into the Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate levels. All students with a passion for management and relevant work experience together with a Bachelor's degree or an appropriate undergraduate diploma are urged to apply for the MBA programme. Trimester 3 commences on August 27, 2018.

National Stakeholder Workshop on the Fiji Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS)

The University of Fiji was invited to the National Stakeholder Workshop on the Fiji Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) at Holiday Inn, Suva on May 23, 2018.

The workshop was organized by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and

facilitated by Climate Change Division at the Ministry of Economy, Fiji. The University was represented by Mr. Kushaal Raj from the School of Science and Technology.

The Climate Change Division (CCD) invited membership on the Fiji LEDS

Steering Committee, inclusive of 14 government ministries and agencies which will lead this activity for Fiji, after the presidency in COP 23.

The workshop included various stakeholders from across the nation who came under the same umbrella to understand, tackle and improvise current ways into producing a very aggressive yet practical manner to lowering carbon dioxide emissions in Fiji 2050. This was part of GGGI's global commitment to align into achieving global warming temperatures to 1.5°C or well below 2.0°C above preindustrial levels.

The series of presentations looked into some of the current research, innovation and ways global climate change has impacted countries.

It also highlighted the trajectories in terms of global temperature changes and the possibility of reaching an almost impossible target of 100% sustainability, whether there was still a lot of climatic events that would be ongoing.

There were also presentations from local government ministries to discuss the current national plans and the outreach activities in the community level in combating carbon emissions.

The stakeholders were divided into groups (working tables) with different thematic areas. Thematic areas included; electricity and other energy, land transport, maritime transport, air transport/aviation, agriculture, forestry, waste, wetlands/ mangroves, tourism, commerce/industry/manufacturing and waste sector.

Each group was assigned a facilitator who would carry out the next phase in streamlining the activities in achieving the targeted plan. The session concluded with each respective group presenting their plans to the floor and in debating how measurable this plan was.



Presentation by Government Ministries at the Workshop.

Early Career Academic Scoops Award for Excellency in Research and Publications



Mr. Ravneel Chand with the Vice-Chancellor of The University of the South Pacific, Professor Rajesh Chandra at the awards ceremony.

It was a proud moment for an early career academic and Assistant Lecturer in Biology at The University of Fiji, Mr. Ravneel Rajneel Chand, when he scooped a Research award at The University of the South Pacific for 'A' ranked Journal publication during the 6th Research Excellence and Innovation Award Evening held at The University of the South Pacific, Suva. He also has published papers in other ranked journals with reference to Australian Research Council (ARC) in Toxicological, repellent and antimicrobial potential of Traditional Medicinal Plants (TMPs).

Recently, Mr. Chand was additionally awarded by The University of Fiji for the Fiji Higher Education Commission Research Grant, 2018. His research focused

Pro-Chancellor Addresses Staff

The Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Anil Tikaram and the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narendra Reddy, spearheaded a staff meeting on June 20, 2018 at The University of Fiji Saweni Campus.

This was the first time that the Pro-Chancellor had addressed all the staff at the University. Mr. Tikaram spoke on various topics pertaining to the University including the recent changes in management of the University as well as a way forward in regards to policies and procedures.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narendra Reddy spoke about the student enrolment at the University over the past five years and discussed new ideas that

on the importance of Traditional Medicinal Plants in the South Pacific. Prior to joining UniFiji's School of Science and Technology, he served as a young Researcher for the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment at The University of the South Pacific. Mr. Chand, being an early career academic scooping a prestigious research award is a milestone for him in academe.

Mr. Chand added that he views this achievement as a stepping stone for his engagement and commitment in publishing scholarly papers in reputable international journals. He was profoundly humbled to be a recipient of such a prestigious award, rubbing shoulders with acclaimed and established academics.

would possibly increase student enrolment in the near future.

The interactive session concluded with discussions from staff pertaining to staff problems as well as new policies for the betterment of the University.



Professor Reddy addressing the staff during the Staff Meeting.

Talking Renewables – a New Book on Renewable Energy by Local Author



Professor Anirudh Singh.

With global warming becoming a major issue in the world and climate change soaring high, threatening the life of Pacific Island countries as we know it, renewable energy is one of the solutions looked towards to help prevent catastrophic events in the near future.

Professor Anirudh Singh, Professor in Renewable Energy Management at The University of Fiji, has recently published a book on renewable energy titled "Talking Renewable: A Renewable Energy Primer for Everyone". Published by IOP Publishing under their Concise Physics programme in conjunction with Morgan & Claypool (UK), this book provides a clear and factual picture of the status of Renewable Energy and its capabilities today.

The book is meant for the general public who wish to advance their knowledge in the area of Renewable Energy. The book covers all areas of renewable energy (RE), commencing from biomass energy and hydropower and proceeding to wind, solar and geothermal energy before ending with an overview of ocean energy.

The last two chapters consider how the technologies are actually being implemented today and their roles in climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation. The book is written in plain English, and is ideally suited to up-skill climate change workers and NGOs who lack technical training in the Renewable Energy technologies required for climate change mitigation.

More information on the book is available at: <http://iopscience.iop.org/book/978-1-6817-4901-3> ; and http://www.morgan-claypoolpublishers.com/catalog_Orig/product_info.php?products_id=1223

Professor Subramani Publishes New Book



Professor Subramani.

Renowned Fijian writer and Professor of Literature at The University of Fiji, Subramani, has published a new book titled *Wild Flowers*. It is a book of fiction with an Introduction by John O’Carroll, an Australian critic, who calls it “one of the most important collection of stories to emerge from Fiji.” This is confirmed by Dr. Sudesh Mishra’s remark that “it is the most significant work of fiction I have ever read.”

The book *Wild Flowers* comprises of short stories and a novella and an autobiographical account together encompassing a range of subjects such as alienation, reality and illusion, Fiji’s pluralistic life, ethnic tension, search for self-definition, and human emancipation.

Speaking about the book, Subramani stated that Fiji’s varied life and complexity of issues in the country inspired him to keep writing his fiction. He has continued to explore what it means to live consciously in Fiji. Writers, he said, have the role of carrying on dialogue with their readers in order to come to terms with many social and philosophical issues. He has employed both the English language

and also Fiji Hindi to broaden his investigation of life in the country. His large epic novel written in Fiji Hindi called *Fiji Maa; Mother of a Thousand* will be published in October 2018. A book on Subramani’s writing has been published in India entitled *Subramani: A Writer at Work in Fiji*.

Sia Figiel, a renowned Samoan novelist, has described the stories in *Wild Flowers* as stunning: “*Wild Flowers* remains a powerful and moving testament to Subramani’s enormous talent, and scope as one of the Pacific’s foremost storytellers. Written in eloquent language that is sometimes brutal, sometimes tender, Subramani deftly weaves the racial and power struggles of Fijian society and presents us with a haunting *salusalu* of melancholy, despair, anguish, madness, terror, loss interlaced with moments of satire and humor that encapsulates the history and experiences of men and women and children caught up in the violent shadow of colonialism.”

The book was launched at The University of Fiji, Saweni Campus on June, 30 2018.

The Department of Language, Literature and Communication (LLC) from the School of Humanities and Arts played a fundamental role in vetting Year 9 English Syllabus and Text Books.

Ms. Kamala Naicker, Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Mr. Salesh Kumar were part of the 2 Day workgroup meeting for English facilitators at Natabua High School on May 30-31, 2018.

The Senior Education Officer English at Curriculum Advisory Services, Ministry of Education, Ms. Roshni Devi extended the invite to the trio to be part of the vetting process. Head of Department (HOD) LLC, Ms. Naicker was elated to significantly contribute to the vetting process.

“The Year 9 English Syllabus and Text Book are undergoing major reforms and LLC Department’s input and suggestions as key stakeholders and language providers are welcoming,” stated Ms. Kaur.

Mr. Kumar was also part of a similar 2 Day workgroup meeting in the Central Division. Ms. Naicker and Ms. Kaur suggested the team to make the curriculum user friendly and at the same time impressed upon three key components to be included in the vetting of the syllabus which were relevance, quality and appropriateness of the curriculum.

This appointment further saw LLC academics’ contribution in the writing of the English curriculum. Ms. Naicker and Ms. Kaur would also have their creative pieces feature in the Year 9 English Textbook.

The Senior Education Officer, English Section, Ms. Roshni Devi approached the duo to submit their poems and short stories for Year 9 Textbook. The University’s engagement as important stakeholders in the national English curriculum for Year 9 is remarkable.

Vetting of Year 9 English Syllabus and Text Book



Ms. Kamala Naicker and Ms. Manpreet Kaur of LLC Department with CDU Officials and Western Language Teachers.



LLC Team vetting CDU Year 9 English textbook at Natabua High.

UniFiji Offers New Course



Mr. Anish Maharaj explaining the geographical systems and its applications to everyday living.

The University of Fiji is offering a new course in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) called “Introduction to Geographical Information Systems” from Semester 2, 2018.

The course is part of the Bachelor of Environmental Science programme under the School of Science and Technology. It is among the major objectives achieved from the recently concluded USAID funded Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM) project.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to GIS, with particular emphasis on spatial data structures, data entry and editing, digital cartography, spatial queries, and introductory spatial analysis.

Students will be able to comprehend fundamental concepts of GIS, learn the fundamentals of how geographic information is stored and geo referenced, develop skills in sourcing, manipulating and interpreting spatial data, use GPS and

other geographic information programs and services commonly available through the internet and cell phones today, create high-quality maps and associated graphics and text that clearly communicate spatial information and analyses among other skills after successfully completing the course.

According to Priyatma Singh from the “School of Science and Technology, GIS and its various applications are fast gaining popularity and carry multiple benefits. GIS-related career path are lucrative and is one of the most sought after skill in industries. This course will expose students to the theory and practices necessary for future use of GIS tools. The course includes a comprehensive set of lab activities to compliment the lectures.”

The course is currently being targeted for Science students but in the near future, due to the applicability of the course, it could be used as electives for other programmes.

UniFiji Sponsored Sunny West Bowling Carnival



CIS students performing the traditional kava ceremony at the Carnival.

The University of Fiji is actively committed in community engagements as enshrined in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

As such, the University sponsored the inaugural international bowling event - Sunny West Bowling Carnival. The sponsorship was for \$1000. The sponsorship allowed marketing of the University over the course of the event.

The Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS) students performed the traditional yagona ceremony and dances during the opening ceremony.

The event enabled them to showcase what they learn as part of their programme. Such events give them exposure and a chance to get recognition.

The CIS students were praised by all attendees of the function in portraying such culturally significant acts with grace and respect. Participation in community is part of the marketing plan to create awareness of the university and its programmes.

Students from Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) also set-up a medical camp at the carnival.

Miss. Shirley Prasad, the Marketing and Public Relations Officer at UniFiji as well as the Chairperson for the organizing committee for Sunny West Bowling Carnival, stated that the carnival had successfully completed its 11th year and thanked all the participants for making it a grand success.

She also applauded the Centre for iTaukei Studies students and said that CIS students had received several propositions from tourism industry for the students’ engagement as an outcome of this event. Participants from Australia also showed interest in doing renewable energy collaborations with the university.



CIS students performing the traditional kava ceremony at the Carnival.

Practical Lessons Paramount in CIS



Dr. Litiana Kuridrani.

The Centre of iTaukei Studies (CIS) at The University of Fiji is unique as it addresses the teaching of language and culture in depth than language and literature. It includes expressive and creative arts; traditional and cultural expressions; traditional ecological knowledge; indigenous health & healing therapies; oral history and oral tradition; cultural anthropology; genealogy and migration history and indigenous research.

CIS Director, Dr. Kuridrani stated that the programmes offered under CIS offer a wider and broader knowledge about iTaukei culture and traditions and also offers students get hands on experience from studies. This, she says, can be seen from the number of community outreach sessions engrossed into the curriculum.

“At CIS, we ensure that students are getting hands on experience during their studies. This simply means learning by doing. The crafts taught in the courses, the dances, the traditional ceremonies taught are not only practical but students actually go out into the communities and portray these crafts. The students have been hired many-a-time to perform traditional Yagona ceremonies and mekes. We have received positive feedback from these events,” she mentioned.

She further explained that during the

coming summer school, students from the courses ITK 300 and ITK 307, will spend two weeks in a village where they will do research and learn directly from the elders of the Village.

As a way of giving back to the community, if students find prospective small business strategies, they will write proposals on behalf of the village to the Ministries.

By doing so, she added, students will learn about traditional mechanisms employed by the village and learn directly from the source.

The four programmes currently offered by CIS include Bachelor of Arts in iTaukei (ITK) and Management, Diploma in iTaukei Language and Culture, Diploma in Teaching iTaukei Language, Literature and Culture (Secondary) and Bachelor of Arts in iTaukei Language and Culture.



Ms. Salome Rakuta (First row centre) with CIS students.

गिरमिट काल में जागृति

by: SALESHNI DEVI (Part 1)

गिरमिट का मतलब है, किसी उपनिवेश में गया हुआ शर्तबंध हिंदुस्तानी मजदूर। गिरमिट अंग्रेजी के शब्द एग्रीमेंट का बिगड़ा हुआ रूप है, जिसके तहत हजारों भारतीय मजदूर भारत से फीजी लाए गए थे।

वह वक्त ऐसा था, जब गरीबी, लाचारी, बेरोजगारी और भूखमरी से त्रस्त हिंदुस्तान की जनता एक सुकून की जिन्दगी चाहते थे। उनके लिए सुकून का मतलब सिर्फ एकछत, दो वक्त की रोटी और तन पर कपड़े से ही था।

गुलाम देश में हालात इतने बदतर थे, कि उस समय के हिंदुस्तानियों को ये भी नसीब नहीं हो पाता था। ऐसे मेंचालाक अंग्रेज उन्हें एग्रीमेंट पर काम दिलवाने के बहाने बलहा फुसला कर झूठे सपनों में उलझा कर ट्रेन से कलकत्ता ले जाते थे। कागज पर अंगूठे का निशान लगवा कर हर साल हजारों मजदूरों को अन्य देशों में भेजे जाते थे, जिसे मजदूर और मालिक “गिरमिट” कहते थे।

इस टस्कवेज के आधार पर मजदूर गिरमिटिया कहलाते थे। वहाँ उन्हें लेबर डिपो में तीन-तीन सप्ताह तक औपचारिकताओं को पूराकरने और जहाज के इन्तजार में रुकना होता था। वहाँ से उन्हें अनजान देशों में ले जाते थे। वो देश ऐसा होता था, जहाँ कोई अपना नहीं होता था।

अपनों से दूर होने के गम में ये मजदूर इतन टूट जाते थे, कि कई दिनों तक इन्हें नींद नहीं आती थी, रोते थे, बिलखते थे और स्थिर हो जाते थे। जगह-जगह लेबर डिपो बने और मजदूरों की भर्ती की जाने लगी। जहाज पर सवार होने से पहले उन्हें अपना सारा सामान वहीं छोड़ देना होता था, क्योंकि अंग्रेज जहाज में हाईजीन का बहुत ख्याल रखते थे।

लिओनीदास नमक जहाज को सात समुद्र पार, फीजी के लिए रवाना किया गया। जहाज का सफर काफी कष्टकारी होता था। कई लोग बीच सफरमें मर जाते थे और उनके शव को समुद्र में ही प्रवाहित कर दिया जाता था।

वर्तमान भारतवासियों के पूर्वज शर्तबन्दी-प्रथा के अन्तर्गत १ ७६ से फीजी आने लगे थे। प्रथम जहाज लिओनीदास ४६३ शर्तबन्दी मजदूरों को लेकर १५ मई को फीजी पहुँचा था। उसके बाद ५६ अन्य जहाज आए थे। अन्तिम जहाज, सुतलेज नम्बर पाँच, ११ नम्बर, १६१६ को ५५५ मजदूरों को ले कर आया था।

कुल मिलाकर शर्तबंद ६०,५५३ हिंदुस्तानी मजदूरों ने गिरमिट कमाने आए थे।

उन गिरमिटियों को फिर अलग-अलग जगह भेज दिया गया, गिरमिट कमाने के लिए। वे लोग कुली लाइनों में रहते थे और गन्ने की खेतों में काम करते थे।

फीजी में भारतीय श्रमिकों को कुली नाम से सम्बोधित किया जाता था। उनके रहने केमकान अत्यन्त तंग, बुरी दशा के थे और दैनिक कठिन परिश्रम करना पड़ता था। खून-पसीना एक करना पड़ता था।

हाथों में फफोले पड़ जाते थे, पिटाई होती थी, और साथ-साथ गलीयाँ सहनी पड़ती थी।

आमतौर पर गिरमिटियाँ चाहे औरत हो या मर्द, उसे विवाह करने की छूट नहीं थी।

Former Judge Jiten Singh Appointed Judge Advocate for Court Martials



Mr. Jiten Singh in uniform as a Judge Advocate for Court Martials.

The University of Fiji's Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDP SoL), Senior Lecturer, Mr. Jiten Singh has been appointed a Judge Advocate for the three-Court Martials to be held this year by The Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

Speaking about his role as the Judge Advocate, Mr. Singh explained that he would be able to advise the President and other four members of the Court Martial on matters relating to Law, some of the evidence and also give guidelines for sentencing. However, the President and the four members decide whether a person is found guilty or not and decide the sentence.

"Wherever they will need any assistance on Law, they will seek my guidance. I will be sitting with them through the Court Martial and as a Judge Advocate I decide the admissibility of evidence," he stated.

Judge Singh also stated that through his appointment, he would bring back the knowledge about the Fiji Army, how they operate and their different ranks, and mil-

itary law into his academic teaching.

"Law at the end of the day is a practical matter and not theory. There are a lot of criminal procedures involved in it and the knowledge will come in handy while teaching Law at the UniFiji," he mentioned.

Mr. Singh is a former High Court Judge of Fiji and has been a Senior Lecturer both part-time and full time at JDP School of Law. He has been teaching the LLB programme and Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) for seven years.

JDP SoL Dean, Professor Shaista Shameem, stated that she was very proud that one of her colleagues had attained a prestigious appointment as he would be bringing back a wealth of knowledge to JDP SoL.

"This enhances the reputation of the JDP School of Law and shows the caliber of the staff of the School," she concluded.

Na Tatadra nei Reama Halaapiapi Qio

Na nona tatadra o Mrs Reama Halaapiapi Qio a mai vakavatukana ena nona mai vakaisalataki ena koroi ni BA ITKLLC & LLC (Vosa VakaVavalagi) en Univesiti ni Viti. E yabaki 40 ko Reama ka veiqaravi voli ga e vale ni oti na nona vakamau ka yacova ni sa 4 na luvedrau kei watina. Ni sa tekivu me vakila o koya na dredre ni qaravi vuvale kei na dredre vakailavo, sa mani nakita me sa vuli tale. A mani kalougata ni curu rawa me vuli ena tabana ni iTaukei ena Univesiti ni Viti ka ni ratou vakabibitaka tiko na nodra vueti na dravudravua ena vuli. E kaya o Mrs Qio ni nona curu ena Univesiti ni Viti e vaka me sa kau sara ga mai ena nona matanikatuba na vuli ka ni sega ni leqataka okoya na ivodovodo se nona icili. E rawa ni taubaletaki ga mai nona vale ka rauta ni 15 na miniti na kena yawa.

"Ena gauna qo au sa sarava tale tikoga na kena sa mai vakavatukana na noqu tatadra ena dua na gauna lekaleka sa oti, kau rawa talega ni vakadinadinataka eke ni veika e vakayacora na Univesiti me baleta na nodra bula na dravudravua edua na ka e veivakauqeti ka veilaveti dina vei au. E totoka na vakarautaki ni yaya ni vuli kei na vanua ni vuli, rawarawa ni veivosaki kei na veiwasei kei ira na dauniveivakatavulici ka tarai na yaloqu" e kuria o Reama.

E vakamacalataka talega o Mrs Qio, ni nona vakatulewataka me sa lai tosoya nona vuli e sega ni ka rawarawa ka ni gadrevi na duavata vakavuvale me qaravi kina na itavi ni vuvale, mv na gone, na cakacaka ni vale ena veisiga kei na oga ni vulvale. Sa dua dina na ka ni bolebole levu. Ia na nona vuli e vukea vakalevu nona vakatulewataka vakavinaka na gauna ka digitaka vakavinaka na veika me qaravi ena kena gauna dodonu, ka rawati kina na nona tatadra. Sa mani vakatulewataka me sa tosoya tikoga vakagauna (part time) na nona vuli me rawa ni rawa taucoko na veiqaravi.

E veivakauqeti tiko o Mrs Qio vei ira na itaba gone kei ira era sotava tiko na bula vakataki koya moni gumatua ka sasaga me toso nomuni vuli baleta na Univesiti ni Viti sa tu vakarau me sotava na nomuni gadadre ka ni nona ibole "Ni oti na vuli sekedri, ki UniFIJI ga".

E tosoya tale tiko ena gauna qo o Mrs Qio na nona vuli ena tabana ni vuli na EDU ena Univesiti ni Viti ka vakatovotovo tiko ena Vishnu Deo Memorial School.

Maggot Workshop



UPSM & HS staff and students at the Workshop.

Staff and students of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) attended a Workshop titled “Provision of Maggot Debridement Therapy services across Fiji for the treatment of diabetic ulcers and other wounds” on Friday, May 18, 2018 in Lautoka.

This workshop was hosted by Dr. Susana Nakalevu and the District Medical Office (DMO) Western with financial support from the Department of International Business and Asian Studies, Griffith Business School, Griffith University. The

workshop was chaired by Dr. B. P. Ram who was also instrumental in organizing the workshop and Griffith University engagement with Fijian medical professionals at the Fiji Medical Association and Fiji College of General Practitioners. Dr. Jone Hawea from Diabetes Fiji also chaired part of the workshop.

The workshop opened with an official welcome by Dr. Nakalevu. Guest presenter, Mr. Frank Stadler, was formally welcomed to Fiji and the DMO with a traditional welcoming ceremony.

This was followed by a highly informative and thought-provoking status report on diabetes in Fiji by Dr. Jone Hawea from Diabetes Fiji.

Dr. Litiana Kuridrani’s presentation on the social and cultural perceptions of diabetes in two Fijian villages was highly relevant as the success of maggot therapy programmes depends to a large part on the acceptance of the therapy by health-care professionals and patients.

Dr. Hawea and Mr. Stadler also presented on the clinical science and application of maggot debridement therapy, and the supply chain management, for maggot therapy in the Fijian context.

The final session saw a participatory exploration of maggot therapy by all participants via a nominal group workshop by Mr. Stadler.

Equipped with an infographic that summarized the supply chain consideration for maggot therapy in Fiji participants identified what the enablers and barriers for maggot therapy across Fiji were, and what research and development was required.

38 healthcare professionals and researchers attended the workshop.

Random Shots



Dean of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dr. Elick Narayan addressing students during the Nipah Virus Awareness Seminar.



Professor Anirudh Singh (extreme left) with Masters in Renewable Energy Management students at one of the recent expeditions.



UPSM & HS students donating blood during the blood drive.



Participants at the Fiji College of General Practitioners (FCGP) Conference.



Ms. Sereana Lalabalavu and Ms. Arishma Dausoko showcasing the procedure involved in correctly taking a patient’s heart beat.



Registrar, Ambassador Kamlesh Arya and Mrs. Manisha Ramrakha with poetry and essay competition winners of the Gurukul Centennial celebrations.