

Span



IRETA

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13 Graduate with Agricultural Qualifications

IRETA



The School of Agriculture and Food Technology ended this academic year with agricultural qualifications achieved by 13 students from around the region. Agriculture as the backbone of the region's survival is in great need of qualified manpower for its successful development. SAFT continues to be committed to provide quality agricultural education to assist the region in their efforts to improve agriculture and address food security challenges imposed on our small island nations. This year's graduation saw the completion of hard work for seven students in the Bachelor of Agriculture, five students in Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture and one student in the Diploma in Agriculture.

Overall 74 students graduated from various disciplines including arts, commerce and science. From the 74 graduands, 7 medical graduands from the Fiji School of Medicine took the Hippocratic Oath at this ceremony.

2011 Graduates

Bachelor of Agriculture

Patterson Giza (Solomon)
Hikaione Loumoli (Tonga)
Makilua Puniani (Tonga)
Sakiasi Ralulu (Fiji)
Tanumafili Tufuga (Samoa)
Ratu Vasuidreketi (Fiji)
Franklyn Wasi (Solomon)

Postgraduate Diploma for Agriculture

Saimone Delabaka (Fiji)
Rohit Lal (Fiji)
Premila Naicker (Fiji)
Runte Navian (Tonga)
Atama Vurebe (Fiji)

Diploma in Agriculture

Tebwere Tokantetaake (Kiribati)

The Telefoni Retzlaff Memorial Prize for the Most Outstanding results in Animal Husbandry

Hikaione Loumoli

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VC Congratulates USP graduates in Samoa



“As I have often said, the graduation ceremony is the most significant and meaningful occasion in the University’s calendar so I would like to devote a few minutes congratulating the graduands.”

“Graduands — you are the reason we are here and we are all proud to share with you this joyous occasion in your lives. For some of you, the journey may not have been easy—it required sacrifices by yourselves, your families, sponsors and communities. As you look back, I am sure you will all feel very pleased that you have achieved your goals. Your success today marks the end of one journey and signals the start of another journey. I therefore want to extend my very best wishes to you all and say that whatever you have gained from your studies at USP, make good use of it, and be role models and good leaders in your communities. “We have about 74 students graduating today, of whom 7 are from the Fiji School of Medicine. This is our fifth and final graduation for 2011. They will join our alumni, who have gone on to make major contributions to their countries, our region and beyond.”

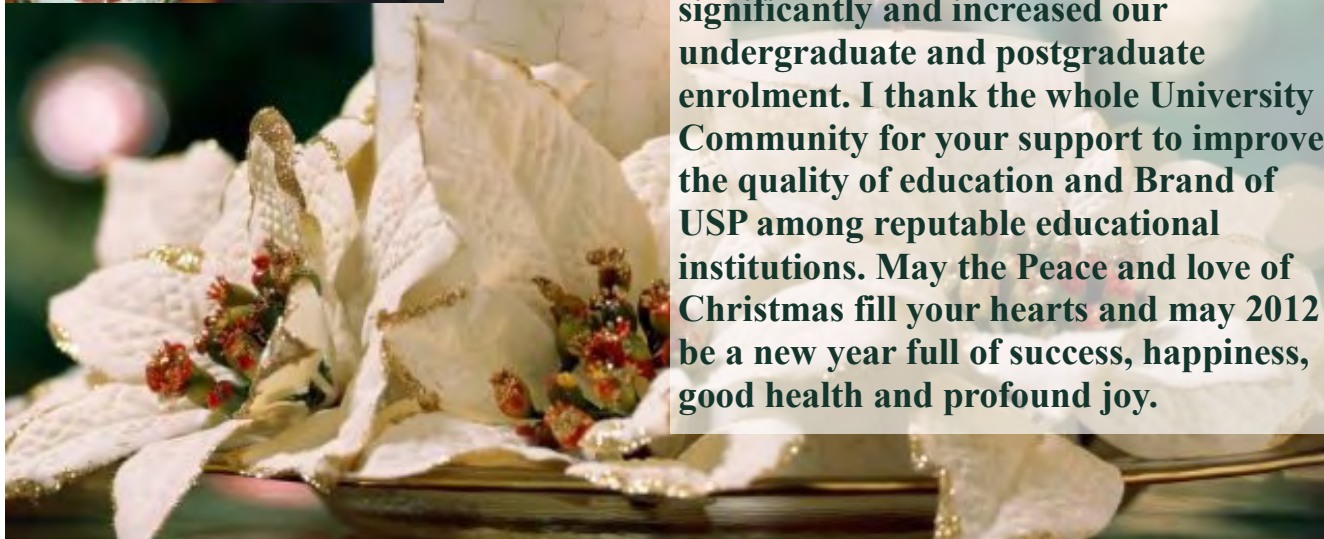


Some of the 2011 graduates

**CHRISTMAS and NEWYEARS Message from the
Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajesh Chandra**



Greetings to everyone for the festive season. I have seen great improvement throughout USP in 2011. My recent visit to Samoa has impressed me with the improvements taking place at Alafua--particularly the library, the farm and other activities. The challenge that faces Alafua is to improve student enrolment at SAFT. For USP as a whole we have improved our financial performance significantly and increased our undergraduate and postgraduate enrolment. I thank the whole University Community for your support to improve the quality of education and Brand of USP among reputable educational institutions. May the Peace and love of Christmas fill your hearts and may 2012 be a new year full of success, happiness, good health and profound joy.



**Christmas Message from Dr Adama Ebenebe,
Acting Head of School SAFT**



*Wish all the staff
at Alafua
Campus a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*



CHRISTMAS Message from Mohammed Umar, Director, IRETA



Flamboyant and Showers are in full bloom indicating that Xmas is just around the corner. It's time for us all to wind down from yet another hectic year to take a good break over Christmas. Break with family, friends and all the loved ones. It's also a time for serious reflection on the past year of our achievements, commitments to our work and the vicissitudes of life in general. Some of us will be happy and satisfied with the sincerity with which we worked, were recognized and perhaps rewarded as well. Others perhaps were not so fortunate to end the year with satisfaction, rewards and enjoyment. Christmas however gives us all the time to relax, pray, reflect and think for the future in calm and happy moments with our close relatives to have a much better 2012.

What lies ahead for us all as employees of USP in 2012 depends much on ourselves. We just have to perform. Show outputs from the results of our efforts and expect rewards. 2011 was a good year for IRETA with progress made in various key activities of the Institute and the Farm. All IRETA support staff did

a tremendous job for which I am extremely grateful. The support from the Vice Chancellor and the Dean of FBE made my life easy to take decisions and act. Thank you both for your trust and confidence in us. I should also thank the Acting Campus Director Ruby Vaa, Acting HOS SAFT Adama Ebenebe and other management and I&J staff at Alafua for their wonderful support to the Institute. Unfortunately for Ekpo Ossum, (HOS and Campus Director) he could not complete the year due to personal issues even though he was doing a good job. We all pray for his speedy recovery. I should also thank our partners in development – FAO, CTA, JICA, PARDI, donors and the USP member countries sincerely for their unfailing support to the Institute in 2011.

I want to end this message with a little thought from an English Poet Alfred Tennyson:

"Little flowers, but if I could understand, what you are, root and all in all, I should know what God and man is".

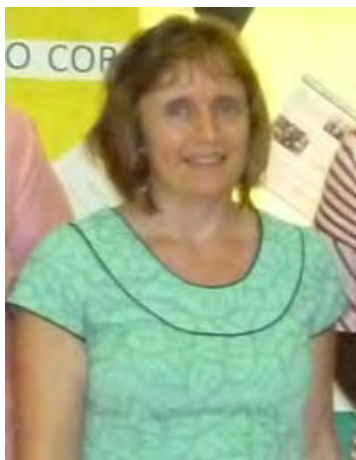
Wish you all a very joyous Christmas and a happy 2012.

CHRISTMAS and NEWYEARS Messages



Message from Leatuaolevao Ruby Va'a, Acting Campus Director, Alafua Coordinator, Continuing & Community Education

I thank all the staff at Alafua Campus for the hard work they did in 2011 and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



The Alafua Library Staff wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Why not relax with a good book over the holiday break? Come and select something great to read from our range of novels.

**We look forward to seeing you in the library.
The Library Staff**



MOU signing between NUS and USP



The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the National University of Samoa (NUS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) intended to facilitate all cooperation between the two Universities in the areas of teaching, research, and community engagement.

This cooperation may take a number of forms and involve a number of different parties at each institution working

together for mutual benefit. Activities envisioned will include, but are not limited to: exchange of researchers, faculty staff, and students; joint research or projects of mutual interest that address regional priorities; technical assistance and training; exploration of the potential to offer joint programs; and joint sponsorship of symposia, seminars and conferences on themes of mutual interest.

Celebrating research work published by Alafua staff

Angela Jowitt



On the 14th December 2011 USP Alafua Library hosted an inaugural Authors' Tea to celebrate research work published by Alafua staff in the last three years. In the presence of the USP Vice Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra, six staff members presented their work, outlining the basics of their research. The event highlighted the various subject disciplines covered by staff and their contribution to the body of knowledge for topics of interest to the region and world. It is hoped this event will be the first of many annual Authors' Teas, showcasing research taking place at USP Alafua.

The following list identifies the USP Alafua campus staff who have become Authors, often working in collaboration with others.

Adama Ebenebe

The cabbage webworm (*Hellula undalis*) on tickweed (*Cleome viscosa*) in Samoa Relative impacts of some insecticides on infestation and damage by leaf-eating caterpillars and on non-target arthropod diversity in head cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata*) crops in Samoa Exploring the source of corm rots affecting fresh taro exports from Fiji (Poster)

Tolo Iosefa

Improving taro production in the South Pacific through breeding and selection Linking Farmers, Genebanks and Networks for Genetic Enhancement

of TaroThe taro improvement programme in Samoa: sharing genetic resources through networking

Angela Jowitt

Surviving a tsunami : Dealing with disaster : Lessons from the Samoa tsunami 29.09.09 (Book)

Learning from the victims: New physical and social science information about tsunamis from victims of the September 29, 2009 event in Samoa and American Samoa

Jagdish Bhati and Sonny Lameta (edited by Ruby Vaa)

Planning and management of agricultural projects : A manual.

Ioane Malaki & Tolo Iosefa

Subsistence food security in the tsunami affected areas of Samoa.

Pradeep K Singh

A case for prioritizing agriculture for development in Pacific Islands countries

Development of agripreneurship in Samoa : Opportunities and challenges

Rural and agricultural credit in India and Gujarat

Modernizing agricultural entrepreneurship in

Samoa: A small island country in the Pacific region

Managing Sustainable Development of Rural

Economy through Integrated Planning of Farming Systems and Natural Resources

CHRISTMAS and NEWYEARS Messages

Suel Gee Samuelu

"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get anywhere unless everybody gets there". Student Academic Services has run short staff from the very beginning of this year; however, we have survived. I am constantly reminded that it is not what happens to us that matters but what we do with what happens to us that is more significant. Mrs Cecilia Leaupepe and Mrs Sia Seuoti have done a grand job in holding the fort at Student Academic Services – Alafua Campus this year and I applaud this team effort from the both of them. Without them; I would have struggled to keep my head above water. I am comforted by the thought that no problem is insurmountable, with a little courage, teamwork and determination, we can overcome anything. *May I take this opportunity on behalf of all of us here at Student Academic Services to thank everyone; on, off campus, our counterparts at Laucala who have assisted in many ways throughout the year to wish you ALL a safe and blessed Festive Season with your Families.*



Dear All,

As I prepare to depart on my 2 months leave. I wish you all, your families and loved ones a very safe, happy and joyous Christmas.

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill, And may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy and prosperous 2012.

*All my lovings, best wishes and take care
Ms Majorie Bola*

Producing Natural Samoa Coconut oil



Roma Fuimaona a youth from Saanapu in his early twenties is one of many in Samoa who is producing organic coconut oil. Roma produces 320 kilos of organic coconut oil from 1,120 coconuts daily to sell. He employs 11 youths in the village to work in shifts as the production goes on for 24 hours a day.

The Organic Coconut Oil Production Project initiated by Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI) builds on an activity that is already normal practice in the villages. Production of coconut oil for export has taken place from as far back as the 1800s, and traditionally was the activity of village women. Although copra has been produced and sold to export markets in the past as a major income earner, its fluctuating world market prices and labour intensive nature of production has discouraged villagers from considering its production as viable. As a result many villages have surplus coconuts at their disposal. WIBDI found that organic coconut oil production was a far more economically viable activity which could still be carried out in rural areas, encouraging families to remain in their villages.

Direct Micro-Expelling (DME) technology is used to produce the oil. It is simple and can be used in rural areas. DME blends the wisdom of age-old techniques with the efficiency of modern technology. Within 60 minutes, mature coconuts are transformed into extremely high grade, pure, cold-pressed, virgin oil which is highly prized in both the local and export markets, DME particularly because of its significant health benefits.

WIBDI provides training in the use of this technology, access to finance for the purchase of the coconut grinders, and weekly visits to collect and test the oil, and provide supervision and support. WIBDI purchases oil from the farmers, if they wish to sell it, and bottle and market the oil to customers.

Production is located around the villages because that is where the coconut resource, the producers and some of the consumers are.

One main buyer of the oil is a cosmetic company called Body shop in England. There is no doubt that skin/health care products are a product category that is showing worldwide growth in markets where the population is ageing. Consumer expenditure is huge, driven mainly by motivation for beautiful skin. Virgin coconut oil is a serious contender in that market. Apart from "vanity" sales, virgin coconut oil can also relieve skin irritations and provide relief from insect bites, skin exima and similar disorders.

Producer families are encouraged to enhance their earnings by the production of value-added products. They learn to scent the oil with fragrant local flowers such as the mosooi and the frangipane. Simple soaps can also be produced at the village level.

The coconut meal by-product can be used for cooking such as baking and confectionery. It also makes good stock feed. A delicious healthy oil, low in cholesterol, with anti-fungal, anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties.



The USP Alafua 2011 Graduation

