

# Diwali Highlights



On Friday 16 October, most staff and students of USP's Laucala Campus turned up at the University in their various colourful Diwali attire, somewhat spreading the Diwali spirit around Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra, whilst away overseas, sent everyone his Diwali greetings via e-mail saying, "Diwali is a celebration of truth and justice; it is about reconciliation; about caring about other people; and about the triumph of good over evil."

Professor Chandra says, "This festival of light is about wisdom and understanding triumphing over darkness and ignorance. These are universal values that apply to all of us and we should take advantage of this Diwali to reflect on our own lives, to reinforce our commitment to being better people and to the pursuit of values that will help all people rather than ourselves only."

On Campus, there were tea parties organised by various departments, and our Indian brothers and sisters brought home-made sweets which they shared with their colleagues and friends. ■



## 6 New form seven mathematics guide book launched at USP

On Thursday 15 October 2009, a new Mathematics book for Form Seven students was launched at the School of Computing and Mathematical Science at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus.

The book, *'Mathematics – A Study Guide for Form 7,'* was launched by the new Professor of Computing Science and Information Systems in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE), Professor Eduard Babulak. The new study guide was put together by Dr Bibhya Sharma and Dr Jito Vanualailai, in collaboration with three Assistant Lecturers and a student who is currently studying for his Masters of Science in Mathematics.

In 2002, recognising the need to present clear, correct and rigorous mathematics at pre-university level, Dr Sharma and Dr Vanualailai wrote *'Revision Guide for Form Seven,'* which turned out to be a hugely popular and successful book. The book helped students and teachers alike because of the detailed workings and reasoning, and different methodologies presented. A testimony by a former seventh form student, who scored 100% in the Form 7 final Math exam and who is currently a student at the University, is given on the back cover of the new book.

Due to the success of *'Revision Guide for Form Seven,'* the authors were extremely buoyed and encouraged, knowing that their work has had an impact on their country and its people. Accordingly, they decided to establish the SV Series of books that will incorporate their style of writing and presentation. The *'Revision Guide for Form Seven,'* establishes a

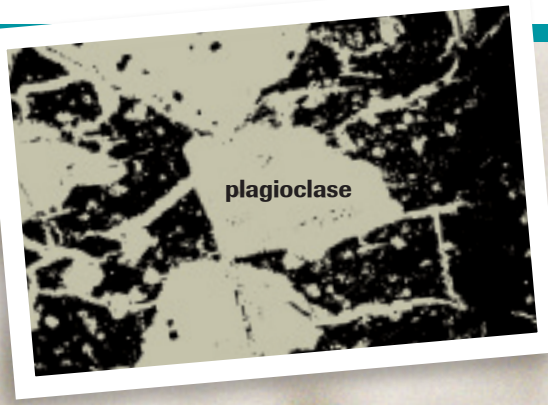
series that will be continued under the same title, and the second edition (F7 Revision Guide II) will be ready soon. Another book in the SV Series will cover the area of Computing (Computing for Senior Secondary), while a third edition will cover Statistics *'Statistics for Senior Secondary.'*

*'Mathematics – A Study Guide for Form 7,'* is a unique book, in that the authors have incorporated clear and succinct summaries of all mathematical concepts covered in Form 7. These concepts are then followed by detailed solutions of problems that appear in exam papers of previous years. Another new feature is the addition of tutorial problems with which students and teachers can practice, and detailed solutions of these tutorial problems are also given. A big plus is the inclusion of mock exams, similar to Form 7 final exams. An online version of the book will soon be launched as well. ■





# History In A Grain Of Sand



plagioclase

To look at a map of the South Pacific is to look at a series of stepping stones across a vast ocean. One may wonder how on earth these isolated island groups were ever settled before the age of jet engines, yet we Pacific Islanders are living proof that they were.

History tells us that the first colonisers of our islands were exceptional navigators. A people so at home on the sea that some of them continued to sail into the unknown even after reaching attractive, habitable islands. These people (the Lapita people) were also known for the intricately designed pottery they made. The elaborate motifs – recognisable by the series of tiny dots that tie them together – are the most tangible evidence we have of their existence.

Language and genetics (DNA) have already given us some insight into these ancient migrations and it is now widely accepted that the Pacific was colonised from the west. A recent University of the South Pacific-funded study of Lapita pottery fragments from Moturiki Island in central Fiji used a very different approach. The study sought instead to reconstruct these same migration routes by looking at the mineral composition and designs on the pottery found there. Where were they made? And more

## RESEARCH

importantly, did they have any links to pottery from our western neighbours?

To do this, sand grains in the 3,000 year-old pottery sherds were examined under a microscope to determine their origin. Further testing was carried out under an electron microprobe machine, which was used to scan the grains and generate a computerised assessment of their composition.

The intricate motifs on the pottery pieces provided a second clue. Previous studies of Lapita designs indicated that those from the western Pacific are far more complex than those in the east. This is because the voyages did not occur all at once but rather in a series of migration waves that took place over a few centuries. By the time the islands in Fiji and Tonga were settled, many of the old people had passed on, and with them the knowledge and skills to recreate such elaborate designs on pottery.

The Moturiki study was not able to conclusively prove western links through mineral composition alone. This may be because of the small pottery sample size and the fact that much of it was either manufactured on site or nearby Viti Levu. The pottery designs however were more revealing. Pots manufactured on Moturiki carried designs similar to those from Lapita sites in Vanuatu and New Caledonia as well as Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. The few pieces from Viti Levu also showed links to the Solomons, Vanuatu and New Caledonia, strongly suggesting colonisation of Fiji from the west.

It is hoped that further study of pottery from Bourewa – Fiji's oldest known Lapita site – will help shed more light on our distant past. ■

Key people: Ms Roselyn Kumar, Division of Geography, School of Islands and Oceans, Faculty of Science, Technology & Environment

## USP Journalism History/Politics Alumnus wins top oceania award

A University of the South Pacific Journalism and History/Politics Alumnus has won the top prize in an Asia-Pacific Journalism Award, for his article on Climate Change.

Solomon Star journalist Moffat Mamu received the first prize in the Climate Change Adaptation category, while Fiji's Samisoni Pareti received the third prize. They were the only two Pacific participants in this year's Development Asia Journalism Awards (DAJA). A journalist from Bangladesh received the first runner-up award. Mr Mamu studied at USP between 2000 and 2004 and, upon completion of his studies, he became a full-time reporter with the Solomon Star in August 2004.

"Feature writing is a passion for me and it resulted in me being selected," Mr Mamu said. The trophy and certificates for the annual event were awarded by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), a sister organisation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Both the Pacific participants travelled to Tokyo to receive their awards. It was the first time the Solomon Islands participated in the DAJA competition since its inception five years ago. The competition, which is organised annually, received around 240 articles in the four different categories.

Mr Mamu said, "I'm honoured because I wasn't expecting to get this recognition as it is a tough competition with participants from all over the Asia-Pacific region." He added, "USP journalism courses helped improve my research and writing skills, techniques and knowledge, which I still apply today in my work."

**Solomon Star journalist Moffat Mamu (left) and Fiji's Samisoni Pareti with their awards.**

The Divisional Head of Journalism at USP, Shailendra Singh, congratulated Mr Mamu on his achievement. He said he clearly remembers Mr Mamu as being a determined and hard-working student.

Mr Singh says, "Mr Mamu liked to write and had a true passion for journalism, and he has stuck with the newspaper that employed him after graduating, instead of moving on to other jobs in the public relations arena."

Mr Mamu said he hoped his win would inspire journalists and journalism students in the region to investigate and write about Climate Change stories, as it was a current critical issue. ■





# USP participates in Blood Drive

Students and staff of the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus recently participated in a blood drive, facilitated by the USP Youth Wing of the Sathya Sai Service Organisation of Fiji.

This was the first time that the USP's Laucala Campus has facilitated a drive of this size, where dozens of students and staff donated blood for the first time.

Tertiary institutions like USP are targeted for blood drives such as this, because their student population offer the numbers, as well as the ideal age group at which to begin encouraging regular and voluntary blood donations as a habit.

Vodafone Fiji continued its support of the Ministry of Health's Blood Banks by sending SMS broadcasts to several hundred USP students alerting them to the blood drive. The SMS service was provided free to the Health Ministry and to blood donors.

The USP Blood Drive was held at the Laucala Campus Medical Centre on Friday 23 October 2009, where close to 90 pints of blood were collected. ■



## CAMPUS DIARY

### The English Language Upgrading Course – Semester 1, 2010

The Language Services Centre offers the English Language Upgrading Course (ELUC), designed for people with a limited knowledge of English who either plan to undertake studies through the medium of English, or simply want to broaden their knowledge of the language. This course will enhance all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking – and is specially designed for people who intend to study or work where English is the language of communication.

Please find below some practical information about the next course:

- It will start on 11 January 2010 and end on 25 June 2010 (24 weeks)
- It is a full-time course i.e. Monday to Friday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm
- The fees are F\$6,000 and include:
  - Full tuition
  - All course materials
  - USP student privileges
  - The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination
  - Field trips
  - Daily newspaper

To enrol, download from [www.usp.ac.fj](http://www.usp.ac.fj) or contact Artilla Devi or the Student Academic Services for

an application for admission to the undergraduate program. Complete the form and return it to the LSC, attention Ms Artilla Devi, with two passport-size photographs, a certified photocopy of your highest qualification and a certified copy of your passport.

*Note:* To be eligible for ELUC you must have completed High School. Admission to ELUC does not guarantee admission to USP degree studies.

For enquiries, please contact the Language Services Centre c/o SLAM, FAL, USP, Private Mail Bag, Suva; email [rankin\\_s@usp.ac.fj](mailto:rankin_s@usp.ac.fj); or contact Ms Artilla Devi tel 3232675, fax 3231500 or email [devi\\_a@usp.ac.fj](mailto:devi_a@usp.ac.fj)

### United States – South Pacific Scholarship Programme (USSP)

Funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, USSP provides educational opportunities for individuals from South Pacific countries to pursue degree studies at U.S. institutions, in fields relevant to development needs in the Pacific Islands region.

*Type of study:* Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree study

*Eligibility:* Citizens of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu

*Provisions:* Tuition, residence hall room costs, health insurance, book allowance, living stipend, and round-trip airfare. Internship in Washington, D.C., and home-country community service project.

*Application deadline:* 1 February 2010

*Application forms:*  
[www.eastwestcenter.org/studentprograms](http://www.eastwestcenter.org/studentprograms)  
 For more information: [USSP@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:USSP@eastwestcenter.org)

### Finance Management Courses for 2010

Please note that we are offering the following FM courses in 2010.

*Semester 1*  
 FM301 Portfolio Analysis and Investment  
 FM303 International Finance  
*Semester 2*  
 FM305 Financial Risk Management

For more information please contact:  
 Gloria Bentley, Secretary, School of Accounting & Finance, Faculty of Business & Economics, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji  
 Phone: 3232517; Fax: 3232705;  
 Email: [bentley\\_g@usp.ac.fj](mailto:bentley_g@usp.ac.fj)

### Politics and International Affairs Programme for 2010

Please be advised that the Politics and International Affairs program will be located in the School of Government, Development and International Affairs, Faculty of Business and Economics, from 2010. All PL courses offered in 2010 are now listed on the USP course finder.

Dr Sandra Tarte  
 Programme Coordinator