



NUS 2024

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Le Iunivesite Aoao o Samoa

The National University of Samoa



E-NEWSLETTER

JAN-FEB-MARCH 2024 ISSUE

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- Hosting the 4th POPCCC
- Meeting with Tonga's PM
- Celebrating the Seafarers Day

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Greetings and Warmest Wishes to You All,

As we transition into the second quarter of 2024, it is both an honour and a privilege to share my thoughts with the entire National University of Samoa (N.U.S) community. This edition of our newsletter features numerous achievements that reflect our commitment to excellence, growth, and innovation in higher education.



The beginning of the year has been vibrant, with significant events marking our collective progress. Notably, we proudly celebrated the 40th anniversary of N.U.S, a testament to our rich history and steadfast dedication to education in Samoa. The celebrations brought together an array of distinguished guests, including government officials, proud alumni, and students, all of whom contribute to the legacy and future of our university.

Further redefining our academic landscape, we successfully launched the Bachelor of Health Science programme, which has attracted a diverse cohort of students eager to contribute to the health sector in Samoa. This initiative, supported by our esteemed partners in New Zealand, underlines the importance of strengthening our domestic health workforce and addressing the needs of our communities.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to our graduates who celebrated their accomplishments in the recent graduation ceremony, particularly to Honorable Prime Minister Afioga Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, who was conferred the honorary Doctor of Laws degree. This recognition reflects her significant contributions to our education and community.

Our focus on inclusivity and social equity is epitomised by the Gender Audit Workshops Initiative. We are committed to creating a safe and equitable environment for all members of our university community. By addressing gender disparities, we aim to lead by example in the Pacific region.

As we face challenges and opportunities, our spirit of resilience remains strong. I encourage you all to participate actively in the diverse seminars and workshops that are offered on campus, as they are essential in enhancing your learning and professional development.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared mission. Together, let us continue to illuminate the path of education for future generations.

Ma le ava tele,

Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa
NUS Vice-Chancellor & President

JANUARY 2024 CAMPUS EVENT

NUS launched Bachelor of Health Science Programme

Monday 29th January 2024

The National University of Samoa (NUS) officially launched its Bachelor of Health Science programme on January 29, 2024, in a ceremony attended by notable guests including the New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner and Samoa's Director General of Health.

The programme was developed in response to a 2020 initiative by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Samoa Ministry of Health aimed at enhancing Samoa's primary care and allied health workforce.

With a significant funding commitment of NZD3.49 million from New Zealand over five years, the initiative will focus on designing and delivering the programme in collaboration with various Samoan authorities.

NUS's Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to all partners for their support, especially recognizing the collaborative efforts amidst challenges such as the measles outbreak and the global pandemic.

The programme aims to equip allied health professionals with essential skills and



knowledge, with 17 students already enrolled for the first semester.

NUS envisions this programme alongside its existing Medicine and Nursing courses as a key contributor to strengthening Samoa's healthcare workforce and services.



FEBRUARY 2024 CAMPUS EVENTS

N.U.S Savaii Campus Elevates Learning with Donated Curved Monitors!

Thursday 8th February 2024

In a generous gesture, the National University of Samoa (N.U.S) Savaii Campus has received ten Curved HDMI Samsung monitors, thanks to the thoughtfulness of Afioga Muagututi'a Fealofani Asiata & Toala Liaita and their family from Vaega Satuipai'itea.

Donated by their daughter from Brisbane, Australia, the monitors will significantly enrich the campus's computer lab, aligning it with modern technologies seen in Australian universities. Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa expressed heartfelt her gratitude for this contribution, which promises to enhance the educational experience for all students.



With such support, N.U.S Savaii is poised for a brighter, tech-savvy future.

N.U.S hosted the NZ Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Health Delegation

Friday 9th February 2024

The National University of Samoa (N.U.S) hosted a delegation from the New Zealand Government, including Right Honourable Vaovasamanaia Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Honourable Dr. Shane Reti, Minister of Health. The visit celebrated the ongoing support from New Zealand for Samoa's development in health and education, particularly the newly launched Bachelor of Health Science programme.



The delegation toured N.U.S facilities, meeting the first cohort of students enrolled in the programme. Key speakers, including Samoa's Minister of Education and Culture and Minister of Health, expressed gratitude for New Zealand's significant contributions to strengthening Samoa's health system and education sector.

Minister Peters highlighted the importance of a domestic health workforce and urged students to remain in Samoa after graduation, while Minister Reti emphasized the role of educators in shaping health professionals. Gordon Dow, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Health Science programme,



provided an overview of the initiative, noting that over 20 students are enrolled. The visit underscored the strong relationship between New Zealand and Samoa as well as the commitment to enhancing health and educational initiatives. NUS looks forward to ongoing collaborations to train allied health professionals for Samoa's health sector.

Corporate Plan Consultations with Stakeholders

Internal - 19th January 2024 & External - 9th February 2024

The National University of Samoa recently conducted Corporate Plan Consultations to gather feedback from both internal staff and external stakeholders. The purpose of these workshops was to seek input and perspectives on the university's strategic direction and priorities for the coming years. The internal consultation, held on the 19th of January 2024, provided a platform for NUS employees to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions for improving the university's operations and services. The external consultation, held on the 9th of February 2024, allowed key stakeholders such as government officials, community leaders, and industry partners to share their insights



and recommendations for strengthening the university's relationship with the wider community. By engaging both internal and external stakeholders in this process, NUS aims to ensure that our Corporate Plan is informed by a diverse range of perspectives and priorities, leading to more effective and inclusive decision-making processes.

NUS celebrates 40th Years of Success

Wednesday 13th – Friday 16th February 2024

The National University of Samoa celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a grand parade and special service in front of the Government Building. Distinguished guests, including the Head of State and Deputy Prime Minister, attended the ceremony. The Minister of Education praised the university's growth and achievements over the past four decades. The university has graduated over 25,000 students and continues to provide quality education and research. The university's theme for the anniversary was "Celebrating 40years of Success." Therefore, the Head of State congratulated the university for its dedication to uplifting



and empowering the people of Samoa. The university looks towards the future with optimism and a commitment to empowering future generations through education.

MARCH 2024 CAMPUS EVENTS

NUS Gender Audit Workshops Initiative

Wednesday 6th March – Friday 8th March 2024

The National University of Samoa (NUS) conducted the 3 days Gender Audit workshop to promote gender equality and inclusivity within the university. This initiative marks NUS as a leader in the region and sets a new standard for promoting gender equality in academia. The university is collaborating with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) to implement this groundbreaking initiative. The NUS Gender Team, led by the Faculty of Arts is

spearheading initiatives to promote gender equality and inclusivity at the university.

The Gender Audit initiative aims to assess and address gender disparities across various university facets, develop policies to enhance gender mainstreaming, and align NUS's initiatives with current research trends. It also helps to improve recruitment and retention rates, student satisfaction, and academic excellence while ensuring alignment with Samoan cultural values. This

initiative aligns with NUS's commitment to sustainable development, social justice, and national policy frameworks. Additionally, NUS aims to offer a gender studies

curriculum in the future. Other than that, NUS is making significant strides towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society by leading this initiative.



Postgraduate in Executive Leadership Launch

Wednesday 15th March 2024

The National University of Samoa, in partnership with the Public Service Commission and the Government of Australia, has launched the Samoa-Australia Partnership for the Postgraduate Programme on Executive Leadership.

The program aims to enhance leadership capabilities and strategic focus for senior executives in the public service. Hon. Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa and Australian High Commissioner William Robinson attended the launch ceremony, among others. The program provides postgraduate training for forty-eight government and non-government officials, with a total cost of \$120,000 Samoan Tala.



This initiative highlights the importance of investing in local institutions and building leadership capacity across sectors in Samoa. Congratulations to the selected scholars and participants, and the partners look forward to seeing the impact of this program on Samoa's future leaders.

Second Symposium on the Treaty of Friendship

Strengthening Samoa-New Zealand Relations and Addressing Visa Challenges

Monday 25th March 2024

The Faculty of Arts (FOA) hosted the second Symposium on the Treaty of Friendship between Samoa and New Zealand on Monday, 25th March 2024. The event, themed "Lumana'i Pasefika - Pacific Futures," aimed to continue the dialogue and understanding on the evolving friendship and cooperation between the two nations. The symposium provided an academic platform to discuss the future of Pacific nations in the context of our historical and contemporary relationships, highlighting the significance of friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding in shaping the future of the region. Distinguished Samoan scholars and academic leaders, including the Hon Prime Minister of Samoa, Afioga Fiame



Naomi Mata'afa, participated in the event to further discussions on Pacific futures. The symposium was biennial, with hosting duties rotating between the National University of Samoa, the University of Otago, and the University of the South Pacific, Samoa Campus.

71st National University of Samoa Council Meeting 2024

Tuesday 26th – Wednesday 27th March, 2024

Our 71st Council meeting was attended by council members, senior management, and representatives from various faculties and departments including our NUSSA President. The meeting discussed all critical matters related to the university's operations, including financial management, academic programs, and student welfare. The council also reviewed the university's strategic plan and progress made towards achieving its goals. Furthermore, the meeting was

productive, and decisions were made to ensure the continued success of the university in providing quality education and contributing to the development of Samoa.



Accelerating Growth: NUS Council Endorsed Innovative Marketing Strategy 2024-2027

Tuesday 26th March 2024

The approval of the National University of Samoa's (NUS) Marketing Strategy 2024 - 2027 by the NUS Council during their meeting on Tuesday, 26 March 2024 signifies a significant milestone for the university.

This strategic plan outlines the goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics that the university will employ over the next three years to promote and enhance its brand, visibility and increasing engagement with key stakeholders.

The approval of this marketing strategy by the council also demonstrates the University's commitment to the growth and success of NUS and sets a clear direction for the university to achieve its vision and mission.

Through effective implementation, this strategy is expected to have a positive impact on the university's reputation and strengthening its position as a leading academic and TVET institution in Samoa, and its overall sustainability.



NUS confers Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree upon Honorable Prime Minister of Samoa – Afioga Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata’afa.

Thursday 28th March 2024

During the March Graduation ceremony, the National University of Samoa conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on the Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, Afioga Fiame Naomi Mata’afa.

As the first female Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Fiame has been a trailblazer in Samoan politics and has made significant contributions to education, women’s leadership, and community development throughout her career.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Hon. Fiame in recognition her dedication and leadership in empowering women and advancing education in Samoa.



SEMINARS

FEBRUARY 2024 SEMINARS

FOHS: New Zealand's health workforce, with a focus on Pacific participation in the health workforce.

28th February 2024



Professor Peter Crampton delivered a seminar on New Zealand's health workforce, with a focus on Pacific participation in the health workforce. Professor Crampton, a specialist in public health medicine and a Professor of Public Health at the University of Otago, shared his expertise and research on social indicators, social epidemiology, health care policies, and health care organization and funding. With over 100 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, Professor Crampton provided valuable insights into the current landscape of New Zealand's health workforce and the

importance of Pacific participation in shaping the future of healthcare in the region.

The seminar was attended by faculty members and professionals in the field of health science, providing a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange and networking. We extend our gratitude to Professor Crampton for sharing his expertise and valuable insights with our community, and we look forward to more engaging seminars in the future.

FOS: The combined effects of ocean acidification, warming and light on *Caulerpa* spp., the role of inorganic carbon physiology and species ranges.

28th February 2024.

Aleluia Taise-Uili explored the impacts of ocean acidification, warming, and light exposure on the vital macroalgal genus *Caulerpa*, crucial for ecology and cuisine. Her research focused on two species, *C. brownii* and *C. geminata*, found in Wellington, New Zealand, revealing their differing responses to environmental stressors due to unique carbon uptake strategies. Through a series of controlled experiments, Uili found critical insights into how climate

change may disrupt marine ecosystems, emphasizing the pressing need to understand these dynamics to protect our oceans.

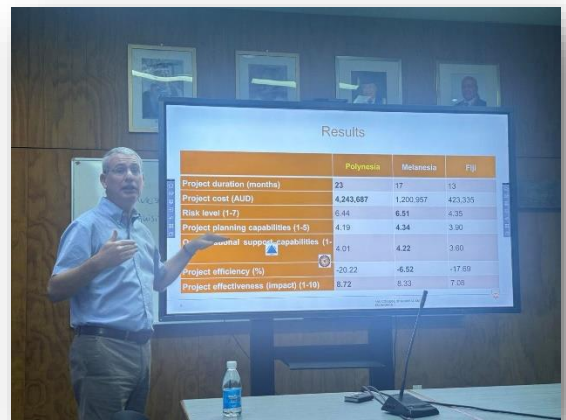


MARCH 2023 SEMINARS

FOBE: Making an Impact on Organizations and Society through Projects and Programs

1st March 2024

During the FOBE seminar, Professor Ofer Zwikael illuminated the vital role that projects and programs play in transforming organizations and enhancing society. Addressing the need for positive economic, social, and environmental impacts, he emphasized that true success lies in realizing tangible benefits—such as improved health services for communities. Drawing on extensive research and experience in project management, especially in the South Pacific. Professor Zwikael also shared

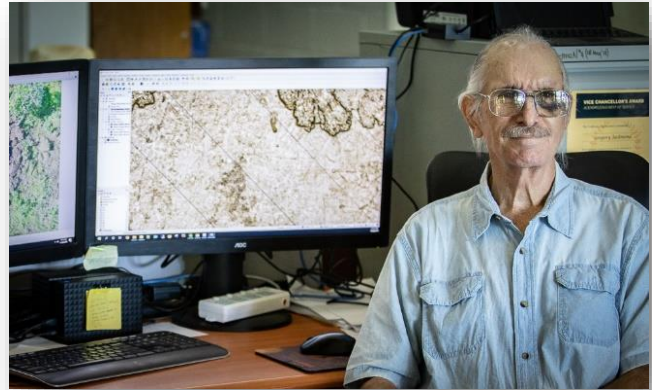


insights on how organizations can effectively navigate change to generate impactful outcomes.

FOE: Overview of Utu: The Samoa Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Database for the Independent State of Samoa

1st March, 2024

Greg Jackmond delivered a comprehensive overview of "Utu": The Samoa Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Database, tailored for the Independent State of Samoa. Initiated in 2014 by the Centre for Samoan Studies (CSS), Utu is a dynamic, ongoing project designed to gather and preserve vital information regarding the archaeology and cultural heritage of Samoa. The database boasts a wealth of resources, including a variety of maps, shapefiles, and extensive datasets that facilitate research and education in this vital area. During his presentation,

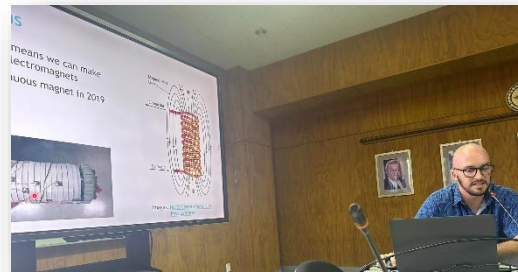


attendees gained an insightful introduction to the Utu database, exploring its current functionalities as well as its future potential to enhance the understanding and appreciation of Samoan heritage.

FOS: Pressure and Doping Effects in BaFe₂As₂ Superconductors

13th March 2024

Dr. Gabriel Alfred George Bioletti, our NUS Research Lab Manager spoke about the intriguing world of BaFe₂As₂ superconductors, exploring the effects of pressure and doping on their unique properties. These carbon-based materials exhibit remarkable electromagnetic and quantum characteristics that are essential for advancing deep-tech engineering. Despite their potential, the underlying mechanisms driving their unusual behavior remain elusive, prompting global research



efforts. Dr. Bioletti's work exemplifies the complexity of these superconductors, highlighting their significance in explaining the mysteries of this cutting-edge field.

FOBE: Samoa Poverty Analysis

14th March 2024

Papaliitele Fasavalu Benjamin Sila, an ACEO for the Social Statistics Division at Samoa Bureau of Statistics, presented on an in-depth analysis of poverty in Samoa, utilizing data from the 2018 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). The presentation emphasized the Bureau's role in various statistical activities, including the Population and Housing Census, Agriculture Census, Labour Force Survey, and other key surveys that contribute to understanding social and economic conditions in Samoa.

The speaker discussed the prevalence of both monetary and non-monetary poverty in the country, aiming to identify vulnerable populations that require targeted support and interventions. This analysis is intended to inform evidence-based policymaking, ensuring that critical groups are not overlooked and that their social wellbeing can be improved.



FOE: Taking issues with the Pi Faitau: A relook at the Samoan Alphabet Chart in the 21st Century.

22nd March 2024

Dr. Levi Tavita, critically examined the Samoan Alphabet Chart, known as the Pi Faitau (or Pi Tautau), and its historical significance in promoting literacy in the Samoan language over the past 150 years. The Pi Faitau has played an essential role in increasing literacy rates in Samoa, significantly impacting the community and

contributing to the fluency of Samoan adults, as evidenced by their ability to read the Samoan Bible.

Despite its success, the seminar raises important questions about the current relevance and accuracy of the Pi Faitau. Dr. Tavita explores Le Tagaloa's critiques, which

highlight inconsistencies in the relationship between letters and sounds within the chart.

These discrepancies may lead to misrepresentations of Samoan sounds, particularly concerning vowel sounds and the emergence of alternative sound registers, such as the 'k' sound.

The seminar aimed to articulate why these concerns about the Pi Faitau, which have been largely ignored for years, should be addressed now. It emphasizes the need to re-evaluate the chart to ensure the integrity of the Samoan language and its sounds is preserved in contemporary usage.

The discussion was crucial for understanding how evolving linguistic needs and educational practices impact the Samoan people today.

Dr. Levi Tavita is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre of Samoan Studies, with extensive experience in education, journalism, and public service in both Samoa and New Zealand. His scholarly background includes a PhD in Samoan government and politics, along with work in publishing educational resources.



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This NUS e-Newsletter is designed to strengthen communication among our staff, students, stakeholders, and the wider community. We invite you to share your insights, achievements, and updates by submitting NUS related short articles to Leilani Smith on l.smith@nus.edu.ws or call on +685 20072 ext 283. Your contributions are invaluable in fostering a collaborative and engaging **environment for all**. **Thank you for being a part of our community!**



NUS Social Media Growth & Student Support Update

In the past year, the National University of Samoa (NUS) has experienced remarkable growth in its social media presence, with our Facebook community surpassing 20,000 members. This dynamic platform strengthens connections among students and staff, fostering engagement and collaboration.

Our enhanced online presence also provides an essential communication channel. The Messenger app has become the go-to tool for students seeking assistance from our University Support Online Team, ensuring swift and effective support.

For inquiries, students can also reach us at helpdesk@nus.edu.ws. We remain committed to enriching the NUS experience and supporting our vibrant community.