



NUS 2024

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Le Iunivesite Aoao o Samoa

The National University of Samoa

E-NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the VC
- Campus Events
- Faculty Seminars

NEXT ISSUE:

- THE KING'S SCHOLARSHIP
- PAS LAUNCH
- NUS CHOGM SIDE EVENTS

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRESIDENT	2
JULY 2024 CAMPUS EVENTS	3
NUS and COL Create New Paths for Youth Success in Samoa	3
A Historic Homecoming: Samoan War Canoe Prow Returns After 136 Years, Celebrating Cultural Resilience and Friendship	4
Unveiling History: NUS officially launched the Landmark Heritage Report on Vaimea Prison	5
Echoes of Heritage: NUS launched New Logo and Traditional Lali	6
AUGUST 2024 CAMPUS EVENTS	7
Hosting the NUS Open Day for Upolu Colleges 2024	11
SEMINARS	12
FOBE: Food security challenges in Samoa can be maintained through sustainable agriculture with tourism lens perspectives	12
FOA: Still Horseing it and Fried Up Again—The Rise and Fall of the Ice Epidemic in the Pacific	12
FOS: Impact and Management of Coconut Rhinoceros	13
CSS: Introducing the “Regenerative Agritourism: Italy Model for Samoa	13
FOE: MIRAB as Climate Resilience	14
FOBE: Impact of Labour Law Changes to Small and Medium Enterprises in Samoa	15
CSS: O le Fanua o lou Tofi, tautuana ne'i lofia i peau laga o le tai fa'ana'e. “Your Land is your Heritage - Be vigilant to protect it.”	15
FOBE: MCIL oversee Employment Relations Act 2013 (LERA) and its 2023 Amendment and enforce the law to be complied with by employment actors.	16
CSS: O Olosega ma Folasa-Aitu	17
FOS: Understanding Prompting Engineering in AI	17
CSS: Aganu'u ma le Talalelei ma le Faasinoga e Fo'ia ai le ipuniu e le mumū ae gapāpā.	18
FOBE: From Samoa to Europe: A '685' approach to designing and implementing successful projects.	18
CSS: The Tatau: A Samoan Research Methodology	19
FOBE: From Employees to Entrepreneurs: The Journey to Becoming Industry Leaders	19
FOBE: Presentation on Samoa's Consumer Price Index (CPI)	20
FOS: Impact of the Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project on the development of the Agriculture and Fisheries sector.	20
CSS: Decolonising VAW interventions in the Pacific: Findings from a participatory community-led intervention to reduce violence against women in Samoa	21
FoHS: “Suicidality in Samoa, in the Region, a ground-breaking Suicide Prevention Pathway, and the Way Forward.”	21

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRESIDENT



Talofa lava,

As we look back on the months of July to September 2024, I am grateful for the progress that we have made together at the National University of Samoa. This period has seen a remarkable series of events that not only highlight our commitment to academic excellence but also resonate with our dedication to community engagement.

We celebrated a significant milestone with our partnership with the University of Auckland, formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing academic collaboration and exchange. This collaboration is a vital step in addressing some of the pressing challenges in our region, particularly in the realms of climate change and education.

Our ongoing initiatives to support youth empowerment have become prominent, exemplified by our partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning to provide essential skills training for young Samoans. This initiative aligns seamlessly with our vision for advancing lifelong learning and ensuring sustainable economic development for our communities.

The historic return of the Samoan war canoe prow and the unveiling of our new traditional Logo and Lali serve as poignant reminders of our cultural resilience and our responsibility to preserve our heritage for future generations. These events not only celebrate our past but also weave our identity into the modern narrative of our university.

Moreover, the successful launch of the Ōfaga o Sa'ili'iliga Research Museum will serve as a treasure trove for students and the public alike, preserving and showcasing the richness of Samoan culture and history.

I am also thankful for hosting the Samoa Youth Dialogue and the visit from the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on campus. These events provided our students with a platform to voice their concerns and aspirations, reinforcing the importance of their role in shaping a sustainable future.

As we move forward, I encourage all of you—students, faculty, and staff—to continue engaging in our initiatives and be champions of change within our communities. Let us harness the momentum from these past months to build a better future, grounded in education, cultural appreciation, and collaboration.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence and for being an integral part of the NUS family. Together, we can continue to make a profound impact on our students, our communities, and the wider Pacific region.

Fa'afetai tele lava,

Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa

NUS Vice-Chancellor & President

JULY 2024 CAMPUS EVENTS

Friday 5th July 2024

NUS and the University of Auckland (UoA) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance academic collaboration and exchange. This agreement, formalised on July 5, 2024, aims to facilitate staff and student exchanges, transdisciplinary research partnerships, and joint scholarly initiatives, including co-supervision of postgraduate studies and access to external examiners. Both universities expressed enthusiasm about leveraging our combined expertise to tackle regional challenges such as climate change, health, and education, ultimately enriching academic offerings and research capabilities in the Pacific region.



NUS and COL Create New Paths for Youth Success in Samoa

Tuesday 9th July 2024

NUS and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) have officially signed a partnership to enhance youth learning experiences in Samoa through a new Memorandum of Understanding.

This collaboration aims to support 150 youths aged 15-24 by developing essential employability skills and raise a culture of lifelong learning. Funded by COL, the NUS Youth Project is aligned with both the National University of Samoa's educational



vision and the Samoa National Action Plan on Youth Employment.

This initiative will offer various educational pathways, including certificate programs and micro-credentials, targeting youth from urban and rural communities, while collaborating

with key government and local organizations. This project is anticipated to significantly benefit young Samoans and contribute to sustainable economic development.

A Historic Homecoming: Samoan War Canoe Prow Returns After 136 Years, Celebrating Cultural Resilience and Friendship

Wednesday 10th July 2024



NUS and the Übersee-Museum Bremen celebrated the return of a historic prow from a Samoan war canoe, which had been held in Germany for 136 years after its removal during the Samoan Civil War in 1888. The handover ceremony, attended by notable dignitaries including the German Minister of

State H.E. Ms. Katja Keul, marked a significant milestone in provenance research and Samoan-German cultural collaboration.

Shedding light on the significance of cultural heritage, Minister Keul give prominence to the return as a step towards addressing Germany's colonial past and promote ongoing cooperation. The prow's return not only deepens connections to Samoa's history but also serves as a resource for education and community dialogue. An exhibition showcasing the prow's history is planned at NUS later this year, followed by another at the Übersee-Museum Bremen in March 2025.



Unveiling History: NUS officially launched the Landmark Heritage Report on Vaimea Prison

Wednesday 10th July 2024



NUS launched the Vaimea Prison Report, a significant historical and heritage

research project detailing the 118-year-old prison's cultural importance in Apia.

Funded by the New Zealand High Commission Fund, the report illuminates the prison's connection to Samoa's indigenous resistance movements, including the Mau a Pule and the Mau Movement, while documenting the early instances of land alienation in Samoa's history. It also honours the Fitafita Native Guard, the first all-Samoan police force, and traces the evolution of the Samoan Police Force.

Our NUS Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Tuifuisa'a Malua Amosa, accentuated the report's potential to guide government decisions regarding the site's future, while Honourable Ms. Si'alei von Toor, the New Zealand High Commissioner, commended NUS for its commitment to preserving Samoan heritage. The report is available online and in hard copy for key stakeholders, reflecting NUS's dedication to cultural heritage preservation.

Echoes of Heritage: NUS launched New Logo and Traditional Lali

Thursday 11th July 2024



A special ceremony was held on campus to officially launch our new traditional logo (bell) and lali instruments, promoting the revival of Samoan cultural heritage. Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Tavu'i Dr.

Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati called attention to the significance of the initiative, which was a collaborative effort involving the Faculty of Education Music

Team at NUS, the Centre for Samoan Studies, and the University of St Andrews.

Professor Emma Sutton, the project lead, expressed hopes that the instruments would inspire a renewed appreciation for traditional Samoan culture. The event was attended by notable guests,

including the former Head of State His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi, and marked a crucial step in NUS's commitment to cultural preservation, with plans for future exhibitions of traditional musical instruments on the horizon.

AUGUST 2024 CAMPUS EVENTS

NUS and EQAP hosted the Micro-Credential Framework Workshop in Samoa

Tuesday 6th – Thursday 8th August 2024



The National University of Samoa (NUS) hosted a three-day Micro-Credential Framework Workshop in collaboration with the Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) of the Pacific Community. The workshop aims to equip participants—including NUS staff, Post-Secondary Education and Training (PSET) providers, and key stakeholders—with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and implement micro-credentials in response to evolving educational and workforce needs.

NUS Vice Chancellor Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa emphasized the importance of aligning educational frameworks with national and international goals to create opportunities for employees to reskill and upskill in a competitive job market. This initiative directly supports the NUS Corporate Plan and the Education Sector Plan 2019-2024, marking a significant investment in the future of education and professional development in Samoa.

Key Youth Voices Unite at Inaugural UN Samoa Youth Dialogue"

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd August 2024



The inaugural Samoa Youth Dialogue, held at the National University of Samoa, engaged young leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders in addressing critical issues affecting Samoan youth amidst the global Summit of the Future. Co-convened by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the Samoa UN Country Team and the National University of Samoa, the dialogue focused on "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow," aligning with themes from the

recent SIDS Global Children and Youth Action Summit.

Notably, the discussions revolved around youth empowerment, the importance of cultural heritage, and the unique challenges faced by small island developing states, including climate change and social inclusion. The event culminated in a commitment to creating the "Pact for the Future," an actionable framework aimed at addressing current challenges and ensuring a sustainable future for young Samoans.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres Visits NUS Campus

Friday 24th August 2024



On the final day of the Samoa Youth Fono, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited the NUS campus, where he was warmly welcomed by our Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Afioga Honourable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster and our NUS Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Tuifuisa'a Patlia Malua Aмоса. The visit aimed to engage with students and amplify the voices of youth in decision-making processes that shape their futures.

During the session, students had the opportunity to pose questions directly to

Mr. Guterres, who pinpointed the importance of proactive engagement, stating, "You don't have to wait for people to give you power; you must fight for it."

In addition, Mr. Guterres and Hon. Toeolesulusulu were presented with the key findings and the Outcome Document from the Samoa Youth Dialogue, which are critical for informing future regional and international decisions, invigorating the dialogue around youth empowerment and inspiring students to take a proactive stance in advocating for their rights and interests.



The Grand Opening of the Ōfaga o Sa'ili'iliga Research Museum"

Friday 30th August 2024



The National University of Samoa (NUS) celebrated the grand opening of the Ōfaga o Sa'ili'iliga – our new Research Museum – on August 30, 2024, at the Le Papaigalagala Campus. The ceremony featured remarks from Deputy Prime Minister Afioga Tuala Iosefa Tuala Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, underscored the museum's role in education and cultural community engagement.

The inaugural exhibition, "Atalilo: Motifs in Samoan Material Culture," showcases

significant Samoan motifs and traditions. NUS Vice-Chancellor Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa affirmed the museum's collaborative foundation with the Übersee-Museum Bremen, while Professor Wiebke Ahrndt praised its potential for future cultural initiatives. The museum aims to preserve Samoan history and culture, providing a valuable resource for students and the public alike.



Hosting the NUS Open Day for Upolu Colleges 2024

Friday 30th August 2024

We had the pleasure of hosting the NUS Open Day specifically for Upolu Colleges, where we welcomed 27 colleges from the government, mission and private schools to participate in this informative event. This Open Day which embeds our Cultural Performances was organised exclusively for Year 12 students and Year 13 students who are set to join us in 2025.

The primary objective of this event was to provide prospective students with essential information regarding the entry criteria for our Foundation Programmes, Preliminary and TVET Courses. By offering insights into these pathways, we aim to equip students with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their academic futures and to help them navigate their journey towards higher education successfully.



SEMINARS

APRIL 2024 SEMINARS

FOBE: Food security challenges in Samoa can be maintained through sustainable agriculture with tourism lens perspectives

Thursday 11th July 2024

Dulcie Wong Sin Simanu discussed the intersection of food security and sustainable agriculture in Samoa, dwelling on the integration of eco-farming practices and waste management strategies to enhance community well-being and longevity.

The presentation featured the pressing food security challenges facing Samoa, exacerbated by a troubling increase in non-communicable diseases leading to a high

rate of premature deaths over the past eight years.

Simanu articulated how addressing these food security issues not only supports healthier communities but also presents opportunities to bolster Samoa's tourism industry, positioning sustainable practices as essential for both environmental health and economic growth.



FOA: Still Horseing it and Fried Up Again—The Rise and Fall of the Ice Epidemic in the Pacific

Friday 19th July 2024

In his presentation titled "Still Horseing it and Fried Up Again—The Rise and Fall of the Ice Epidemic in the Pacific," Dr. Moses Ma'alo Faleolo focused on the alarming escalation of methamphetamine (ice) usage in Sāmoa, attributing its roots to the transfer of youth gang culture from New Zealand.

Despite early warnings to the Sāmoan government and presentations illustrating the growing threat of transnational crime, complacency has prevailed, as evidenced by contradictory responses from officials concerning the existence of an ice epidemic. Faleolo stressed the inadequacies of relying on extended family networks to rehabilitate

troubled youth, noting instead that this practice may inadvertently exacerbate issues.

He advocates for a comprehensive, multi-faceted policy response that incorporates local insights and engages multiple sectors, including government, civil society, and education, to tackle the socio-economic factors contributing to drug abuse.

By creating employment opportunities and establishing robust social support systems, he argues Sāmoa can avert a looming crisis and shift away from the destructive cycle of drug culture.



FOS: Impact and Management of Coconut Rhinoceros

Wednesday 24th July 2024

George Hazelman shared valuable insights on the life cycle of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB, *Oryctes rhinoceros*) and the significant threats it poses to Samoa's economy and food security. Recognized as the 'Tree of Life,' the coconut tree (*Cocos nucifera*) is integral to Samoan cultural and economic vitality, making its protection crucial.

The Government of Samoa is spearheading revitalization efforts for the coconut industry through initiatives such as replanting and establishing a germplasm collection center. In response to the invasive CRB, which has

plagued the region since its introduction in 1909, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) is implementing biological control measures, including the Green Muscardine fungus (GMF) and *Oryctes rhinoceros nudivirus* (OrNV). Furthermore, recent collaborations between AgResearch and the Pacific Community (SPC) have led to the development of integrated pest management (IPM) packages that comprise biological controls, pheromone traps, and sanitation practices, all of which work together to effectively address this pest and protect Samoa's coconut industry through a community-based approach.



CSS: Introducing the “Regenerative Agritourism: Italy Model for Samoa

Thursday 25th July 2024

Asuao Kirifi Pouono from the Global Agritourism Network presented the "Regenerative Agritourism-Italy Model" at the Centre for Samoan Studies' Seminar & Film Series, outlining its potential to transform the

livelihoods of Samoa's rural communities. The model fosters authentic visitor connections to Indigenous agricultural practices and promotes ecological sustainability while enriching local food

culture. Key points of emphasis included the importance of regenerative practices that prioritize community well-being, collaborative efforts by the Pasifika Agritourism Network across 20 Pacific Island nations, and a vision for resilient, climate-smart rural futures driven by agritourism and educational experiences. The seminar also

explored various agritourism models in practice, including the Caribbean, Italy, and Vanuatu models, and discussed the opportunity for Samoa to evolve from the Caribbean approach towards the Italy model to enhance visitor engagement and support local farmers, ultimately strengthening its agricultural landscape and economy.



FOE: MIRAB as Climate Resilience

26th July 2024

Associate Professor Masami Tsujita from CSS explored the MIRAB model, an acronym for Migration, Remittances, Aid, and Bureaucracy. This model has become a widely recognized descriptor of the economic model prevalent in the Pacific Island nations.

While it draws attention to the challenges associated with unsustainable development practices in the region, particularly regarding migration-based remittance and aid flows, she urged for a re-examination of its relevance in the context of climate change.

A noteworthy example that she brought attention to was the study by

Associate Professor Anita Latai Niusulu (2017) on the micro and circular mobilities in Saleimoa, where communities have historically shifted their households inland in response to cyclones since the 1990s. In the wake of such environmental challenges, these communities have effectively utilised their customary land tenure systems to develop plantations and households, showcasing resilience and adaptation.



FOBE: Impact of Labour Law Changes to Small and Medium Enterprises in Samoa

Friday, 2nd August 2024

Si'ili'ili Aumua Leavasa Isaia Lameko examined the significant impacts of recent labour law changes on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Samoa.

He pointed out that Samoa's membership in the International Labour Organisation since 2008 has prompted essential reforms, including the ratification of eight core conventions that culminated in the Labour and Employment Relations Act of 2013, which replaced the outdated Labour Act of 1972. With the recent passage of the Labour and Employment Relations Amendment Act in 2023, key



provisions were amended that directly affect how SMEs operate.

Lameko's presentation will provide a detailed analysis of these amendments, exploring their implications for the workforce and business operations within the SME sector in Samoa.

CSS: O le Fanua o lou Tofi, tautuana ne'i lofia i peau laga o le tai fa'ana'e. "Your Land is your Heritage - Be vigilant to protect it."

Thursday 8th August 2024

In his seminar Dr. Tautunu highlighted critical issues surrounding customary land ownership and the pressing need for communities to protect their heritage. He pointed out the troubling trend of families gifting customary lands to churches without unanimous family consent, raising concerns about future claims and ownership. Moreover, the proliferation of family chief titles has led to confusion over rightful ownership, while unclear land boundaries have intensified disputes between neighbors.

Complications arise from long-standing compensation issues for land utilised by telecommunication companies and infrastructure developments, leaving communities questioning the fairness and transparency of the process.

Additionally, land exchanges between families often result in misunderstandings, while burial practices on customary lands have further complicated ownership claims. Dr. Tautunu emphasized that many disputes

stem from greed, urging vigilance and a collective approach to safeguarding communal interests. He advocated for upholding traditional matai systems to foster

harmony and called for inclusive land laws that account for all stakeholders, underscoring the need for fair policies that benefit the entire community.



FOBE: MCIL oversee Employment Relations Act 2013 (LERA) and its 2023 Amendment and enforce the law to be complied with by employment actors.
Thursday 8th August 2024

The MCIL is responsible for overseeing and enforcing the Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013 and its 2023 Amendment. They manage foreign employment permits and implement monitoring strategies to ensure compliance with the law. The presenters, Toeolesulusulu Uputaua

Lefauaitu and Senara Elia-Faolotoi, discussed how MCIL aligns with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards and prepares international reports. They also encouraged participants to engage in discussions on key labor issues during the presentation.



CSS: O Olosega ma Folasa-Aitu

Thursday 10th August 2024

Monalisa Saveaalii Malietoa gave a presentation on the lands registered under the leadership of Malietoa, focusing on the contemporary genealogy linked to these

lands. She elaborated on the mythical origins of the name of Olosega Mountain and the Folasa-Aitu forest, emphasizing their significance in Samoan cultural heritage.



FOS: Understanding Prompting Engineering in AI

Wednesday 14th August 2024

Suetena Fa'atuuala Loia's presentation's, "Understanding Prompt Engineering in AI," offers thorough examination of the crucial ability of crafting precise prompts to optimize AI model outputs. By defining prompt engineering and its critical role in harnessing AI potential, the presentation features essential components such as clarity, context, precision, and adaptability. Attendees are introduced to a spectrum of prompting techniques, from foundational methods like role-playing and iterative refinement to advanced strategies including zero-shot, few-shot, chain-of-thought, and prompt chaining.

A structured framework for creating effective prompts is provided, detailing steps like defining the agent's profile and outlining

tasks while emphasizing contextual relevance. Through a practical example, the presentation illustrates how to apply these

principles to construct effective prompts for specific tasks. Loia concludes by reiterating the importance of mastering prompt engineering as an evolving skill essential for maximizing AI capabilities across diverse applications, making this presentation an invaluable resource for anyone aiming to enhance their proficiency in communicating with AI systems.



CSS: Aganu'u ma le Talalelei ma le Faasinoga e Fo'ia ai le ipuniu e le mumū ae gapāpā.

Thursday 15th August 2024

Rev. Malotau Lafolafoga addressed the intersection between the Samoan culture and the Gospel, underlining the challenges that some individuals encounter when trying to navigate their cultural heritage and the teachings of the Gospel. Some have felt uncertain and struggled to balance the rich traditions of Samoan culture with the expectations of their faith. Rev. Malotau proposed a variety of solutions aimed at respect and understanding, emphasizing the importance of cultural identity in spiritual life. He also encouraged attendees to embrace their cultural practices and integrating

Samoa cultural values as a vital aspect of their faith journey rather than seeing them as

conflicting elements. By promoting a deeper understanding, dialogue and appreciation of the rich tapestry of Samoan culture within a spiritual context, he inspired a call to action for individuals to honour their heritage while actively engaging with the Gospel, thus reinforcing the idea that culture and faith can coexist harmoniously.



FOBE: From Samoa to Europe: A '685' approach to designing and implementing successful projects.

Thursday 22nd August 2024

Aliimalemanu Dr. Bernadette Samau and Muliagatele Sesilia Lauano shared insights from their successful implementation of the 'Afa Project' across various European cities, including Bremen, Leiden, Stockholm, and Munich.



They attributed their achievements to a self-developed '685' Research Project Approach (685 RPA), which blends local cultural elements, such as Fa'a Samoa, with the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) management model and strategic marketing principles.

By employing an interdisciplinary methodology, the authors advocated for a

"think global, act local" mindset, demonstrating that their techniques are applicable across diverse fields, including business and education.

Their goal is to encourage and empower postgraduate students and early career researchers in Samoa by presenting the '685' RPA as a viable framework for project development and implementation.

CSS: The Tatau: A Samoan Research Methodology

Thursday 22nd August 2024

Dr. Sam Amosa and Reverend Malotau Lafolafoga introduced the Tatau as a distinctly Samoan research methodology, set to be further explored at the Applied Linguistics ALAA/ALANZ/ALTAANZ Conference in November 2024.

They indicated the prevalence of Western research methods in studies involving Samoans, both locally and in the diaspora, while reiterating the Pacific methodologies such as talanoa, the kakala or ula as well as the tivaevae research methods that, although valuable, but they are not of Samoan origin. The tatau research methodology, specifically developed for students at the National University of Samoa,

provides a framework that parallels the traditional process of creating tatau, encompassing research design, data collection, analysis, findings, and reporting. This approach aims to empower students to forge their unique Samoan theories and methodologies, rooted in their customs and cultural practices, reinforcing their distinctive Samoan identity.



FOBE: From Employees to Entrepreneurs: The Journey to Becoming Industry Leaders

Thursday 5th September 2024

Ana Ula, co-owner of Generator Controls and Electrical Solutions, shared the inspiring evolution of her company from its inception to a leading figure in the electrical industry. Highlighting the strategic decisions, innovative approaches, and steadfast dedication to excellence that fueled their growth.

Ana described how the firm successfully carved out a niche within a competitive market by leveraging expertise in generator

control systems and electrical diagnostics. She stressed the importance of customer satisfaction, a culture of continuous improvement, and a strong work ethic in establishing the company as a trusted provider of high-quality electrical services.

The session offered valuable insights into the challenges encountered, lessons learned, and the forward-looking strategies that continue to drive the company towards further success.



FOBE: Presentation on Samoa's Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Thursday 19th September 2024

Ta'ala Lilianetelani Hennemann-Leleimalefaga from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) delivered a comprehensive presentation on Samoa's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The SBS is tasked with the critical role of collecting and analyzing statistical data that reflects various economic, social, and demographic aspects of Samoa, adhering to international best practices.

The CPI, which is compiled and released monthly, serves as a key indicator of inflation in the country by measuring price changes in a carefully selected basket of goods and services that represent typical household consumption patterns, as determined by the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES).



This survey not only identifies household spending habits but also assigns greater significance to items that receive higher expenditures, thereby influencing their weight in the CPI.

The presentation detailed the methodology behind the CPI's compilation and explored the monthly inflation rates alongside the various components—such as Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Transport, and Communication—that affect inflation trends in Samoa.

FOS: Impact of the Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project on the development of the Agriculture and Fisheries sector.

Wednesday 25th September 2024

PJ Vaafaasau Efaraimo, the Matching Grants Program (MGP) Manager from MAF addressed the impacts of the Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project on the development of the agriculture and fisheries sector.

This five-year initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, features a pivotal Matching Grants Program aimed at enhancing productivity and marketing for local farmers of varying scales.

Since its inception, the program has benefited 965 farming households, which represents 3.25% of the sector based on the 2019 census. Initial data collection indicated low production values among these farmers and fishers, impacted significantly by COVID-19, as evidenced by a Market Outlet Survey conducted from 2019 to 2021. However, recent surveys from 2021-2022 have shown



an encouraging recovery, with marked increases in the sales of fruits, meats, and vegetables.

As the second production survey approaches completion, it promises to reveal further enhancements in production metrics. A

comparative analysis will explore the correlations between the findings from the Market Outlet and Production surveys, presenting the program's role in bolstering the agricultural and fisheries landscape in Samoa.

CSS: Decolonising VAW interventions in the Pacific: Findings from a participatory community-led intervention to reduce violence against women in Samoa

Thursday, 26th September 2024

Professor Jenevieve Mannell presented findings from the EVE Project Samoa (Evidence for Violence prevention in the Extreme), a collaborative effort between the Samoa Victim Support Group, University College London, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, and National University of Samoa.

This innovative 6-month participatory intervention engaged community-based researchers (CBRs) in co-designing workshops aimed at preventing gender-based violence (GBV) in ten Samoan villages.

By prioritizing community input, the project tailored strategies to local needs, promoting community ownership and relevance. The intervention combined qualitative methods—observations, interviews, and community

dialogues (talanoa)—with quantitative surveys involving 300 participants.

Preliminary results indicate a decrease in reported incidents of physical, emotional, and economic violence, driven by renewed community discussions and strengthened village norms against violence.

The EVE Project not only sheds light on effective GBV prevention but also indicates the critical role of Indigenous communities in shaping their own solutions, advocating for their voices in the design of interventions rather than viewing them merely as passive subjects of social norms.



FoHS: “Suicidality in Samoa, in the Region, a ground-breaking Suicide Prevention Pathway, and the Way Forward.”

Friday 27th September 2024

Li’o-Matua Dr. Taralina Gae’e addressed the pressing issue of suicide rates in Samoa, noting a historical perception of their severity

despite challenges in accessing and validating relevant data.



The School of Medicine (FoHS) has undertaken research to illuminate the prevalence, patterns, and risk factors associated with suicide within the Samoan population, particularly focusing on vulnerable age groups.

Dr. Gae'e stressed the importance of assessing the effectiveness of existing services while advocating for local capacity

building and inter-Ministerial collaboration, given that approximately 60% of factors influencing population health extend beyond the Ministry of Health.

By strengthening cultural bonds and developing a sense of local identity, the aim is to develop impactful strategies to address and mitigate this pressing health crisis affecting Samoa.

NUS STAFF PhD GRADUATES of 2024

CONGRATULATIONS to our NUS Staff who have completed their PhD programmes in 2024!

Dr. Dionne Elizabeth Naomi Fonoti
*PhD from the Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
Centre of Samoan Studies*

Dr. Aleluia Taise – Uili
*PhD from Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
Faculty of Science*

Dr. Keresoma MJ Leaupepe
*PhD from the University of Otago University
Faculty of Health Science – School of Medicine*

Associate Professor Dr. Suzanne Schuster
*PhD from the University of Waikato, NZ
Associate Professor of Physical Education
Faculty of Education*

Dr. Felila Amituanai Semel
*PhD from the University of Waikato, NZ
Faculty of Education*

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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 lsmith@nus.edu.ws or call her on +685 20072 ext 283. Your contributions are invaluable in cultivating a collaborative and engaging **environment for all**. **Thank you for being a part of our community!**



NUS Social Media Growth & Student Support Update

This year, the National University of Samoa (NUS) has experienced a remarkable growth in its social media presence, with our Facebook community surpassing 30,000 members. This dynamic platform strengthens connections among students and staff, promoting 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 a 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.

