

UNITEC PACIFIC QUARTERLY

»»» NEWSLETTER «««



A NOTE FROM THE PACIFIC CENTRE



Talofa Lava, Kia Oranā, Malo e Ielei, Fakatalofaatu, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Malo Ni, Noa'ia, Mauri, Halo olaketa, Warm Pacific Greetings!

Welcome to this latest edition of our **Unitec Pacific Quarterly Newsletter!**

As we prepared to begin a new year of learning, Semester 1, 2024 kicked off with excitement with the multiple events held to welcome new and returning students, which included the Semester One, Pacific Orientation on Wednesday, February 14. As excited as we were to welcome our new Pacific students, we were equally excited to reconnect with our Pacific Staff who could attend and enjoy our shared lunch. . In the first six weeks of Semester One, the Pacific Centre Team members participated in other orientation events and classes as workshop facilitators thus reflecting the increasing and sustained partnerships forged with our Unitec community. It is heartening to know that Pacific Success continues to be a priority across Unitec, and despite some challenges, together, we are contributing to making a difference in the lives of our Pacific students and communities. Malo lava!

PESETA SAM LOTU-IIGA

*Tumu Whenua ā-Rohe 1
Executive Director, Region 1*

We acknowledge your leadership in supporting Pacific Success at Unitec and the region.
Fa'afetai lava!





In March, our Pacific Centre team in collaboration with partners from the Library Services of Student Success hosted the inaugural Unitec Pacific Day on Monday, 18 March, which highlighted twelve Indigenous language groups including Te Reo Māori. Also in March, we were fortunate with an opportunity through partnerships with our Student Support Team to receive funding, which enabled us to provide food for students at the Centre. Our students appreciate having food available daily, fa'afetai tele lava!

On April 3, our Unitec Fale turned 20 years old; hence, we will plan a celebration of successes at Unitec including our Unitec Fale. Also, in April, our community celebrated Pacific Success at Unitec during the Pacific Graduation Celebration on Friday, 5 April, before the official 2024 Unitec Autumn Graduation on Tuesday, 9 April at Aotea Square. We congratulate all our 199 Pacific graduates!!! All our keynote speakers were amazing, and one of them was our very own Pacific alumna of the Bachelor of Social Practice and current lecturer in the programme, Alofimua Genevieve Sang-Yum. Malo lava!

In this issue of our Unitec Pacific Quarterly Newsletter, we acknowledge two Pacific male figures who in their own personal and professional lives impacted those around them. In February, our Pacific community mourned the loss of an aspiring political figure and community advocate, Fa'anānā Efeso Collins, who passed away suddenly while participating in a charity event in support of clean drinking water for children in the Pacific. And in March, our very own colleague and peer, Jacob "Jake" Fuemana suddenly passed away at his home. In our times of sorrow, we also witnessed solidarity and strength as Pacific peoples in our support for both the Collins and Fuemana families. May they Rest in Peace!

As we head into the colder months, we urge you to take care and remember to prioritise your wellbeing. Hence, keep an eye out for those wellbeing initiatives and other opportunities to participate in community-focused activities. **Also, please remember that our Pacific Centre team is here to support you if/ when needed!**

We hope you enjoy reading this second issue of our Unitec Pacific Quarterly Newsletter!

Fa'afetai ma ia manuia,

Unitec Pacific Centre

STAFF PROFILE



GLENNA TAULILO-MAKAEA

Trades Technician

Years at Unitec: 7 years come end of June 2024

Position held: Trades Technician - currently working in the Architecture Workshop.

Ethnicity: Niuean

Family: Husband and 2 adult sons

Milestone/ role at Unitec: I'm actually happy where I am for the most part. I'm often asked about teaching, my response is; I kinda like dabbling in both areas as I get to guide students without the responsibility of being a teacher.

It's also seeing the accomplishment on student faces when they have learnt how to use power tools for the first time or when they can say with confidence "I was a part of that or I did that"

In previous years I've made crochet hats for Pasifika students to keep them warm over winter. One year I got a bit ambitious and made patchwork quilts for the scholarship students, 11 in total. It could be a one and done type situation but you never know.

My own personal growth within my role, becoming a trusted staff member amongst my peers, getting to know more people across Unitec, being more involved with different Unitec initiatives eg...fundraisers, Pasifika events.

Personal milestones Doing things that bring me joy; cliché I know..lol. I dress up on the weekend, even if it's just going out for breakfast at my local cafe. I'm sewing more - my first love, but don't ask me to hem your pants or replace a zip. I'm doing some volunteer work at the Repair cafe once a month. I'd like to start a craft group here at Unitec, but time isn't on my side. I do have a list of things that I'm working through but it's a very fluid type situation.

Pearls of wisdom/ recommendation/ advise/ quote that influences or describes you: I'll limit myself to 3...lol.

"You can only change others behaviour by changing your own"

"Know your worth"

"Unitec is the place where you make mistakes and learn from those mistakes".

STAFF PROFILE



SANA SALEEM

Pacific Librarian



Years at Unitec: I have been working at Unitec Library for more than 10 years

Positions Held: Pacific Librarian

Ethnicity: Fijian

Family: I am from Nadi, Fiji. I have connections to Saunaka village from my father's side and maternal ties to Sabeto, Nadi. I moved to Aotearoa with my family in year 1999. I went to Kelston Girls College.

As the Pacific Librarian at Unitec, I acknowledge the on-going partnership with Library and Pacific Centre to ensure that we grow our Pacific profiles through networking and interacting with colleagues who share the same passion and commitment to serve our Pacific staff and students. In Fijian culture, the concept of solesolevaki is vital to our way of life – the practice of working together for the collective.

Milestone at Unitec: I have worked in academic libraries for almost 15 years and the kaupapa that is important in my everyday mahi are enabling access to appropriate Pacific resources and ensuring that equitable services are available to our Pacific students who use the library and space.

Personal milestone: My dream is to establish a library in one of the outer islands in Fiji. It could be in the next 5 or 10 years when I get an opportunity to return home and give something back to my people and community. I would like to explore how libraries are focusing on sustainability and climate change; also addressing the local needs of preserving our cultural heritage in a built environment.

Pearls of wisdom: Our vuvale (family), vanua (land) and ocean (wasawasa) are inter-connected to who we are as Fijians. This is me – my identity. O Nadi ko.

Vinaka vakalevu

ALUMNI PROFILE

>>> JERON GWAITE'E



Jeron Gwaite'e joined us at Unitec in 2020 on a Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship, awarded by the New Zealand Government. This is a highly sought-after scholarship that attracts thousands of applications but only approximately 450 are awarded each year.

He had only been with us for a few weeks when we were thrown into our first lockdown. Amid stay-at-home orders, Jeron had to pivot and adjust to online learning, got to know his flatmates really, really well and still achieved in his classes.

COVID-19 provided challenges to everyone, especially those who loved to be active and outdoors. When restrictions started lifting, Jeron joined the Futsal team at Unitec and remained involved until the end of his scholarship. Jeron was also a keen explorer making the most of his time in Aotearoa New Zealand by buying a small car and travelling up and down the country.

In March this year, Jeron joined the New Zealand High Commission in the Solomon Islands as part of the infrastructure team and will be assisting with the management of the Solomon Islands Provincial Airfields Upgrade project.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We want to acknowledge our very own exceptional **Dr Linda Tinai Aumua** who graduated last week, Friday 10 May, with her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi. CONGRATULATIONS Dr Linda!



UNITEC'S FIRST PACIFIC ORIENTATION OF THE YEAR

In February, Unitec welcomed a vibrant mix of staff and students to our first Pacific Orientation of the year, marking a milestone moment for the community. With about 100 in attendance.

The festivities kicked off at our Unitec Fale, resonating with the traditional Niuean call ('Ui') by Ioane Aleke Fa'avae. Spirits soared as students were ushered into the Fale with a heartfelt prayer, by Stephen Mataia, a former Unitec staff member and Pastor, he led an inspirational talanoa, inspiring students on their journey ahead as students.

The day unfolded with activities, from engaging quizzes to lively games that fostered interaction among students. A highlight was a special game designed to acquaint students with various student services across Unitec, ensuring a smooth transition into campus life. We finished the day with staff across Unitec coming together to share kai, introductions and conversation.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of staff members worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event. Special thanks are extended to Sana Saleem, Lance Laulala, Rahwa Adhanom, Karen Petana-loka, Raina Taite, Adam Nee, Monique Bell, and Donna Salmon for their invaluable contributions.

Also to the wider staff a big thanks for coming to meet our students and bringing food to share. The overwhelming support from staff members across campus added depth to the celebration, embodying a commitment to nurturing a thriving Pacific community at Unitec, this was further confirmed by the positive comments from staff and students.



PACIFIC GRADUATION CELEBRATION

6

The Pacific graduation celebration was held on April 5th. The celebration was a vibrant and joyous evening, filled with colourful attire representing their diverse backgrounds and unique identities, proud families, and music. Graduates from various Pacific Island cultures came together to honour their achievements and showcase their heritage. The evening was filled with laughter and the aroma of Pacific food.

A special thank you to our guest speaker Guliano Stewart Bryce.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view pictures from the Graduation Evening Celebrations. If you need any more information, please contact us.

Congratulations to the winners Katherine Matoto (Tongan) and Jessily Segedin (Samoan) for winning the Top Pacific Nurse Award, Sponsored by Procare Health Ltd. Both students received a \$500.00 voucher and a bouquet of flowers each.



UNITEC PACIFIC DAY

Unitec recently hosted its first-ever Pacific Day, a vibrant showcase of Pacific culture featuring 12 stalls representing 12 Pacific countries. Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands, Rotuma, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Aotearoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Niue were among the islands celebrated. The event drew over 100 attendees, including people from diverse backgrounds.

A highlight of the day was the book displays by the Library Team (Amy, Sana, and Sara), offering insights into Pacific history, folklore, and contemporary issues.

Despite no budget, the event was made possible through the generosity of volunteers. The Library Team, Pacific Centre, Student Marketing, Pukenga, Maia, and the Copy Centre all contributed resources. Additionally, a dedicated film crew documented the event, creating sustainable resources for future Pacific Language Weeks online. Organizers express their gratitude to all involved for making Pacific Day a success.



JAKE FUEMANA



Uhoaki a lautolu ne fia kai ke he tututonu
 Ha ko e mena to makona lautolu
 Uhoaki a lautolu ne fakaalofa atu
 To ofania mai a lautolu
 Uhoaki a lautolu ne loto mēa
 To kītia, to kītia e atu e kautū he Atua

Uhoaki a koe ma Jake (Jacob) Fuemana, ha ko e haau a loto fakamooli mo e māakai ke fakaako mo e atihake e lotomatala he tau atuhau kehekehe ko e pulotu faiaoga. Ko koe ko e kanumea ke he haau a magafaoa pīhia ki loto he aoga pulotu nei ko Unitec. Ai mavehe ma matakainaga mo e kapitiga.

Kua tau te toki o aitua ki runga a tātou nei Tuākana o Pasifika i Wairaka. Kua rongo ake nei kua hinga a Jake Fuemana, tētahi o ngā kaimahi o te UPC. He teina hoki o Daniel Fuemana. Ngā tino mihi aroha ki ngā kaimahi o Mataaho, anā, ki te whānau hoki o Jake. Haere e te rangatira, ki te huihuinga o ngā wairua. Moe rangimārie i roto ngā ringaringa o te Ariki. E moe!

We're deeply saddened by the passing of Jake Fuemana, a beloved member of our Unitec Pathways College team. Jake joined Unitec in 2010 as a Technician in Building Technology and later became a lecturer. He was passionate about guiding students and was especially known for his humor. He leaves behind a legacy cherished by his colleagues, students, and the communities he served.

MANAAKI NZ SCHOLARS

Through extra funding provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, our Manaaki NZ Scholars have been fortunate to take part in some incredible trips this semester. These trips have been meticulously curated to offer a captivating blend of exhilarating activities, breathtaking scenery, and immersive kiwi cultural experiences. Our primary goal is to foster meaningful connections among our students, promoting both interpersonal bonds (whakawhanaungatanga) and a profound connection with the land itself. The students have visited Kawau Island, Raglan, Hamilton and Rotorua engaged in a wide range of activities.



NOTICES

SOLOMON GROUP



In February 2024 7 more Pacific students from the architecture programme received their high spec laptops from Solomon group. In total Pacific Architecture students have received 14 laptops.

Some of these students have also requested and received help with driver licences, hop cards and fuel vouchers.

The first 7 recipients of these laptops are now in their final year. Three of them are on track to complete their bachelor's degree.



PACIFIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Engaging with Pacific badge was developed in 2022 and launched in 2023. At the end of its first year more than 300 staff had registered with 126 being awarded their badges. Badge workshops are scheduled to once a month monthly.

The demonstrating level will be open for submissions in semester 2 of 2024. For more information, please contact lfihaki@unitec.ac.nz or Mirela at mszekely@unitec.ac.nz

NOTICES

ILO-ILO EXHIBITION



Toi o Wairaka, Design and Contemporary Art, Creative Industries, Unitec is thrilled to announce the opening of Ilo-ilo.

This exhibition features the work of our Pacific students and Alumni from the BDCA and MCP programmes, facilitated and co-curated by Lupeti Fihaki, Peter Rees, Martino Michael and Gina Ferguson with the support of the Unitec Pacific Centre.

As the Pacific Language weeks unfold Ilo-ilo reflects and celebrates the success of these creative practitioners, acknowledging the excellence and diversity of our exhibiting artists and Pacific Nations.

Please join us on Monday 13th May at 5.00pm for this special opening ceremony with refreshments and guest performances.

Toi o Wairaka is located in building 108 (south entrance).



Ilo-ilo

ilo/ iloilo

Exhibition dates:
13th – 26th May, 2024
Opening event:
13th May, 5 – 7.30pm

Sia Sione
Alani Azariah Sione
oil on canvas

**Toi o
Wairaka**

Gallery hours: Mon – Fri, 9.30am – 4.30pm
Email: gallery@unitec.ac.nz
Building: B108, Unitec, Carrington Rd,
Mt Albert, Auckland.
Unitec | Te Pūkenga

UNITEC PACIFIC CENTRE

**DAISY
BENTLEY-
GRAY**

Interim Manager
Pacific Success

- Community Studies
- Healthcare and Social Practice

**ROKOSIGA
MORRISON**

Pacific Success
Navigator

- Applied Business
- Building & Construction
- Environment & Animal Sciences
- Community Studies

**LUPETI
FIHAKI**

Pacific Success
Navigator

- Architecture
- Creative Industries
- Healthcare & Social Practice

**PAVA
SAIFOLOI**

Pacific Success
Navigator

- Trades & Services
- Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology
- Bridgepoint

**IOANE
ALEKE
FA'AVAE**

Pacific Learning
Advisor

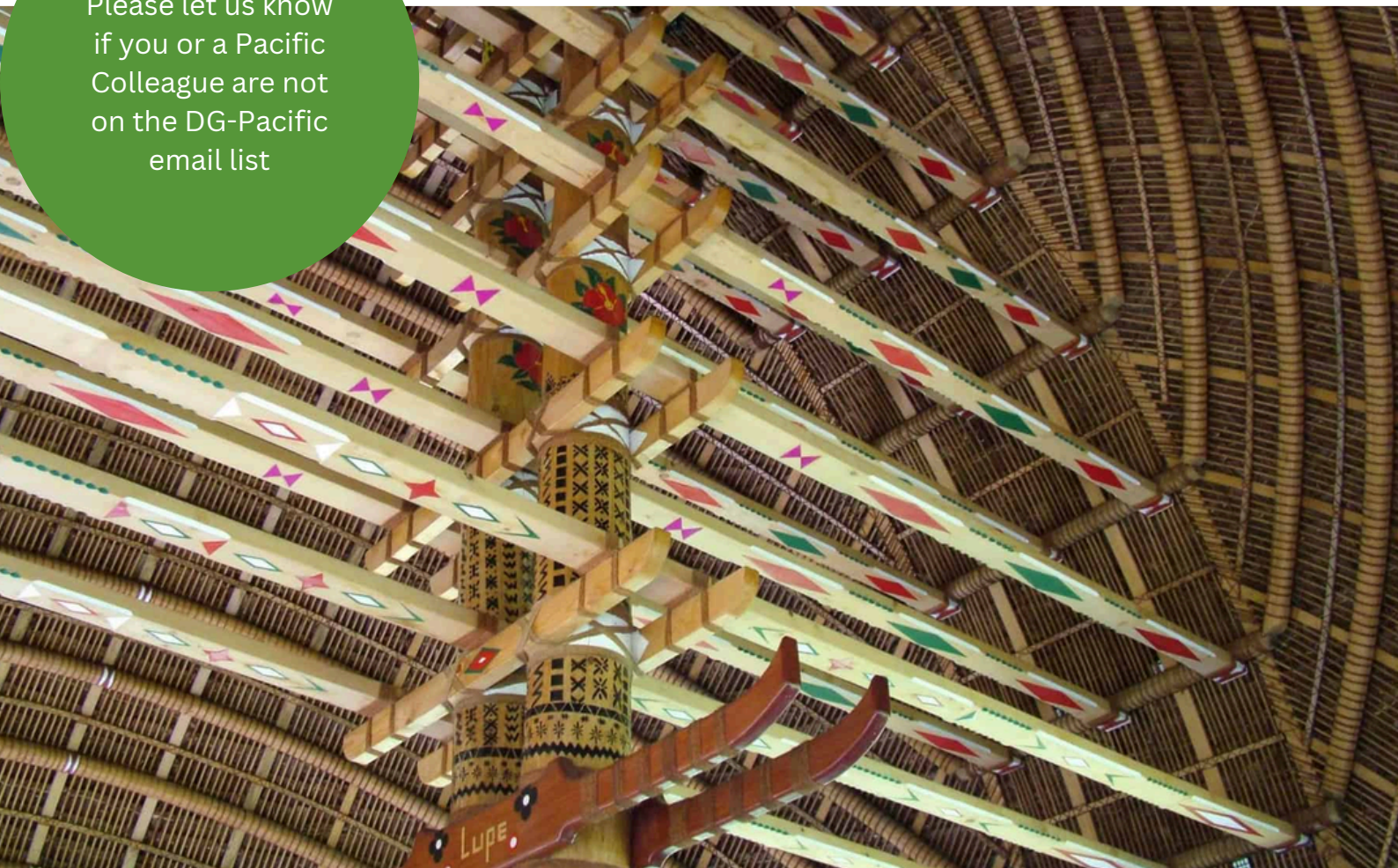
- Building & Construction
- Bridgepoint
- Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology
- Environment & Animal Sciences
- Trades & Services

**VENUSI
TAUMOEPEAU**

Pacific Learning
Advisor

- Applied Business
- Architecture
- Bridgepoint
- Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology
- Creative Industries

Please let us know if you or a Pacific Colleague are not on the DG-Pacific email list



THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your dedication to our students and the work you do!

We pray for blessings as we continue to support our students and colleagues!

Please reach out to us if/ when you need our support. Also, feel free to pop into the Pacific Centre anytime you are at Te Puna (B180).



ASKPACIFIC@UNITEC.AC.NZ