ALUMNUS APPOINTED AS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT COUNSEL

The University of the South Pacific (USP) alumnus, Ana Tuiketei-Bolabiu has been named the first Pacific counsel to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

She completed her studies at USP, graduating with her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree in 2005 and her Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP) in 2006. Apart from being listed as an ICC Counsel, she is the Deputy Director of the Institute of Small and Micro States (UK), a World Rugby Judicial Officer, a Sessional Lecturer at the University of Fiji and Fiji National University and a Board Member for numerous Fijian organisations such as the Fiji Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Save the Children’s Fund, Fijian Holdings Ltd, FML and Fiji Exporters Council and is a proud Pacific Advocate.

She recalls her time at USP, and how it exposed her to a lifetime of friendships and networks within the region that are helpful in her professional life. “I can confidently say that if I travelled to any Pacific destination I would meet a colleague from USP irrespective of nationality. I also loved the fact that the law school programme covers Pacific island countries’ jurisdictions and legal development helping me develop as a better lawyer and a better human being.”

Ms Tuiketei-Bolabiu also says that USP promoted and highlighted regional patriotism through their various campus programmes. She learnt about other Pacific cultures and how to appreciate unity in diversity, not conformity. In addition to getting her qualifications, she also learnt soft skills like people management, being flexible, being creative in solution innovation, and cultural sensitivity when it comes to communication.

As an advocate “I love what I do as I am in the business of finding solutions and adding value irrespective of the various hats, I wear. I am passionate about restorative justice, law reform and international human rights”, she added.

Continuous learning is a vital skill to augment your mindset, here are some of the books, and podcasts Ms Tuiketei-Bolabiu recommends the following books and podcasts: Becoming - Michelle Obama; Rich Dad Poor Dad - Robert Kiyosaki & Sharon Lechter and Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity - David Allen, and podcasts: World Bank, ADB, Asia Global Leadership Newsletter, Red Table Talk, Oprah Winfrey O Magazine, Uebert Angel; and she also closely follows pages of global influencers and inspirational political leaders.

She says, “I am living my life more abundantly, continuously adding value in everything I put my hands on and in my various leadership roles promoting the goodness of the Pacific Region”.

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Ms. Tuiketei-Bolabiu continues to maintain a good relationship with USP over the years as she has been a regular guest lecturer at various USP Faculties and also has taught summer and winter courses at the School of Law for at least 5 years.

She is also the only Fijian female accredited World Rugby Judicial Officer and is one of only two women that are Oceanic Judicial Officers and in 2017 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Fiji for her contribution to Fiji.

She has been involved in presenting before the Fiji Parliamentary Committees; drafting legislative reviews, strategic policies and industry negotiations for regional institutions. "I am passionate about law reform and come with a wealth of experience, knowledge and extensive professional exposure not only limited to Fiji’s domestic public policy and private sector engagement but with a reasonable degree of regional professional perspective, engagement and experience" she added.

We would like to thank Ms. Tuiketei-Bolabiu for her time and congratulate her on her ICC appointment.

ALUMNI APPEARS ON FORBES 30 UNDER 30 ASIA

Sanjesh who completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 2013 and Mukesh who completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 2011 were also the first Fijians to be on Forbes 30 under 30 Asia, and amidst the Covid-19 crisis, they are providing uninterrupted support to businesses using digital technologies.

#ForbesUnder30 is a highly respected, competitive and sought after list that celebrates and recognises individuals who are leading, disrupting industries and tackling major global issues. Honorees were vetted by a panel of accomplished and globally acclaimed judges in each category.

The Fiji Entrepreneur magazine also featured ACTON, touting that the cloud-based business started from casual get-togethers to generating $800,000 in nine months.

In an interview to the Fiji Times, the alumni said that they look forward to pushing the boundaries of cloud, growing with their customers and helping to create a modern, well-connected society.

We congratulate and wish Sanjesh, Mukesh, the employees and stakeholders of ACTON all the best in the future.

If you want to find out more about ACTON, you can check them out on these links:

- www.forbes.com/profile/acton-fiji/#1c2dae7b13d6
- ACTON Fiji - https://actonfiji.com/
What memories do you have of your University student life and what inspired you during your studies at USP?

When I was working and studying full time and had to balance things out ensuring I gave my best and not second best. I had matured friends who were working part-time and studying the way they managed their time with work, study and family inspired me. They inspired me by showing me that I can do much better than I was at that time. I wanted to challenge myself to study and work full time and guess what? It was a moment of realisation where I began to understand my capabilities and what I could achieve. I also believe I can still do way more.

Why did you choose USP and your field of study?

Initially, I wanted to be a Doctor but this changed when I went to high school. We couldn’t afford the Science Stream so I had to settle with Commerce.

I applied stating I wanted to study Accounting and Finance but changed my mind when I discovered that the University offered Geospatial Science under the Land Use Planning and Geography programmes. Geospatial Science was something other than medicine I’ve been wanting to study mainly because it is very rare in the Pacific so right there and then, I was confident I’m up to something special.

How did USP prepare you in your career?

Being a student has taught me a lot of things especially in terms of independence, time management, financial budgeting (something that most students find it difficult), goal setting and most of all to have a purpose in life and work towards. I always had this thinking that one should always “aim for the sky” but I made up my own that I can reach the “stars beyond the sky”. Also, USP has equipped me with all the knowledge and skills I need to be a successful GIS and Remote Sensing practitioner so I can go out there and contribute to our beloved Fiji.

Describe your present job and what you enjoy about it.

At the moment I am part of the COVID 19 Incident Management Team (IMT) based at the Ministry of Health and Medical Services serving our country to fight against COVID 19. It’s a pleasure to use my talents and skills to contribute towards the effective management and responses of COVID 19 in our country. I do enjoy this, it’s something different to what I normally do and has opened my mind to GIS has a lot to offer in Public Health.

Where do you see yourself in five (5) years (career and or personal goals)?

To be somewhere, where I can develop the knowledge and skills I have to solve geospatial problems that allows me to serve Fiji and the Pacific Region.

Please share three tips that you think would be important for current students and recent graduates that will help them start out on their career paths.

1. Start your career with an internship. This is where you get to understand in applying what you’ve learnt in real-life scenarios.
2. Be creative and innovative as this will market your skills.
3. Don’t be too comfortable with what you currently have, have a dying thirst for more.

What has your involvement been with the University since you graduated? (Or how would you like to be involved?)

I have been assisting the Geospatial Science students with their final year projects and mentoring to ensure they are well guided.
Where are they now?

**Professor Ravi Naidu**
- **Graduation:** Bachelor of Science (1975) from USP, Master of Science (1979) from USP, Master of Science in Soil Chemistry from the University of Aberdeen, UK, PhD (1985) from Massey University, New Zealand.
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Occupation:** Global Innovation Chair & Director of GCER, Managing Director and CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE).

**Emele Biukoto**
- **Graduation:** Dip in Education (1973), Bachelor of Education (Primary) (2000) from USP, Postgraduate Diploma in Education (2003) from USP.
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Occupation:** Education Management Professional, Formerly worked as a lecturer at the Lautoka Teachers’ College.

**Mere Vadei**
- **Graduation:** Diploma in Education (1973), Bachelor of Education (Primary) (2000) from USP, Postgraduate Diploma in Education (2003) from USP.
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Occupation:** Assessment Officer at the Educational Quality and Assessment Program, SPC.

**Mosese Natuilagilagi**
- **Graduation:** Diploma in Education (1983) from USP, Bachelor of Arts (1994) from USP.
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Occupation:** Lecturer at Fiji National University.

**Lawrence Sammy**
- **Graduation:** Bachelor of Arts (1994) from USP.
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Occupation:** Director, Owner - Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada.

**John Jack**
- **Graduation:** Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (1999) from USP, Masters in Information Technology and Systems (2013) from the University of Canberra.
- **Country:** Vanuatu
- **Occupation:** Deputy Chief Information Officer, Vanuatu Government.

**La-Toya Lee**
- **Graduation:** Bachelor of Arts (2016) from USP.
- **Country:** Samoa
- **Occupation:** Communications Assistant Officer of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands/Women Deliver Young Leader.

**Umesh Radhika Prasad**
- **Country:** Fiji
- **Occupation:** Programme Officer - Scope Global, Baoro and Associates.

**Natasha Eddie**
- **Graduation:** Bachelor of Arts (2016) from USP.
- **Country:** Solomon Islands
- **Occupation:** Communications Assistant Officer of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands/Women Deliver Young Leader.

**Freda Wickham**
- **Country:** Solomon Islands
- **Occupation:** Programme Officer - Scope Global, Baoro and Associates.
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Be SMART
Be SAFE
Be READY to fight #COVID19

For the latest health advice, go to: www.who.int/COVID-19

Protect yourself and others from getting sick

Wash your hands
- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste

Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing:
- cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue
- throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use

Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water after coughing or sneezing and when caring for the sick

Protect others from getting sick

Avoid close contact when you are experiencing cough and fever
Avoid spitting in public
If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider.