

SPACE

Newsletter



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School of Pacific Arts, Communication and Education

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SPACE Orientation Day

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I was given significant roles in the annual Ramlila festival and would sometimes accompany my father on St. John Ambulance works, which included a hilarious day at the horse races.

I studied at the University of Wollongong and once received a Prestigious award called the Hari Jones Memorial Prize.

I write in a language that knows no borders, no national boundaries.

I think and think and then I say to hell with life lets drink and play.

Who Am I?



Since its inauguration, the School of Pacific Arts, Communication and Education (SPACE), together with the School of Law and Social Sciences (SoLaSS), for the first time in 2021 hosted its First-Year Students Orientation on Wednesday 24th February at the Australian Pacific Lecture Theatres. One of the theatres was filled with students, while the second lecture theatre accommodated students on live-stream. Staff members came out in full support of their schools and commitment to incoming students.

With his usual aplomb, master of ceremonies Allan Stevens, Station Manager of Radio Pasifik, welcomed the new intake for semester 1, 2021. This set the mood for the orientation and provided a more receptive audience. The orientation is the one place where students get to see the sections of the University from the Vice Chancellor's office, the Heads of Schools, the lecturers to the support staff that all work towards ensuring they provide the best services.

On hand to lend a few brief words of encouragement was the Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, Dr. Giulio Paunga. He explained the uniqueness of their chosen university and what is expected of a USP student. This was followed by Head of School (SPACE) Professor Sudesh Mishra and Acting Head of School (SoLaSS) Associate Professor Sandra Tarte.

Orientations are about understanding the nature of the University and the student-tailored opportunities available to assist them so that their learning journey provides them with the tools to eventually become productive members of society. Students were then taken on a tour of the Laucala Campus, which will become their second home for the next few years or more. The orientation session was one of the initiatives taken by the university and school in welcoming the new students and bridging the gap between pre-tertiary education and university life.

Confucius Institute Celebrates Chinese New Year



Spring Festival was officially launched at the Confucius Institute at The University of South Pacific, Laucala Campus, on 18th February

In her welcoming speech, Dr. Akanisi Kedrayate, the Local Director of CI-USP, thanked the invitees for being part of the festivity. To commemorate the event were the Acting Vice-Chancellor and the President Dr. Giulio Paunga, Director of Human Resources Mr. Maritino Nemani, Head of SPACE Prof. Sudesh Mishra, and Acting Head of School of Law and Social Science Dr. Sandra Tarte.

In China, the Spring Festival is the most important holiday. It is a time of change and new beginnings. Essentially, every activity throughout the Spring Festival has the purpose of doing away with the old and welcoming the new. It is also a time to forget about the misfortunes and be ready for good luck. 2021 heralds a good start of the year and is the year of the Ox. It symbolizes auspiciousness to all.

The Chinese Director Dr. Yang Hui thanked everyone for their constant support towards the Confucius Institute and wished everyone a good Year of the Ox.



Invited guests and those that took part in the Chinese calligraphy

International Women's Day Celebration

Around the world every year, March 8 is marked as International Women's Day. It is a time to acknowledge female pioneers, women who made a stand for equal rights for women and the right to be heard. On this day, we reflect on women's history and reaffirm to take action for gender equality

The School of Pacific Arts, Communications and Education hosted the celebration of International Women's Day, which was led by Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, Local Director of Confucius Institute. International Women's Day was celebrated at the Oceania Centre Pavilion. The Acting Vice-Chancellor & President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Giulio Paunga, delivered a warm welcoming address to USP staff members who took time out of their busy schedules.



Professor Sudesh Mishra, Head of School and SPACE's Gender Champion



Dr Rajni Chand, Director of CFL and Speaker for the 2021 International Women's Day

In line with the International Women's Day celebration, SPACE's Gender Champion and Head of School Professor Sudesh Mishra gave an insightful speech on the need to stand against the patriarchal system, while Dr. Kedrayate reiterated the need that women should support each other and not to depend only on men. She also stated that she was able to build her career with the support of the men in USP.

Executive Director P&WS and Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Committee Mr. Jone Nemani spoke on the three policies that had relatively recently been approved by the Council: **Child Protection Policy**, **Anti Bullying Policy**, and **Sexual Harassment Policy**.



Those who came to celebrate International Women's Day showed their support in wearing either purple, green or white.

To round off the festivity, invitees were treated to Chinese zodiac stories and stories that are associated with the Year of the Ox. They all got a chance to try their hand at Chinese calligraphy before taking a tour of the new Confucius Institute building.

DO YOU KNOW THAT USP HAS A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Oh Wow...COOL!! Please tell me more?

The University of the South Pacific is committed to the safety, protection and welfare of children.

For more information on USP's CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
Staff can contact Human Resource Office and Students can contact Student Counsellors

USP THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

DO YOU KNOW THAT USP HAS AN ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

What??..Really?? I didn't know that. Tell me more?

Yes!! There is a Zero Tolerance policy against Bullying

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when a person or a group repeatedly and intentionally uses or abuse their power to intimidate, hurt, oppress or damage someone else.

Bullying someone is never okay, cool, or acceptable. No one EVER deserves to be bullied.

For more information on USP's ANTI-BULLYING POLICY
Staff can contact Human Resource Office and Students can contact Student Counsellors

STOP BULLYING STAND UP AGAINST IT

USP THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

DO YOU KNOW THAT USP HAS A SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

There is zero tolerance against Sexual Harassment.

Really!!! But what is Sexual Harassment? Please tell me?

Any form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

For more information on USP's SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY
Staff can contact Human Resource Office and Students can contact a Student Counsellor

STOP Sexual Harassment

USP THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC Shaping Pacific Futures



Chinese Spring Festival with International Women's Day

On 11th March 2021, the Confucius Institute celebrated the Chinese Spring Festival with International Women's Day at the Confucius Institute building at Laucala Campus.

Chinese and Local Directors of the Institute Dr Hui Yang and Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, respectively, warmly welcomed invited participants and explained the importance of the Spring Festival and International Women's Day. To commemorate the double celebration, the Confucius Institute organised a floral arrangement workshop. Floral arrangement is the art of using plants of different textures, colours and flowers to create an original eye-catching and well-balanced display. Taking advantage of the large open deck, participants walked around the space with floral foams and cut flowers in readiness for the floral workshop to begin.



Akosita Raicebe, facilitator



From left. Dr Yang Hui, Chinese Director of Confucius Institute. Laisa Yaya, from VP (RC & PF)'s Office. Winner of the flower arrangement Rahkel Mercy from the Chancellor's Office. Jesoni Naga, Oceania Centre. Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, Local Director of Confucius Institute. Vinata Sharma of Educatio facilitator.

Running the workshop was Akosita Raicebe, a florist who has won numerous awards and is well known in the floral arena. Under her guidance, she taught the basic steps in floral arrangement and offered tips on the care of plants, such as that greeneries and steams could be used as part of your creation, among others. At the end of the session, a pair of judges had the difficult task of picking a winner, who was Rahkel Mercy from the Chancellor's office.

It was a day where participants from various sectors within USP got to know each other in a different setting and together celebrated the Chinese Spring Festival and International Women's Day with billions of others around the world. The invitees were to give their floral pieces to a significant other. However, these arrangements can be seen in offices, bringing in colours from the outside and serving as the gift of sharing the celebration.



SPACE Postgraduate Orientation

Once a semester, students enrolled for the postgraduate program have the opportunity to convene in an open and relaxed setting to be oriented on their USP research journey. About 30 postgraduate students got to meet each other, their respective supervisors, and the support team from SPACE at the SPACE Orientation, which was held at the Oceania Centre Pavilion on the evening of 19th March. It was a time for information to be relayed and queries and concerns raised.

Head of School Professor Mishra extended a warm welcome and highlighted the importance of research and the topic that you pick.

According to Professor Mishra, the topic must be interesting to you, and the need for answers is what will drive you during your research.

'Ph.D. and MA candidates have access to the Library Services and Support. According to the School librarian Natasha Skeen, the library works to respond to queries within 24 hours. They also offer a Library postgraduate course.

Dr. Amit Sarwal who is the deputy HOS for Research and Innovation Postgraduate Affairs did a quick run-through of the SPACE Moodle portal. This portal is intended to be a one-stop-shop for all information from research policies to plagiarism to templates and any other information that will be of assistance to students' research and submission.

Temalesi Waqainabete took everyone through a quick presentation on the responsibilities of a research student and the assistance that is available from SPACE. There will be Saturday writing sessions and cluster meetings with students. Students are encouraged to regularly check their SPACE Moodle page. They can always contact Temalesi for any issues or queries.

After the presentation, a few questions from students were clarified. The orientation is an opportunity for the department, through its dialogue with students, to identify areas for improvement, etc. SPACE currently 82 postgraduate students. 52 at Laucala, and 30 from the region.



Deputy Head of SPACE, Dr. Amit Sarwal and Head of SPACE, Professor Mishra



2021 SPACE Laucala based Postgraduate students and SPACE support team.

Yat Sen Visit

Chinese is currently one of top 10 most spoken languages in the world, even as a second language. Just under 40 Year 12 students from Yat Sen and their teachers visited the Confucius Institute on 23rd March. Staff members, Local Director Dr. Akanisi Kedrayate, and Chinese Director Dr. Hui Yang were there to meet the students and take them on a tour of the building. The Confucius Institute boasts its own library and audio-visual space and can cater for the physically challenged students.



This visit was to strengthen the bond between the school and the Confucius Institute. The Institute acts as a bridge for those wishing to study in China by conducting Chinese language courses. To study in China, you must pass the HSK, otherwise known as the Chinese Proficiency Test. There are six levels to the HSK and to be able to study in China, level four is required. The Institute organises two HSK tests every year.

The Confucius Institute has been instrumental in assisting students with Chinese scholarships to China. To date, there are about 60 alumni of the Confucius Institute. Afterward, students were treated to refreshments of Chinese savories, and the staff of the Institute were on hand to answer further questions. This will be the first of many visits.





Moana and Pasifika Voices

Film night at the Centre

Over 100 students and staff congregated at the Oceania Centre Pavilion on March 24th. The Centre hosted its first free movie "Moana" to the USP community. The Centre played an important part in the production of the film. The Oceania Centre's Pasifika Voices was the choir support to the movie according to Head of SPACE, Professor Sudesh Mishra. A short documentary produced by Disney World was shown on the recording of Pasifika Voices. In 2016 a team of producers and technicians from Disney World arrived at USP. ICT was booked and during rehearsals and the recording, the building was on complete lockdown. Very few people knew that Disney World was at the Laucala campus.



In her first solo performance, 19 years old Melemoala Lenati from Tonga, a second-year law student sang "How far I'll go". She joined Pasifika Voices this year and also enrolled in the Oceania Centre Social Class for Vocals. Romeo Sabbath sang "We know the way". Romeo is 21 years old from Samoan and is a third-year student and has been part of Pasifika Voices since 2019. Melemoal and Romeo were backed by the Pasifika Voices Choir. This film night would not have been possible without partnering up with Radio Pasifika of SPACE who brought in the technical expertise and equipment.

"Every child is an artist; the problem is staying an artist when you grow up"
Pablo Picasso

In his welcoming speech the Head of SPACE, Professor Sudesh Mishra said "the centre was going back to encouraging our people, our region, our students to participate in any kind of creativity that they want to do and the centre will support it in whatever way it can. For those that are interested in painting, poetry, any form of writing, music, anything that is creative, standup comedy etc, come onto the Oceania Centre and talk to our people and they will guide you in the right direction. There will be poetry-reading nights and anyone can join us.

The Oceania Centre is an open space, and a safe space, everyone who wants to express themselves creatively can participate. That is the whole idea of this space. And to showcase the talents on campus, Pasifika Voices took to the stage. Pasifika Voices is made up of resident artists and USP students from Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu so far.



19 years old Melemoala Lenati from the kingdom of Tonga, singing "How far I'll go"



Romeo Sabbath singing "We know the way". Romeo is 21 years old and from Samoan



Two alumni from Pasifika Voices, Paulini Bautana and Ratu Eroni Dina