

New Dean for FBT and FNMHS, new Assistant Professor for FST

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has strengthened the capacity of its academic staff ahead of the 2024 academic year by signing two new Deans and an Assistant Professor to fill up key vacant positions within the university.

SINU Human Resources (HR) office announced the signing of three key staff who signed their contracts in January 2024 to join SINU academic staff.

Dr Elliot Mugamu who joined SINU as the Associate Professor in Management and Public Administration for the Faculty of Business and Tourism (FBT) in April 2022 has recently signed a new contract with SINU as the new Dean for FBT.

SINU HR office confirmed the signing of Dr. Mugamu as the new FBT Dean following the successful completion of the appointment process. In a circulated email to all SINU staff, the HR office stated, "I am sending this email to formally confirm and to inform the Senior Management Council (SMC) members that the HR office has completed the appointment of the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Tourism (FBT)."

"Dr Elliot Mugamu has signed his contract as the Dean of FBT early this week."

"Dr Elliot Mugamu joined SINU as the Associate Professor in Management and Public Administration for the FBT in April 2022 and has been here with us for almost two years."

"I am sure that most of the SMC have met him as he is a member of the University Senate." "Let us all support him in his new role as Dean and I am confident that with his wealth of knowledge and experiences at the University Level, he will make positive contributions and impacts to the overall development of the University as the Dean of FBT."

Dr. Elliot Mugamu has now filled the FBT Dean position which has been vacant since 2023.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Health Science (FNMHS) also has a new Dean and he is Dr. Humpress Harrington. Dr. Humpress formally signed his contract as the Dean of FNMHS in January 2024.

"He will formalise his resignation with his current employer and should be joining SINU by February." "Dr Humpress has a Doctor of Philosophy (Health) from James Cook University and is currently the Head of School for Atoifi Adventist College of Nursing."

"He has work experience in the field of nursing as a registered nurse and then as a lecturer for nursing students for more than 20 years."

"We are looking forward for him to take up his role as the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Health Science in February when he completes his resignation and handovers on his current job." "I am confident that with his wealth of knowledge and experiences, he will make positive contributions and impacts to the overall development of the University as the Dean of FNMHS."

"Let us welcome him to the SINU Senior Management Team."

Also joining SINU a new Assistant Professor in Chemistry in the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) is Dr Clyde Gorapava Puilingi.

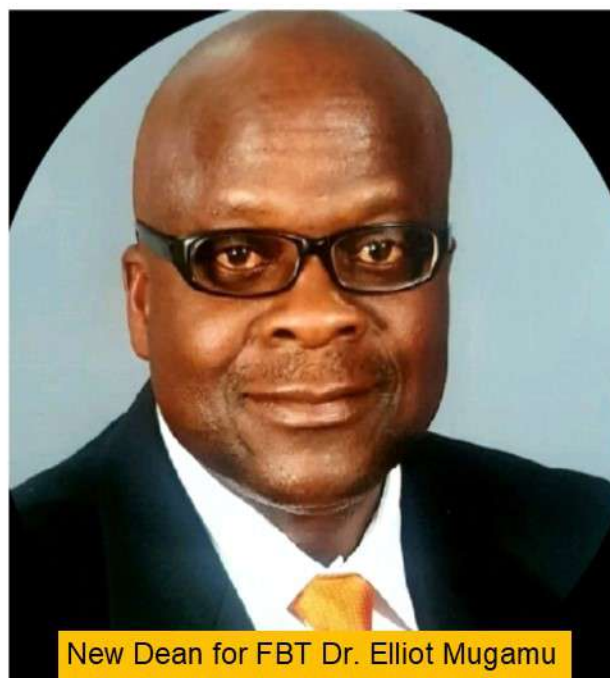
Dr Clyde Gorapava Puilingi formally completed the signing of his contract as the Assistant Professor in Chemistry in January and officially started his duty. "Let us all welcome Dr Clyde Gorapava Puilingi to our SINU Community."

"He has a PhD in Chemistry and also completed his Master Degree in Chemistry/Biochemistry from the Tohoku University, Japan."

"He graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Biology and Chemistry) from the University of the South Pacific." "Before joining SINU this year, he held the Senior Lecturer position in Chemistry with the Pacific Adventist University (PAU) in Papua New Guinea."

"He also held the responsibility as Head of the Chemistry Department and Assistant Dean of the School of Science and Technology." "With his qualifications and experience in the academic field of chemistry, we are looking forward to his contribution and support in the development of our Faculty of Science."

"Dr. Clyde Gorapava Puilingi comes from the Western Province and he is looking forward to serving SINU in his role as Assistant Professor in Chemistry."



New Dean for FBT Dr. Elliot Mugamu

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SINU Graduates attend training on Climate in China

Three graduates from the Department of Fisheries Studies from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) successfully attended a training course on Climate Change Risk Management and Marine Environment Protection in China late last year.

The course was offered by Ocean University of China (OUC) from November 15- 28 2023 attended by Mr. Clarence Cheon, Miss Shirlene Hiru and Miss Serema Kwato'o. Centre for Ocean Carbon Neutrality of China selected the trio to attend what they labelled as an eye opening course.

The training was organized by the Centre for Ocean Carbon Neutrality of China, and it offered 12 thematic modules delivered by well-known scholars and experts from the relevant fields within the University.



Mr. Clarence Cheon, Miss Shirlene Hiru and Miss Serema Kwato'o pose for photo with one the instructors of the training course.

The 12 thematic modules include: Observed Changes in Climate Change, Climate Change Impacts, Extreme Weather Events, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change, Climate System Models and Projections, Carbon Peak and Carbon Neutrality, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals, Blue Economy and Blue Governance, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Marine Environment Protection, and Climate and the Humanities.

Moreover, the training also involves six study tours, two Chinese study classes and two Chinese study cultures. The training brought together participants from Pacific Island Countries, such as Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

During the training, the country representatives were also invited to participate in the 2023 International Forum on Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable

Development.

The forum serves as a platform for global experts, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss and collaborate on strategies for achieving carbon neutrality and promoting sustainable development.

It focuses on addressing the challenges posed by climate change and aims to foster international cooperation in implementing effective solutions. According to Mr. Cheon, Miss Hiru and Miss Kwato'o, the



Miss Shirlene Hiru trying to grasp the lecture content in one of the lecture sessions.

trip was their first time abroad and it was an eye-opening experience, especially on how advance China is.

From the training, the trio were informed that Solomon Islands is among the most affected country in the Pacific by natural disasters.

They were also inspired by the approaches China takes to protect the marine environment in the face of climate change.



Miss Serema Kwato'o tries out Chinese Characters during cultural class.



Participants who attended the training course.



Mr. Clarence Cheon listening attentively during lecture session.

According to them "a shared future hinge on the ability of nations to work together, climate change knows no borders, and its impacts are felt universally".

Thus, their hope is for the nations to have a shared responsibility to protect the planet for current and future generations

SINU Vice-Chancellor addresses Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Health Sciences as the faculty commences 2024 academic year

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Health Sciences (FNMHS) commences 2024 academic year with an orientation on Monday 05-2024.

In a speech commemorating the commencement of the academic year, SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau extended a warm welcome to both new and continuing FNMHS students where he emphasized that the faculty is more than just an academic entity.

In this welcome address Prof. Aqorau said the faculty is a beacon of hope and a testament to SINU's commitment to contributing significantly to the Pacific-wide and global educational goals, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof. Aqorau reminded students that the alignment underscores the national and global responsibility in delivering exceptional quality in teaching, training, and research.

In his speech, Prof. Aqorau also highlighted that in this rapidly changing world, the infusion of technology in healthcare cannot be overlooked where he said the advent of new technologies is reshaping educational paradigms, making it imperative for our faculty to not only keep pace but to lead in the integration of appropriate, relevant, and cost-effective technological tools.

"Our students arrive with a foundational understanding of basic technologies, and it is our responsibility to harness this familiarity, transforming it into a powerful asset for learning and innovation. The global market awaits, and through the strategic use of technology in education, we can ensure our graduates are not just competitive but are leaders on the world stage."

"However, with great power comes great responsibility."

"The adoption of technology must be paired with a steadfast commitment to ethics and decency. It is essential to establish and strictly enforce policies that guide the use of technology, ensuring it serves our goals and upholds our values."

"Regular reviews of these policies will ensure they evolve to meet the ever-changing landscape of healthcare education."

Prof. Aqorau said the faculty's goal is clear and that is to cultivate graduates who are not only proficient in their clinical skills but are also adept in utilizing current technologies. "These individuals will not only excel in their professions but will also possess the agility to continuously update their knowledge and skills in line with technological advancements."

"This dual competence is critical for fostering professionals who can lead the way in improving quality clinical care in developing countries like ours."

"But our vision extends beyond professional knowledge and skills."

"We aspire to mould individuals of strong character, impeccable work ethics, and leadership qualities." "This holistic approach to education is pivotal for nurturing the future thought leaders of the Solomon Islands and the Pacific region."

As John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." "To our students, I encourage you to embrace this journey with an open heart and a keen mind."

"Let curiosity be your guide and resilience your companion." "To our esteemed faculty, your role as educators extends beyond imparting

knowledge; you are the architects of the future, shaping minds and spirits for a better tomorrow."

The Vice Chancellor also announced ongoing efforts by SINU to enhance the quality and global relevance of its academic programs moving forward.

"I am pleased to announce our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and global relevance of our academic programs."

"We are currently in the midst of a comprehensive review of our curricula across all faculties, with a particular focus on meeting and exceeding the rigorous standards set forth by the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education Standards Authority (SITESA)."

"This initiative is a critical step in our strategic plan to achieve accreditation not only under SITESA but also under Australian educational standards."

"This effort underscores our dedication to providing our students with global employability skills, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge, competencies, and professional attributes necessary to excel in a diverse range of healthcare environments."



SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau addressing FNMHS students at the Kukum Lecture Theatre

"Through this strategic initiative, we are not only enhancing the educational experience at SINU but also contributing to the development of a skilled workforce capable of meeting international healthcare standards and demands."

Let us strive to be the change we wish to see, for in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The future depends on what we do in the present."

"Thank you, and I wish you all a fruitful and transformative academic year ahead."



Students listening attentively to VC Prof. Aqorau.

SINU takes part in 2024 International Education Day

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) was also part of the 2024 International Education Day which was held successfully at the Honiara Senior Secondary School on Friday 27 January 2024.

The International Education Day 2024 was marked under the theme, "Learning for Lasting Peace," and this is just the second time that Solomon Islands has marked the International Education day.

The first time the country commemorated the International Education Day was last year in 2023.

Students also collected application forms from the SINU booth with the aim to apply and study at SINU after completing their secondary school.



Cutting of cake to mark the 2024 International Education Day

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) invited SINU to take part in the one-day event to reach out to students by setting up a SINU booth at the event.

Attending the event representing SINU are representatives from the



Honiara Senior High School showing information sheets collected from the SINU booth during the International Education Day.



Students happy after learning about SINU and its programs.

following offices: Distance Flexible Learning (DFL), University Preparatory College (UPC), Marketing and Public Relation Office (MPRO) and Institutional Planning Division (IPD).

During the event participating schools have had an opportunity to visit and seek information from SINU booth where SINU staff gratefully assisted students and teaching staff who keen to know about SINU programs, application and enrolment process, eligibility, and the difference between DFL and UPC.



DFL Tutor Johnny Tasa attending to students who visited SINU booth.



DFL and UPC staff serving students from the SINU booth during the International Education Day.

SINU staff profile

Name: David Maekiki

Province: Malaita

Age: 29

Work station: Kukum Campus **Department:** Office of the Vice- Chancellor

Job title: Executive Assistant in Facilities and Projects

Qualification: Bachelor in Engineering & Projects

How long have you been working here? Four years.

Tell us about your job? I work to ensure that the development of all plans and projects is implemented. Additionally, I collaborate with the SINU Properties department to carry out analyses of elements related to SINU Properties and Projects (such as designs and building rates), ensuring their approval by the SINU Properties committees when needed. In addition to that, I engage in part-time tutoring after hours with the Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (FAFF) in their diploma and certificate programs for certain engineering units.

Why SINU? I am committed to working at SINU because I am passionate about contributing to the development of our Solomon Islands National University by leveraging my knowledge and skills to enhance the human resource capacity of the country through academic qualifications. Additionally, my long-term aspiration for SINU is to foster its advancement to the point where it ranks among the top 10 universities globally.

What do you like about SINU and your job? I like the working environment here at SINU, my supervisors are very helpful when it comes to team work. I like my job because it enables me to learn and discovered new skills and ideas. Working at SINU helps me grow professionally, socially, and mentally.



Teak stamp for sale

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Department of Forestry is selling Teak stump and is calling on interested tree growers to visit their nursey at Kukum campus.

Speaking to Univois Mr. Henry Kaomara Assistant Lecturer Forestry said they have over a thousand Teak trees available for interested buyers.

Asked about their selling price he said each stump costs \$5 where he said interested buyers both SINU staff and outsiders who wish to purchase Teak stump from their nursey are advised to come to Department of Forestry at Kukum Campus and ask for Mr. Kaomara or Peter Mahoa.



SINU department of forestry staff at the Teak nursery site at Kukum campus



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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Pacific Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the

Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.