



First PhD Graduate Marks a New Era for SINU

Eleven years after the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) transitioned to the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) in 2013, SINU has proudly achieved a significant milestone by awarding its first-ever PhD degree.

Dr. Mary Tahu Paia, from Western Province, becomes the first SINU graduand to earn a Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science.

This historic moment was celebrated with cheers at Maranatha Hall as Dr. Mary's family sang and accompanied her to the stage to receive her doctorate.

In his speech at the 2024 graduation ceremony, SINU Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau expressed pride in this achievement, emphasizing its significance for both Dr. Mary and the university.

"Today is historic as we proudly confer our very first PhD degree," Professor Aqorau stated. "This milestone is not just a personal triumph for the graduate, but a landmark in our university's evolution.

It is a powerful reminder that with determination and hard work, we can reach new heights.

To our PhD graduand, your achievement is a shining example of what can be accomplished with dedication and a thirst for knowledge."

The guest of honour, Governor General Sir David Tiva Kapu, along with SINU Chancellor Sir Dr Nathan Kumamusa Kere, were among those who extended their congratulations to SINU and Dr. Mary on this milestone achievement.



SINU Chancellor Sir Dr Nathan Kumamusa Kere and SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau raised Dr. Mary's hands to celebrate a significant achievement for both her and SINU.

Inside this issue:

SINU hosts 11th graduation	2
A Success Story by the SINU Department of Fisheries	4
Staff Profile	5

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Hosts 11th Graduation Ceremony

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) successfully hosted its 11th graduation ceremony on August 22, 2024, at Maranatha Hall, Burns Creek.

A total of 1,200 students graduated, receiving certificates, advanced certificates, diplomas, bachelor's degrees, postgraduate diplomas, and a PhD from the following faculties: The Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, the Faculty of Business & Tourism Studies, the Faculty of Education & Humanities, the Faculty of Nursing, Medicine & Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Science & Technology.

In his speech commemorating the 2024 graduation ceremony, SINU Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau highlighted the significance of the occasion, "Today, we stand on the brink of a new dawn, where hope and promise fill the air with excitement. This gathering is more than a ceremony; it is a celebration of dreams realized, challenges conquered, and futures yet to be written.

I extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests, respected faculty, and to the families and friends who have stood by our graduates with un-

systems behind each graduate. "Behind every graduate stands an indispensable network of support—family, friends, mentors, and loved ones who have been the quiet heroes of your journey.

Their sacrifices have paved the way for you to reach this day of tri-



Graduating students from the Faculty of Business and Tourism Studies.



Graduands in line before the official procession.

umph. Graduates, as you stand on the cusp of new beginnings, I encourage you to honour this network of support. Let the gratitude you feel today extend beyond words—let it be reflected in your actions and in how you give back to your communities."

He urged the graduates, "as you leave the familiar embrace of this university and step boldly into the world, know that you carry within you the seeds of greatness. The path ahead may be filled with uncertainties, but it is also illuminated by boundless possibilities.

wavering support."

Professor Aqorau continued, "above all, we are here to honour you, our cherished graduates. Your hard work, resilience, and determination have brought you to this pinnacle. This is your day, a day that marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. Let us celebrate not just the achievement of a degree, but the journey of growth, discovery, and becoming."

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted two significant achievements during this graduation ceremony: the conferral of SINU's first-ever PhD and the graduation of a Ni-Vanuatu student in the Bachelor of Nursing Acute Care program.

Professor Aqorau also spoke about the value of education and his vision for the future, while extending his gratitude to the families and support



Stage Party Members assemble in line to proceed to the stage .

Approach this journey with courage, determination, and an unwavering belief in your power to effect change. The Solomon Islands is counting on your brilliance, your leadership, and your vision."

He further added, "remember that you have been equipped not only with knowledge but with the capacity to inspire, to innovate, and to lead with integrity.

The future, with all its challenges and opportunities, is yours to shape. Go forth with confidence, knowing that you are prepared to make a difference. Today, as we honour your achievements, we also celebrate



Graduating students from the Faculty of Business and Tourism Studies.

....continue from page two

the journey of the Solomon Islands National University.

Our commitment to excellence is steadfast. We will continue to nurture innovation, expand the horizons of knowledge, and ensure that SINU remains a pillar of education for generations to come. Together, we are building a legacy that will shape the future of our nation.”

“To the Graduating Class of 2024, as you stand on the threshold of

will light your way. Do not be afraid to dream big, to take risks, and to blaze your own trail.”

Professor Aqorau concluded by stating, “go forth with confidence, courage, and the knowledge that you are prepared to make a difference. Congratulations, Class of 2024—your journey has just begun, and the future is yours to create.”

The guest of honour, His Excellency Rev. David Tiva Kapu, Governor General of the Solomon Islands, congratulated the 1,200 graduates on their remarkable achievement and encouraged them to use their knowledge to contribute to the development of the Solomon Islands.

SINU Chancellor Sir Dr. Nathan Kumamusa Kere also addressed the graduates, affirming that they are now well-prepared to face the world and serve their country and families with the qualifications they have obtained from SINU.

He reminded them that, even as they leave the university, they will always remain part of the SINU community. He concluded by congratulating the graduates and their families on their remarkable achievement.



a new chapter, reflect on the journey that has brought you here.

Your time at SINU has prepared you not just for a career, but for a life of purpose and impact. Be bold in your dreams, unwavering in your principles, and compassionate in your actions.

The world is waiting for your brilliance, your creativity, and your leadership.”

Quoting Eleanor Roosevelt, he added, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Your dreams are the compass that will guide you, the stars that



Community Projects: A Success Story by the SINU Department of Fisheries Studies in West Guadalcanal

On Saturday, August 24th, staff from the Department of Fisheries Studies (DFS)—Mr. Collin Gereniu, Ms. Madeline Solo, Mr. Luke Jino, and Dr. Kofi Apreku—traveled to Verahue, West Guadalcanal, as part of a follow-up visit.

The purpose of the visit was to observe how five communities (Verahue Anglican, Verahue Catholic, Hulavu, Kotsatsai, and Kobiloko) are applying the knowledge they received through a series of bottled tuna training sessions provided by the department.

It was amazing to see that the communities have not only mastered the Tuna Bottling production process, but are eager to share the

knowledge with other communities in West Guadalcanal.

The demonstration session was hands-on and practical by the community members themselves, with little instruction from the SINU/DFS team.

The members demonstrated every step of the process meticulously; show-casing their newly acquired skills in every step of the process, from preparation of the raw tuna to the final product, while ensuring product safety.



Training at the Department of Fisheries Studies



Members from the 5 West Guadalcanal Communities with their bottled tuna products

The community members showed that not only have they become adept at the technical side of things, but also understand the critical importance of food safety and hygiene to prevent contamination.

A key part of the process involved sterilizing the Bottled Tuna using pressure cookers (f-value >4), ensuring that the final products are both safe to eat and long-lasting.

This initiative was more than just about food—it was about giving local communities the tools they need to improve food security and build sustainable livelihoods.

This, indeed is a success story. Equipment and training to the communities were supported by Amblève Bedrock Foundation, and American conservation foundation.

Staff Profile

Name: Lovelyn Chapi

Province: Guadalcanal

Age: 28

Work station: SINU DFL

Department: Administration and Finance

Job title: Part time Finance and Logistic Officer

Qualification: Bachelor of Accounting.

How long have you been working here? 1 year 7 months.

Tell us about your job: In a Combine role, a finance and Logistics Officer would handle both financial and logistical tasks, ensuring that the financial aspects of logistics operations are well-managed. This includes budgeting for logistics activities, analysing costs, and optimizing supply chain processes to be cost-effective and efficient. I love that my job makes me think more and be creative.

What do you like about SINU and your job? My personal experience that I can share is that SINU plays a vital role in the education and development of the Country (Solomon Islands) making it a rewarding place to work. Thus, the university offers a vibrant and diverse environment with students and staff from various backgrounds. I love SINU because it is first and foremost, the National University in our country. I also love working here because my colleagues are easy to work with and that we work well together. I also like SINU because it is just a young University and that I hope the work I do here does contribute to the changes. I hope in the next 10 years SINU will become one of the premier University in the Pacific.

Therefore, I love my task because it more involves in a mixture of Financial Management, Logistics and Administration role. It helps develop a wide range of skills from Financial management and customer services to logistics and administrative support. Moreover, I really collaborate with my work colleagues and resolving issues that arise in the implementation of tasks.



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