

Samoa Observer: 62-year-old grandma wins scholarship

By Bethel Peato Ale, 10 December 2021



The 62-year-old believes that it is never too late to achieve your ambitions. (Photo: Junior S Ami)

A grandmother is the recipient of a Yazaki Kizuna Foundation Scholarship and is currently undertaking a bachelor's degree at the National University of Samoa.

For 62-year-old Mary Margraff Petaia, she is not letting her age become a deterrent to her achieving her life-long dream and is now in the second year of her undergraduate degree program at the NUS in development studies.

She is the latest recipient of a scholarship funded by the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation in coordination with the university.

Mrs. Petaia is the wife of a retired church minister who served in the village of Lefaga and says it has been her lifelong dream to attain a university degree.

"I came to enrol back in 2019, there I found out that there were scholarships given out by the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation, I applied and my application was successful," she told the Samoa Observer.

"It has been my long-time ambition to study and get a degree, when my husband and I retired I decided to attend the National University of Samoa and pursue a bachelors degree in development studies.

In a brief presentation ceremony at the N.U.S. on Friday, Mrs. Petaia used the opportunity to thank the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation and its Managing Director as well as staff for the funding assistance, which has enabled her and her fellow recipients to complete yet another year of studies in the various qualifications that they are currently pursuing.

"We believe that we would not have made it this far without the tremendous support the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation provided to fund our studies," she added.



Mrs. Petaia receives her award after successfully completing her second year of undergraduate studies. (Photo: Junior S Ami)

"The foundation has been a generous donor not only in Samoa but throughout the world in the area of human development, and we are indeed fortunate and very proud to be a part of those developments."

Noting the curiosity about her decision to return to studies in her 60s, Mrs. Petaia challenged others like her, saying it is never too late to pursue one's dream.

"Neither time nor age matters in education, whether you are 20, 30, 40 or 80 education never discriminates against age or gender," she said.

"It is above everything and hence there is no deterrent for knowledge except lack of motivation."

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