



NEWSLETTER

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Opening Ceremony of MSc in Immunology & Research Workshop
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NEWS

Dinuli Francisco Chronicles the Tale of an Inspired Visionary



In the realm of academia, the title of Vice-Chancellor (VC) stands as a beacon of leadership, vision, academic excellence, and unwavering integrity. It's an embodiment of inspiration that echoes across the hallowed corridors of learning, shaping the future with an illustrious touch. However, in the intricate tapestry of Sri Lankan

education culture, the VC's position sometimes casts an imposing shadow, a figure perceived as distant and dictatorial. But amidst this, emerges a figure of exception, a paragon of compassion and transformation – Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage.

As the news reverberated through the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ), hearts collectively ached at the revelation that Senior Professor Liyanage chose not to vie for a second term as Vice-Chancellor. Instead, he opted for a sabbatical, a decision that sent ripples of emotions through the entire USJ family. Within its close-knit embrace, Senior Professor Liyanage nurtures a unique community, one he envisions soaring to heights comparable to international peers. Fondly called "Hadawathe Upakulapathi," meaning "VC in the Heart," he etches his identity into the souls of students. Under his stewardship, the university underwent a metamorphosis, a sweeping transformation that left no stone unturned. The campus flourished into a tapestry of green, embodying a beacon of environmental consciousness. The academic stature soared, propelling USJ to the ranks of Sri Lanka's premier universities. And in his wake, he left a trail of upgraded student facilities, ensuring a nurturing environment for future scholars.

A man of humility, Senior Professor Liyanage, though hesitant, opened a window into his journey. His academic pilgrimage commenced within the very halls he would later steer. Graduating in Chemistry from USJ, he traversed the scholarly seas under the aegis of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, leading him to the shores of Cardiff University in Wales, where his doctorate flourished. His expertise in inorganic chemistry, inorganic synthesis, rubber chemistry, and water quality took him as a postdoctoral scholar to revered foreign universities, imprinting his legacy across borders.

The tale took a turn as he embraced the role of Dean at the Faculty of Applied Science (FAS). His indomitable spirit sculpted FAS into a realm of recognition. He expanded its borders, welcoming departments that fortified the academic realm. The seeds he planted burgeoned into a faculty that stood among the top echelons, its academic cadre and student numbers flourishing under his touch.

But that wasn't his zenith. His vision birthed faculties anew, their foundations echoing his insights. The Technology Faculty at Pitipana, the Faculties of Computing, Dental Sciences, and Urban Science and Aquatic Bioresources, and the majestic "Sri Wimaladarma Mansion" – all these were initiatives taken by Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, former Vice Chancellor of USJ and currently the Chairman of the University Grants Commission, which were implemented by Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage, culminating in a symphony of progress resonating through USJ's corridors. The friendship between these two academics was an added advantage in the implementation of these projects together with the team effort of all the Deans of the faculties.

Unveiling yet another facet of Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage's visionary leadership, USJ etched its name in history. It became the first South Asian university to document its Carbon Footprint under his tenure, an embodiment of his commitment to sustainable growth.

Senior Professor Liyanage's days were a whirlwind of engagements, speeches, signatures, and meetings. An average soul might be overwhelmed, but not this trailblazer. Amidst the frenzy, he adorned each interaction with an infectious smile, reaching out with open arms to students, hugging their aspirations as they signed applications, scholarships, and tournament entries.

A pioneer he remained, securing a historic place in the Association of Commonwealth Universities as the first Sri Lankan representative, a testament to his international stature. His affiliations stretch like constellations across the academic sky, each point a testimony to his dedication to shaping education's future.

Among his pearls of wisdom, a particular phrase echoed, resonating across social media landscapes. "Shape your personal lives as you shape your careers," he ardently preached. To him, the university was a haven for holistic growth, nurturing not only intellect but also self-discovery.

The pandemic unveiled yet another facet of his character. As COVID-19 graduation ceremonies loomed, he faced a dilemma – mask or no mask? The stakes were high, yet his heart dictated an

unmasked smile for his graduates' keepsake photos. It was a decision beyond the intellect, driven purely by his love for his students.

Within the student community, his 3H formula, 'Head, Heart, and Hand,' echoed as a mantra for success. To Senior Professor Liyanage, these were the triad of life, the elements that create a symphony of accomplishment.

As he embarks on his sabbatical, the campus braces itself for his return. For his journey is far from over, as he weaves himself back into the academic realm, inspiring generations anew with his boundless passion and indomitable spirit.

Dinuli Francisco is a final year undergraduate of the Department of English, FHSS,

Inauguration Ceremony of MSc in Immunology

The Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, took the initiative to introduce the MSc in Immunology (SLQF 10), becoming the first university in the South Asia region to offer this program. The inauguration ceremony was held on 23rd of February 2023 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ.

The program was designed in partnership with Sung Kyun Kwan University, The Republic of Korea as a part of the leading university project for international cooperation which aims to develop educational and scientific research in fields of Immunology and Molecular Medicine.



Inauguration Ceremony of MBA/M.Sc. in Management Programme 2023

The Inauguration Ceremony of the MBA/M.Sc. in Management Programme 2023 was successfully held on February 19, 2023, at the Senate Boardroom of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The ceremony was led by Mr. Pushpika Janadeera, Managing Director of Dipped Products PLC and a proud J'pura MBA alumnus. He shared his experiences in the export market before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting how his J'pura MBA expertise had fostered in his professional success. Prof. P.D. Nimal, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Prof. S.T.W. Saman Yapa, Chairman—of the Board of Studies in Management Studies, Prof. M.A.K. Sriyalatha, Coordinator—MBA Unit, and Ms. W.R.M. Shehani Shanika, Assistant Coordinator of the same Unit, graced the ceremony. Senior academics representing the lecture panel including Professor Aruna Shantha Gamage who was the former coordinator of the Unit also participated and added more colour to the ceremony. A total of 100 candidates participated in the inauguration ceremony, representing diversified professional backgrounds.



SECRA conference, Thailand

Mr. M.H.D.N. Perera, Lecturer of the Department of Entrepreneurship participated in the SECRA Conference in Thailand from 6th February to 10th February.

LEARN Tributes the Support Extended for Higher Education During the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Harsha Munasinghe, Information Systems Manager (Director of LEARN) and Mr. Suresh Nanayakkara, Assistant Network Manager of Centre for IT Services, University of Sri Jayewardenepura were appreciated for their contribution at the 13th Annual General Meeting of Lanka Education And Research Network (LEARN) held on the 27th of January 2023 for the support extended for higher education during the Covid-19 pandemic.



During the Covid-19 lockdown, LEARN played a crucial role in ensuring the continuity of higher education by collaborating with the Telecommunications



Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, University Grants Commission, and local Internet Service Providers to provide free access to online education. Through this initiative, lectures could continue via Zoom and e-learning systems, enabling students to continue their studies despite the pandemic-related challenges.



LEARN obtained the support of four state universities with servers in the early days of this initiative, and tokens of appreciation were presented to Mr. Harsha Munasinghe and to Mr. Suresh Nanayakkara, those who supported these efforts from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

This collaboration enabled students to continue their education uninterrupted, highlighting the importance of public-private partnerships in ensuring access to education in challenging times.

Ceremonial Opening of the Refurbished Anatomy Auditorium

The ceremonial opening of the refurbished Anatomy Auditorium of Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ, was held on the 20th Monday February 2023. This historical occasion was graced by Prof. Upul Subasinghe, Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Snr. Prof. Aloka Pathirana, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and many other distinguished guests, academic and non-academic staff members and students.



The renovations of this auditorium with a history of over 30 years, commenced in July 2019 and completed under the guidance of Dr. Varuni Tennakoon, Head of the Department of Anatomy and Snr. Prof. Aloka Pathirana, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences in 2023.

The fully-fledged auditorium meets the latest advances in multimedia and sound systems and has the capacity to accommodate over 300 students at a time. The auditorium is planned to be utilized extensively for lectures and teaching activities of medical undergraduates.



World Oral Health Day celebration 2023: Oral health screening programme for first year undergraduate students and staff at University of Sri Jayewardenepura



The newly established Faculty of Dental Sciences organized a special event to commemorate World Oral Health Day in collaboration with the Medical Centre, USJP and the Sri Lanka Dental Association on 21 March 2023 at the Medical Centre. The celebrations included an oral health screening programme for 500 First year undergraduate students and staff of University of

Sri Jayewardenepura. Participants with dental treatment needs identified during the screening programme were registered and necessary treatments will be provided at the already existing dental unit of the Medical centre with the support of the academic staff of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Dental consultancy services have been made available in the at the Dental unit of the Medical centre and very soon at the recently established Dental Professorial unit at Colombo South Teaching Hospital.



Prof. Deepthi Inoka Uluwaduge appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences



Prof. Deepthi Inoka Uluwaduge has been appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura from 23rd March 2023. She assumed duties at a ceremony attended by Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. S. M.C.U.P Subasinghe, Founder Dean, Prof. D. M. S Fernando, the Registrar of the University Mr. A.B. Weliwita, and other academic and non-academic members of the faculty.

Prof. Inoka Uluwaduge graduated from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura with B Sc (Honours) in Human Biology specializing in Biochemistry. She joined the Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Ragama as a probationary lecturer in 2000. She completed her PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In 2008 she joined the Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Since then, Prof. Uluwaduge has contributed in many ways to the University. She had been a coordinator of the B Sc in Medical Laboratory Sciences Degree Programme, Founder head of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Founder Head of the Department of Basic Sciences, Coordinator of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (2019-2021), Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and the faculty

representative of the University Cooperate Plan (2019-2021). As the founder chairperson, she was committed in establishing, the Ethics Review Committee for Animal Studies (ERC-AS) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. During her recent sabbatical leave, she served as the founder Head and Professor of the Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry and pioneered in establishing the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa.



Opening of Dental Professorial Units at Colombo South Teaching Hospital

The Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura has expanded its facilities with the opening of new dental professorial units at the Colombo South Teaching Hospital. The Dental Professorial Units were opened by the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Upul Subhasinghe, and the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Dr. Asela Gunawardene on 11th of April 2023. The professorial units will serve as clinical teaching grounds for dental undergraduate students, providing them with the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience in a clinical setting under the supervision of experienced dental professionals.



The opening of the new dental professorial units at the Colombo South Teaching Hospital marks a significant milestone for the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. With these new facilities, the Faculty is better equipped to provide dental students with the practical training and experience they need to become successful dental professionals, while also promoting dental health and wellbeing in Sri Lanka.



The Inauguration Ceremony of Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology- Department of Forensic Medicine



The inauguration ceremony for the 3rd intake of Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology programme conducted by the Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences was held on the 16th of April 2023 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the participation of over 140 students. The DFMT programme had been initiated in 2019 and had gained its popularity among different stakeholders of the criminal

justice system of Sri Lanka including the lawyers, police officers, probation officers, criminology undergraduates and postgraduates.



Certificate Course on Research Methodology and Scientific Writing

On February 10, 2023 the 11th group of the Certificate course on Research Methodology and Scientific Writing started with an enrollment of 224 students in the first batch of 2023. Dr. Shantha Wijesinghe, Head, Department of Geography, USJ and Mrs. Dileepa Endagama, Senior Lecturer, Department of Decision Sciences, USJ are serving as the course co-coordinators of this program.

CONFERENCE & RESEARCH

Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources (FUAB) Collaborates with OREL Corporation Pvt Ltd.



The world's population is expected to grow up to 9.32 billion by 2050. The challenge of agriculture, at the onset of the increasing world's population, demands the enhancement of global food security.

Internet of Things (IoT) in urban agriculture was designed as an enabling technology to equip farmers and food producers with the knowledge and expertise on utilizing the urban bioresources for optimal food production. The IoT-based agriculture

system has been designed with the capability of real-time monitoring of the farmlands. The hallmark of these systems is the sensor-mediated automated monitoring system with continuous remote access to monitor the field conditions through IoT Analytics Platform. This smart farming sensor-based technology would be the next revolution of precision agriculture towards sustainable food production.

With the aim of engaging innovative cutting-edge technologies to expand our research capabilities, FUAB has started a research collaboration on the development of IoT-based smart farming technology with OREL Corporation Pvt Ltd. and signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) on 3rd August 2022. This collaborative project was initiated by Dr Surani Chathurika, Senior Lecturer, department of Urban Bioresources with Dr Rangika De Silva, Director of innovations, OREL Pvt Ltd.



This collaborative research project has enabled two undergraduate students of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura to conduct their undergraduate research projects in OREL research facility. With the success of the pilot research trial conducted, the OREL Corporation has started its commercial operations at its premises.

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has become the pioneer of enrolling students of the 2021/2022 academic year

The inauguration ceremony of the Orientation program for the new intake of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (2023) was held on the 16th January 2023 with the participation of the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Prof. S M C U P Subasinghe, Registrar of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Mr.A.B. Weliwita, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Librarian, Heads of Departments as well as the academic members of the faculty. The President of the Student Union of the Faculty welcomed the new students by addressing about the student culture at the University. Finally, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda addressed the students on the current context of the faculty and the manner in which the faculty and students must move forward with the progressive technology to further improve their university life. The inauguration ceremony was successfully concluded and the Orientation Program conducted until the 20th January 2023.

Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day 2023

VURD 2023, organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on 21st February, 2023. The theme of this year's conference was Exploring Undergraduates Potential for a Sustainable Future. The conference focused on uplifting the skills of the undergraduates and providing an exposure to ascertain and share novel knowledge through research related to the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.



Student Symposiums (BISSS) Award Ceremony and Industry resource person felicitation

The Business Information Systems Student Symposiums (BISSS) Award Ceremony organized by the Department of Information Technology was held at the Faculty Board Room on the 24th of February 2023. The award ceremony was organized with two intentions, first of it being to recognize the presenters and special award winners of the Student Symposiums from 2020 – 2022 and secondly to appreciate the contributions made by key resource persons from the industry who joined hands with knowledge sharing sessions of the Department with the intention of sharpening the skills of the undergraduates and to provide the grooming necessary for them to enter the corporate world.

Ms. L.I. Assalaarachchi, one of the winners under the Best Software Development project category at BISSS 2022 conducted a demonstration on the winning project, developed with the intention of streamlining the internship record management process of the Department and Ms. P.G.S.S. Ranasinghe, the winner of the best extended abstract at BISSS 2022 presented her research work under “Factors Affecting the Intention to Pirate Software Products among Undergraduates”. Over sixty students were eligible for certificates and medals at the Award Ceremony and the corporate invitees received a special appreciation during the event. The event concluded with a brief networking session where the corporate participants conveyed their thankfulness for organizing the event and appreciated the skills of the Department undergraduates.



04th Commerce Research Symposium

The Department of Commerce organized its 4th Commerce Research Symposium on the 27th of February 2023 at the New Faculty Board Room, where it provided a platform for undergraduates to showcase their research capabilities to their peers, and academic staff. The symposium included three presentations from undergraduate students who had completed their research projects as a partial requirement of Independent Study (COM 4643). In addition to the presentations, 35 abstracts from the undergraduates' research projects were published in the symposium proceedings. This event was organized by Dr. K. Vilani Sachithra (Coordinator, COM 4643) and Mr. LKRD Kulawardana (Lecturer - Probationary).

6th Student Conference in Finance (SCF 2023)



The Student Conference in Finance (SCF) is annually organized by the Department of Finance upon its initiation in 2017 with the steering intention of providing a platform for the final year undergraduates of the department to showcase their capability in conducting research and to present their research findings to their peers, juniors, academics, and industry experts. The 6th SCF was successfully held on the 28th April 2023 via Zoom from 8 a.m. onwards. Fifteen selected research studies of the undergraduates were presented at the conference covering subjects of corporate finance, corporate governance, portfolio management, financial management, business valuation, behavioural finance etc. Extended abstracts of these studies were published as proceedings of the conference. The Chief Guest for this event was the Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Upul Subasinghe and the Guest of Honour was the Dean, FMSC Prof. P D Nimal.

The keynote speaker of the 6th SCF was Prof. Wasantha Perera, Department of Finance, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

8th International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS 2023)



The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura held the 8th International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS 2023) on 16th (Thursday) and 17th (Friday) March 2023 successfully. The conference was conducted as a hybrid event, with the inauguration

ceremony held at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura senate board room, while the speeches and presentations were held virtually.

The conference, which was guided by the theme "Seeing through Testing Times and the Future," aimed at providing a platform for renowned intellectuals and emerging scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research on all aspects of Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference encouraged research that investigates both the challenges and opportunities posed by the current socio-economic situations and analyzes their implications to propose strategic plans.



IRCHSS 2023 hosted several tracks, including Buddhist Studies, Religion and Philosophy, Communication, Media and Society, Economics, Governance and Development, Geography and Environment, History, Culture and Heritage, Language and Literature, Technology, Innovation, and Education, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, and English Language Teaching. The conference also had a special symposium on English Language Teaching and Learning and welcomed abstracts pertaining to all aspects of English Language Teaching and Learning.

Symposium on Interlacing Engineering Research

The Symposium on Interlacing Engineering Research aims to facilitate convergence and collaboration between multidisciplinary research groups in the engineering field. The symposium will lay the groundwork for a subsequent International Conference on the Convergence of Research in Engineering, planned to be organized by the Faculty of Engineering,

USJ. The goal is to bolster approximately 100 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professionals who represent experts across the STEM fields. This gathering aims to place students, early-careers, and mid-careers at the forefront of STEM research.

The symposium was successfully conducted on the 28th of February 2023 at the Senate boardroom of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. 100+ participants were presented on the date including invited guests, senior academic staff members of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, poster presenters, students, and faculty staff members. The chief guest for the session was Snr. Prof. Sampath Amarathunga, chairman, University Grant Commission.

The invited guest speakers for the session were Prof. Jagath Samarabandu, Dr. Arjuna Madanayake, Snr. Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Prof. S. Witharana, Dr. Sirani M. Perera, and Eng. (Dr.) Sanath Panawenna. A total of 6 guest speech sessions were conducted with trending technologies.

Thirty-three posters had been submitted by experts across the STEM fields, and 12 were selected to present in the symposium. The remaining poster presentations were displayed during the refreshment session and the audience engaged with that session attractively.



International Research Conference in Health Sciences (IRCHS) 2023, FAHS, USJ

The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) successfully organized the International Research Conference in Health Sciences (IRCHS) 2023 on the theme, "Innovation, collaboration and experientia: For the sustainable development of health and well-being". The conference was held on 31st of March 2023 as a hybrid event at the Senate Board room of USJ.



The conference aimed to provide a platform for researchers, academics, professionals, and students to share their knowledge and experience in various fields of health sciences. The conference tracks covered topics such as 'Nursing Management and Health Promotion', 'Discovery, Development and Quality Use of Medicines', and 'Health, Nutrition and Laboratory Diagnostics'.



The Chief Guest of the conference was Senior Prof. Susirith Mendis, Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. Prof. Upul Subhasinghe, the Acting Vice Chancellor, USJ, Prof. Inoka Uluwaduge, the Dean, FAHS, Deans of other faculties, department heads, and other invited speakers also graced the occasion. The faculty oration was delivered by Prof. Inoka Uluwaduge, the Dean, FAHS, and the keynote speaker of the conference was Dr. Sujatha Seneviratne, from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS.

IRCHS 2023 programme included a pre-conference workshop on “Innovations and Inventions from Bench to Shelf” which was organized to promote and guide viable innovations and inventions among undergraduates and postgraduates.

A symposium was also held along with the conference on “Sustainable development of health and well-being”. Three eminent international speakers shared their insights on various aspects of this theme. Prof. Leanne Boyd, of Monash University & La Trobe University, Executive Director-Learning and Teaching Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer made a speech on “Contemporary challenges for the nursing and midwifery profession”. Dr. Shellyza Moedina Sajwani, Co-chair FIP Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee (2023), Co-founder/Co-chair of Canadian Association of Pharmacy for the Environment, and Board Member of Pharmacists Without Border Canada delivered a speech on “Sustainability environment and planetary health; Role of the pharmacist, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy educators”. Ms. Magen Coleman, Compliance Manager of Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Otago delivered a speech on “Laboratory safety and compliance, with a focus on human element”.

The Young Innovators Award in Health Sciences was also given away for the third consecutive year, where the Best Innovator in Health Sciences 2023, and 1st and 2nd Runners-Up awards were selected through a panel of 15 expert reviewers.



Senior Professor Sampath Amarathunga's Vision of Research Bears Fruit: First Doctorate from the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura Achieves Outstanding Research Performance



As the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, UGC Chairman Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge significantly improved the standards of the university. Three new faculties were established thanks to his long-term vision: the Faculties of Technology, Engineering, and Allied Health Sciences. He was also instrumental in laying the foundation stone to create the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bio-resources.

He regarded research as the driving force behind national progress and a means to elevate the university to international standards. In pursuit of this goal, he elevated the research committee at USJ to the status of a research council, incorporating up to twenty-five research centers. The groundbreaking research programs that were initiated during Prof. Amaratunge's first term in office are equally notable.

With a budget base of about Rs. 400 million, the newly established research council spearheaded research efforts that were focused on regionally and globally significant initiatives. The period also witnessed large strides of development in the spheres of quality enhancement, the introduction of new technology, and strategic relations. He established the University of Sri Jayewardenepura's Invention, Innovation, and Venture Creation Council after recognizing the gap between academic instruction and industrial demands. This initiative inspired students and staff to engage in innovations and ventures.

Professor Amarathunga's visionary approach to fostering research is beginning to yield tangible results, exemplified by the successful completion of the first PhD research project within the Faculty of Technology at USJ. This project stands as a shining example of the substantial benefits derived from his forward-thinking leadership. The study, titled "Synthesis and Characterization of Ceramic Composites Derived from Eppawala Apatite for Automotive and Industrial Applications," received substantial support, with approximately Rs. 6 million in funding. These funds were generously provided through two university research grants from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura: ASP/01/RE/TEC/2017/43 and ASP/01/RE/FOT/2019/61. During his tenure as the former Vice-Chancellor,

Sr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge played a pivotal role in the inception of these research grants. Dr. Rajitha Gunaratne, the inaugural Senior Lecturer to join the Faculty of Technology and former Head of the Department of Materials & Mechanical Technology at USJ, achieved the significant milestone of securing these research grants for the Faculty of Technology for the first time in 2017. Ms. Kalinga Damsisi Hapuhinna was the first graduate research assistant attached to the Faculty of Technology, USJ, who carried out all research activities for this project. She followed her doctorate degree under the Board of Multidisciplinary, Faculty of Graduate Studies, USJ. Her project was under the internal supervision of Dr. Rajitha Gunaratne, while she received external supervision from Prof. Jagath Pitawala, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Uva Wellassa University. She defended her PhD successfully with a historical record from the FGS, USJ, last week, with 06 Sri Lankan patents (LK/P/20348, LK/P/20349, LK/P/20350, LK/P/20351, LK/P/20352, LK/P/20353) 10 indexed journal publications (including SCI/Scopus indexed peer review journal publications), and 03 abstracts at international conferences. Two of these publications have already been published in the 20th International Research Conference (IRC) proceedings held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 2018 and the Nature Biomimetics in Bioengineering Conference held in Brisbane, Australia, in 2019. She was awarded the 2nd runners up Young Innovator's Award in Health Sciences at the Research Conference in Health Sciences, "Fostering healthcare needs through research and innovation" in 2021, organized by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, USJ. Another 03 recent full paper publications related to her study are under review in SCI/Scopus-indexed peer-reviewed journals. Currently, she holds memberships in several global and local scientific societies and associations and has attended several scientific workshops as well.

The project findings suggest that, as a low-middle-income country, obtaining the proper compensation for non-renewable Eppawala rock phosphate, considering its resource-related wealth, is a timely requirement for Sri Lanka. Therefore, inventing and commercializing novel phosphorous findings from the Eppawala rock phosphate deposit is economically beneficial for Sri Lankans. As a result, this research has invented novel methods to synthesize hydroxyapatite ceramic varieties and process several hydroxyapatite composites as a value addition to Sri Lankan Eppawala high-grade rock phosphate (HERP). After value addition, it has been shown that synthesized advanced nano-ceramic materials and their composites have a lot of commercial benefits in the field of biomedical, automotive, and other industries all over the world; they are also beneficial for earning more foreign income into the country and improving living standards for Sri Lankan citizens. These novel findings will be commercialized in the near future.

Even though Ms. Hapuhinna's study was severely affected by the Easter bomb blasts, non-academic strikes, and covid-19 quarantine period, she was able to finish her research activities successfully.

We expect this is just the beginning of a new era for innovative research from USJ scientists, and there will be more innovations with the vision of Prof. Amaratunge in the near future.

16th International Conference on Pali and Buddhist Studies

16th International Conference on Pali and Buddhist Studies organized by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 28th February 2023 at the Sumangala auditorium.

This research symposium was attended by the Vice-chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Keynote Speaker; Associate Prof. Rangama Chandawimala Thero, Buddhist College of Singapore. Guest of Honor: Ven. Dr. Pannila Ananda Nayaka Thero, Abbot, Aththanagalla Rajamaha Viharaya, Aththanagalla.

Houston Buddhist Vihara in USA, Theravada Buddhist Vihara in Taiwan, Secretary of Dharma Vijaya Buddhis Vihara in Los Angeles, USA, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies; Prof. Elamaldeniye Sarananda Thero, academic members and a large number of distinguished guests.



WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

Mindfulness and Healthy Living for FAHS Academics

A workshop on Mindfulness and Healthy Living was conducted for academic staff members of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences on 15th February 2023 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Sanath Mahawithanage who is the Director of the Center for Mindfulness based Research & Practices and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This was organized by the Staff Development Committee of FAHS as their second workshop in 2023. The workshop was very interactive and participants were able to experience the true nature of mindfulness with mindful walking and sitting. They were also able to learn how to integrate mindfulness into day to day activities.



Workshop on Academic Writing

A Series of Workshops were organized for the subject ENT 4341: Professional Skills Development which is coordinated by Ms. H.N.R. Gunawardane. Accordingly, workshop on Academic Writing was held on 25th April 2023 at 6.00 pm via Zoom which conducted by Ms. Radhika Ponnamparuma.

Preconference workshop on Innovations and inventions from Bench to Shelf



Preconference workshop on 'Innovations and inventions from bench to shelf' was held on 21st March 2023 from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ). The target audience of the workshop was undergraduates of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. The main objective of organizing this workshop was to promote enthusiasm towards innovations and inventions among undergraduate students and to make them aware on innovation strategies. Further, the workshop guided

them to identify viable innovations and inventions, and essential steps to be followed during the process of innovations and inventions from bench to shelf.

The pre-conference workshop started with the lecture on "Reaching the summit: A journey from bench to shelf" by Prof. Sugandhika Suresh, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ. Then, Mr. Tishan Perera, Manager, University Business Cell (UBL), USJ talked on "Viable innovations", while Mrs. AmaliIndika Hettige, Manager, UBL, University of Moratuwa, talked on "Intellectual properties and innovations". The talks were followed by an interactive session on searching for viable innovations and inventions, a hands on experience which was resourced by Mrs. Chathuri Liyanage, Mr. Tishan Perera, and Mrs. Amali Hettige. After that Mr. Thisara Watawana, Director, Boffin Institute of Data Science delivered a lecture on use of free software.

More than 50 students registered and participated at the workshop which was sponsored by, Boffin Institute of Data Science.



Organizing Outbound Training program (OBT)

The students of the Department of Entrepreneurship recently participated in an exhilarating Outbound Training Program (OBT) from the 7th to the 9th of April 2023. The program, which saw the participation of the 2nd Year, 3rd Year, and 4th Year batches of the department, was held at the esteemed Commando Regiment Training School located in Uwa Kuda Oya. This unique and immersive training experience provided the students with valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth. This OBT programme was organized by Ms. P.T.D. Liyanage as the coordinator of ENT 3341 – Professional Skills Development I and Ms. H.N.R. Gunawardane as the coordinator of ENT 4342 - Professional Skills Development II.



CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ILLUMINO 1.0 – Installation ceremony of Japura Tourism

ILLUMINO 1.0, the Installation Ceremony of Japura Tourism was held on 30th of January at 2.00 p.m. at the Sumangala Auditorium. The chief guest of the event was Mr. Thorz.



Biofuels for Sustainable Future: A Global Perspective

Biofuels for Sustainable Future: A Global Perspective, organized by the Green Hub of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 3rd March at New Senate Boardroom.



Research project on Promoting Traditional and Rural Industries in Sri Lanka

The Department of Marketing Management - USJ presented a project on Promoting Traditional and Rural Industries in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Division of Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Ministry of Industries and National Crafts Council on the 10th of February 2023 at the ministry premises.

The project presentation comprised of research findings and recommendations with a comprehensive business model catering to the development of traditional industries in Sri Lanka.



Phase 1 of Surmount 2023

Mr. P.L.Rathnasekara, Assistant Lecturer of the Department of Entrepreneurship participated in the Phase 1 of Surmount 2023, **How to make your way into the world of business as an entrepreneur** successfully concluded on 24th February 2023.



Heta Lowata Diriyak CSR program

To be a strength to children who are struggling to win the battle of life with knowledge amidst thousands of barriers, the CEFEN Students' Association of the Department of Entrepreneurship of University of Sri Jayewardenepura has successfully completed the 2nd phase of this Social Responsibility project at Kadugoda Maha Vidyalaya, Waga on 10th March 2023.



Finance Insights

On 24th March 2023, the Students' Association of Finance organized the official launch event of 'Finance Insights,' an innovative initiative introduced through LinkedIn. This dedicated page serves as a platform to provide the community with valuable insights, trends, and updates in the field of finance. Covering a diverse range of topics such as the global and local economy, equity and bond markets, forex markets, and commodities, 'Finance Insights' aims to keep the audience well-informed on the dynamic world of finance. Senior Advisors of the Students Association, Prof. Weerakoon Banda and Prof. Wasantha Perera, President of Finance Alumni Association - USJ Mr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe and guest speaker, Mr. Tharinda Jayewardena graced the event.



Workshop on Stress Management

“Stress management for undergraduates” is a workshop organized by the Department of Entrepreneurship of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 6th April 2023, to share expert knowledge and practice with the undergraduates to give an understanding of stress and stress management to achieve their life goals successfully. It is with great honor we introduce Ms.Kalyani Jayasinghe - Visiting Student Counsellor, as resource person for the workshop on Stress Management for Undergraduates.



Guest Lecture on “Business Model Pitching”

Guest Lecture on “Business Model Pitching” under the subject ENT 3340 – Business Plan Development I, conducted on 29th March 2023.

AWARDS

PRRES PhD Commendable Prize Advanced Student Award 2023 in Sydney, Australia

Senior lecturer Mr. Terans Gunawardhana was awarded PRRES (Pacific Rim Real Estate Society) PhD Commendable Prize Advanced Student Award 2023 in Sydney at 29th Annual Conference of Pacific Rim Real Estate Society January 15 - 17 2023, Australia for the paper, "Implications of Advanced Technologies on Specialized Property Valuation in Australia".



USJ Tops Huawei ICT Competition Sri Lanka



Mr. R. Barathkanthan, a final-year student of the department of IT, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, won first place nationally in the Huawei ICT Competition 2022-23 (Cloud Track). The awards ceremony was held on 8th February 2023 under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Education at Shangri La Hotel Colombo. Owing to the outstanding performances of USJ undergraduates, the team was selected to represent Sri Lanka for the Asia Pacific

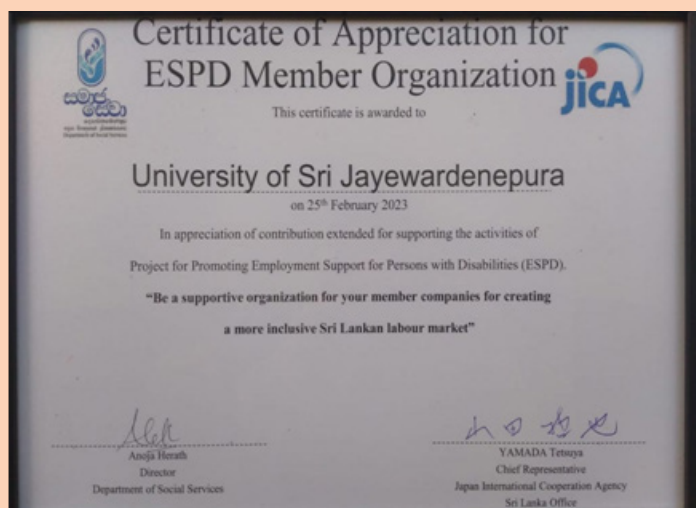
Regional Finals of the Huawei ICT Competition in Indonesia in March 2023.

The team Comprises of Mr. R. Barathkhanth (Department of IT, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce), Mr. Hasitha Isuranga (Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering) and Ms. Nikita Fernando (Department of IT, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce) Prof. Lasith Gunawardena, (Department of IT, Faculty of Management Studies and commerce) will serve as the Team Instructor/Mentor.



USJ received a certificate of Appreciation as a ESPD member organization from JICA

A project launched jointly for the promoting Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities (ESPD) by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Social Services from 2021 to 2025. The Initial discussion was held on 13th October 2022 with Mr. Takashi Shimizu, Mr. Dhammika Wasalabandara and other ESPD project members at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. They have accepted USJ as a ESPD member company and awarded a Certificate of Appreciation at the Awarding Event which was held on 25th February, 2023 at the Kingsbury Hotel. Four differently abled graduates received job opportunities at the leading private companies.



CFA Sri Lanka Research Challenge 2022/23



The CFA Sri Lanka Research Challenge 2022/23 was held on 27th February 2023. Fifteen teams from state universities and non-state took part in the preliminary round of this competition since September 2022 which primarily emphasized on in-depth analysis and valuation of BPPL Holdings PLC. Top four teams of the preliminary round presented their research to an eminent panel of judges from top financial institutions; Fitch Ratings Lanka Director CFA Nadika Ranasinghe, CAL Chief Strategist CFA Udeeshan Jonas and A. Stotz Investment Research, Thailand CEO CFA Dr. Andrew Stotz, followed by a Q&A session. The team of five third-year undergraduates of

Department of Finance representing University of Sri Jayewardenepura became the Champions at the Local Finals. The team members are Oshan Brahmanage (Team leader), Yashan Samarakoon, Malithi Jayaratne, Hashini Siriwardena, and Mahee Silva. The team was guided by the industry mentor – CFA Charterholder – Mr. Tharinda Jayawardena, of TWC Corp (Pvt) Ltd. and the faculty advisor – Ms. Ruwangi Mahanamahewa, Lecturer of Department of Finance.



Best Young Innovator Award 22/23

Senior lecturer Dr. Chameera Udawatta has been awarded the Best Young Innovator Award 22-23 by the esteemed



Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The event held the International Research Conference in Health Sciences (IRCHS) 2023 on the theme, "Innovation, collaboration and experientia: For the sustainable development of health and well-being" on 31st of March 2023 as a hybrid event at the Senate Board room of USJ.



USJ Debaters Emerge as the First Runners Up



The Annual Inter University Debate Competition organized by the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon took place on the 4th of March 2023. The team representing University of Sri Jayewardenepura emerged as the First Runners Up of the competition.

The team members who took part in the debate were; Govini Perera, Hirusha Liyanage, Minduli Perera, Devin Dharmaratne, Sajani Pathirana,

Darshitha Dilshan, Keshala Gunarathna and Vindula Vidarshana.

The debates were held in two sessions where the teams competed under the league method. This saw our team go up against chemistry undergraduates representing universities including University of Peradeniya, University of Ruhuna, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the College of Chemical Sciences.

The team from College of Chemical Sciences emerged as Winners while Rajarata University of Sri Lanka were the Second Runners Up.

This achievement would not have been possible if not for the guidance of our Lecturer in Charge, Prof. Theshini Perera, and Ms. Manesha Fernando. A special thank you to our past debating captain, Lasni Nishshanke, for joining our practice sessions via Zoom to provide her invaluable input. The support received from the Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Champa Jayaweera and the other lecturers of the department went a long way in preparing for the debating competition.

We would also like to thank Dr. Kushan Weerasiri, Chairperson of the Inter- University Debating Committee and the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon for the opportunity given to showcase the skills of undergraduates and in turn cultivate intellectual discussions among us young scientists



USJ wins at e-Swabhimani, Digital Social Impact Awards



“Sanifly” an innovative project carried out by a team of USJ undergraduates following the Business Information Systems (Special) Degree offered by Department of Information Technology (DIT), Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, won the merit award under the Smart Settlements & Urbanisation Category at e-Swabhimani, Digital Social Impact Awards 2021. In addition to their recognition in the Smart Settlements & Urbanisation category, the team also received certificates of

achievement as one of the outstanding young innovators of the competition.

e-Swabhimani is organized by the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Technology on 7th March 2023. The talented project team consisted of Mr. Pramuk Hewawasam, Ms. Ishara Thennakoon, Mr. Dinuka Wijesundara and Ms. Nipuni Fernando, and is supervised by Prof. Lasith Gunawardena from the Department of Information Technology. The Sanifly platform consisted of a mobile app which is used as a washroom tracker and also contains an IoTsensorKit and a cloud-based monitoring platform aimed at cleaning companies. The project which was funded by a USJ Innovation Grant in 2021 has already won in several local and international competitions previously.

Best Research Awards 2022 - Institute of Applied Statistics Sri Lanka (IASSL)

The extended abstract titled “The Impact of Corporate Governance on the Corporate Dividend Policy of Listed Non-Financial Companies in Sri Lanka” which was co-authored by Snr. Prof. Hareendra Dissabandara was selected as the 1st Runner-up of the Best Research Awards 2022 competition organized by the Institute of Applied Statistics Sri Lanka (IASSL) under the Postgraduate Category on 24th March 2023.

Dr. Imalka Munaweera, Senior Lecturer of Department of Chemistry of USJ has received the Young Scientist Award for Technology

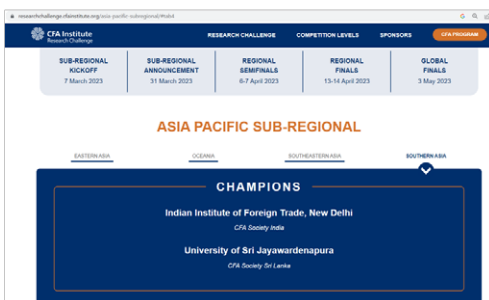


Dr. Imalka Munaweera, Senior Lecturer of Department of Chemistry of USJ has received the Young Scientist Award for Technology, at the 9th Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST IX) held 24th March 2023.

Her research focuses on using synthetic chemistry techniques to produce nanoparticles and nanofiber composites that can be applied in a range of functions, from drug delivery to water filtration to minimizing post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables.

CFA Research Challenge 2022/23 - Asia Pacific Sub-Regional

The Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Challenge was organized under four sub-regions, namely, Eastern Asia, Oceania, South-eastern Asia, and Southern Asia. Team Sri Lanka competed in the Southern Asia Sub-Region against three teams from India, two teams from Pakistan and one team from Bangladesh in March 2023. The team of University of Sri Jayewardenepura who advanced to the Virtual Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Challenge representing Sri Lanka in the CFA Research Challenge 2022/23 and Team representing Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi emerged champions in the Southern Asia sub region qualifying for Asia Pacific Regional Semi-Finals scheduled on 6th and 7th April 2023.



The Sri Lankan team comprised of five third-year undergraduates of Department of Finance representing University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Oshan Brahmanage (Team leader), Yashan Samarakoon, Malithi Jayaratne, Hashini Siriwardena, and Mahee Silva. The team was guided by the industry mentor – CFA Charterholder – Mr. Tharinda Jayawardena, of TWC Corp (Pvt) Ltd. and the faculty advisor –

Ms. Ruwangi Mahanamahewa, Lecturer of Department of Finance.

Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Receives Prestigious CVCD Excellence Award as Most Outstanding Young Researcher in Life Sciences



Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa was honored with the prestigious CVCD Excellence Awards in 2022 for being the Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Life Sciences. He is a distinguished scientist who completed his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.Sc.sp. Agri) with honors from the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University in 2012. Dr. Sanjeewa further pursued his academic journey, obtaining his MSc and Ph.D. in Marine Bioresource Technology from Jeju National University in South Korea in 2016 and 2019, respectively.

Following the completion of his Ph.D., Dr. Sanjeewa began his post-doctoral research at the Marine Bioresource Technology Laboratory in the Department of Marine Life Sciences, School of Marine Biomedical Science at Jeju National University. In 2021, he joined the Faculty of Technology at the

University of Sri Jayewardenepura as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biosystems Technology. Dr. Sanjeewa's research primarily focuses on the bioprospecting of marine organisms to discover novel bioactive secondary metabolites for the development of nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, and functional foods. His particular interest lies in investigating the anti-inflammatory mechanisms of natural bioactive compounds for treating fine dust-induced inflammatory responses in humans. He has published more than 80 research/review articles in SCI-indexed journals, more than 50 abstracts in many international conferences, and several book chapters with reputed international publishers. At present Dr. Sanjeewa has an H-index of 29 over 2300 Google Scholar citations.



Dr. Sanjeewa holds the position of Editorial Board Member in the Marine Biotechnology section of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Journal. He also actively contributes as a Reviewer Board Member and Guest Editor for several marine biomedical sciences-related journals, including Marine Drugs.

He is a recipient of the Top 2% highly cited researcher recognition (awarded by Elsevier BV and Stanford University) in 2022, acknowledging his outstanding contributions to the field of marine life sciences. In 2019, Dr. Sanjeewa was honored with the Best Researcher Award by The Korean Society of Phycology for his scientific involvement in marine life sciences. Additionally, in the same year, he received the Award of Excellence at the Jeju National University graduation ceremony, recognizing his exceptional achievements in doctoral research.

South Asian Economics Students' Meet 2023

Warmest congratulations to these two inspiring personalities Bhagya Ranasinghe and Dakum Jayamanne, the proud products of the Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura for representing Sri Lanka in the 18th South Asian Economics Students' Meet 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

There, they got the opportunity of presenting their respective research papers;

- ◆ Bhagya Ranasinghe – “An analysis of the integration of ICT by University lecturers: Evidence from Colombo, Sri Lanka” under the main theme “Human Development”
- ◆ Dakum Jayamanne – “Impact of covid-19 on informal sector workers – A case study of street vendors in Colombo, Sri Lanka” under the main theme “Macroeconomics of pandemic and war”



Also special congratulations to Bhagya Ranasinghe for her remarkable achievement of being selected to the final round of Budding Economist Competition as one of the Top Five Budding Economists in South Asia in 18th SAESM.



SPORTS

Finance Premier League



The 'Finance Premier League' was a collaborative event organized by the Students' Association of Finance, M.Sc. in Applied Finance, and the Alumni Association of Finance of the Department of Finance. The objective was to promote physical activity and foster relationships among undergraduate and postgraduate students and the alumni of the Department of Finance. Over 500 participants took part in the event. The

Alumni Association of the Department of Finance emerged as winners and the event was concluded with a musical event. The event was sponsored by Ceylon Biscuits Limited, Rhino Roofing Products Limited, and Sanasa Development Bank.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Sarasavi Uyana

Sarasavi Uyana - Performance reading- musical and discussion organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on the 26th of January at the university premises.



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Awurdu Celebration Event

USJ. CEFEN Students Wing organized a new year festival along with the cleaning staff of the university which was held on 18th April 2023 at EhelaWala Premises.



Talents 2022

Talents continues to be the crowning jewel of all the year-round activities conducted by the Arts Circle of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This is because it brings together singing, dancing, acting and musicianship of our budding multifaceted doctors on to one stage. With the rise of 2023, we experienced the mesmerizing Talents '22 on 8th of January at Diyagama Dr. T. A. G. Gunasekara auditorium. Talents never fails to bring out the passion and unity of our undergraduates from each and every batch, culminating in an unforgettable evening, under the guidance of art circle.



New Year Celebration Organized by the Department of Business Economics

The Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce organized the "Awurudu Kema Mesaya" to celebrate the 2023 New Year on 2nd January 2023 at the Business Economics department. The head of the department, Dr. Janaka Fernando, Professor M.A.K Sriyalatha, Professor U. Anura Kumara, Professor M.S.S. Perera, Dr. P. Priyantha Lalanie, Dr. Dinesha Siriwardhane, other Senior Lecturers, Lecturers, and Non-Academic Staff attached to the Department of Business Economics participated in the Event. Further, the Department wishes Happy New Year and Good Luck to all the students for the upcoming year-end examination.



INVICTUS EMV Alumni Dinner and Fellowship

The EMV Alumni Association together with the Department of Estate Management and Valuation (DEMVA), University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized this extravagant event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the B.Sc. (Honors) Estate Management and Valuation Degree Program on 11th March 2023.



Kokila Udanaya 23 by FAHS students



Kokila Udanaya '23 was held on 8th April 2023 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This colorful event embraced with traditions of the Sinhala-Tamil New Year was organized by the 2019/2020 batch of Allied Health Sciences students. Students and staff who participated took part in over 20 events organized by the hosting batch, and enjoyed the true Avurudhu spirit.



Tamil Food Festival and Celebration of Tamil Day



The Center for Digital Education and Professional Development (CDEPD) and the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully hosted a Cultural Tamil Food Festival and Celebration of Tamil Day on April 3rd, 2023. The event was attended by the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda and other lecturers and the university students.



Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebration – 2023

Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebration – 2023 of the Department of Business Economics was held on 19th of April 2023 at the K.A Munasinghe Hall filled with traditional rituals, food, and good vibes. With the rituals and celebrations being done, we are excited to set new goals, make new memories, and reach incredible milestones this year together as a department.



Food Fiesta – Cultural Food Festival



The Department of Languages, Cultural Studies, and Performing Arts at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully hosted a Cultural Food Festival on April 25th, 2023. The festival celebrated the cultural heritage of French, Hindi, and Japanese languages and aimed to promote cultural exchange and understanding through the sharing of traditional and street foods and practices. The event was attended by the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Head Prof. Nilanthi Rajapaksha, and other lecturers and the university students. The event was coordinated

by Hindi lecturer Dr. Wajira Gunasena, Japanese lecturer Dr. Samanthika Lokugamage, and French lecturer Ms. Charitha Liyanage. This language student-led initiative aimed to encourage students and staff to learn about and appreciate the customs and traditions of different cultures, as part of their culture course units. The organizers urged everyone to try different dishes and engage with students from different language studies to celebrate diversity and foster cultural understanding together.

PUBLICATIONS

Publication of International Journal of Governance and Public Policy Analysis – IJGPPA: Vol. 4 No. 01 (2022)



The first issue of the fourth volume of The International Journal of Governance and Public Policy Analysis (IJGPPA) was published on 13th Jan 2023 by the Research Centre for Governance and Public Policy of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. IJGPPA provides a wide range of knowledge in identifying, encouraging, and exchanging ideas on Governance and Public Policies. This journal fills the vacuum of limited publications available in the area of Public Administration and Policy in Sri Lanka and also in other countries.

Launch of the Second Edition of “Sparkle in Marketing” Magazine

“Sparkle in Marketing” is the official magazine produced by the Department of Marketing Management which comprises of many aspects in the field of Marketing and emerging trends in the business world. The second edition of the magazine was launched as an e-magazine in parallel with the Annual General Meeting of the Marketing Management Association held on the 03rd March 2023. This edition comprises of various interesting areas of discussion including Experiential Tourism in Sri Lanka, Experience Marketing, Social Listening, Metaverse and future workplace and Astroturfing.



STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

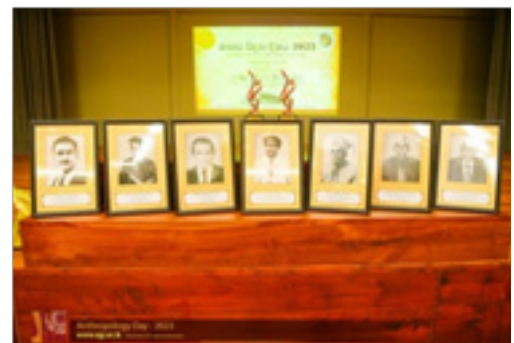
Anthropology Day 2023



The Anthropology Day 2023 organized for the second time, by the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held successfully on 20th January 2023 at Sri Sumangala Auditorium. The chief guest of the event was Prof. Upul Subasinghe; Acting Vice Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and graced by many distinguished guests and invitees; Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Mohammed Mahees, Department of Sociology, University of Colombo as the Keynote Speaker, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage;

Head of the Department of Anthropology, Prof. Sirimali Fernando; Secretary General, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO (SLNCU); Senior Professor Anura Manathunga, Director General Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka; Senior Prof. Gamini Adikari, Director Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology; Professor Gamini Ranasinghe Director General Central Cultural Fund; Mrs. Sanuja Kasthuriarachchi; Director General, National Museum of Sri Lanka, Dr. Publis Silva Mount Lavinia Hotel and many others. In addition, heads of the other departments of the university, professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, students of the university and invited schools participated in the event. Anthropology day inauguration ceremony was followed by an exhibition and a cultural show.

Marking this year's anthropology day, a significant one, the Department of Anthropology launched a number of new publications. In addition, the department organized an Anthropology Documentary Film Awards 2023 (Short-films) under university category and School Category and the winners were awarded with trophies and certificates at the inauguration ceremony.



Econclash '23

Econclash '23, which was organized by the Economics Association of the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on the 1st February at the University ground.



Yagaya 2023

Yagaya 2023, organized by the Entre Club of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on the 10th March at the Lotus Tower Open Air Arena.



Poth Salpila

Poth Salpila, which was organized by the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on the 2nd February at the Sumangala hall.



Discussion on ජනතා අරගලය හා මාක්ස්වාදය

A discussion on ජනතා අරගලය හා මාක්ස්වාදය was organized by the Political Science Association of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 7th February at the political science lecture hall.



Annual General Meeting of the Marketing Management Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Marketing Management Association of the Department of Marketing Management was held on the 03rd March 2023 at the Senate Board Room of University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The meeting was organized by the committee of the Marketing Management Association for the year 2022/23. 2nd year, 3rd year and 4th year undergraduates of the Department and the faculty members were present at the event. The official proceeding of the meeting



was commenced by the office bearers of the previous year in seconding the minutes which was followed with the appointment of new office bearers of the Marketing Management Association for the year 2023/24. PathumSathsara and TishaniSandanayaka was appointed as the new President and the Secretary of the Association for the year 2023/24 from the third year undergraduates of the Department. The guest speaker for the day was Mr. Champika Vincent, the Director of A.R. Natural Exports Lanka (Pvt) Ltd which added more colour to the event.



“Dhaara” Inter faculty Singing Competition Semi Final Round



Dhaara is a novel experiment by Flair club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura for making the best platform for our university’s talented undergraduates and recognize their best talents making them best platform. Further, such platform encourages undergraduates to enhance their inborn artistic talents with the proper guidance getting from the professional artists in order to acquire the right skills for the industry while enhancing their personality. Thus according to our PR agenda we conducted our first round auditions on 12th January 2023 at Flair Club room. The auditions were judged by Mr. Shantha Peris and Mr. Himala Bandara Aberathna. A workshop was conducted by Mrs.

Chaturangani Thennakoon on the topic of Basic Platform Skills on 31st of January 2023 for the Semi-Finalists at the Flair Club room. Then the Semi-finals were conducted on 02nd of February 2023 at Sri Sumangala Auditorium. Mr. Sudath Samarasinghe and Mrs. Neraanjala Sarogini was attended as our Judge Board.

Saubhagya workshop series



A series of workshop sessions is being organized under the program “Saubhagya” which is initiated by the CEFEN Student’s Association on 13th February 2023 from 1.00 - 3.00 p.m. at the SBTF 2 Hall. The session was held by Mr. Viraj Warnakula – Senior Manager, Nations Trust Bank PLC, covering the area of the business plan.

Robarosiya Program

14th of February is special for all lovers. Because that is the day reserved for them. Lots of entertainment, exchange of flowers and gifts are special practices on that day. Therefore, on this lovely day, undergraduates of Sri Jayewardenepura University were given a gift in advance as the “Robarosiya Project” through Adventure Club on 09th February 2023. From this program, participants had an unforgettable day by doing various adventures with their loved ones, with exciting gifts. This event is not just about entertainment, but we conducted the Speech on “what true love is...?” and how undergraduates can maintain their mental stability in a relationship as well as youngsters.



“Weralata Husmak” the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

The annual beach cleaning program, ‘Weralatahusmak’ was organized by the 2020/2021 batch of Allied Health Sciences students at Crow Island, Colombo on 11th February 2023. All the garbage were separated as ‘soft plastics’, ‘hard plastics’, rubber, and metal for responsible disposal. Students from all batches and staff contributed to this good cause. Parley Sri Lanka Pvt Ltd sponsored the event by providing cleaning material.



Grand Finale of Vorbitor 2023



The Grand Finale of Vorbitor 2023 was held on the 11th of February at the Sri Sumangala Auditorium. The competition was scheduled to start from 9.00 am onwards and was anticipated by the participants who had advanced to this stage. There were 6 finalists, who conquered the stage through their great speeches.

The competition was graced by DTM Mahinda Karunakara, as the Guest of Honor and Mr. Dhammika Kalapuge as the Keynote Speaker, along with the presence of an esteem panel of judges, led by the Chief Judge, DTM Chandrasiri Wanasinghe.

The competition was intense and filled with exciting speeches, with each participant giving their best and it was rather difficult for the judges to select the winner out of the 6 finalists.

After mush consideration, Vihini Amarasinghe was from the Faculty of Applied Sciences conquered the title of Winner of Vorbitor 2023, while Ashfaq Sheriffu was awarded First Runner-up, Sathmi Dinanjan the Second Runner-up and Malindya Fernando as the Most Popular Speaker at Vorbitor 2023.

Altogether, Vorbitor 2023 was concluded as a grand success as it greatly contributed to the attainment of the club's goal of upbringing the public speaking skills in our very own undergraduates.

Finanzera - Welcome 2023



This is a program conducted by the Students' Association of Finance (SAF) to warmly welcome second-year undergraduates to the department and foster stronger cooperation between second-year and third-year students on 3rd March 2023. The program incorporates various enjoyable activities such as games, singing, dancing, and more. Its main objective is to cultivate a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the second-year students, ensuring that their transition into a Finance undergraduate becomes one of the most memorable experiences of their university life.

Finance Alumni Association - Inaugural AGM



The inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Finance Alumni Association (FAA) at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura (USJ) took place on February 23, 2023. The event saw the participation of academic staff and members, both in-person and online via Zoom. Mr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe, the newly appointed president for the term 2023-2024, warmly welcomed the participants. During the AGM, Prof. P.D. Nimal, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, highlighted the significance of collaborations between the industry and the university. Prof. Wasantha Perera, the Advisor of the Association, expressed gratitude to the members for their initiative in establishing the association. Furthermore, Prof. Chandana Gunathilaka, the Head of the Department of Finance, emphasized the diverse range of knowledge and insights that the members could contribute to the degree program. He emphasized that their valuable input would aid in the program's development, leading to higher standards and improved quality. The following office bearers were appointed at the AGM for 2023-2024.



Professor Wasantha Perera (Advisor), Mr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe (President), Ms. Nilakshika Madhushani (Secretary), Mr. Pasan Illangaratne (Treasurer), Mr. Ajiran Bandara (Vice President), Ms. Zaina Sallay (Assistant Secretary) and Ms. Hansini Palihawadana (Assistant Treasurer).

Committee members appointed for the term 2023-2024 are Mr. Asanka Jayasekara, Mr. Tharinda Jayawardena, Mr. Rasanjana Perera, Ms. Maneesha Jayawardene, Mr. Gayan Jayasundara, Mr. Dimuth Jayawardene, Mr. Muditha Rajapaksha and Ms. Randula Hewage.

Second Year Student Orientation Programme of Department of Finance”

The official welcome and orientation of the second-year students of the department was successfully held on February 23, 2023, from 5.00 p.m. onwards at the K.A. Munasinghe Hall, with the aim of educating the newly admitted students about the department, in particular its history, philosophy, staff members, activities organized by the department, etc. The occasion was graced with the valuable presence and the thought provoking insights of Prof. P. D. Nimal, the dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Chandana Gunathilaka, Head, Department of Finance and other academic staff members graced this occasion with their participation. Prof. Chandana Gunathilaka, Snr. Prof. D. B. P. H. Dissa Bandara and Prof. K. L. W. Perera addressed the gathering by providing valuable inspirations to the new batch of second year students on various aspects including affiliations of the department with professional bodies and institutions, gold medals awarded by the department, student life and activities at the Department of Finance. Ms. Charyani Jayasekara, Head of Financial Accounting and Reporting at Nestle Lanka PLC addressed the gathering, and this was more effective as the presenter is an alumni member of the Department of Finance representing the first batch of the Department of Finance.

Inaugural Meeting of Career Guidance Society of Career Guidance Cell Faculty of Engineering



After a great deal of preparation, our highly anticipated inaugural meeting of the Career Guidance Society of the Career Guidance Cell of Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, successfully concluded on 2nd March 2023, at faculty premises. Goals, ideas, and plans for the future of the organization were discussed, and with this positive momentum, we are excited to move forward and make a meaningful impact in our student community.

Welcome Ceremony for Second Year Students - 2023



The Department of Accounting officially welcomed the new second year batch on 24th February 2023. This occasion was graced by the presence of Head of the Department, Snr. Prof. Kennedy Gunawardana, Founding Head of the Department, Emeritus Prof. M. W. Wickramarachchi, retired former Head of the Department and retired Senior Professor, Dr. Mangala Fonseka, and all other academic staff members of the Department. Guest speech was done by Mr. Gayan Karunarathna who is the Senior General Manager, Finance, ICT, Legal and Administration at Toyota Lanka Private Lanka and an alumnus of the Department of Accounting.



The Department Orientation – 02nd Year Undergraduates

The official orientation of the Department of Marketing Management for the 2nd year undergraduates of the Department was conducted on the 29th of February 2023 at the New Faculty Boardroom in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. This was conducted by the faculty members of the Department with the purpose of welcoming the newly registered 2nd year undergraduates to the Department. The orientation commenced with the speech by Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama as the Head of the Department officially welcoming the students. Senior Prof. B.N.F. Warnakulasooriya also addressed the students elaborating the culture of the Department of Marketing Management. Subsequently, Prof. K.P.L. Chandralal explained the new curriculum structure in detail to the students which was followed by a Question and Answer Session where the students got the opportunity to clarify their concerns regarding the curriculum and the activities in the Department. The program was successfully conducted with the support of all the faculty members of the Department which would enhance the connection the Department has with the students.



Entrepreneurs Alumni Association Cricket Tournament

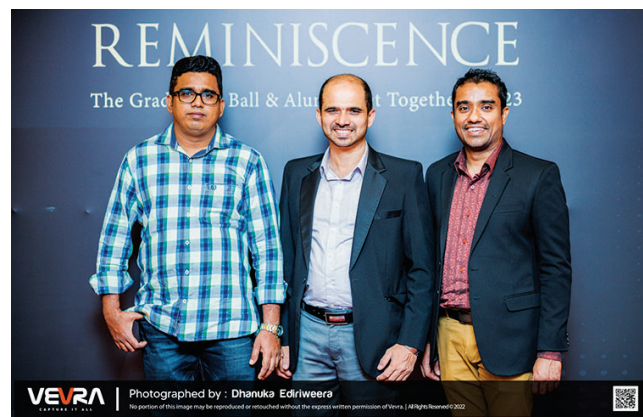
The friendly Softball Cricket Tournament was organized by the Entrepreneurs Alumni Association, Department of Entrepreneurship, University of Sri Jayewardenepura at Navinna Grounds on 4th March 2023.



Reminiscence 2023 - Graduation Ball and Alumni Get-together



The Alumni Association of the Department of Business Economics organized and successfully held its calendar event; graduation ball and alumni get-together to strengthen the network between the alumni members and the department and to celebrate the graduations of the recently passed out batches. The event was held on 4th February 2023 from 6 pm onwards at Galadari Hotel Colombo with the participation of Senior members of the department and alumni members.



Department Orientation Program 2023



An orientation program was organized by the Department of Commerce for the 1st year undergraduates of the Department of Commerce. This program was held on 27th April 2023 at the New Faculty Board Room of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The head of the department, Dr. (Mrs.) E. Ayoma Sumanasiri, and the other staff members joined this event. Miss. Nileesha, a former student of the Department of Commerce, attended the

event as the chief guest. She addressed the students and gave them motivation for their future academic activities. Furthermore, students were given a detailed understanding of the evaluations received by the department's talented students and awareness of their degree course. At the end of the orientation program, the department provided a treat for the students.

Active listeners Training program



This program focused to develop undergraduate's sensitivity on their self and others on 14th March 2023. There are lot of mental health issues and personality development issues has identified through the interviews and counseling sessions with the students. The deep root cause of these problems is lack of awareness of their own self and others. To increase the awareness and to develop intrinsic values of undergraduates, the VoW Society has introduced Active lecterns program for each faculty.

Personality and Skills Development Program 2023



The Department of Marketing Management organized the 16th Personality and Skills Development (PSD) Program in collaboration with 4 Armoured Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Clapenburg, China Bay, Trincomalee from 12th March 2023 to 18th March 2023 for the Year III undergraduates of the department. The PSD program of the department is aligned with the ILOs of the MAR 3343 : Personality and Skill

Development subject of the curriculum of the B.Sc. Marketing Management (Sp) Degree program. The main purpose of the PSD program is to provide an opportunity for students to enhance their competencies and skills in the areas of leadership, communication, teamwork and self-confidence. The seven-day PSD program included in-class and outdoor sessions where the participants had an opportunity to learn from experts in the respective fields of skills development. Seventy five (75) students and seven members of the academic staff of the department participated in the PSD program. The total cost for the students who attended the program was collected by the fund raising activities conducted through Marketing Management Association undertaking three industry research projects, sales promotion campaigns, the Department's incubation centre and the department's AHEAD project.



The Department of Accounting Felicitates its Illustrious Alumnus



The Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura hails another momentous occasion with the induction Mr. Sanjaya Bandara, an illustrious alumnus, as the 26th President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) for the term 2022/2023.

In order to celebrate the significant occasion, the Department of Accounting, together with its alumni association (Association of Accounting- AAA), held a felicitation ceremony in recognition of Mr. Sanjaya Bandara's yeomen service to the profession of Accounting in Sri Lanka. The event took place on March 24, 2023 at the University's Senate Board Room in the presence of a distinguished audience comprising Past Presidents and Council Members of CA Sri Lanka, top government officials, business leaders, senior academics and administrative staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and other universities as well as members of AAA and present students of the Department of Accounting. Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge (Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka), and Mr. Manil Jayasinghe, (Immediate Past President, CA Sri Lanka and Managing Partner, Ernst and Young, Sri Lanka) graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively.

Breeze with Waves - The beach cleanup Project, the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

Association of Public Administration of the Department of Public Administration, University of Sri Jayawardenepura successfully organized a beach cleanup programme at the Dehiwala beach with the theme "Trash looks good in dustbins on 26th March 2023



A mini-welcome organized by CEFEN students' wing



A mini-welcome event was organized under the CEFEN students' wing on 30th March 2023 at the main grounds of the university. The purpose of the event was to welcome the newcomers, the second year students of the Department of Entrepreneurship. The event was organized under the guidance of Ms. Pubudini Liyanage, Advisor of CEFEN and Mr. Dhanuka Perera, Deputy Advisor of CEFEN.



Life-Saving Basic Rescue and Water Safety Programme

A Life-Saving Basic Rescue and Water Safety Programme was organized by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting and was conducted by the Sri Lanka Life Saving (SLLS) Association on 30th of March 2023 at university gymnasium and university swimming pool.



The Annual General Meeting of Centers for Entrepreneurship (CEFEN) Students' Wing



The Annual General Meeting of Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEFEN) Students' Wing was held on 31st march 2023 from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Senate Board Room of the Management Faculty. Thereby a new board of directors were appointed for the year 2023 where the following officials were appointed from the panel of lecturers:

- a) Ms. Pubudini Liyanage - Senior Treasurer & Advisor
- b) Mr. Dhanuka Perera – Deputy Advisor



Vishrawas'23



Vishrawas'23, organised by the second-year undergraduates of the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA) of the Department of Accounting was concluded spectacularly on the 03rd of April 2023 with an utmost collection of beautiful memories. Head of the department, Snr. Prof. Kennedy Gunawardana and academic staff of the department graced the occasion with their presence. Student performances like dances and drama made the event an entertaining and a memorable one. The fun filled games gave the magic of fun and joy to the event. This occasion also gave an opportunity for the students to bond well with each other and to showcase their talents.

Soorya Abhishekaya 2023 – New Year Festival

Association of Public Administration of the Department of Public Administration, University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully organized the Sooryaabhishekaya 2023 - New year festival in celebration of Sinhala Tamil New year on 05th April 2023. The Event was held at the university premises with the participation of Academic members and the undergraduates of the Department of Public Administration.



“Sakalya” Inauguration Program of the Values of the Wise Society

This program aims to introduce the VOW Society for the University Community and Points out important of the values development of the undergraduate to enter the world of work. The program was successfully held on the 3rd of April 2023 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm at Sumnagala Auditorium.



The AGM of the AFMA - 2023



The Annual General Meeting of the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting, was held on the 20th of April 2023 with the participation of the lecturers and students of the Department. Executive committee members of AFMA for the year 2023 were also appointed on the same day.



The Department Welcome 2023 – “Asterix”



The Department Welcome 2023 – “Asterix” organized by the third year undergraduates for the second year undergraduates of the Department of Marketing of Management was held on the 06th of April 2023 at the university grounds. The day started with the address of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, the Head of the Department highlighting the importance of the unity of the students in getting the best from the Department during their period of study. The other academic members of the Department also participated in the event which added more colour to the day’s proceedings. The event was comprised of several activities for the second year undergraduates with the focus of fun filled team building and leadership enhancement. During the day the second year students got the opportunity of interacting with the third year students which would support them in their studies as well as extracurricular activities for a successful academic life at the Department.

Life-Saving and Water Safety – Level I Workshop

Life-Saving and Water Safety, Basic Level-01 initiated by J’pura Adventure Club was successfully held on 07th April 2023 at Panadura Beach. The program was conducted by the Police Life Saving Unit, Panadura. 44 Students have participated for this level and only those selected for the next program level II.



Research Workshop 2023

The workshop was held on the 9th of April from 9am to 4pm with the participation of the final year undergraduates in the Department of Business Economics and the workshop was conducted by the Head of the Department, Course Coordinator of BEC 4341 Research Methodology, Dr. Janaka Fernando. Through interactive activities and discussions, participants learned about the theoretical background and research process including how to identify the research problem and finally how to prepare a research proposal. At the end of the workshop participants provided positive feedback about the workshop, with many expressing appreciations for the interactive activities and practical tips provided. Overall, the workshop was successful in introducing undergraduate students to the basics of conducting research and providing them with tools to improve their research interests.



Ocean Plastic Pollution and the Parley AIR Strategy Workshop

A special workshop was conducted for the 3rd year undergraduates of the department on the topic "Ocean Plastic Pollution and the Parley AIR Strategy" on 17th of April 2023. The workshop was delivered by Ms. Irushine Wedage, the Country Director for Parley for the Oceans. During the workshop, Ms. Wedage highlighted the urgent need to take action to combat the global issue of plastic pollution and emphasized the Parley AIR strategy as a powerful tool to tackle this problem. The interactive nature of the workshop encouraged student engagement and discussion, enabling the students to learn about the issue and its possible solutions. This event was coordinated by Mr. KSL Wijayasinghe (Lecturer – Probationary)



“Weralata Husma” Nethusara Project Phrase 01, the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce



On the 18th April 2023, a beach cleanup was organized in response to the workshop on “Ocean Plastic Pollution and the Parley AIR Strategy” held the previous day (17th April 2023). The cleanup was a joint effort between the 3rd year undergraduates, academic staff, and members of Parley for the Oceans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of establishing the Department of Commerce. The cleanup was held at Wellawatta Beach and was attended by many participants who worked together to collect litter and debris from the beach. The event was a great success, and the participants were able to make a significant impact by cleaning up the beach and raising awareness about the issue of plastic pollution. The beach cleanup was an excellent example of community engagement, and the Department of Commerce looks forward to more such initiatives in the future.

“Sinahawata Adarayen” Nethusara Project Phrase 02



We are pleased to announce that the “Sigithi Sinahawata Adarayen” project, under the 2nd phase, has been successfully concluded by the 1st year commerce students. This project involved

painting the Maw Piya Sewana Children Development Center in Pannipitiya. The project took place on April 23rd and 24th, starting at 8 a.m. The main purpose of this project was to contribute to the community by improving the living conditions of the children in the Children’s Development Center and creating a positive impact on their lives.

RICS Annual External Examination 2022 for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes on 26th to 28th April 2023

RICS Annual External Examination 2022 for the B.Sc. (Hons.) in Estate Management and Valuation and Master of Science in Real Estate Management and Valuation programmes were held by Professor Ong Seow Eng from the Department of Real Estate, NUS, Mr. A.A.M. Fathihu (President, Institute of Valuers Sri Lanka), and Mr. P.W. Senaratne (Former Government Chief Valuer) as esteemed foreign and local external examiners.



Annual General Meeting of the Association of Public Administration – 2023



The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Public Administration was successfully held, and new Executive Board and Committee Members were appointed for the year 2023 on 27th April 2023 at Prof. K. A. Munasinghe Auditorium of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The occasion was decorated by the participation of the academics and the undergraduates of the department.

CPA Australia Courtesy Visit

The Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was honored to host a visit from CPA Australia on the 20th of April 2023, with the participation of representatives from CPA Australia, lecturers, and undergraduates of the Department of Accounting.

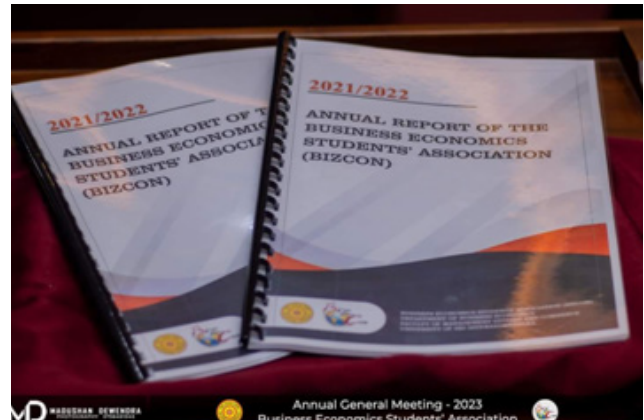
Participants from CPA Australia included Ms. Deborah Leung, Executive General Manager International; Mr. Nicklaus Wee, Regional Manager, Emerging Markets International; Mr. Don Poh, Business Development Manager, South Asia International; and Mr. Dinuk Hettiarachchi, CEO/Managing Partner of Nihal Hettiarachchi & Company and Sri Lanka Country Representative for CPA Australia. Representatives of the Department of Accounting were the Head of the Department, Snr. Prof. Kennedy Gunawardana; the founding head of the Department, Emeritus Prof. M. W. Wickramarachchi; the retired former head of the Department and retired Senior Professor, Dr. Mangala Fonseka; and all other academic staff members of the Department. Additionally, University Bursar, Ms. Chamila Priyangani, and University Deputy Internal Auditor, Mr. Kolitha Bandara, who are both alumni of the Department, also participated. The discussion between the Department of Accounting and CPA Australia was insightful and aimed to strengthen existing collaborations and explore further opportunities for future initiatives.



Bizcon Annual General Meeting - 2023



The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Business Economics Students' Association of the Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayawardenepura was held on the 27th of April from 11.30 am onwards at the Senate Board Room with the participation of the Head of the Department, lecturers and students from second, third and fourth years. All the typical proceedings of the AGM were duly carried on and in addition, a set of new constitutional changes were established and accordingly, the Senior Treasurer and Advisor, Association In Charge, and the new Executive Board for the year 2023 were appointed.



Annual Outbound Training of Department of Business Economics

The Annual Outbound Training Program of the Department of Business Economics was successfully held basing Hawagala Mountain and the Academy of Adventure, Belihuloya with the participation of the batches, 2017/18 and 2019/20. This was truly an inimitable experience for all the students which paved the way to improve their team spirit, leadership skills, decision-making skills, aesthetic skills, fitness, and much more. They overcame hurdles, battled hardships together, made decisions according to the situation, and collected lifelong memories of their university lives.



INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

French Delegation visit to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura



The French Cultural Counsellor: Mrs. Olivia Bellemère, and the Attaché for Cooperation and Education: Mr. Thomas Bellil of the Cultural Camp; Cooperation section at the Embassy of France in Sri Lanka and Maldives visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 17th of January 2023 to discuss the future academic cooperation between France and Sri Lanka.

They were welcomed by Prof.S.M.C.U.P. Subasinghe, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mrs.Irosha Chandrasekara, Senior Lecturer in French, Ms. Charitha Liyanage, Lecturer in French and Prof.Amila Jayarathne, the Director of International Affairs.

Mrs. Olivia Bellemère congratulated the University for the continuous academic excellence in French Language teaching which was introduced in 2002 and explained the opportunities available for the French language learners and emphasized the importance of academic cooperation between France and Sri Lanka.



Touch the Peak Annual Job Fair for Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce 2023



The first episode of the 'Touch the Peak' - J'pura Annual Job Fair and Entrepreneurial Ventures 2023 which was organized by the Career Skills

Development Society of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit was successfully held on the 23rd and 25th of January 2023.

The target audience of this project was the third-year undergraduates (Internship Seekers) and fresh graduates of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The workshop series of Touch the Peak was held on 23rd January at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Five workshops were conducted throughout the day and the job interviews of Touch the Peak were successfully held on 25th January at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce with the participation of 1100+ applicants and 35+ companies.

Apeksha 2023, the annual blood donation campaign by FAHS students

The annual blood donation campaign, Apeksha 2023 was organized by the 2020/2021 batch of Allied Health Sciences students on 20th February 2023 from 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at the Saagra Building. Prof. Upul Subasinghe, Acting Vice Chancellor graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. Sharaine Fernando, Dean of FAHS at the time, and staff members also participated. Many students and staff members donated blood with thoughts of generosity.



Industrial Collaboration between the Japura Tourism of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences & the FRELLA International



A discussion was held on 22.02.2023 amidst FRELLA International and the Japura Tourism of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. According to the discussion, Japura Tourism will be the Event Partner of the International Wellness Summit -2023 which is organizing by FRELLA International. This summit will be a great opportunity for knowledge sharing between the government and the stakeholders in the wellness industry and be aware of this sector.



It would be a great privilege to develop wellness tourism as a key economic contribution in Sri Lanka.

Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, CEO of FRELLA International Mr. SudathHoragoda, and International Sales Director of FRELLA International, Mr. Suranjaya Perera represented the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in this occasion.

The Corporate Mentorship Programme 2023



The Corporate Mentorship Program is organized by the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as an intentional effort to develop a career-ready graduate who possesses personal capabilities, discipline-specific competencies, professional skills, ethical and social values, to act as a catalyst by challenging the status quo to bring about sustainable changes at individual, organizational and social levels at the successful completion of the B.Sc. Marketing Management (Special) Degree. This program is a formal mentoring program that focuses on one-on-one relationships to help participating students develop a professional identity and a clearer vision for their career path before they begin their internships. The program matches a mid-to senior-level executive, who is favorably an experienced personality from the industry and affiliates.

As the initial step, before the launch of the program, two briefing sessions were conducted for the mentees and the mentors of the program to be conducted in the first semester of 2023. The mentees of the current program are the third year undergraduates of the Department. A briefing session on the program structure and the process was conducted for the

students at the university premises on 29th March 2023. The mentors of the inaugural program were screened from the Marketing Alumni Association of the Department of Marketing Management. The briefing session for the mentors was conducted on the 31st of March at the DHPL Conference Centre, NawamMawatha. The session was attended by Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Head of the Department of Marketing Management and few other faculty members of the Department, Mr. Darshana Jayasinghe, the President of the Marketing Alumni Association, Mr. Amitha Amarasinghe and Ms. Samudrika Rasanjalee, the programme coordinators and the respective mentors screened for the inaugural programme to be launched by the third week of April 2023.

Mezclar 2023



The Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully organized Mezclar 2023, an impactful industry-academia linkage event. The primary objective of this event was to bridge the gap between academia and industry, fostering collaboration and facilitating the exchange of knowledge for mutual growth and development. Held on March 30, 2023, at the prestigious Grand Ballroom of Marino Beach in Colombo 03, Mezclar 2023 brought together a diverse range of professionals, academics, and industry experts.

We were privileged to have Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, the honorable Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries, as the chief guest, gracing the event with his esteemed presence. His attendance added significance to the occasion

and demonstrated the government's commitment to promoting collaboration between academia and industry.

Mezclar 2023 served as a vibrant platform for meaningful interactions and fruitful discussions. It featured a series of keynote presentations and engaging discussions that explored emerging technologies, sustainability, industry trends, and skill development. These sessions provided valuable insights into the latest advancements and industry best practices, while also addressing real-world challenges faced by both academia and industry.

The event fostered an atmosphere of innovation and knowledge exchange, encouraging participants to explore collaborative opportunities and find practical solutions to pressing issues. Mezclar 2023 played a pivotal role in strengthening the relationship between academia and industry, paving the way for future collaborations, research endeavors, and industry-relevant educational programs.

We extend our gratitude to all the participants, esteemed speakers, and sponsors whose support

and contribution made Mezclar 2023 a resounding success. Their active engagement and enthusiasm further emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry to drive progress and ensure sustainable development in our society.

Throughout the event, the audience was captivated by the awe-inspiring performances of our talented faculty students, adding an extra layer of vibrancy and excitement to the proceedings. Mezclar 2023 not only succeeded in providing invaluable insights into the future of technology but also fostered a sense of collaboration and mutual growth between academia and industry. The event's resounding success lays a solid foundation for continued progress, as we collectively strive towards a brighter and more innovative future.



Touch the Peak- Annual Job Fair and Entrepreneurial Ventures (FOE Episode)

The Faculty of Engineering episode of the 'Touch the Peak' - J'pura Annual Job Fair and Entrepreneurial Ventures 2023 which was organized by the Career Skills Development Society of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit was successfully held from 31st March and 04th of April 2023.

The target audience of this project was the undergraduates and fresh graduates of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The workshop series of Touch the Peak was held on 31st of March at the Seminar Room 02 of The Faculty of Graduate Studies and five workshops were conducted throughout the day. The job interviews of Touch The Peak were successfully held on 04th of April in the University premises.



Academic Collaboration Between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) & the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC)

A meeting was held on 21.11.2022 amid Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to discuss the possibilities of implementation of the National Action Plan for combatting bribery and corruption in Sri Lanka with the support of the university community. According to the suggestions that emerged in the discussion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 20th February 2023 based on the "World Day of Social Justice". The event took place at the Main Auditorium, CIABOC, in the presence of the Chairperson Hon. Justice Eva Wanasundera, Commissioner II Hon. Justice Deepali Wijesundera, Commissioner III, Mr. Chandra Nimal Wakishta, and the Director General Mr. W.K.D. Wijeratne.



