



NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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**A special issue carrying news of the two new faculties
and Research Centers of the university.**



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**The newsletter of the
University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

Savidu is brought out as a tri-annual newsletter carrying
the vibrant academic, cultural and communal life of
the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

Two New Faculties Established in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

A Faculty of Engineering and a Faculty of Technology was established in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in January 2016, which became the newest members of the Sri Jayewardenepura family which now has seven faculties in it. They join the already existing Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, Management and Commerce, Medical Sciences, and Graduate Studies.

The inaugural faculty board meetings of both these faculties were held on 27th April 2016. Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Faculty Deans, Registrar and the academic staff of the faculties were present at the occasion.



Prof. Sampath Amaratunge - Vice Chancellor



*Prof. Dhammika Tantrigoda
Chairman - Advisory Committee*



*Emeritus Prof. M. M. Karunanayake
Member Advisory Committee*



*Prof. Krishan Deheragoda
Member Advisory Committee*



*Prof. Ajith Abeysekera
Member Advisory Committee*



*Prof. P. B. Mandawala
Coordinator*



Briefing the Hon. Minister of Highways and Higher Education on the progress of establishing the faculties.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYWARDENEPURA

Background of the new Faculties of Engineering and Technology

In-line with the national requirement for professionals to drive the country towards a knowledge based economy, the government in its budget speeches of 2014 and 2015, made provisions to establish a Faculty of Engineering and Technology in the University of Sri Jaywardenepura. Following this initiative, Professor Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University, appointed an Advisory Board consisting of renowned personalities to proceed with modalities in establishing the new Faculty. This Advisory Board was composed of Professors, D. A. Tantrigoda, M. M. Karunanayake,

Ajith Abeyssekara, Krishan Deheragoda and P.B. Mandawala.

Emeritus Professor N. R. Arthenayake, who was a former Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) and a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technology of the OUSL and Senior Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was appointed as the Lead Consultant to shoulder the task of establishing the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

After extensive deliberations with regard to the differences in Technology and Engineering streams as well as the difference in the

admission criteria applicable to the respective study programs together with prevailing practicalities, the Vice Chancellor proposed to establish two new Faculties, namely,

1. Faculty of Engineering
2. Faculty of Technology

This decision was approved by the Senate and the Council of the University.

The first student intake will happen towards the end of 2016.

The progress of establishing the faculties was briefed to the Hon. Minister of Highways and Higher Education in February 2016.

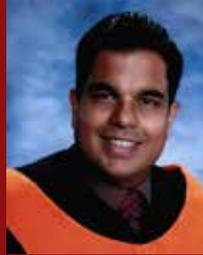


On the day of the inaugural Faculty Board meetings, 27th April 2016

Faculty of Engineering



Emeritus Prof. N. R. Arthenayake
Lead Consultant



Dr. S. A. A. M. Subasinghe
Senior Lecturer



Prof. Dhammika Tantrigoda
Chairman Advisory Committee



Dr. M. Mohamed
Senior Lecturer



Dr. C. de Alwis
Senior Lecturer



Dr. K. M. C. Konthesingha
Senior Lecturer



Dr. S. A. M. A. N. S. Senanayake



Four Senior Lecturers, Dr. S. A. A. M. Subasinghe, Dr. C. de Alwis, Dr. M. Mohamed and Dr. K. M. C. Konthesingha, were recruited for the task of developing an Engineering Degree programme, under the guidance of Professor Arthenayake.

A Consultative Committee in Engineering (CCE) consisting of eminent academics in Engineering Education in the country, was appointed to advise on the task of the university developing the Engineering Degree Programme. The CCE together with the faculty staff, developed curricula for four specializations in Engineering, namely,

1. Civil Engineering
2. Computer Engineering
3. Electrical and Electronic Engineering
4. Mechanical Engineering

Curricula of the four specializations were carefully designed

conforming to national and international standards for Engineering Education, aiming to produce innovative and knowledgeable Engineers. A special feature of the curricula is the option enabling students to follow a 'Minor' area of specialization in an emerging area of Engineering, which is relevant to his main area of specialization.

The Engineering Degree programmes relevant to the four fields of specialization are to be delivered through the services of five departments of study, namely,

1. Department of Civil Engineering
2. Department of Computer Engineering
3. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
4. Department of Mechanical Engineering
5. Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA



Appointment of Heads of Departments

Prominent personnel from the industry were consulted to incorporate their inputs to the curriculum development process and the delivery of degree programmes. This paved the path for the new Faculty of Engineering to build enduring relationships with the industry.

Industrial Consultative Meeting

Together with the inputs from the CCE and the Industry, a proposal was formulated to be formally submitted to the University

Grants Commission. This proposal was presented to His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena in August 2015, where the President gave his heartiest blessings to the new Faculty of Engineering.

The University Grants Commission approved the proposal to establish a new Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in December 2015. The new faculty along with its Departments of Study, were gazetted in January

2016. Following the gazette notification, heads were appointed for each departments of study, as follows.

Dr. S. A. A. M. Subasinghe – Head of Computer Engineering/ Acting Dean
 Dr. C. de Alwis – Head of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
 Dr. M. Mohamed – Head of Interdisciplinary Studies
 Dr. K. M. C. Konthesingha – Head of Civil Engineering/ Acting Head of Mechanical Engineering

Initially, the Faculty will be located in a rented premises in Rathmalana. However, a new building complex with state-of-the-art laboratory and workshop facilities will be constructed in a permanent location in the near future. The Faculty is expected to enroll 120 students in 2016, as its first intake.

The Faculty of Technology



Prof. Prashantha Mandawala
Acting Dean of the
Faculty of Technology
Acting Head
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. Ranjan Perera
co-lead consultant
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. Tharaka Ariyadasa
Acting Coordinator
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. Rajitha Gunaratne
Acting Coordinator
Department of
Biosystems Technology



Prof. Siromi Samarasinghe
Consultant
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. Sakura Bogada
Senior Lecturers to the
Department of
Engineering Technology

Benchmarked offspring of the Sri Jayewardenepura family, the Faculty of Technology was established in January, 2016 as a result of the immense dedication and hard work done by the Technology Team under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunga. The faculty was officially established upon the approval of the University Grants Commission and the publication of Gazette Extraordinary (No. 1948/59 Order under Section 27(1), THE UNIVERSITIES ACT, No. 16 of 1978) by the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways of Sri Lanka.

The Faculty of Technology will be serving the nation by providing higher education opportunities for the prospective undergraduates who will be enrolling in the Sri Lankan university system through the newly introduced G.C.E. A/L Technology stream. The strategy behind it is to harness the talents of the youth to capture the

advantage of relevant emerging technologies to drive the economy by providing an education encompassing competencies that satisfy the needs of the society.

The Faculty of Technology consists of three academic departments offering, for the first time in Sri Lanka, highly practical oriented, bachelor degree programs of

- (i) Bachelor of Engineering Technology
- (ii) Bachelor of Biosystems Technology
- (iii) Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA



Prof. K.K.C.K. Perera
co-lead consultant
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. A.M.R.G. Athapaththu
Senior Lecturer
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. Randika Jayasinghe
Senior Lecturer
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. A.H.L. Nilmini
Acting Head
Department of
Biosystems Technology



Dr. K.P.C. Nilasha
Senior Lecturer
Department of
Engineering Technology



Dr. N.A. Weerasekara
Senior Lecturer
Department of
Engineering Technology

Initially the faculty will admit 300 prospective undergraduates. These three programs will produce skilled graduates under nine focus areas:

- Energy and Environment Technology
- Construction and Building Services Technology
- Mechatronics Technology
- Archeotechnology
- Bio-Process Technology
- Polymer Process Technology
- Software Technology
- Multimedia Technology
- Network Technology

Curricula for all the Technology degree Programs are already completed by the Technology Team with the co-lead consultancy of Prof. Kapila C.K. Perera and Dr. Ranjan Perera, and they are currently working on the detailed syllabi. Prof. P.B. Mandawala was appointed as the acting Dean of the faculty by the University Council while Dr. Rajitha Gunaratne and Dr. Tharaka Ariyadasa were appointed as the acting coordinators for the Departments of Biosystems Technology and Engineering Technology respectively. To strengthen the Technology team, Prof. Shiromi Samarasinghe was appointed as a fulltime consultant and seven new academic staff; Dr. (Mrs.) D.M.A. Ranasinghe, Dr. N.A. Weerasekara, Dr. (Mrs.) R.A. Jayasinghe, Dr. A.M.R.G. Athapaththu, and Dr. (Mrs.) G.B. Sakura were appointed as Senior Lecturers to the Department of Engineering

Technology while Dr. (Mrs.) A.H.L.R. Nilmini and Dr. (Mrs.) K.P.C. Nilasha were appointed as Senior Lecturers to the Department of Biosystems Technology.

At the initial stage the Faculty of Technology will be established in temporary premises in the Nugegoda area and the fully fledged faculty will be located in Pitipana, Colombo (Techno Park of the Western Province Mega Polis Development Plan).

The Research Council and nine new Research Centers established in the University of Sri Jaywardenepura

The Research Council

The Research Council of the University of Sri Jaywardenepura was established in the year 2016 with the broad view of facilitating the conduct of high quality research, promoting dissemination of knowledge generated nationally and internationally and contributing significantly for the national development through establishing and expanding research centers targeted at nationally important issues.

This was the earlier Research and Publication Unit revamped to focus on the pride of place given for

research in the University of Sri Jaywardenepura.

The objectives of the Research Council are:

- to promote research that has national and international excellence
- to cater to national requirements via research
- to cultivate a conducive research culture in the university
- to establish self-sustainable centers of excellence in research
- to facilitate researchers to collaborate and perform quality research
- to enhance the skills of the researchers
- to smoothen the research process
- to facilitate researchers in disseminating their knowledge nationally and internationally
- to promote industry links and facilitate research consultancies
- to promote high quality student research

With these in mind, the Research Council has established nine new Research Centers under it, considering the needs of the country and the importance of the contributions that can be made to society as a whole through them.

1. Center for Advanced Material Research
2. Center for Water Quality and Algae Research
3. Center for Dengue Research
4. Center for Cancer Research
5. Center for Kidney Research
6. Center for Multidisciplinary Research
7. Center for Management Studies and Commerce
8. Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neurosciences
9. Research Centre in Forestry and Environment



1. Advanced Materials Research Center (AMRC)

Director



Dr. Nilwala Kottegoda - Director

Dr. Nilwala Kottegoda obtained her D.Phil. in Materials Chemistry from the University of Cambridge, UK. Her major research focus is on addressing major global issues pertaining to agriculture using nanotechnology based approaches. Her research team has already developed an efficient nano-fertilizer system which has shown promise at the field level and is thus ready for commercialization. She has received a number of patents, awards and publications for this globally significant innovation. In addition, her research work spans over a wide spectrum of areas; nanomaterials for water purification, rubber nanocomposites, nanotechnology based drug discovery and value addition to natural mineral resources in Sri Lanka.

As the director of the AMRC, her major objective is to develop the advanced material portfolio of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura to a global standard.



Advanced material technologies have already conjured up speculation about a seismic shift in almost every aspect of science and engineering. They have already insinuated into our lifestyles through innovations leading to developing methodologies to generate cleaner energy, purify water, smart materials, new drug delivery systems, faster and cheaper manufacturing processes as well as the next generation computing devices. For example out of the many such developments nanotechnology promises more for less: smaller, cheaper, lighter and faster devices with greater functionality, using less material and consuming less energy.

As a result today there is an increased research focus in developing new materials through multi-disciplines. Fundamental and applied researches on such



applications are a major part of the innovations, where global research focus has been on recently. In order to move in par with the global paradigm shifts in science and technology focus, AMRC @ SJP was established in 2015.

The center focuses on advanced technologies in order to uniquely value add to our science and technology output as well as enabling our graduates to be equally competent and competitive with other graduates emerging from world class universities and research backgrounds. Furthermore, it is expected

to create a continuous pool of talent required for moving towards an "innovation driven knowledge based economy model for a smarter nation".

Vision

To establish an innovative arena for advanced material research in Sri Lanka

Mission

- *To provide an enabling innovation environment with advanced equipment and support facilities*
- *To increase the visibility of materials research*
- *To gain international and national recognition*
- *To strengthen the interactions with industry*
- *To initiate and encourage opportunities for interdisciplinary materials research*

The center currently focuses on strengthening the facilities required for advanced material research and as the initial step a Powder X-ray Diffractometer was purchased. Some leading industries have already expressed their interest on conducting collaborative research projects.

In the meantime, the center invites competitive research proposals relevant to advanced materials, and for further details and proposal submission please contact dilru@sci.sjp.ac.lk.

2. Centre for Water Quality and Algae Research



Effective water quality management is a vital step towards ecologically sustainable development. Water is vital for the diverse ecosystems on which we depend, for agriculture, industry and recreation. Determination of water quality, identification of point and non-point sources of pollutants and finding solutions to overcome aquatic pollution are the major factors in considering water quality management.

The demand for water in Sri Lanka is steadily increasing, particularly for rural and urban water supplies, day to day consumption, agriculture and the industrial sector. Therefore developing a National Water Quality Management Strategy is an essential requirement for the country. Thus, a Water Quality and Algae Laboratory was established in 2011 in the Department of Zoology and it was upgraded to the "Centre for Water Quality and Algae Research", Faculty of Applied Science, in 2015 to offer sustainable solutions for water quality.

The main functions of the centre are to study surface and ground water quality, study and give solutions for existing algae related and cyanotoxins problems in drinking water and in the aquatic environment in parallel with the exploitation of their diverse biosynthetic capabilities and to contribute to national development.

This will be the first ever full-fledged state of the art Water Quality and Algae Laboratory in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the Research Council of the University of Sri Jayewardene is funding the strengthening of laboratory equipment facilities, chemicals and infrastructure for postgraduate research and post doctoral research. At the initial stage of the Centre, research funds were received from USJP, NRC (National Research Council), NSF (National Science Foundation) and NWSDB (National Water Supply and Drainage Board).

Ongoing research areas of the centre:

- Bioremediation Solution for Cyanotoxin in Drinking Water
- Bio Active Compounds from Algae and Cyanobacteria
- Molecular Identification and Health Impact of Cyanotoxins
- Development of Cost Effective Methods to Detect and Remove Cyanotoxins
- Drug Resistance and Contamination in the Environment

Director



Prof. Pathmalal Manage - Director

Prof. Pathmalal Manage has a specific interest in research fields of Environmental Toxicology and Environmental Microbiology with special emphasis of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and algae which produce cyanotoxins, odor, taste and bio active compounds etc. Water quality management, bioremediation of xenobiotics and cyanotoxins are the major ongoing research areas. These studies are primarily applied, with prevention and remediation being the key focus. His research group and collaborators have pioneered both rapid, robust detection methods for cyanotoxins and treatment methods for their removal from drinking water facilities. more than twenty years he has research for experience in bioremediation applications on cyanobacteria, cyanotoxins and xenobiotics as the key research areas. These works are complemented by investigations of mechanisms and optimization of methods and cost effective biodegradation systems using environmental bacteria. Developments of activated carbon using native wood and use of natural rutile for water treatment facility are other current ongoing research studies. The other research key areas are focus isolation, characterization and development of high purity bioactive compounds from cyanobacteria and algae through to the provision of fine biochemical reagents for infectious diseases. Research on cell culture studies on the effect of cyanotoxin on kidney cell lines, molecular identification and screening of cyanotoxin producing cyanobacteria, quantification of antibiotics in the environment and isolation of antibiotic resistant bacteria and isolation, identification and characterization of pathogenic bacteria in ground water in the Kelani river basin are carried out in collaboration with both national and international research institutes.

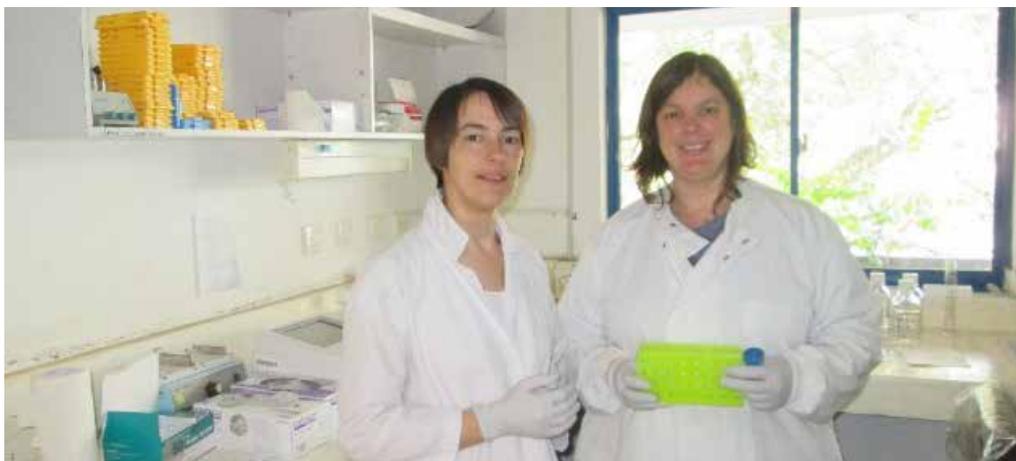
3. Centre for Dengue Research

Director



Professor Neelika Malavige - Director

Professor Neelika Malavige is the Director of the Centre for Dengue Research and also is a visiting academic at the MRC Human Immunology Unit, University of Oxford, where she obtained her PhD which was funded by a Commonwealth Scholarship. Neelika is a council member of the International Society of Infectious Diseases and is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London and the Royal College of Pathologists, UK. She has 50 publications in indexed journals of which 27 are listed in the Science Citation Index. She has won many awards for medical research including the CVCD award for the best young researcher in 2008, TOYP award in 2011, TWAS award in 2012, ZONTA woman of achievement award in 2014 and the Vice Chancellors award in 2015. She has been awarded presidential research awards for 9 consecutive years. Neelika has been working on dengue for 14 years and has 24 publications in this field. Her main interest is to understand the immunopathogenesis of dengue infections and the mediators that cause vascular leak in dengue.



Prof. Nicole Zitzmann and her post doctoral student from the University of Oxford working in CDR laboratories in January 2016.



Prof. Oscar Perng, from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan during one of the one day dengue symposiums

Since its establishment in September 2012, the Centre for Dengue Research (CDR) has had 14 publications in high impact factor indexed international journals, 19 presentations in international conferences and 16 presentations in conferences held in Sri Lanka. The research carried out by the CDR has been awarded 3 international research awards and 4 research awards in Sri Lanka.

At the time of establishment, the research carried out by the CDR was done in collaboration with the MRC Human Immunology Unit, University of Oxford and also with the Department of Microbiology of the National University of

Singapore. However, since its establishment, the CDR has established new collaborations with the Institute of Glycobiology and antiviral research, University of Oxford; with Duke-NUS, Singapore; National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan and University of North Carolina, USA. Many researchers from these universities have visited the CDR and have engaged in research activities in its laboratories from time to time. The centre has also conducted many one day symposiums on research

Current activities

The CDR is currently carrying out a phase II clinical trial to determine the efficacy of a drug named rupatadine

in the treatment of dengue infection at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Sri Lanka. This drug has now been given to 140 patients with dengue.

The researchers of the CDR are also carrying out several projects to determine other mediators that lead to a vascular leak in dengue and are also trying to find out other drug targets that can be used for the treatment of dengue. In addition, they are carrying out research projects to find out why dengue becomes very severe only in some people.

Apart from research on drug targets, clinical trial and immune responses in dengue, the CDR is also in the process of finding out the use of sterile mosquitoes as an approach to control the vector. This will be fully funded by a company named Oxitec and this activity will be done in collaboration with the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

4. Centre for Cancer Research

The aim of this center is to initiate, facilitate and support basic and applied scientific research related to cancer by universities and multidisciplinary collaborative research centres that address themes of national importance. The activities of the centre are mainly focused on the scientific community in Sri Lanka through provision of funds under the cancer research grant. By providing funds the centre will support numerous research, development & innovation activities/ programmes in all related fields of cancer with a view to enhance the outputs and outcomes which will ultimately benefit Sri Lankan society. The scientists are encouraged to carry out quality research and innovations which will have a direct impact on the health care system of Sri Lanka.

Vision

“To promote high quality cancer research that will have a significant impact on the prevention, diagnosis and management of cancer”

Mission

“To reach the highest standard of scientific research and to disseminate high quality scientific information related to cancer”

Objectives:

1. Expand the methods of early diagnosis of cancer by developing effective screening tests
2. Enhance promising research towards early stage disease
3. Better understanding of the causative factors of cancer
4. Promote research in molecular biology of cancer
5. Prioritize the development of new biomarkers
6. Facilitate a major shift in preventive methods of cancer
7. Discover & develop new therapeutics for cancer
8. Re-define the treatment options of cancer
9. Encourage collaborative approaches in cancer research
10. Develop the cancer research leaders of tomorrow

Grants:

Research grants are awarded following the assessment of the scientific quality by rigorous, independent, expert peer review process. The Centre for Cancer Research will continue to support projects that can make a difference in the fight against cancer. In the year 2015 seven proposals were awarded research grants through the Centre for Cancer Research, USJP.

Director



Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne - Director

Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne is a Consultant Pathologist / Senior Lecturer, attached to the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She was Head of the Department of Pathology from 2010 – 2012. In February 2016 she was appointed as Head of the Department of Allied Health Sciences, FMS. She is a past President of the Faculty of Medical Teachers' Association, USJP. She completed her Postgraduate training in Histopathology at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, Australia. Her special interests include the interpretation of renal allograft biopsies, IgG4- related systemic diseases and breast and thyroid pathology. She is

a co-supervisor of PhD students of the Faculty of Graduate studies. She has presented research papers at both international and local conferences and authored several publications. She was the secretary of the Board of study in Pathology from 2006 – 2009 and currently a trainer and an examiner for the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine in the disciplines of Molecular Medicine, Histopathology, Dental Pathology, Legal Medicine, Surgery (selection examination), Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Ophthalmology.

5. Centre for Kidney Research

Director



Prof. Hemantha Peiris - Director

Prof. Hemantha Peiris has specific interest in biochemical markers more specifically in the role of antioxidants on cardiovascular, diabetes mellitus, dengue and renal diseases. Most of his research is conducted in collaboration with other academic scientists and clinicians in universities and hospitals. His team consists of Dr. Rasika Perera (Dept. of Biochemistry), Prof Kamani Wanigasuriya (Dept. of Medicine), Prof. L G Chandrasena (Prof Emeritus/ Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Kelaniya) and Dr. Vajira Senaratne (National Hospital, Colombo). Research findings indicated that the red blood cell Glutathione Peroxidase genotype-1 antioxidant enzyme appear to be a more sensitive marker of cardiovascular disease, dengue fever and diabetic cataract. Recent studies have shown a significant association of red blood cell glutathione peroxidase-1 activity and the severity of cardiovascular disease which has opened up new windows for future research in cardiovascular disease. Studies on kidney disease has shown that the serum "Cystatin C" levels appear to be a more sensitive marker as a early diagnosis of kidney disease. The Kidney research center is now looking for novel biomarkers (NGAL, KIM and Beta-2 Microglobulin) in the early diagnosis of renal diseases. A PhD program has already started to assess these novel bio markers.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura has many research oriented academics who are committed to carrying out research on renal disease and the Center for Kidney Research was established to work on this issue critically important to the country

Kidney (renal) disease is a problem encountered throughout the world. At present Sri Lanka is faced with an increase in renal disease with Chronic Kidney Disease being the major disease. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is characterized by progressive destruction of renal mass with irreversible sclerosis and loss of nephrons over a period of months to years, depending on the underlying aetiology.

Yet unfortunately the incidence rates, aetiology, and demographic patterns of CKD in Sri Lanka are largely unknown as only few studies have been published on the topic. With the emergence of endemic CKD of unknown aetiology (CKDu) in the North Central Province in the 1990's, a lot of research has been confined to the study of the aetiology of CKDu. Yet renal failure due to other causes which amounts to a large number has gone unnoticed. Due to the rapid increase in diabetes mellitus in Sri Lanka and subsequent increase in diabetic nephropathy, it is predicted that the incidence of renal failure needing renal transplantation will further rise in the future, causing a huge burden to our economy and healthcare resources. Thus, it is crucial to carry out research in determining diagnostic, risk and prognostic factors as well as effective treatment modalities.

Vision

To carry out highly scientific, multidisciplinary research, in order to find out novel diagnostic markers and treatment methods for kidney disease and thereby contributing to early detection, prevention and effective treatment of patients with kidney disease in Sri Lanka.

Mission

- *To contribute to the vision by providing independent, objective, and expert scientific and medical research in the fields of biochemistry, pathology, medicine, pharmacy, environment and social factors.*
- *To conduct high quality research on kidney disease to promote multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborative work with National and International Research Centers.*

- *To investigate diagnostic value of novel markers of kidney disease in Sri Lankans and determine the biochemical and nutritional parameters, progression and severity of CKD.*
- *To investigate the factors which lead to progression of CKD in Sri Lankans and determine new treatment modalities and explore traditional and ayurvedic treatment modalities that are effective in treating renal disease and isolation of active ingredients.*

Proposed research projects funded through CKDR

1. Investigating the diagnostic value of novel markers of CKD factors in Sri Lankans and determining the biochemical and nutritional parameters that are associated with occurrence, progression and severity of CKD.
2. A feasibility study to carry out clinical trials using Ayurvedic medicinal products for Kidney disease leading to a M.Phil/PhD degree program.
3. In the process of formulating a proposal to detect Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) in Sri Lankans with the aim of validating eGFR measurements in the Sri Lankan population.

6. Multi-disciplinary Research Centre Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS)



Director



Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara - Director



Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara is a senior member of the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He engages in research in the vast field of development economics while the specific fields of interest are human capital, microfinance, community governance and economic analysis of environmental issues.

The Centre for Multi-disciplinary Research functions under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The aim of this centre is to increase the research output of the members of the faculty with the interaction of local and foreign public and private sector organizations, academics and practitioners.

The Centre is expected to contribute to the upliftment of the ranking position of the university working in line with the criteria of international ranking. The functions of the research centre are as follows:

1. Develop infrastructure facilities of the faculty (FHSS) needed for research
2. Facilitate research activities of the faculty
3. Conduct and manage outstation research/ resource centres partially or fully
4. Conduct or facilitate training programs required by the faculty/ university
5. Undertake consultancies on behalf of USJP to a high professional standard
6. Facilitate to obtain the service of foreign experts
7. Help research and researchers to increase their output

The Centre started an outstation research centre also for multidisciplinary research at Matugama signing an MOU with a voluntary organization with the involvement of the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mr. Lasantha Nawarathne.

7. Research Center for Management Studies and Commerce (RC-MSC)

Director



Prof. Y.K. Weerakoon Banda - Director

Prof. Y.K. Weerakoon Banda's previous academic and administrative positions include Head of the Department of Commerce, founder Head of the Department of Finance, founder coordinator of the Applied Finance programme of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (Sir John Kotelawala Defense University), as well as The Director of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education.

The Research Center for Management Studies and Commerce (RC-MSC) was newly established in 2015 and is the first center in the faculty dedicated to management related research work in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, the pioneering management faculty in the Sri Lankan university system, which is regarded as the Center of Excellence in management education in Sri Lanka.

The Research Center promotes and addresses academic as well as national issues in the field; establishes strong links between the FMSC and the industry in terms of research; and in general contributes actively to the economic development of the country. Consequently, the center provides opportunity for industry research in a variety of research projects in the field. It also offers a unique opportunity for postgraduate research candidates, faculty from visiting institutions, or post-doctoral students to further their studies and engage in collaborative research efforts with the faculty on their request. In addition, visiting scholars are expected from local as well as from foreign countries.

Main Objectives of the center

- The purpose of the research center is to promote and facilitate the development of new research initiatives including sub-research centers and to enhance broad-based and collaborative research efforts through single or multi-disciplinary fields.
- Establishing strong links between the FMSC and the industry in terms of research, undertaking consultancies from the government and private sector organizations including the SME sector.

Ancillary Objectives

- Self generate funds through direct grants and through related programs, workshops, etc. for the benefit of researchers, FMSC and the University.
- Contribute actively to the economic development of the country

At present the center consists of a number of independent research groups:

- Business strategy, competition and ethics,
- Public policy and governance
- Consumer marketing,
- Economics, trade and commerce
- Social & environmental issues
- Entrepreneurship and business creation,
- HRM and organizational behavior,
- Innovation and operations management,
- Real estate and property development,
- Information Technology,
- Accounting and managerial finance,
- Financial markets and institutions.

Activities of the Center

- Coordinating research and related activities of the research clusters identified in the FMSC. All areas/cluster of research should be decided and updated as appropriate within the annual research plan.
- Promoting quality research within the staff (e.g.: raising and providing grants and other financial incentives).
- Facilitating the researchers in publishing their research, attending conferences and other research related activities nationally.
- Developing links between the industry, public sector, businesses and corporate sectors and the FMSC in terms of research and undertaking consultancy.
- Promoting links with local and international universities and research institutions.
- Facilitating and conducting research conferences and other forums where researchers can openly share their research.
- Conducting training programs to enhance the research skills of the staff.
- Promoting a shared environment for management related research between academic staff and postgraduate students working together on common interests.
- The center is expected to attract leading researchers/scholars to work at the University for their extended period (e.g. postdoctoral work/sabbatical) which enhances the faculty's reputation.

8. Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology and Neurosciences

The Center would facilitate an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approach to conduct advanced research in biotechnology and neurosciences by sharing human resources, accommodating common technological instrumentation and infrastructure which will be made available to undergraduates, postgraduates, academic and nonacademic partners, external organizations both local and international, and industries.

This would pave the way for Double Doctorates (DD), and promoting the development of new solutions, ideas, innovations, interventions, products/patents and processes. The Centre hopes to develop into an income generating, self-sustaining entity by focusing on strong links with industry, enabling future innovations that can be taken to market driven benefits to the society.

Objectives:

1. To develop human resource through international collaboration.
2. To offer Joint/Split Bilateral Double Doctoral MPhil/ PhD through already signed MOUs between Europe, China, Japan, USA, Sri Lanka and USJP
3. To generate income by undertaking service based research and providing laboratory training
4. To form strong, strategic partnerships with industry through international collaboration for academic

entrepreneurship, commercialization of intellectual property and adding value to traditional/indigenous/unique national resources

Funding for the Centre:

1. Initial funding will be from the allocation of 5 million LKR from the WCUP (?).
2. Allocation of part of Rs. 50 million by the Government of Sri Lanka to the Ministry of Primary Industries.
3. Eligible for part of the European Union funding of 54 Billion EUR (9,500 Million LKR)
4. Funding from AIST, Japan and DBT India.
5. Funding through competitive research grants from local and international collaborators.

Output of the Center:

- A. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - Trilateral collaboration in Science and Technology between Japan, India and Sri Lanka:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science (AIST), Japan – the 7th innovation Centre worldwide, according to Thomson Reuters's list of top 25 Innovation in the world, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India and University of Sri Jayewardenepura, instigating a trilateral collaboration in Science and Technology between Japan, India and Sri Lanka.

Director



Prof. Ranil De Silva, Director, Center for Innovation In Biotechnology & Neurosciences.

Prof. Ranil de Silva is the Principal Investigator of the Genetic Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences. His primary area of research interests include clinical, cellular and molecular basis of aging, neurodegenerative/neuromuscular disorders, stroke and natural products in the prevention of neurological disorders in promoting healthy brain aging. He has over 100 presentations and publications (100 international and 18 local) with over 400 citations. A Brain and biomolecular resource bank (Brain Bank screened for neurodegenerative and stroke in 76 brains and A bio-repository of DNA bank with clinical data of over 2000 patients and controls) he established, is one of the largest biobanks in South Asia.

He has already established international collaborations with prestigious international institutes in USA, Europe,

Japan, and India. A recipient of donated equipments from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke of National Institute of Health (NIH), USA.

He had taken the initiative to successfully organize six (6), one week International Neuroscience Workshops with 82 International Resource Personal and participants with full travel fellowships offered by international funding agencies. 34 Research Assistants from the Laboratory had received full fellowships to attend International workshops.

He is a Council Member of The Governing Council of International Brain Research Organization, France, Federation of Asian and Oceanic Neuroscience Societies, Japan; Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry, Singapore, and as Coordinator, European Graduate School of Neuroscience (EURON) in Sri Lanka, Netherlands; University of Chinese Academy of Science in USJP; DAILAB@USJP- Sri Lanka of National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science, Japan. He serves as an Editorial Advisory Member of Annals of Neurosciences, archived in the USA National Library of Science (PubMed). He is associated with initiating five (05) international Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with USA, Japan, EU and China facilitating joint research collaborations.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

8. Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology and Neurosciences contd.

The MOU has been signed by Dr. Yoshihiro, Ohmic, Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI), AIST and Prof Sampath Amaratunga, the Vice Chancellor of USJP; while, Dr. Sunil Kaul, Chief Senior Research Scientist, AIST, Prof. Ranil de Silva Director, World Class University Project-2014, and His Excellency Kenichi Sugauma, the Japanese Ambassador signed as the witness.

Academics and officials from the Export Development Board, Industrial Development Board, Industrial Training Institute, Sri Lanka Institute of Nano technology, Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Brandix Lanka Limited, University of Moratuwa and Pharmaceutical Industries actively participated in the event. This initiation will pave the way for the Sri Lankan researchers/industries to utilize cutting edge technology available with AIST securing billions of public money to be invested on high-tech instruments.

B. Establishing SISTER-DAILAB at Genetic Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

In order to promote close and effective collaboration between India and Japan, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India and AIST, Japan have set up a joint research laboratory, named DAILAB (DBT-AIST International Laboratory for Advanced Biomedicine).

The Genetic Diagnostic and Research Laboratory in the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura has been considered as the SISTER-DAILAB (Satellite Institutes for Special Training Education and Research) in Sri Lanka making Sri Lanka the second country in the South Asia to acquire a DAILAB.

This will be the first trilateral collaboration in Science and Technology that will connect Sri Lanka with Japan and India.

- c. Publication in high impact peer review journal of Current Alzheimer Res (Impact Factor=3.93) ranking and Category 34th of 192 in Clinical Neurology, 69th of 252 in Neurosciences
2. Two International Presentations at the 46th annual meeting of SfN's (Society for Neuroscience) –San Diego, USA, 2016, (30,000 participants from 80 countries) to facilitate multidisciplinary international research collaboration
4. Preparing to offer a Double Doctoral degree from European Graduate School of Neuroscience (EURON), Maastricht University (World Ranking-98) from Netherlands, Associated Partner status to the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP within the EURON first time in Sri Lanka
5. Received full fellowship award to the Center offering joint PhD work at AIST, Japan for a period of one year.



9. Research Centre in Forestry and Environment

The aim of the Research Centre in Forestry and Environment for the academic members of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science with the collaboration of the researchers in other departments of the University of Sri Jaywardenepura and research institutes in Sri Lanka and other countries is to conduct high quality research projects in forestry and environment sectors when necessary. The facilities given to the proposed centre are also used to further train the students of the Department at BSc, MSc, MPhil and PhD levels in high quality research.

Objectives of the Research Centre

1. Conduct high quality research projects to solve the prevailing issues of the forestry and environment sectors in Sri Lanka.
2. Contribute to the development of the nation by findings of the intended high quality researches.
3. Publish the research findings in scientific journals including those listed in the Science Citation Index to enhance the status of the University of Sri Jaywardenepura.
4. Train the students at postgraduate and undergraduate levels for conducting high quality research.

Some research projects conducted by the members of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science

- Recently a decision was taken by the Government to allow the export of agarwood extracted from Walla patta trees. Establishment of plantations using Walla patta is not currently popular mainly due to the lack of available technology, although the value of agarwood is very high. The Department of Forestry and Environmental Science (DFES) has conducted a significant amount of research in seed germination, nursery activities and plantation establishment of Walla patta. In addition, the fungal species responsible for the agarwood formation induction have been identified and those species are currently tested on a commercial scale in the living Walla patta trees using non-destructive sampling methods.
- Heartwood oil produced from Sandalwood trees growing in Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia has the highest value in the international market. However, the production is not significant in Sri Lanka and export is not permitted in India due to resource decline. Therefore the present demand is mainly addressed by Australian and Vanuatu Sandalwood species which are comparatively low in value. Sandalwood should be commercially grown with host species due to parasitic nature and such trials have been established by the DFES in different climatic and geographical regions with different host species using the funds obtained by the National Research Council. The heartwood establishment studies are conducted using non-destructive sampling methods to identify the heartwood content and thereby the oil content variations.
- A number of studies have been conducted on solid waste management, waste water treatment, compost manufacturing, solid waste management, geology and soil at the DFES. The next step of those researches is to measure the harmful gas emissions from dumping sites, marshy lands and gem mining pits aiming at saving human health, life and searching for the potential of using such gases in energy generation, especially from the waste dumping sites.



Dr. Prasanthi Gunawardene presenting her research findings at the International Forestry and Environment Symposium

Director



Dr. Upul Subasinghe, a Senior Lecturer of the DFES is the Director of the Research Centre in Forestry and Environment. He obtained the PhD in Forest Management from the University of Bangor, UK in 1998 and won a commonwealth fellowship to study in the same University in 2007/08. In addition, he won a scholarship from the Asian Development Bank to study Remote Sensing and GIS at the University of Thamassat, Thailand in 2004. Upul has over 30 national and international publications and many communications to his credit. He is the pioneer scientist in Walla Patta research in the world as a recognition, he was appointed as a director for the Taiwan Agarwood Society by the MingDao University in 2013. With his expertise, Upul has contributed to the development of the Forestry and Environment Sector in a significant manner over the last 15 years.

01. Conferences and Research

USJP hosted the 71st Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science



The University of Sri Jayawardenepura hosted the 71st Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) in December 2016. The 71st Annual Sessions of SLAAS was inaugurated on 30th November 2015 at the BMICH by the Hon Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Susil Premajayantha amidst a distinguished gathering.

A theme seminar on "Wealth Creation through Science" was held on 1st December at the Auditorium of the Ministry of Disaster Management and eminent speakers such as Mr Ravi Fernando, Hon Minister Patali Champika Ranawake, Prof Suranga Nanayakkara, Prof Paula Coalavita, Mr. Ranil Vitharana, Mr. Rizvi Zaheed and Mr. Rohan Pallewatte, people at the forefront in their fields, shared their experiences with the participants.

The Scientific Sessions were held at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura from 2nd – 4th December 2015 amidst much grandeur. It was truly a celebration of science as the university premises were rendered colourful where flags of SLAAS, USJP, NSF were hoisted leading upto the venues. The sessions were effectively and smoothly run with a very good turnout of scientists.

The Young Inventors' Exhibition was an immense success, headed as usual by Prof Chandana Jayaratne and his team. The Department of Physics of USJP worked tirelessly to make it the resounding success it was. A Night Sky Observation Camp was held with Prof Chandana Jayaratne at the forefront with help from the Astronomical Society of

University of Colombo and the Physics Society of USJP.

A Panel Discussion on "New Directions in Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in Sri Lanka" was held with Prof Saroj Jayasinghe, Prof Rezvi Sheriff, Prof O A Illeperuma, Dr. Eranga Wijewickrama as panelists mediated by Prof Ajith de Alwis. Presentations relevant to this are uploaded on the COSTI website. Presidential addresses of Sectional Presidents covering a range of topics were very informative. Guest Lectures on "The Ethics of Data Science" by Dr. Ruwan Weerasinghe, "Human Elephant Conflict" by Prof Devaka Weerakoon, "Biotechnology for Human Well-being" by Dr. Dharshan De Silva were also a part of the sessions.

A Trade and Science Exhibition was also put forward as part of the Annual Sessions. Exhibitions by Field Ornithology Group Sri Lanka (FOGSL) and the Department of Wildlife Conservation were coordinated by the Department of Forestry, University of Sri Jayawardenepura. Exhibits by the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology and trade stalls by Mobitel, Ceylon Biscuits, Analytical Instruments, Associated Battery, Ceylon Cold Stores, Singer, National Science Foundation, Publications Department were also open to the general public.

All in all, SLAAS commended the efforts of the organizing committee of USJP to host the 71st Annual Sessions of SLAAS with such grandeur. The efforts of the Vice Chancellor, Prof Sampath Amararatunge and the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof Sudantha Liyanage were highly appreciated by SLAAS.

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH



2. Trends in Laboratory Animal Science discussed at 3rd Annual Scientific Sessions of SLALAS

The 3rd Annual Scientific Session of the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) was held on 28th and 29th January 2016, at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura premises. The inauguration took place at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and was attended by Emeritus Prof. Noriyuki Kasai (AFLAS – Japan) as Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge as Guest of Honour and a host of other distinguished academics both local and foreign. The theme for these sessions

was ‘Trends in Laboratory Animal Science’.

SLALAS is an organization committed to promote the ethical use of animals in laboratories. They assert themselves to the growing public call to minimize the use of animals in research and are coming forth with alternative methods for this.

The keynote address was delivered by the chief guest Prof. Noriyuki Kasai and he was awarded the honorary membership of SLALAS.

3. 17th Meeting of the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE)

The Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE) is a network of all Departments and Units of Economics within the Sri Lankan state university system which was initiated in 2012. The Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura held the Secretariat of SLFUE for the year 2015. SLFUE conducts quarterly meetings at different universities and the third meeting becomes the annual international conference. The fourth International Conference of SLFUE-Sri Lanka Economics Research Conference (SLERC) 2015 was hosted by the Department of Business Economics and was held on 20th and 21st of November 2015 successfully. The conference was followed by the 17th meeting of SLFUE which was the final SLFUE meeting organized by the Department of Business Economics. It was held on 25th of February 2016 with the participation of many academics from a number of state universities. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya. At this occasion, the Secretariat for 2016 was officially handed over to the University of Kelaniya by the Chairperson for 2015, Dr. (Mrs.) Sumudu Perera, Head of the Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The Head of the Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya, Prof. Upali Hettiarachchi is the newly appointed Chairperson of SLFUE for the year 2016.



02. Awards

1. Susred Awards for Phd & Mphil Supervision National Science Foundation



At the awards ceremony organized by National Science Foundation (NSF) on 15th December 2015, the following Faculty members were awarded SUSRED awards.

The awards for the Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees (SUSRED) were implemented to motivate, support and recognize scientists/engineers engaged in supervising postgraduate students conducting research in all areas of Science and Technology.

The award winners are



Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake



Prof. Sugandika Suresh



Prof. Renu
Wickremasinghe



Prof. Chandanie
Wanigatunge



Prof. Kamani
Samarasinghe

Awards

2. National Research Council Merit Awards

The annual NSF Awards Ceremony was held on 15 December 2015 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). Six academics from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura received National Research Council (NRC) Merit Awards for scientific publications in 2013. NRC Merit Awards for Scientific Publications recognize outstanding research published in prestigious scientific journals by Sri Lankan scientists whose work has reached international standards.

3. Best paper award for Dr. Muditha Vidanapathirana



Dr. Muditha Vidanapathirana of the Department of Forensic Medicine won the "Award for the Best case report" for his paper on "Haemorrhagic Disease of the new born (HDN) as a cause for sudden infant deaths" which was presented at the 14th annual academic sessions of the College Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka held at BMICH on Saturday 5th of March, 2016.



Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake



Dr. Manjula Weerasekara



Dr. Shamini Prathapan



Prof. Renu Wickremasinghe



Dr. R.B. Marasinghe



Dr. Nilwala Kottegoda

Awards

4. Award for paper by Dr. Nilwala Kottege

Dr. Nilwala Kottege received the award for the best research paper in the 2nd Research and Development Symposium, World Water Day, 18th March 2016, held at BMICH, for her work on the development of a low cost adsorbant material for flouride removal.



5. Excellent Paper Award for Ms. F.S.Idroos



Ms.F.S.Idroos, Probationary Lecturer attached to the Department of Zoology, recently won the Excellent Paper Award at the 11th International Academic Conference on Development of Science and Technology, held in Singapore, on 19th and 20th December

2015. Her paper was titled "Development of a laboratory scale and filter using Microcystin-LR degrading bacterium Basillus cereus". This research was supervised by Prof. Pathmalal Manage and was funded by the National Research Council.

6. Young Scientist Award

Mr. Arosha Nirmal Buddapriya, Research Assistant attached to the department of Botany, Faculty of Applied Sciences recently won the "Young Scientist" award at the

International Conference on Green Technologies for Sustainable Ecosystems and Trade show, held in Bengaluru on 26th and 27th February 2016.



03. News

1. Professor Hemanthi Ranasinghe appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe was appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura by the Council of the University. She assumed duties on Thursday 21 January 2016 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe received the Bachelor's Degree in Botany (Hons) Special from the University of Kelaniya and a Masters Degree in Forestry from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. She obtained her PhD in Forestry from University of Wales, United Kingdom. She goes on record as a person who obtained the PhD before the age of 30 and Merit Professor before the age of 40. She is a Fulbright

Scholar and had her post doctoral research at Yale University, USA.

Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe assumed her duties with a vision sharing session which included invitees like the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, all faculty deans, academic and administrative staff, prominent academics from other universities and also special invitees from the industrial and government sectors.

Presenting her future schemes for the faculty, Prof. Hemanthi stressed the need to expand such a vital section as graduate studies to take the university further ahead in its ranking. As it is a faculty where all



other faculties connect to, much should be done to its enhancement. The FGS expects to introduce new study programs and establish a multidisciplinary research and education plan. Through these kinds of courses, there is hope to attract foreign students to enroll at the FGS of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, which will no doubt encourage more research engagement. Apart from upgrading the existing

facilities, Prof. Hemanthi added that there is a plan of establishing a research and publication unit as well as a consulting unit to provide more pathways to researchers. In future the FGS will also organize workshop, forums and other events. Going along with the current trend, the faculty website is expected to furnish e-learning opportunities.



2. Prof Sudantha Liyanage appointed Dean of FAS for third consecutive term

Prof Sudantha Liyanage was appointed uncontested as the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences for the third consecutive term. His first term as Dean was in 2010, followed by the second term in 2013 and the faculty has flourished in terms of infrastructure and recruitment under his leadership. Prof Liyanage assumed duties for this third stint as Dean on 30th March 2016 amidst a gathering of academics headed by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Sampath Amaratunge.

3. Opening of the New Gymnasium

Adding to the sporty spirit of the university which has been soaring high during the past year, the new gymnasium was opened by chief guest Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge on 13th January 2016. The gymnasium has been a long standing need to the university, especially with the growing interest and the recent victories in the sports field.

In his address to the gathering, Prof. Amaratunge recalled the difficult times decades ago when facilities were very few and the contribution of generations of the university community to become what we have achieved today. He commended the physical education department and the students for the tremendous effort put forth to score so much in the

sporting arena. He hoped the gymnasium would equally be a reward for those triumphs as well as an aid to future endeavours.

The University of Sri Jayawardenepura extends special attention to sporting talents and has been backing its sportsmen and women with utmost dedication. With the new gymnasium the entire university community is expected to benefit, as the physical education department hopes to engage not only students but also the staff in fitness programs.

The opening ceremony was also attended by the Registrar, Deans, both former and present staff of the Physical Education Department, staff from other departments and students.



4. The first official blog of the FHSS launched



The Nexus: the IRCHSS-2016 on Blogosphere

The first official blog -The Nexus: the IRCHSS-2016 on Blogosphere-of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura was launched on 16 February 2016, in parallel to the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences 2016 (IRCHSS-2016).

Initiated in 2012 and organised annually by the FHSS, the IRCHSS is a research forum – interdisciplinary in method and internationalist in spirit – for the comparative treatment of ideas, issues and problems related to Humanities and Social Sciences. The IRCHSS-2016 continues to create an interdisciplinary dialogue across the academics from Humanities and Social Sciences, by drawing together diverse viewpoints for discriminating new

ideas and supporting emerging perspectives. The theme of the IRCHSS-2016 is “Transformation for Empowerment: Moving beyond Buzzwords”. Parallel to the main events, the IRCHSS-2016 aims to engage new publics in dialogue and to influence public policy.

Hence, the IRCHSS-2016 has just launched its regularly updated website – the Nexus –written in a less formal or conversational style. It is an online platform which serves as an inspirational ground for future presentations, a way to reflect on academic-related involvements including conference experiences, and as a means of getting feedback on on-going research. The Nexus also functions as a means to minimise the gap between the formal and the informal; the academic and the professionals, researches and policies and theories and praxis.

5. Opening of New Computer Laboratories at the Science Faculty

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is blessed by its founders and former leaders in its rapid road to development and constant success, as the Vice Chancellor stated during the opening of the new computer center of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. He added that the

improvements keep coming our way and the collective effort of the entire university community has contributed to it.

The new computer center was opened in a modest ceremony on 1st January 2016, making the new year day even more special.



6. Seminar on Higher Degree Research Training by Dr. Tony Sahama

The Faculty of Graduate Studies organized a short seminar on Higher Degree Research (HDR) Training -connecting the dots (perils and pitfalls) on 15th March 2016 at the Forestry Auditorium, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The

event was conducted by Dr. Tony Sahama, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Security, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.



7. Seminar to commemorate Prof. A. V. Suraweera

A seminar to commemorate late Prof. A.V. Suraweera organized by the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication was held on 16th January at the Sumangala Reading Hall. The theme under discussion was the role of the newspaper in present day communication. A distinguished group of speakers like Prof. J. B. Disanayake, Dr. Edwin Ariyadasa, Dr. Michael Fernando, Mr. Wijayananda Jayaweera, Mr. Victor Ivan and Mr. Ananda Wedaarachchi participated at the seminar. The discussion panel comprised of Mr. Thilakaratne Kuruwita Bandara, Mr.S.G.Punchihewa,

Mr. Sundara Nihathamani de Mel, Mr. K.W.Janaranjana, Mr. D.B.Elkaduwa, Mr. W.Jayasiri, Mr. Nalaka Gunawardene and Mr. Sunil Mihindukula. The seminar was chaired by Prof. Wimal G. Balagalle.



8. Technological breakthrough to identify the dead in natural and manmade disasters in Sri Lanka

The Colombo University School of Computing (CUSC), Faculty of Medicine, Sri Jayawardenapura University and the University of Visual Performing Arts Colombo along with the National Science Foundation (NSF) are now undertaking a research study on Facial Reconstruction of unidentified dead bodies. The project is now in its final

stages as the test runs have been successful. This would also explore the possibility of commercialising and marketing the Face ID Process.

Dr. Damith Karunaratne, Principal Investigator, CUSC; Co-investigators – Dr, Muditha Vidanapathirana, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of

Medicine, University of Sri Jayawardenapura and Dr. Damitha Sandaruwan, CUSC; Research Staff – R. N. Rajapakse, UCSC; Nadun D Liyanage, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology; Rasika Ranepura, UCSC; and 3D Sculptor, Nuwan Dhammika, University of Visual Performing Arts are included in the team for this project.



9. Dr. S. B. Navarathne gets patent for sesame seed coat removal method



Senior Lecturer, Dr.S.B.Navarathne, has been granted the patent for his invention of the "Counter Current-Repulsive De-corticator" to remove the seed coat of sesame. Dr. Navarathne is attached to the Department of Food Science and Technology of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

10. The Cambridge English South Asia Partnership Summit



The Cambridge English South Asia Partnership Summit which was organized by Cambridge English and the Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India under the central theme “Building Partnerships for the Future” was attended by Dr. M.G. Lalith Ananda - Head, Dept. of English, Mr. P.B.S.L. Pushpa Kumara – Senior Lecturer, ELTU, Dr. Mufeeda Irshad – Senior Lecturer, Business Communication Unit, FMSC and Ms. S. Liyanagunawardena - Lecturer, English Unit, FMS along with Prof. Mohan de Silva, Chairman, UGC and Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha, Chairman, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

The summit included plenary sessions interspersed with interactive break-out sessions and concluded with a panel discussion. The plenary sessions

focused on the sub-themes of raising standards, leveraging technology and measuring success. The break-out sessions allowed for discussion and idea generation and the panel discussion aimed at consolidating ideas into workable partnerships and initiatives.

The proceedings of the summit were conducted under the following 04 sub-themes.

1. Teacher Development
2. Digital Learning
3. Employability
4. Research and Innovation

The outcome of the discussions and the solutions proposed are relevant to the Sri Lankan context, for the most pressing challenges faced by us is the upliftment of education in general and English language education in particular and the development of skills for employability.

Beyond the Summit: Building Partnerships with Cambridge

During the summit, the Sri Lankan representative of Cambridge English, Mr. Joshua was invited to visit the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in order to work out the best possible ways of building a partnership with Cambridge. Accordingly, he visited the University on 3rd March and had a discussion with the Dean, FHSS, the Head, ELTU and the Head, Dept. of English. An agreement was reached to collaborate in the areas of syllabus planning, assessment, and certification which will assist in raising and maintaining language education standards of the university.

10. ඉතිහාස හා පුරාවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශයේ ඉන්දියානු අධ්‍යයන වාරිකාව

2015 දෙසැම්බර් මස 06 වන දින සිට 29 වන දින දක්වා පුරාදින 23 ක් ඉතිහාස හා පුරාවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශයේ ආචාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ සාමාජිකයින් 09 දෙනෙකු හා පුරාවිද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නිලධාරීන් 03 ක් ඉන්දියානු හා නේපාල අධ්‍යයන ක්ෂේත්‍ර වාරිකාවක නිරත වූහ.

ඉතිහාස හා පුරාවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය මෙහෙවන විශේෂවේදී, සාමාන්‍යවේදී හා බාහිර උපාධි පාඨමාලාවන්ට නියමිත විෂයය ඒකක ගණනාවක් ම ඉන්දියානු ඉතිහාසය පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයන්ට යොමුවී ඇති බැවින් මෙම අධ්‍යයන වාරිකාව ආචාර්යවරුන් ගේ ඉගැන්වීම් කටයුතුවල ගුණාත්මකභාවය වර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහා මෙන්ම ශිෂ්‍ය ශිෂ්‍යාවන්ට වඩාත් ඵලදායී අධ්‍යයනයක් ලබාදීම මෙම ක්ෂේත්‍ර අධ්‍යයන වාරිකාවේ මූලික අරමුණ විය.

මෙම වාරිකාව තුළදී ලිය, අග්‍රා, ශාවස්ත්‍රි, ලුම්බිණි-කපිලවස්තු, කුසිනාරා, වෛශාලි, නාලන්දා, රාජ්ගිරි, බුසාවලී, දුර්ගේෂ්වර, වරානාසි,

බෝපාල්, සාරානාත්, කෞෂම්බි, අජන්තා- අවුරන්ගාබාද්, චිල්ලෝරා, මුම්බායි, පුනේ, චිලිපන්ටා, මහාබලිපුරම් හා චෙන්නායි යන නගරවල චේතනාසික හා පුරාවිද්‍යාත්මක ස්ථාන හා ස්මාරක රැසක් අධ්‍යයනය කරන ලදී. මීට අමතරව දිල්ලිය, නාලන්දා, සාරානාත් හා චෙන්නායි යන ස්ථානවල කෞතුකාගාර නැරඹීමට ද අවස්ථාව සලසා ගනු ලැබිණි.

මෙම අධ්‍යයන වාරිකාවේ දී විශේෂයෙන් ඉන්දියානු පුරාවිද්‍යා සමීක්ෂණ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව, දිල්ලි විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ඉතිහාස අධ්‍යයනාංශය, ඩෙකනකොලීජය, බෝපාල්හි ගෘහනිර්මාණ හා සැලසුම් ආයතනය ආදී ඉන්දියානු ආයතන කිහිපයක් සමඟ විශේෂ සාකච්ඡා පැවැත්වූ අතර එහිදී විශේෂ පුහුණු සැසි සඳහා දෙරටේ ආචාර්යවරුන් හා ශිෂ්‍යයන් සහභාගි කරවා ගැනීම හා ඒකාබද්ධ පර්යේෂණ පැවැත්වීමට ඇති හැකියාව පිළිබඳව මූලික වටයේ සාකච්ඡා පැවැත්වූ අතර සැලකිය යුතු මට්ටමේ යහපත් ප්‍රතිචාර ලබා ගන්නට ද සමත් විය.



Institute of Archaeological Survey India



Sri Lankan High commissioner: Delhi

11. A Study Visit to the Republic of China

The Department of Entrepreneurship organized a study visit to the Institute of Modern Services of Zhejiang Shuren University, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, China and visited Canton Fair, Guangzhou, China from 08th April to 18th April, 2016. This was organized as an academic component of the Master of Entrepreneurship Program. Mr. R.N. Weerasinghe, Head-Department of Entrepreneurship and Dr. Janak Kumarasinghe, Senior Lecturer - Department of Business Economics, guided 22 Masters' students.

A memorandum of understanding between the two universities was signed, aiming at students and staff transference, research collaboration and visiting staff and students. There were fruitful discussions with the President, Vice Presidents and International Manager of the Zhejiang Shuren University about long term collaboration among the two universities.



12. “Sri Lanka mei Hindi kidashaevamdisha” – seminar and workshop



The Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts organized a seminar and workshop on Hindi language studies titled “Sri Lanka Mei Hindi Ki DashaEvamDisha” on the 29th of December. The event took place at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Board room. A number of Indian academics participated in the seminar as well as staff and students from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Mr. Lasantha Nawaratne, and other staff were also present. The event featured cultural items from both Sri Lanka and India highlighting the rich cultures of both countries. The seminar and workshop is expected to create more gateways to Hindi language studies in Sri Lanka, as it is already a popular language among local masses.

The Indian delegation was welcomed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,

13. Innovators' Day 2016 – Today's Initiative for a better tomorrow

"Innovators Day -2016" is the newest initiative of the Department of Entrepreneurship, the first ever university in Sri Lanka to offer degrees up to Masters level in Entrepreneurship. Innovator's Day has been launched with the aim of developing a unique platform for innovators to improve, commercialize and share their innovative solutions with others.

This grand event which was organized by the 2016/17 Master's Batch was held on 14th February 2016 at the university premises with the participation of many exhibitors. Innovative products, services and business concepts were proffered for the exhibition. The exhibition was launched as the initial step of a long journey towards a national event which will provide room for the innovators scattered all over the country to cluster in a single unique stage.

The exhibition lent a hand for the existing and prospective innovators to solve their issues of financing, acquiring patents, commercializing the innovation by linking the industry and institutions with the entrepreneurs. The assistance provided by the Idea2Fund by offering a platform for prospective Sri Lankan entrepreneurs to present their venture ideas, be challenged and receive constructive feedback, get linked with investors / funders and receive start-up consulting advisory services was highly appreciated by the participants. Further Sri Lanka Inventors Commission and the National Intellectual

Property Office made participants aware of the services rendered by them.

The innovations exhibited were also evaluated based on the main criteria of innovativeness, novelty, feasibility, environmental implications and overall impression by a panel of expert professionals representing the industry and the academia. The massive event was mainly sponsored by Sri Lanka Insurance (Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka) while Dialog Axiata PLC, Janashakthi Insurance, Nestle Lanka PLC and 4ever Skin Naturals (Pvt) Ltd. being the other sponsors.



14. Professor Samanthi in the Panel of Judges ACCA

Prof. D Samanthi N P Senaratne of the Department of Accounting served as a member of the Panel of Judges of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Sri Lanka Awards for Sustainability Reporting 2015. All over the world, ACCA Sustainability Reporting Awards reward companies for excellence in sustainability including economic, environmental and social reporting.

15. Seminar on e-waste management

The Department of Accounting partnered with the IT Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) to organize a seminar on "e-waste management" on the 25th of February, 2016 at the CASL. This was one of the first ever events organized in Sri Lanka which specifically focused on accountants (finance professionals) on the above theme. Noted people from the industry and from the Department of Accounting served as the resource persons of the event.



News

16. SJP – HSBC discuss mutual collaboration

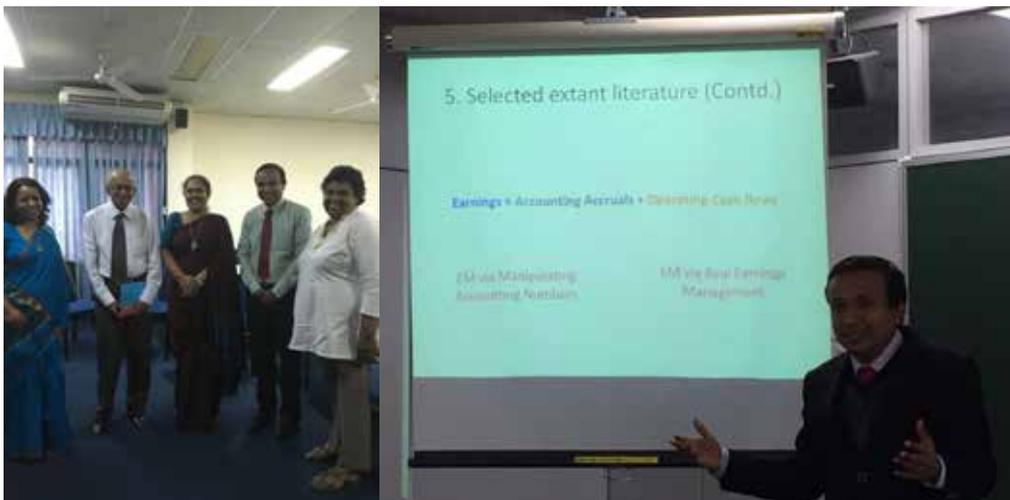
A high level discussion was held on 18 February 2016 at the university, to explore the areas for mutual collaboration between Global Banking and Markets Service Centers of HSBC and the Department of Accounting, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In this meeting, opportunities available for university graduates and undergraduates at Global Banking and Markets Service Centers of HSBC in terms of employment and internship, expectations of HSBC with regard to university graduates and undergraduates in providing these opportunities, grooming of university graduates/undergraduates to meet these expectations and knowledge sharing activities between the two institutions were discussed.



18. Workshop for improving audit skills

A 4-day skill development training workshop for enhancing auditing skills titled 'Improving Audit Skills – Training Program' was organized by the Department of Accounting and was conducted by the International Chartered Accounting firm, Ernst & Young (EY), Sri Lanka for the Second Year undergraduates of the Department from 25th January to 28th January, 2016 at the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM).

17. Dr. Ajward gives research workshops in Japan



Dr. A Roshan Ajward held research workshops and discussions commencing from the period 12th February to 20th February,

2016 in Waseda University, Japan. The Waseda Accounting Research Center invited Dr. A Roshan Ajward, as the main resource

person and contributor of these research workshops, discussions and presentations.

19. Career Fair and Soft Skills Development Programmes 2016

The Career Guidance Unit annually organizes a Job Fair to introduce graduates to the world of work while providing them an opportunity to face an interview at the university premises. After having the soft skills development workshops throughout the first month of the year, the Job Fair was conducted on 28th January 2016 at the university in collaboration with more than 40 private companies.

The Soft Skills Development Workshops "Touch the Peak" were held from 12th -25th January, 2016 parallel to this. It was organized with the aim of giving an opportunity for the final year undergraduates to engage with the state and private sector for developing required employability skills, personality and interpersonal qualities.



20. A Workshop on 'Global Business Management and Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship'

The Department of Entrepreneurship organized a three day workshop for the students of Masters of Entrepreneurship program titled "Global Business Management and Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship" on November 13th to 15th at Hibiscus Beach Hotel conducted by Senior Advisor, Adjunct Professor Arvo Juhani Nieminen of Lahti University of Applied Sciences, Finland.

The objective of the program was to learn how and why organizations have started

their global activities, the skills and resources this demands and the wins and losses the organizations have experienced in their international efforts. The program mainly focused on practical aspects of internationalization of Sri Lankan organizations.

Dr. Juhani has served as a visiting professor at several universities in the US, European and Asian countries and he is an Adjunct Professor at two Indian universities. Lecturers of the Department of Entrepreneurship also participated in this event.



21. Aurora 2K16

“Aurora 2K16 - Conference on Computer Science” with the theme “Shifting Gears of Technology in Sri Lanka”, organized by the Society of Computer Science of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, concluded successfully on the 11th of March 2016 at the NFC4 Lecture Hall with the participation of over 150 school students and 100 undergraduates as well as well-wishers and representatives of leading IT organizations in Sri Lanka.

The conference was attended by the industry experts who included Chief Guest, Dr. Sankalpa Gamwarige, Director of

SLASSCOM, Guest of Honor, Mr. Ganindu Nanayakara, Mr. Kalana Wijesekara (Tech Lead of 99X Technologies) and Dr. Ravindra De Silva Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The main topics of the Conference phase were UI & UX Engineering and Artificial Intelligence & Social Robotics.

The conference included competitions and with 20 school teams competing in the first round, Nalanda College walked away finally as the Champions of “Aurora 2K16” for the second consecutive year.

22. Econ-Insight 2016

Econ-Insight is a series of G.C.E (A/L) seminars on Economics organized by the Students’ Association of the Department of Business Economics (BIZCON), Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, with the collaboration of CIMA Sri Lanka. The first seminar of the series was held successfully on 10th March

2016 at the Mahanama College Auditorium, Colombo 03. The seminar was conducted by the Senior Lecturer of the Department of Business Economics Mr. Ananda Rathnayake. Over 600 candidates of G.C.E (A/L) examination from various schools in Colombo district participated in the seminar.



04. Award Ceremonies and Convocations

1. The Oath Ceremony of B.Sc. Nursing Students in the 9th Batch (2011/2012)

The oath taking ceremony of the 9th Batch (2011/2012) of B.Sc. Nursing students was held at the Anatomy Auditorium, Faculty of Medical Sciences on 2nd February 2016 from 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. The Guest of Honor was Mrs. Hemamal Vithanchchi former head of the Department of Health Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka.

The oath is taken by the nursing students in their 2nd year after successfully completing the theoretical and practical components of the subject, Fundamentals of Nursing in their Part 1 examination. It is a solemn ceremony where the nursing undergraduates take their oaths after receiving their cap and the lamp.



05. Sports

1. Sumedha's throw takes him to Rio.

Sumedha Ranasinghe of the Faculty of Applied Sciences became the first Sri Lankan to get qualified for the Olympics in Javelin Throw. Sumedha got qualified to participate in the 2016 Olympic Games which are to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil when he performed an amazing throw of 83.04 m shattering the previous national record.

2. Participation in World Table Tennis championships

Chameera Ginige of the Faculty of Applied Sciences was selected to represent the country at both Commonwealth Games 2015 which was held in India and The World Table Tennis Championship 2016 which was held in Malaysia.



3. J'pura knights check mate the world.

N. Rasheen De Silva, W.C. Chamika Perera, A.A.C. Buddhika Amarasinghe, S.G.N. Sandamali, D.T. Wanigarathna, P.S. Lokuge, C.S.A Arachchi, K.B.S. Dilki, W.S.D.S. Perera and W.D.S.J. Nobert of the Chess team of USJP were placed 2nd at the 20th Grand Asia Chess Challenge International Inter-Varsity Chess Championship which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This is the first time that a Sri Lankan Institute managed to bag the overall second place in this prestigious chess championship.



4. J'pura stars in South Asian Games.

A group of undergraduates of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura has won 3 silver medals and 5 bronze medals, representing Sri Lanka in the 12th South Asian Games held from

5th to 16th February at Guwahati and Shillong, India. The participants were Sumedha Ranasinghe (Javelin Throw), Chameera Ginige (Table Tennis), Erandi Warusavithana

(Table Tennis) and Kavindi Siriwardane (Badminton) of the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Charith Perera (Basketball) of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| CHARITH PERERA Basketball | ERANDI WARUSAWITHANA Table Tennis | SUMEDHA RANASINGHE Javelin Throw | CHAMEERA GINIGE Table Tennis | KAVINDI SIRIWARDANE Badminton |
|  Represented Sri Lanka in South Asian Games |  2 Bronze Medals |  1 Silver Medal |  1 Silver Medal 1 Bronze Medal |  1 Silver Medal 2 Bronze Medals |

Sports

5. Participation in 1st Asian University Chess Championship 2015

The 1st Asian University Chess Championship 2015 was held on 18-25 October 2015 in Beijing, China. The tournament had a wide range of participants from different universities from several countries such as China, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Malaysia and so on. The tournament was organized by the Federation of University Sports of China with collaboration of Asian University Sports Federation. The University of Peradeniya, Ruhuna and Kalaniya participated at the event along with the Combined National University Chess Team which comprised of W.C.C. Perera, A.A.C.B. Amerasinghe and S.S. Rajapakse from University of Sri Jaywardenapura.



6. Inter University Invitation Mixed Netball Championship 2016

The USJP team emerged champions at the Inter-University Invitation Mixed Netball Championships organized by the University of Peradeniya on 1st and 2nd April 2016.



06. Community Celebrations

1. A warm welcome to 2016!

The commencement of year 2016 took a festive turn at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The university community gathered to give a traditional welcome to the new year, with boiling milk amidst the chanting of pirith by the Maha Sangha.



2. Thaipongal festival

The Thaipongal festival organized by the Art Assembly and the Cultural Centre along with Thiruvalluvar student's Association was held on 2nd February 2016 at the university premises.

The special pongal rice was prepared by the students to symbolize prosperity on this special day. The premises were decorated in vivid colours with traditional Tamil decors "Kolam" (drawing with rice flour in colours), "Maavizaithoranam" (mango leaves decoration) an "Kumbam" (metal pot with certain items to symbolize prosperity)

Community Celebrations

3. 105th Commemoration of Ven. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero



The 105th commemoration of Ven. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero, founder of the university was held on 29th April 2016 at Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Guest speaker for the function was Prof. Daya Edirisinghe. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amararatunge, academic and non academic staff members were present at the occasion.

Ven. Hikkaduwe Sumangala Thero was one of the pioneers of Sri Lankan Buddhist revivalist movement in the 19th

century. He did a great service to improve Buddhist Education in the country and was the founder of Vidyodaya Piriwena, Maligakanda in 1873 which was granted university status later in 1959 by the Government of Sri Lanka as the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. A veteran author and a fiery orator, he was a major figure in the Paanadurawadaya, a religious debate held between Christian missionaries and Buddhist monks in 1873 at Panadura, Sri Lanka.

4. Sinhala and Tamil New Year-2016

Students, Academic staff and Non-academic staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenapura celebrated Sinhala and Tamil New Year with a grand Awurudu Uthsawaya; "Kokila udanaya 2016" on 8th of April 2016.

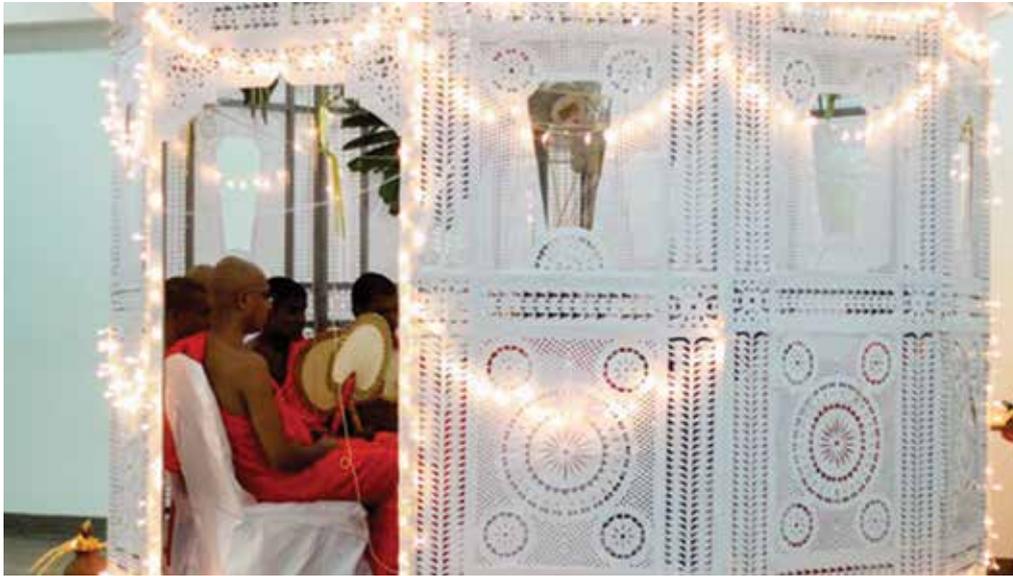
"Kokila Udanaya 2016" is the largest Awurudu event of the university which academic staff, students and non-academic staff commonly participate in. It was a celebration of Sinhala

and Hindu New year by combining all the faculties for traditional Awurudu games, entertaining events, traditional dances and much more. This event was collaboratively organized by Staff Welfare Society and Students Union (Maha Shishya Sangamaya); following the aspiration of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amararatunge.



Community Celebrations

5. Annual Pirith Ceremony 2016 – Faculty of Medical Sciences



The annual all night pirith ceremony, organised by the Medical Students Buddhist Society was held on 2nd January 2016 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences premises. This was followed by an almsgiving the following morning. The religious event was organised to give merit to those who have donated bodies to the Faculty for the purpose of medical teaching and research, and also to welcome the new entrants to the faculty. The events were attended by a large number of staff and students.

6. Prof. Nandasena Rathnapala Memorial Pirith Deshana

Prof. Nandasena Rathnapala Memorial Pirith Deshana 2015 organized by the Department of Sociology, was held on 30th of November 2015.



07. Concerts and Cultural Activities

1. Ran Rasu

“Ran Rasu 2015” a variety talent show was held on 17th December 2015 at the Bandaranayake Hall in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This enchanted event had been organized by the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with the supervision of Dean of the faculty Mr. C.L.K Nawarathne as well as the monitoring of the Vice Chancellor Professor Sampath Amaratunge. The ultimate objective of this concert was to empower and appraise creative artistic skills of undergraduates in the faculty.

This unique concert had several competitions which had been conducted in eighteen different

categories. University gold medals were offered upon their professional performances. There was an inter department competition between the departments in the faculty. The first place was won by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies for “Nuthana Dikthala” a new creative drama performance. The second place went to the Departments of Social Statistics, and History & Archaeology and the third place was obtained by the Department of English. Vice Chancellor Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Deans from each faculty academic staff members, non-academic staff members and a large number of students gathered for this elegant event.



Concerts and Cultural Activities

2. Musical Night

The Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts, University of Sri Jayewardenepura along with Kosei Gakune Girls' Junior and Senior High school, Japan and Rishsho Kosei Dhamma Foundation in Sri Lanka presented a musical show named "An Evening of Musical Harmony" featuring heart, world and future. The event was held on 29th March 2016 at 6.30 p.m at National Youth Center Maharagama. The event was graced by Rev. Bellanwila Wimalaratne Anu Nayake Thero, Chancellor University of Sri Jayewardenepura, His Excellency Mr Kenichi Suganuma, Japanese Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, academics and other

distinguished diplomats. The students of the department performed alone as well as with the Japanese artists, giving the audience an unforgettable experience. The Head of Department, internationally acclaimed sitarist Pradeep Ratnayake, also gave a performance on this night.



Concerts and Cultural Activities

3. "හිත මිතුරු සුළඟ"

ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධන පුර විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ අමද්‍යප තරුණ සංගමය විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලද "හිත මිතුරු සුළඟ" ගීතමය වැඩ සටහන 2016. 04. 06 වන දින විශ්වවිද්‍යාලීය සුමංගල කියවීම් ශාලාවේ දී පැවැත්විණි.



4. Music students' passing out concert

The final year music students of the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences gave a public concert as part of their final examination on 2nd and 9th March 2016 at the Sumangala Reading Hall. One concert was of students following classical music and the other was of students learning creative music composition.



08. Student Activities

1. Miyasi Aruna

Miyasi Aruna 2, a captivating night of music was held on 11th March, 2016 at the National Youth Services Council Auditorium, Maharagama.

Miyasi Aruna 2 was organized by the 24th batch of medical students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences in order to raise funds for Diriya Aruna. Diriya Aruna is an annual social services project conducted

by each successive batch of the Faculty of Medical Sciences aimed at providing necessary infrastructure facilities for selected underprivileged schools in Sri Lanka.

The musical evening saw the participation of renowned artists, Visharada Amarasiri Peiris, Visharada Uresha Ravihari and Kasun Kalhara. Musical accompaniment was provided by the orchestra of Visharada Manoj Peiris. A crowd of over 1500 gathered to witness this event.



2. Social project by the Hindu Society, Medical Faculty

For the year of 2015/2016 the social project of the Hindu Medical Faculty was carried out on 09th January 2016, in the District of Nuwara Elia at CP / W / Silver Kandy Tamil Vidyalyaya.

The society had identified some necessities that require improvement for the healthy lifestyle of the students in the school. Hence this project was launched with the main

objective of improving the lifestyles of the children in the school. In accordance with this aim, the activities were geared to enhance the personal, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual well-being of children in the SilverKandy Tamil Vidyalyaya, to give them moral support and build their self-confidence, to bring about a behavioral impact in an interactive learning environment, to improve their knowledge on health and to assist them with basic educational materials.

This was a very successful event and it was highly appreciated by the principal, staff and children.





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