

# Awards

## National Honors Award – 2017



Mr. W. K. H. Wagapitiya  
Awarded with **Deshabandu** Title



Prof. E. R. Jansz  
Awarded with **Vidya Jothi** Title



Dr. Praneeth Abeyundara  
Awarded with **Kala Shuri** Title



Ms. Madubhashini Rathnayake  
Awarded with **Kala Keerthi** Title

The ceremony of conferring national honours on distinguished personalities of the nation was held on the 20th of March at the Nelum Pokuna Theater under the patronage of His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena. Eminent academics of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura were awarded honorary titles at the ceremony for their contribution to the nation.

Emeritus Professor E. R. Jansz at the Department of Chemistry was awarded the title of '**Vidya Jothi**'; Dr. Praneeth Abeyundara, Senior Lecturer at the Department of the Sociology and Anthropology was awarded the '**Kalashuri**' title and Ms. Madhubhashini Disnayaka Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer at the English Language Teaching Unit was awarded the title of '**Kala Keerthi**'.

Mr. W. K. H. Wegapitiya, President of the Alumni Association of the University, was awarded the title of '**Deshabandu**'.

## USJP Academics receive SUSRED 2016 Awards

University of Sri Jayewardenepura academics received SUSRED 2016 Awards at the awards ceremony held at the BMICH on January 31, organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF). These awards were presented to academics who had supervised PhD and MPhil students leading to the completion of the degree within a stipulated time.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) initiated the Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees (SUSRED) to motivate, support and recognize scientists/engineers engaged in supervising students conducting research in the areas of Science and Technology, leading to postgraduate degrees (MPhils and PhDs).

Dr. SDM Chinthaka of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. RGN Meegama and Dr. P Jayaweera of the Department of Computer Science, Prof. BGDNK. De Silva and Prof. MM Pathmalal of the Department of Zoology received these



## President's Awards for Scientific Publications



Prof B M P Singhakumara of the Faculty of Applied Sciences received a Presidential Award for his 2014 scientific publication titled "Restoration of rain forest beneath pine plantations: A relay floristic model with special application to tropical South Asia". The ceremony was graced by His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena and the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Susil Premajayantha.

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## Best Poster Presentation Award Japan



Mr. Nalaka Wijekoon, PhD student in Anatomy, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has secured a 'best research poster presentation award' and a gold medal at the 4th AIST International Imaging Workshop held from January 15 to 22, 2017 at the Biomedical Research Institute, AIST, Japan.

He competed with 20 candidates from 10 countries including India, China, Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, Mongolia and Japan who had been selected out of 179 eligible applications received worldwide.

This is the second consecutive award received by USJP from AIST. The first award was secured in 2016 by the PhD students under the supervision of Prof. Ranil de Silva, Director, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience, USJP.

## Best Paper and Poster won by Prof. Sandun Senarath in Philippines



Professor Sandun Senerath's outstanding research papers co-authored together with Jhoan Rhea L. Pizon, Olga M. Naneza, Mylene M. Uy and Dana Joanne Von L. Trono were recognized at the 14th MSU-IIT Annual in-house Review of Research and Development Projects organized by the Iligan Institute of Technology of the Mindanao State University, Republic of Philippines in April, 2017. "Inhibition of Alpha-Amylase and Antioxidant activities

of the Bark Extracts of Black Current Tree (*Antidesma Ghaesembilla* Gaertn)" was awarded the Best Paper in the research category of the graduate level while "In-Vitro Alpha-Amylase Inhibitory activity, Antioxidant potential, and GC-MS analysis of Crepe-Ginger (*Costus speciosus* (J. Koenig.) Sm.) Leaves" was awarded as the Best Poster Paper.

Prof. Sandun Senarath from the Department of Botany at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and visiting lecturer at the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Philippines is an expert in plant tissue culture with one patent and many research publications in refereed journals. Her research activities concern the study of plant tissue culture for conservation of endangered medicinal plants, mass propagation for commercial scale plantations, plant tissue culture phytochemical screening of natural plants and tissue cultured plants, cell culture for secondary metabolite production in addition to Synthetic seed technology and cryopreservation.

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## Ph.D student wins Gold Medal by the SLAYS Open Forum 2017



Mr. Rumesh Liyanage who is reading for a Ph.D Degree at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was awarded a Gold Medal by the SLAYS Open Forum 2017 held on 28th February and 1st March 2017 at Hilton Residencies, Colombo, under the theme of "Research for Impact: March of the Sri Lankan Young Scientist" supervised by Prof. S.B. Nawarathne (Principle supervisor), Prof. K.K.D.S. Ranaweera and Dr. Indira Wickramasighe.

This award was granted by the Sri Lanka Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) and National Science Foundation Sri Lanka (NSF) in collaboration with Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI). There were around 150 scientists, and ten post graduate research studies (Only MPhils and PhDs) were selected by the foreign and local expert panel for the gold medal.

## NRC Merit Awards 2015

The following academics of the Faculty of Medical Sciences received National Research Council awards for the year 2015.



Prof. Sugandhika Suresh



Dr. Nithushi Samaranyake



## Prof. Ranil de Silva awarded Certificate of Excellence

Prof. Ranil De Silva, Director, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience, was awarded a competitive national research grant by the Ministry of Primary Industries together with the National Science Foundation (NSF) on his multi-disciplinary and multi centre project titled "Proactive Roles of Ceylon Cinnamon in Health, leading to product development".

The Ministry of Primary Industries together with Prof. Ranil de Silva, and NSF, initiated the special project on Cinnamon focusing on value addition to the Ceylon cinnamon to increase the global market share of Ceylon Cinnamon. The project called for research proposals from researchers islandwide, selecting 5 detailed projects to be awarded 50 million rupees worth research grants. The inauguration ceremony of the project was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February

2017, at the Auditorium of the Ministry of Primary Industries headed by the Hon. Minister Daya Gamage.

This national project is expected to evaluate the curative effects of the Ceylon Cinnamon on protective health leading to innovative product development.

The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), Japan will fully fund the evaluation of In vitro cellular effects of Ceylon Cinnamon Species on cell lines; Queensland University of Technology, Australia, The European Graduate School of Neuroscience (EURON), Netherland; University of Gothenburg, Sweden; The George Washington University, USA and University College of London, UK are also assisting this project with international funds and advanced technology through Private-Public Partnership.

# News

## Sri Lanka's first ever social robotic platform developed in the robot "ViduJaya"



Sri Lanka's first ever social robotic platform has been developed by Dr. P. Ravindra S. De Silva, Didula Egodage, Lakshitha Madhushan, Udaka Manawadu and Thilina Madushanka. This robot named "ViduJaya" is an autonomous robot that can interact with humans or other autonomous physical agents by following social behavior. Dr. P. Ravindra S. De Silva and his research team are from the Department of Computer Science of the Faculty of



Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura as a photographer; robot "ViduJaya" can capture natural expressions of humans while encouraging them to express their natural behaviour.

We run the news feature of this issue about this innovation, given its importance to Sri Lanka's field of robotics.

## Research Grants Awarding Ceremony 2017



Research Grants Awarding Ceremony 2017 was held on 6th March 2017 at Fingara Town and Country Club (Pvt.) Ltd. This event was hosted by the Research Council of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The idea of this research grant award scheme is to encourage and aid research among the academic staff of the university, in keeping with the importance that research is given in the university.

This year, there were 6 awards given to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, 16 for the Faculty of Applied Sciences, 5 for the Faculty of Management Science and Commerce and 15 for the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

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## Immunohistochemistry Laboratory established at the Center for Cancer Research



A fully equipped immunohistochemistry laboratory, funded by the Cancer Research Grant/USJP, was established in January 2017. This lab provides the infrastructure & facilities necessary for the identification of novel tumour markers in formalin fixed and paraffin embedded tissue sections.

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is a method for localizing specific antigens in tissues or cells based on antigen-antibody recognition. IHC has a long history that dates back more than 70 years, when Coons first developed an immunofluorescence technique to detect corresponding antigens in frozen tissue sections. Immunohistochemistry combines anatomical, immunological and biochemical techniques to identify discrete tissue components by the interaction of target antigens with specific antibodies tagged with a visible label. IHC makes it possible to visualize the distribution and localization of specific cellular components within cells and in the proper tissue context.

IHC has been the subject of thousands of research papers and today the vast majority of scientific publications in anatomic pathology incorporates some immunohistochemistry findings.

# Inauguration of the Centre for Ragging, Sexual Harassment, Gender Equity and Equality

Inauguration of the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on March 16th 2017 in the Seminar Room I of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The Centre for Ragging, Sexual Harassment, Gender Equity and Equality (CRSGEE-USJP) commenced its functions as a centre of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, after its formal inauguration on 16th March 2017.

The centre is devoted to eliminate ragging, sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the vision of maintaining a pleasing environment with zero harassment for inhabitants of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The Centre is governed by 15 member committees representing all categories of the University, and Senior Professor Hemanthi Ranasinghe is the Chairperson of it.

The CRSGEE - USJP is working with the mission of,

- a) Non academic staff against harassment,
- b) Equip the students, members of the academic staff and non academic staff through awareness and



c) Establishment of Policies, Regulations and guidelines on curbing the harassment.

The CRSGEE – USJP commenced its activities soon after the inauguration through conducting a workshop on “What we need to know about Gender based Violence”. This workshop was held at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, with the participation of members of the academic staff of the USJP and other universities. Prof. Pia Axemo, Associate professor; International health; Senior consultant obstetrics, Department of Women’s and Children’s health, University of Uppsala, Sweden and Former Senior Reproductive Health Advisor, World Bank and Prof. Kumudu Wijewardene, Senior Professor of Community Medicine, and Advisor of the CRSGEE – USJP, acted as the resource persons.

## The Online Complaints Mechanism launched



The Online Complaints Mechanism is a new initiative of the University Grants Commission that has been set up as a means for any member of the university community to

lodge a complaint regarding incidents of ragging, harassment, intimidation and bullying. All complaints that are lodged will be investigated, and victims of such incidents will be offered support and redress.

Help lines for anyone who wants to complain about ragging:

Ragging Complaints Portal [www.ugc.ac.lk/rag](http://www.ugc.ac.lk/rag),

Direct call or IVR system on 0112 123700 and 0112 123456 ( through Call Centre)

E mail: [helpme@ugc.ac.lk](mailto:helpme@ugc.ac.lk) and [ragginghelp@ugc.ac.lk](mailto:ragginghelp@ugc.ac.lk)

## Chemistry Department receives NRC funding for Nanomaterial Research



The Department of Chemistry received funding of Rs.3.2 million from the National Research Council (NRC) to improve the conductivity of solid tires using nano materials on 30th March 2017 at National Research Council, Sri Lanka.

Manisha C.Rajapakse, Executive Secretary, National Research Council, Dr.N.M.S.Sirimuthu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Roger Jonsson, Managing Director Elastomeric Engineering Co Ltd and Dr. Sirira Ranatunga, General Manager, Managing Director Elastomeric Engineering Co Ltd. participated in this occasion.



## ME-Expo 2017 - the Industrial Exhibition of Department of Business Economics

'ME-Expo 2017', the Industrial Exhibition of the Department of Business Economics was organized on the 31st March 2017 at the premises of Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. This exhibition was conducted in line with the BEC 3324 - Managerial Economics course unit offered by the department, which aims at providing an understanding of the application of economic theory in order to achieve organizational objectives more efficiently and effectively.



## Institution of IESL Day at the Jayewardenepura Faculty of Engineering



The first ever IESL (Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka) Day of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held successfully on the 25th March 2017 at the Faculty premises. The IESL Day was held in line with the IESL's motive to connect engineering

undergraduates with engineering professionals. On this day, it mainly focused on giving the students an idea of the role of an engineer, and how to stand out amongst others in the industry.

The IESL president Eng. Jayawilal Meegoda graced the occasion as the Chief Guest of the event. The Faculty was represented by the Dean of the Faculty, Heads of Departments, members of the academic staff and the first batch of students.

A membership driven session was also conducted in the evening where all students of the Faculty were given the IESL student membership. An agreement was reached to establish an IESL student chapter in the faculty.

## Donation to library in memory of late Mr. K.D.K. Dharmawardena



The book collection of late Mr. K.D.K. Dharmawardena, well known musician, lyric writer and announcer was donated to the library by his wife Mrs. Samadara Kottage, on 20th March 2017 in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Dean FHSS, Dean, FOT, Library committee members, library staff and students.

## Sports and Physical Health promotion program



Parallel to the sports and physical health promotion programme advocated by President Maithripala Sirisena, a special workshop and lecture series were held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This event was organized by the University Sport Unit. Creating an energetic, enthusiastic and healthy nation including adolescent, young, adult and senior social levels of society is the aim of this programme.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Registrar Mr. K. Gnanasiri Britto graced the event. Dr. Shantha Hettiarachchi delivered a special lecture in this event.

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## Foreign student monks admitted to Bachelor of Arts Degree programme



Five student monks from Myanmar were admitted to the Bachelor of Arts Degree programme of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in March this year. This is the first time that monks were admitted to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as undergraduates, directly from their own country via the UGC.

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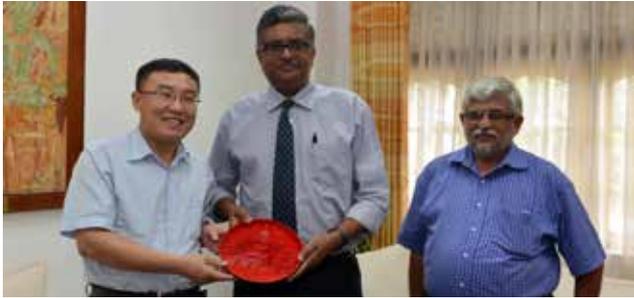
## Annual Underwater Training Program for Archaeology (Special) undergraduates at Galle MAU



Third Year undergraduates of the Archaeology (Special) Degree program participated in an underwater training program from 19 April to 30 April at the Galle Maritime Archaeology Unit (MAU) which is established under Central Cultural Fund (CCF).

This practical training was led by Dr. Gamini Ranasinghe with the supervision of Dr. K. M. Alexander, Head of the Department and Mr. W. M. Chandrarathne (Chief of the unit), Mr. Rasika Muthukumarana (Senior Archaeological Officer) and other officers from the Maritime Archaeology Unit in Galle. 26 Archaeology (Special) undergraduates successfully completed the training with acquiring skills in swimming, diving, self-survival and life-saving during the period. Lectures, lab training, field visit, practical training, cultural show and many other activities were conducted in line with this program.

## Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management, China visit USJP



Members of the Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management in China visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 16th February 2017 to acquire knowledge on Personal Heritage Management practices in Sri Lanka. This event was organized by the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This discussion was graced by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Prashantha B. Mandawala, Archeologist and Acting Dean, Faculty of Technology, Dr. K. M. Alexander, Archeologist and Head of the Department of History and Archaeology.

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## International Hindi Day



Chancellor of the University, Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and prominent Hindi academics from India participated in this which was further enriched by Sinhala and Hindi traditional events. A seminar on Hindi Culture and Tradition provided knowledge to students who are following Hindi as their subject for their degree.

International Hindi Day was celebrated on 10th January 2017 at the Sumangala Reading Hall, organized by the Department of Languages and Performing Art of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice

## Training Program on ISO 14064 Series



Introduction to International Standard for GHG Emission Management and Verification; ISO 14064 series, conducted by Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 9th and 10th of March 2017 at Seminar Room 1 of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

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## Workshop on ‘Social Entrepreneurship’



The Department of Entrepreneurship organized a workshop on ‘Social Entrepreneurship’ on 25 January, 2017 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The key resource person was Mr. Tristan Ace, Global Partnerships and Development Lead, Social Enterprises, British Council.

Mr. Ace explained the nature and the importance of social enterprises while elaborating lots of practical examples in

## Exhibition on Rocks and Minerals

Students of the Department of Geography conducted an exhibition of rocks and minerals that they had collected from their resident areas. Various types of minerals and rock sample boxes were exhibited on 6th January 2017 at the mapping lab of the Department of Geography. This study was a prerequisite for the final examination on Basic Geology (GEOG 2210) course unit guided by Mr. B. A. Sumanajith Kumara, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Geography.



this interactive workshop. Further, the workshop provided insights to the nature of social entrepreneurship in a global setting, assessed how social enterprises operate along with lessons for the developing world, assessed how social enterprises can deliver sustained social value and how it distinguished from charity. Internal Students, Masters of Entrepreneurship Students and Lecturers of the Department of Entrepreneurship and other departments participated in this workshop.

## Inauguration and workshops of “Saubhagya” national program



The Students' Association of the Department of Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, initiated a program for Sri Lankan entrepreneurs under the Saubhagya project which intends to educate entrepreneurs through seminars and training workshops to establish the largest business network in Sri Lanka. All the participants are granted membership in the 'Saubhagya Business Club' which consists of a resource and members' pool in order to share knowledge, experience, expertise advises, new business opportunities and resources.

The first workshop under this program was conducted by the Senior Lecturer Mr. Shyaman Udayanga and Business Consultant Dr. Premasiri Gamage on 25th February 2017 at the Professor Munasinghe Auditorium. Its second workshop was conducted on 25th March 2017 at the university premises covering the theme 'Labour Law'. The Resource persons were Mr. Nihal Chandrathilaka, Senior Lecturer, Legal Unit, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Mr.V.V. Keerthi and Mr. Channa Gajanayaka coordinated this program together with the Third Year students of the Department of Entrepreneurship.

## MOU for Forest Restoration at Yagirala



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 3rd February 2017 at the board room of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura between Stretchline (Pvt) Ltd and Center for Sustainability (CFS) of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura to restore seventeen (17) acres in the Yagirala forest reserve. Under this agreement, approximately 17 acres of degraded forest lands within and outside the university-managed forest in Yagirala have been identified for restoration with native species.

Briefing on the project, Dr. Priyan Perera, Director-Center for Sustainability mentioned that the Sri Lankan counterpart of "Stretchline", the largest elastic manufacturer in the world, provides funding for this project under four phases, and it is expected to restore 17 acres by the end of 2017. This joint venture exemplifies the environmental commitment of Stretchline (Pvt) Ltd. while marking yet another successful industry-university partnership initiated by the Center for Sustainability.

## Linking USJP with top Chinese universities



In a bid to encourage international education cooperation, research, and growing the relationship between Sri Lanka and China, a knowledge exchanging meeting between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and several Chinese universities was held on 16th January 2017 at the university premises. Some discussions were also carried out were between Daling University and University of Sri Jayewardenepura on the establishment of a Chinese Cultural Center at the university premises.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event which was coordinated by Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. On behalf of China was the Top Universities Admissions Service (CTUAS), a professional and leading company engaged in the international education to offer comprehensive service to international students

and promote China Top Universities to the world, and delegations from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), Zhejiang University (ZJU), Central South University (CSU), Dalian University of Technology (DUT), China University of Geosciences (CUG), Wuhan University of Technology (WHUT).

The Chinese universities were pleased to propose the Full-Scholarship (tuition fee, accommodation fee, and the stipend provided) to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura officers and students. To perceive the potential of contributions, CTUAS shall coordinate and support collaborating of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and China Top Universities proposals for all the parties.

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## Kasetsart University signs MOU with Postgraduate Institute of Management



A delegation from the Kasetsart University, Thailand, signed an MOU with the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) and made a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge on 9th February 2017. The delegation comprised of Prof. Sasvimol Meeampol, Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, Prof. Bordin Rassameethes, Prof. Haruthai Numprasertchai, Dr. Suparek Sooksmarn and Ms. Jittima Krissadanont.

## Center for Advance Material Research signs an MOU with MAS



Headed by Dr. Nirmala Kottegoda and her team at the Center for Advance Material Research of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, an MOU was signed on 15th March 2017 at the university premises with MAS Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd. The agreement is to provide a value addition for the company's waste material, and it is to be conducted under three phases of research. The Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Heads of Finance, Engineering and Sustainable Management departments and representatives from MAS Holdings participated in this ceremony.

## Interactive Session on Postgraduate Scholarships in Australia



Delegates from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia (ranked 2nd best in the Australia according to Times Higher Education 150 under 50) visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to sign an International Cooperation agreement (ICA) and Joint PhD Program on 7 February, 2017. The signing of the International Cooperation Agreement was followed by the signing of the Joint Ph.D. Agreement allowing Ph.D. opportunities for applicants at QUT with partial scholarships giving access to the modern laboratories of the QUT including the award-winning Science and Engineering Center which is acknowledged as the world's largest digital interactive learning and display spaces.

This initiates multidisciplinary innovative research collaboration at postgraduate level between Sri Lanka and Australia for the development of joint venture projects, organisation of joint academic and scientific activities, staff

and student exchange for professional development and exchange of materials and publications of common interest.

This initiative is the result of the long lasting academic collaborations of Prof. Ranil de Silva with Dr. Lyn Griffiths, Executive Director, Institute of Health Biomedical Innovation, QUT which has paved the way towards the advancement in multidisciplinary including Science and Technology.

The Agreements was signed by Prof. Scott Sheppard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) QUT and Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of USJP; whilst, Dr. Helen Klaebe, Dean of Research and Research Training, Division of Research and Commercialization, QUT, Prof. Ranil de Silva, Director, World Class University Project-2017, USJP and His Excellency, Bryce Hutchesson, the High Commissioner of Australia to Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Maldives.

## MoU signed with Parwathibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science, India with Seminar on “Changing Geographies of Cultural Landscape: Perspectives of India and Sri Lanka” – 2017



A delegation representing the Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura took part in an Academic Exchange Programme at the Parwathibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Margao, Goa, India, which was held from 15th to 20th March 2017, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two universities. Sri Lankan delegation was led by Prof. Sunethra Thennakoon (Head), including Mr. Sumanajith Kumara, Mr. Ravi Nandana Gamachchige and 17 final year undergraduates of Department of Geography. Several rounds of seminars, workshops and discussions were held during the programme.

Lectures were conducted for Sri Lankan students by the Dr. Nandakumar Sawant (Head of the Institution) and Mrs. Anagha Bicholcar (Head of the Geography Department) of the Parvatibai Chowgule College and a series of lectures were also conducted by the Sri Lankan scholars to the Geography students in Parwathibai Chowgule College.

## Academic and Scientific Collaboration

A delegation from the Zhejiang Shuren University paid an official visit to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 25th April 2017 to explore the possibility of strengthening mutual academic cooperation between the two universities. Vice Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Deans of all the faculties and the staff of the Department of Entrepreneurship engaged in a discussion with delegates from Zhejiang Shuren University on exchanging students and academics between the two universities. Accordingly, Ms. Xia Quing and Dr. Huang Quibo were appointed as Graduate Tutors at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for three years period, and also Dr. P.J. Kumarasinghe (Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics) and Dr. P.D. Nimal (Senior Lecturer, Department of Finance) as Visiting Professors at the Zhejiang Shuren University for three years period.



## Pradeep Ratnayake's concert in Kuwait



On Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in association with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters celebrated the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka through a concert featuring sitarist Pradeep Ratnayake, Head of the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts, of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, at the Al Shamiya Theatre at Kuwait.

It was a highly acclaimed concert with a long standing ovation at the end, which brought much pride to the Sri Lankan Independence Day celebrations in Kuwait.

## Prathap Kaluthanthri becomes a member of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, United Kingdom.



Mr. Prathap Kaluthanthri, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Estate Management and Valuation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura became a member of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), United Kingdom. RICS is the global professional body promoting and enforcing the highest international standards in valuation, management and development of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. The membership of RICS acknowledges Mr. Kaluthanthri's over 10 years experience in teaching, research and consultancy experience on Real Estate Valuation, Corporate Real Estate Management and Real Estate Marketing. He is the first person in Sri Lanka who completed RICS Assessment of Professional Competency (APC) in Valuation pathway, under the Academic Assessment Route.

## Chairperson of General Research Committee, SLAAS – Year 2017

Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake was elected as the Chairperson of the General Research Committee for the year 2017 at the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS).



## Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara received US Patent for a new drug discovered for type II diabetes



US patent has been obtained by Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara, former Coordinator and Senior Lecturer of the B. Pharmacology Degree Program, Faculty of Medical Sciences, for a novel pharmacological property of  $\beta$  – Amyrin Acetate derived from *Tabernaemontana dichotoma* (Sinhala – Divi Kaduru) as a potent  $\beta$  – glucosidase inhibitor. This discovery also provides for the use of this compound as a novel oral hypoglycemic drug in the treatment of type II diabetes being approximately 35 times potent compared with Acarbose, a standard drug widely prescribed for type II diabetes patients.

Dr. Wijayabandara and his research team at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (H. E. J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Pakistan are now working to explore commercialization of this invention through developing this molecule into a pharmaceutically elegant dosage form.

Dr. Wijayabandara's achievement has brought prestige not only to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura but also to Sri Lanka as a whole.

## Professor Dinithi Peiris as keynote speaker



Prof. Dinithi C. Peiris, from Dept. of Zoology was the Keynote Speaker of the two day International Conference on Recent Advances for Quality Enhancement in Science & Technology held in January, 2017. This international conference was organized in collaboration with International Association of Research Scholars (IARS), Australia. Director, Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) Mohali, Prof. N. Sathyamurthy was the Guest of Honour. In her keynote address, Professor Peiris emphasized on the use of less toxic therapy for treatment of cancer and other diseases.

## Seminar on Environmental Management with Lakeland College, Canada and signing of an MOU



Eighteen Canadian delegates including staff & students from Lakeland College, Canada, visited the FGS, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 20th February, 2017 to discuss & share knowledge about environmental management in Canada. Environmental experts in Sri Lanka representing both academia & industry participated in this event. Remediation of contaminated sites, soils in Canada, challenges and opportunities in environmental management in Sri Lanka were discussed at this seminar.

Also an MOU between Lakeland College & University of Sri Jayewardenepura was signed during this seminar which included student and staff exchanges, joint research, credit transfer schemes etc.

## Annual Scholarship Programme of J'pura-Canada Alumni Association



Annual scholarship programme organized by J'pura-Canada Alumni Association was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 at the Boardroom of Administration Building, University of Sri Jayewardenepura where thirty students were awarded scholarships.

Prof. Sampath Amararatunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dean of the faculty of Graduate Studies, Mr. Maxwell Ranasinghe and Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences graced the event.

# AWARD CEREMONIES AND CONVOCATIONS

## 12th External Degree convocation of USJP



General Degree in Bachelor of Commerce (External) , General Degree in Bachelor of Science Management (Public) (External) and General Degree in Bachelor of Science Business Administration (External) were conferred on 4th January 2017 while General Degrees in Bachelor of Arts (External) was conferred on 5th January 2017.

12th External Degree Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 4th and 5th of January 2017 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall – Colombo. The Most Venerable Prof. Bellanwila Wimalarathana Thero, Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University conferred the degrees.

## Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Third Efficiency Bar Examination



The certificate awarding ceremony of the three-month certificate course on Management to fulfill the third efficiency bar examination for the Officers in Grade I of Sri Lanka Technological Service was held on 5th March 2017 at the main Hall of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura(USJP).

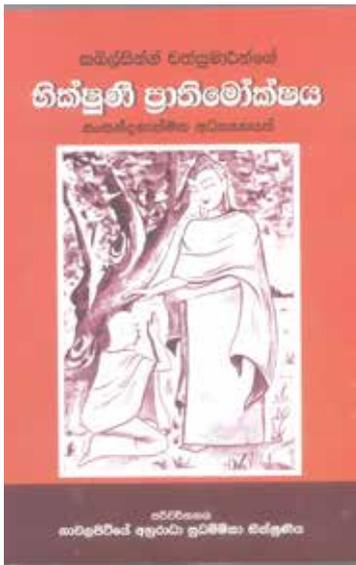
## Inauguration of CTHE 2017 and Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The inauguration of Certificate Course in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE 2017) conducted by the Staff Development Centre of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and certificate awarding ceremony of the previous batch at the completion of the certificate course was held on 21st April 2017. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice chancellor of the University, Deans and academic members graced the event.



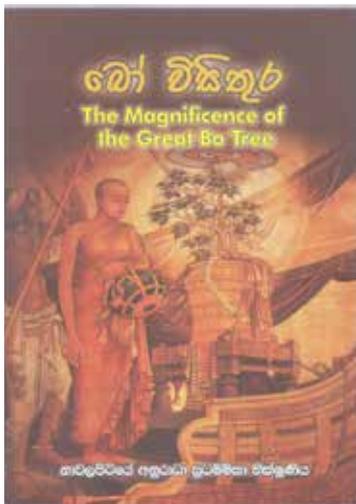
# PUBLICATIONS

## හික්ෂුණී ප්‍රාතිමෝක්ෂය



පූජ්‍ය නාවලපිටියේ අනුරාධා සුධම්මිකා හික්ෂුණීය විසින් පරිවර්තන 'හික්ෂුණී ප්‍රාතිමෝක්ෂය' - සංසන්දනාත්මක අධ්‍යයනයක්. කෘතිය තායිලන්ත ජාතික චන්සුමාර්න් කබ්ලිසින්ගේ විසින් ඇගේ ආචාර්ය උපාධි නිබන්ධය ලෙස ඉන්දියාවේ මගධ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද A Comparative study of Bhikkhuni Patimokkha කෘතියේ සිංහල පරිවර්තනයකි.

## 'බෝ විසිතුර'



බෝධි ඉතිහාසය බෝසත් සංකල්පය සම්බන්ධව ලියැවුණු ලිපි එකතුවකි.

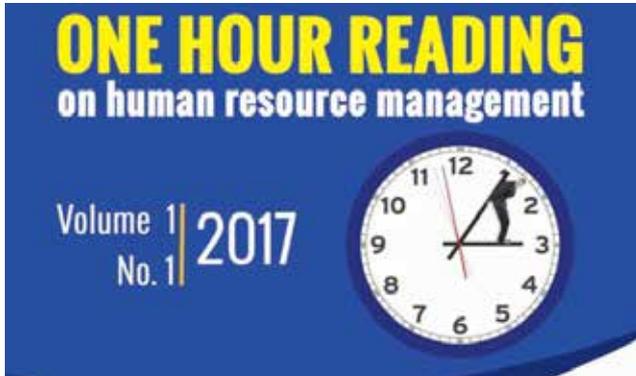
## “සෞන්දර්ය හා කලාශිල්ප” සඟරාව දොරටුවැඩුම



“සෞන්දර්ය හා කලාශිල්ප” සඟරාවේ දෙවන කලාපය දොරටුවැඩුම ජනවාරි මස 11 දින සුමංගල කියැවීම් ශාලාවේදී පැවැත්වුණි. ආචාර්ය ඩී. පී. එස්. චන්ද්‍රකුමාර, පීඨාධිපතිතුමා, මානවශාස්ත්‍ර හා සමාජීයවිද්‍යා පීඨය, ආචාර්ය මැදගම්පිටියේ විජිතධම්ම හිමි, අංශාධිපති, පාලි හා බෞද්ධ අධ්‍යයනාංශය, මහාචාර්ය සුනේත්‍රා තෙන්නකෝන්, අංශාධිපති, භූගෝල විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය සහ පාලි හා බෞද්ධ අධ්‍යයනාංශයේ ආචාර්යවරුන් ඇතුළු විද්වතුන් රැසක් මෙම උත්සවයට සහභාගී විය.

මෙම සඟරාව ප්‍රකාශනය කිරීමේ කටයුතු සංවිධානය “බුදු සමය, සෞන්දර්ය හා කලා ශිල්ප විෂය ඒකකය (BUCCI-3120) හදාරන ලද සිසුන් විසින් සිදු කළ අතර මෙහි එන සියලු ලිපි සැපයූවෝද මෙම විද්‍යාර්ථීන් වෙති. මෙම විෂය ඒකකය භාරව කටයුතු කරන ආචාර්ය එන්. මෙන්ඩිස් මහතාගේ මගපෙන්වීමෙන් මෙම විද්‍යාර්ථීන් විසින් විවිධ ප්‍රදේශයන්හි ක්ෂේත්‍ර පර්යේෂණයන්හි නියැලෙමින් ඒකරාශී කරගත් දත්ත ඔස්සේ මෙම ලිපි සියල්ල සම්පාදනය කර තිබේ.

## The first issue of “One Hour Reading on HRM Periodical” by Dr. Dushar Dayarathna



The first issue of “One Hour Reading on Human Resource Management (HRM) periodical” has been written and published by Dr. Dushar Dayarathna (PhD, La Trobe University, Australia), Editor-in-Chief-One Hour Reading on HRM, Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

As the founder of this periodical, his intention of launching this type of periodical on HRM is to introduce the concept of “Snack Reading” or “short regular reading sessions” to

the students and the practitioners in the field of HRM in Sri Lanka. Hopefully, this periodical may be more popular among the people who are very busy with their daily routines but still eagerly inquisitive about the emerging and novel concepts in the area of HRM. The first issue of the periodical aims to provide students and the practitioners in Sri Lanka with fundamental knowledge about the theory and practice on human resource management system strength.

The PDF version of this book is also available in Digital Repository, Library of USJP at <http://dr.lib.sjp.ac.lk/handle/123456789/3601>

## Journal of Tropical Forestry and Environment

New issue published

## ‘Rata Kata Haa Heta’ by Dr. Shantha Hettiarachchi

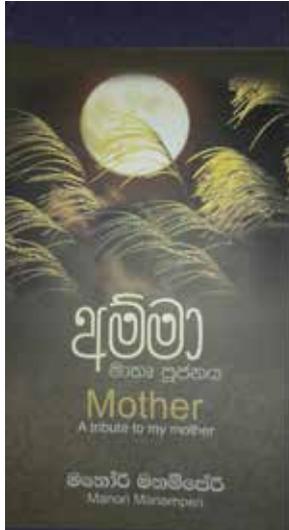


“Rata Kata Haa Heta” written by Dr. Shantha Hettiarachchi, Chief Medical Officer, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was launched on 20th February 2017 at New Town Hall, Colombo 07. The book consists of 26 topics shedding new light on current political, health and social issues of the country.



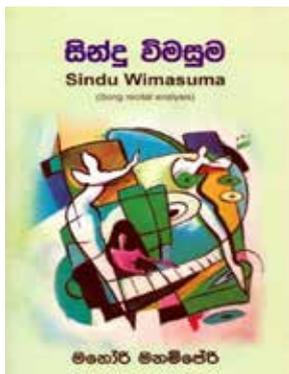
Journal of Tropical Forestry and Environment managed by Department of Forestry and Environment Science of University of Sri Jayewardenepura published Vol 6, No 2 (2016) issue of Journal Management System of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

# අම්මා (මාතෘ පූජනය) සහ සින්දු විමසුම ග්‍රන්ථ විලිඳුක්වීම



ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ භාෂා, සංස්කෘතික අධ්‍යයනාංශයේ නර්තනය පිළිබඳ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කලීකාවාර්යවරියක වශයෙන් සේවය කරන මනෝරි මනම්පේරි විසින් රචිත අම්මා (මාතෘ පූජනය) නමැති ශාස්ත්‍රීය ග්‍රන්ථය එළිඳුක්වා ඇත.

කතුවරියගේ මවගේ දිවිපෙවෙතේ යම් ගුණාංග මෙන්ම පොදුවේ මවකගේ වර්තයක තිබිය යුතු යහ ගුණාංග පිළිබඳ ව අධ්‍යයනයට ලක් කර ඇත. මෙය දෙමාපියන්ට මෙන්ම ළමා පරපුරට ද, වැදගත් කෘතියක් වනු ඇත. මෙම කෘතියේ මවගේ ජීවන තොරතුරු, සංස්කෘතිය හා අම්මා, බෞද්ධ ධර්ම දේශනා හා අට්ඨ කථා, කවිය සහ නූතන පද්‍ය, නර්තන කලා කෙත, දේශීය ආහාර පුරුදු හා වෙදකම, ඉංග්‍රීසි සාහිත්‍ය යන පරිච්ඡේද හතක් ද, උපග්‍රන්ථ සහ ආශ්‍රිත ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලියක් ද අන්තර්ගත වේ.



සින්දු විමසුම කෘතියෙහි ප්‍රශස්ති/විරුද්ධ හා හටත් කාව්‍යය හැඳින්වීම, සින්දු පිළිබඳ හැඳින්වීම, සින්දුවේ නර්තන සබඳතාව, සින්දු පිළිබඳ ව හඳුනා නොගත් වෙනත් අවස්ථා යන පරිච්ඡේද පහක් ද උපග්‍රන්ථ සහ ආශ්‍රිත ග්‍රන්ථනාමාවලියක් ද අන්තර්ගත වේ. මෙම කෘතිය නර්තනය, සංගීතය හදාරණ පාසල් සිසුන්ට මෙන්ම විශ්වවිද්‍යාල සිසුන්ට වඩාත් වැදගත් වෙන කෘතියකි.

# CONCERTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS



## Guitar Fest 2017

Featuring the local and foreign Guitarists, "Guitar Fest" was conducted on 20th January at 6.30 p.m. at the Sumangala Reading Hall which was organized by the Guitar Association of Sri Lanka and Cultural Center and Art Assembly of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The seventh festival of guitar music was rendered by well-known guitarist.

# SPORTS

## International University Badminton Championship (Women's Team) for University of Sri Jayewardenepura



International University Badminton Championship (UMISF) 2017 was held from 17th to 20th March 2017 at the University of Moratuwa. USJP Badminton Girls team A emerged as Champions while the Team B secured the Runners-up. In girl's Singles' event, Lakhini Sashibhani was placed the 1st and Nishdhi Fernando placed the 2nd. In Girls Doubles' event Thiini and Lakhini placed 1st and Kavindi and Roshni placed 2nd. In Mix event Thilini and Tharaka possessed the 1st place and Chinthaka and Nishadi secured the 2nd Place. In Boys Singles event Ramal Keerthirathna was the Finalist.

## Sponsorships for university Cricket and Rugger teams



A cash donation was granted on 17th March 2017 by the Alumni Association of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (AAUSJP) for the university Rugger and Cricket teams with the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Secretary of the Alumni Association, Prof. Abeyratne Bandara, National Organizer, Mr. Ranjith Iddamalgoda, other members of the Alumni together with the University officials representing the Department of Physical Education and the Sports Council.

AAUSJP has always been an arm of encouragement to the university, extending its gracious support and goodwill. Showcasing this very same spirit, the alumni took the initiative of sponsoring both the Rugger and Cricket teams of the university based on their previous performance at the Inter-University Championship wherein Japura emerged champions.

## The leadership training camp



The leadership training camp was organized by the Department of Physical Education for all the men and women sports captains and vice captains engaged in sports in the university, at the Sri Lanka Commando Training School, Kudaoya from 1st to 3rd April, 2017. This programme aimed at strengthening the bond amongst the sports teams within the university. over the course of three days, they were exposed to a variety of activities that challenged them to move beyond their limits, and cherish the learning experience they received.



# COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

## USJP Welcomes 2017



The staff and administration of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a spiritual blessing followed by a friendly gathering of all concerned on 2nd January 2017 from 8.30 a.m. onwards near the shrine room of the university. This event which marked togetherness and solidarity of the staff and administration, as they step into another new year of great hope and aspiration, was graced by Vice Chancellor, Professor Sampath Amaratunge and the Deans of all six faculties of the university.

## Annual Pirith Ceremony 2017 – Faculty of Medical Sciences



The Buddhist Association of Faculty of Medical Sciences organized its annual pirith ceremony in the month of January 2017 for the 16th consecutive year. The main objectives of this event were to transfer merit to those who had donated their dead bodies for educational purposes, and to wish good luck for the recently joined junior batch. Ven. Maha Sangha mainly from Papiliyana Sunethra Devi Piriwena and Vijerama Sunethra Maha Devi International Buddhist Centre, Vice Chancellor, USJP, Dean, FMS, Deans of other Faculties, academics, non-academics, students and their parents and relatives of those who donated dead bodies were among the participants.



## Thai Pongal Festival

The Thai Pongal Festival organised by the Art Assembly and Cultural Center of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura was held on 27th January 2017 from 8.30 a.m. onwards near the Sumangala Building. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and Prof. Charmalie Nahallage and many academics participated to share the happiness of the festival celebrations with students.



## Kokila Udanaya 2017



Kokila Udanaya, the annual Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations organized by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on the 30th March 2017 at the University premises. Academic and Non-Academic staff members and students shared this joyful occasion to enjoy the happiness of the new year.

## 'Sewabhinandana 2017'

"Sewabhinandana 2017", Plaques Awarding Ceremony organized by University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 24th March 2017 at Fingara Town and Country Club, Colombo. This event was organized in order to appreciate the services rendered by the staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



## වසන්ත කෝකිල උදානය 2017



පාලි හා බෞද්ධ අධ්‍යයනාංශය මගින් ආචාර්ය නිමල් වසන්ත මෙන්ඩිස් මහතාගේ පූර්ව මඟ පෙන්වීම යටතේ දෙවන වරටත් පවත්වන ලද වසන්ත කෝකිල උදානය 2017 අධ්‍යයනාංශ ප්‍රධාන හිමියන් ඇතුළු කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය මෙන්ම පාලි හා බෞද්ධ අධ්‍යයනාංශයට අදාළ විෂයයන් වන පාලි, බෞද්ධ ශිෂ්ටාචාරය, බෞද්ධ දර්ශනය, දර්ශනය හා මනෝ විද්‍යාව යන විෂයයන් හදාරන සිසු සිසුවියන්ගේ සහභාගීත්වයෙන් 2017.04.06 වන දින විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පරිශ්‍රය කස ගස් සෙවණේදී පැවැත්විණි.

දරුවන් තුළ එකමුතුකම, සමගිය, සාමූහිකත්වය වර්ධනය කිරීමේ අරමුණෙන් පවත්වන ලද මෙම සූර්ය මංගල්‍යය නැකතට කිරි ඉතිරවීමේ සිට සාම්ප්‍රදායික සිරිත් විරිත් ගණනාවක් මුල් කර ගනිමින් ජන ශි ගායනා නරඟ, අලියාට ඇස තැබීම, දිවීමේ නරඟ රැසකින් සමන්විත විය. අවසානයේදී අධ්‍යයනාංශ අවුරුදු කුමරා හා කුමරිය අභිෂේක ගැන්වීම මගින් බක්මහ උළෙල අවසන් කරන්නට විය.

## Annual Blood Donation Camp



The annual blood donation camp for the year 2017 has been organized by the Association of Public Administration on 4th April 2017 from 9.00 a.m. onwards at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The main objective of the campaign was to initiate the contribution of the youth to fulfill civic duties, as well as to contribute community welfare as undergraduates. With an average of 120 donors including students, academic and non-academic staff members donated blood and supported to make this campaign a success.

## අපෙන්නු ඔබට ආධාර වැඩසටහන



මානවශාස්ත්‍ර හා සමාජයවිද්‍යා පීඨයේ ක්‍රියාත්මක වන ශිෂ්‍ය සුබසාධන හා උපදේශන මධ්‍යස්ථානය මගින් සංවිධානය කරනු ලැබූ 'අපෙන්නු ඔබට ආධාර වැඩසටහන' යටතේ එකතු කරනු ලැබූ විසලී ආහාර ද්‍රව්‍ය මහරගම පිළිකා සුව සහන පදනම වෙත 2017.03.30 වන දින පරිත්‍යාග කරන ලදී. පීඨාධිපති ආචාර්ය ඩී.පී.එස්. වන්දනුමාර මහතා, ශිෂ්‍ය සුබසාධන හා උපදේශන මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ සභාපති ආචාර්ය සුනිල් රාජනෙත්ති මහතා ඇතුළු ශිෂ්‍ය සුබසාධන හා උපදේශන මධ්‍යස්ථාන කමිටු සාමාජිකයන්ගේ අනුග්‍රහය යටතේ මෙම වැඩසටහන ක්‍රියාත්මක විය.

## 'Haritha Wasanthaya 2017'



'Haritha Wasanthaya', the annual Sinhala Tamil New Year celebrations organized by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences of Faculty of Applied Sciences was held on the 30th March 2017 at the faculty premises. The occasion was graced by the presence of Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, staff members of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences including other academic members and students representing all departments of the faculty. This lively and fun filled couple of hours created an unforgettable experience to the students, and also succeeded in bringing together all students of the faculty as one big joyful family.

# Student Activities

## Planting of a thousand saplings to mark the 69th Sri Lankan Independence Day



A tree planting programme was successfully organized by Reforest Sri Lanka together with the Forestry and Environmental Science Society of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 4th February 2017 at the Kaduwela expressway entrance. This endeavour was carried out to mark the 69th Sri Lankan Independence Day.

## Economics Undergraduate represents Sri Lanka at SAESM 2016



Ms. Udeshika Chandrarathne, a final year undergraduate of the Department of Business Economics presented her research paper at the South Asian Economics Students' Meet 2016 (SAESM 2016) on the theme "FDI and Private Investment", representing the university and the country. Conference was held from 29th January to 3rd February 2017 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

SAESM acts as a platform not only for undergraduates but also for faculty members in the discipline of Economics to network and cooperate. The main objective of SAESM is to create an understanding of the value of regional cooperation in order to transform short term domestic political gains into greater regional cooperation.

## “Vorbitor 2017 ” - Intra University Public Speaking Competition



“Vorbitor 2017”, the intra university public speaking competition, and “Eminentium 2017”, the installation ceremony of the new executive committee of Gavel Club for the year 2017/2018 of University of Sri Jaywardenepura was held on the 20th of April, 2017 at Global Towers Hotel Colombo.

## “Innovators Day -2017” “Vyawasaya 2017”



Department of Entrepreneurship conducted "Innovators Day 2017" with the aim of developing a unique platform for innovators to share their innovative solutions with others. The event was held at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall from 31st of March – 2nd of April 2017 in conjunction with “Vyawasaya 2017” organized by Small Enterprises Development Bureau. 15 innovators in Internal Degree program and SMEDSU programs exhibited their innovations, and they were evaluated by a panel of experts including senior academic members of the Faculty, executive officers of Bank of Ceylon and industry personnel. The best three innovators were awarded with cash prizes.



## Faculty of Technology students participate in Thirasara Lanka exhibition at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall



First year students of the Faculty of Technology presented nine technological items in their stall at the 'Thirasara Lanka Jathika Mangalya' exhibition which was held from 31st March to 4th April 2017 at the BMICH.

## BIZCON Annual Drama Festival - 2017



"BIZCON Annual Drama Festival 2017" organized by the Business Economics Students' Association (BIZCON) was held successfully on 20th March 2017 at the Bandaranayake Hall, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The stage drama "Jayasirita Pissu" directed by Mr. Sarath Kothalawala was staged from 4.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. as two shows. The objective of the event was to raise funds for the Annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project of the department which was targeted at providing facilities to an underprivileged school.

## 'Prathibha Abhinandana' 2017



"Prathibha Abhinandana" 2017, a talent show was organized by the Soft Skill Development Unit for the first Year students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences on 5th March 2017 at the university premises.

## Annual CSR Project of the Department of Business Economics



“Colouring Smiles”, the Annual Social Responsibility project of the Department of Business Economics was held at Udawalawa Maha Vidyalaya on 11th January 2017. At this event, a multipurpose photocopier machine was donated which was followed by a donation of books to the school library. A cupboard and two library shelves were donated in the memory of the late mother of the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. U. Anura Kumara. Dr. Sumudu Perera, Head of the Department, other lecturers of the department and students from second, third and fourth years participated in the event.

## ‘ECON INSIGHT 2017’



“ECON INSIGHT 2017” is a seminar series for G.C.E. (A/L) candidates on Economics organized by the Students' Association of Business Economics (BIZCON) of the Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The first seminar was held on 31st January 2017 at National College of Education for Management and Entrepreneurship in Maharagama. After a very successful seminar conducted for the A/L candidates of Colombo district, the second seminar of the series was held on 21st February 2017 at the Girls' High School, Kandy. Senior Lecturers of the department who are involved in teacher training and syllabus development for G.C.E. A/L conducted the two seminars. This endeavour aimed at enhancing the knowledge on the subject among those candidates, and also to fulfill social responsibility of the undergraduates of the department.

## Street drama on road accidents



A street drama on road accidents was performed by the students of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in Akkareipattu to enhance awareness on this social menace among the community which claims priceless human lives due to carelessness. The Police Department was cooperative towards this endeavor which aimed at promoting awareness of high number of road accidents.

## A two day workshop on Entrepreneurship for Ordinary Level school teachers

The Department of Entrepreneurship organized a two day workshop on Entrepreneurship for Ordinary Level school teachers on 16th and 17th of February 2017 at Construction Equipment Training Centre, Battaramulla. Mr. R. N. Weerasinghe, Head, Department of Entrepreneurship, Mr. M.V.V.S Udayanga, Senior Lecturer, Department of Entrepreneurship, Mr. L. K. I. Rajapaksha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Entrepreneurship and Mr. Channa Gajanayaka, Lecturer of Department of Entrepreneurship participated as resource persons at this workshop. It was also provided the opportunity to listen to success stories of entrepreneurs of the department in order to make them aware of practical aspects of the field of Entrepreneurship. Ms. Shanika Perera and Ms. Pubudini Liyanage, Lecturers of the Department of Entrepreneurship coordinated this program.

# News feature

In honour of the creation of Vidujaya, we carry an article by Dr. Ravindra de Silva, Director, Center for Robotics and Intelligent System on the process of its making.



Historically, industries and researchers have exerted great efforts into developing automation machines as a robot to perform tasks more effectively than humans can do. However, the outcomes are not suitable for utilizing robots in other application areas due to lack of intelligence, communication, social interaction, collaboration, and learning, etc. The newly established areas of human-robot interaction (HRI) and social robotics are exerting efforts into addressing the above issues by designing robots that have human capabilities (communication, interaction, and behavior) in support of human-centric applications.



Do you still just imagine these kinds of robots might exist, and do you have any experience in interacting with these robots in Sri Lanka? How do you feel about BB-8 in the scientific fictional movie "Star Wars"? How does BB-8 communicate, behave, and interact with others? Even a

robot's body is very different from a human's. But BB-8's behaviors and interactions are very much similar to those of a human or animal (showing the characteristics of animacy). Such kinds of fictional movies have inspired and influenced the design, development, and thinking



behind innovative robotic platforms for society, which is why robots have recently become a part of our everyday lives, being put to work in hospitals, schools, and homes. Therefore, we introduce and transfer this knowledge in order to design/develop this type of robots in Sri Lanka.

A team from the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenapura have come up with a cute looking innovative robot. This falls under the category of Social Robotics and, this is the 1st of its kind in the country. They must have a lot to say, let's listen to them.

### **Social robotics is a new exposure for Sri Lanka**

Generally, robots are known for their accuracy, precision, effective, logical decisions making powers, high processing powers, strength etc, which makes them very valuable in fields like constructions, medical, agriculture, financial etc. The main difference is, what we have developed, is a Social Robot. Social Robotics is a fresh field for Sri Lanka as well as for the global arena. It's a trending research area where the researchers are paying more attention currently. Since, using robots in areas of education, entertainment, social services, where social skills are a necessary factor, is very rare and challenging, and it is still a struggling aspect in robotics. And that is how social robotics came into play. In social robotics we try to mimic a human, the daily routines, behaviors, reactions in specific situations, the steps or the instruction in following a procedure by a person and the expressions are thoroughly observed, and used as inspiration for the development of a robot. The main objective of social robotics is to minimize the artificial and mechanical behavior of the robot and to give natural feel by embedding more human like behaviors. Achieving these targets of social robotics was our main concern and we have developed a very successful social robot.

### **The Idea**

Children are usually changing their activities/behaviors within a very short of time period while they are playing or interacting with someone. Therefore, children are not always willing to listen to instructions for appearing for photographs when the parent is willing to shoot. Even, when they take a photograph with instructions, it ruins the naturalism of expressions and attractions of the photograph. In addition, children are usually very attached to their toys, and some other objects in their eye-level to build-up their own world (society) in home-setup or kindergarten. Some parent/carers enter to their world (playing space) to capture (shoot) expression while they are playing or interacting with some objects, mostly their entrance distracts child's world, and the child gives up his activities, which hinders the chance to capture attractive photographs. The concept of Vidujaya is directing as futuristic interactive robot that is capable of capturing natural and attractive photographs while interacting/playing with children. Through this interactive process, parent/carers are able to collect attractive photographs of the child from Vidujaya by establishing a playing/interactive scenario.

### **Design of the Robot**

Social robots target three main factors; design, animacy, and anthropomorphism. The design was built up from the scratch by our team, starting from the sketches, following the design patterns, learning the 3D designing technologies and even 3D printing. Providing animacy, making the robot look alive was another one of the major challenges. The target group of this robot is kids. Our main objective was to gain the attention of the target group and make them respond to the robot. For this purpose animating technologies played a major role, which were carefully designed considering psychological factors. We observed the target group over the period of time. Their behavioral patterns and their reactions were analyzed and used to

give more human like behavior (anthropomorphism) to the robot and to increase the familiarity for the target group. Using the balanced combination of these three concepts we were able to develop the robot successfully resulting in a robot that is capable of recognizing the target group, and adjusting its behaviors according to feedbacks and reactions.

### **Naming Robot**

The hardest part other than making the robot was naming it. We were undecided between few suggestions that we received. Since this was the first robot developed by the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, we wanted to make a connection to the university as well. There were several names that are commonly used in the university, which has direct connection to the university. And "Vidhu-Jaya", was one of them. We think the name suits him better, it will stand as a symbol, a milestone in Sri Lankan robotic journey.

### **Multi- disciplinaries research area**

Working in the social robotics arena is not an easy task, because it is defined as a multi-disciplinary area. Social robotics uses engineering, computer science, electronics, social sciences, psychology, mathematics, statistics and much more disciplines.

When working in developing research areas, it is very rare to get a visible final product where you can clearly witness the change you have done, but by working on social robotics students get the chance to apply their theoretical knowledge, combining it with their common social knowledge to produce a high quality end product.

### **The success journey**

We had a considerable basic knowledge when we started off the project. But our main obstacle was finding the required physical resources. Robotics is a fairly new industry in the Sri Lankan market, and it was not easy to find out the necessary resources. We spent days and days browsing through the streets of Pettah to find the required gadgets. But that didn't stop us, our dreams kept us running towards our goals. Dr. Ravindra de Silva was the constant force that powered us. He lent us his personal resources, allowed us to use his personal office space to carry out the project, where we spent uncountable sleepless nights. Our hard work was finally paid off, making "Vidujaya" a milestone in Robotics in Sri Lanka.

Also we need to make a special note on the physical design of "Vidujaya". The cute face and the savvy design that you see is a creation of our team, from drawings to, 3D designing to 3D printing. 3D printing was a new arena to the country back then. Although our faculty had a 3D printer, we had no idea how to operate it, we had to learn from the scratch, from opening the package to getting an object printed. There were numerous technical difficulties, to which we had to find solutions by ourselves. Now for our team 3D printing has become as easy as taking a normal printout.

The journey we had, during the last five months, was not an easy one. There were so many obstacles so many hurdles, but together as a team we were able to overcome them and find solutions to every problem that we faced. All together it was an amazing journey, taught us a lot about teamwork, and gave us technical experience which we cannot gain by simply reading a book.

### **The reasons behind the success**

Undergraduates who follow the Computer Science Special degree at our faculty need to conduct a research in their fourth year. This was the research theme selected by Didula Egodage and team; Thilina Madushanka, Udaka Manawadu and Lakshitha Madushan under the guidance of our mentor, Dr. Ravindra de Silva. By developing and advancing a small concept within about 5 months, we were able to come up with the 1st ever social robot in Sri Lanka, and to be the initiators of the first Ever social robotics platform in the country.

We are extremely privileged to have Dr. Ravindra de Silva as a lecturer of the department and most importantly as our mentor. He has intimate knowledge and firsthand experience on Social Robotics from working at Toyota Japan and Toyohashi University, Japan. If not for him, there wouldn't be a "Vidujaya".

### **Support from the university**

Support extended by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amarathunge was a huge strength for us. Also, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage and Head of the Department of Computer Science Dr. Ananda Edirisuriya were backing us from the start to the very end. Support extended by academic and non-academic staff of the department and all our beloved friends should be highly admired. Their help and support is what made "Vidujaya", a huge success.

## **Future**

This is our first product, we were at level zero, when we started making "Vidujaya". But now we have improved a lot and are more experienced. So, we expect to come up with better and more successful products in the future.

And also this is not the end of "Vidujaya", it keeps getting better and better everyday, with new suggestions, new ideas and new technologies. Our plan is to make "Vidujaya" the most sophisticated social robot available in the industry. We are ready to bring more innovative products to the global arena, and make a name for Sri Lanka in the global robotics industry. Keep an eye on us, because the best is yet to come.