

Conferences and Research

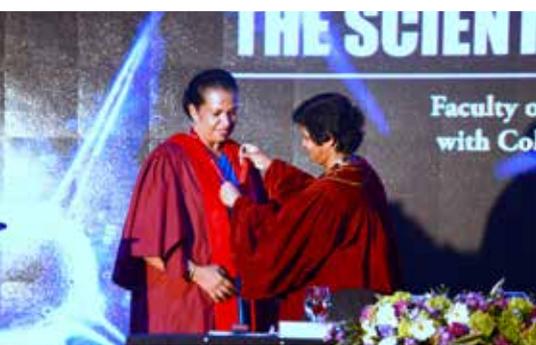
Building Bridges for Better Health

The Annual Scientific Sessions 2017 of the Faculty of Medical Sciences which is one of the highlight events of the faculty took place on 24th and 25th of May 2017 at the Golden Rose, Boralsgamuwa. This year the sessions were held as a joint collaboration with three hospitals, the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and Base Hospital, Homagama. This year's theme was 'Building Bridges for Better Health' which was especially adopted to emphasize the importance of connecting research and clinical practice. The inauguration ceremony was held on 24th May 2017 which marked the beginning of a remarkable experience. The oration was delivered by Prof. Sharaine Fernando, Professor, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ, on the effects of toxic metals on human reproduction. The oration speech was indeed an excellent one that was highly commended by the audience. Everyone also enjoyed the colorful, musical, and vibrant performances by graduates and undergraduates of the Faculty, and the fellowship that followed.

The scientific programme took place on the following day and all participants experienced a perfect blend of research and clinical developments presented by eminent experts who were invited as resource personnel. For the first time in history, an international resource person, Prof. Malik Peiris, Chair of Virology from the University of Hong Kong was invited as the keynote speaker. Prof. Peiris highlighted a lifetime of his experiences in bio-medical research which was a great eye opener for researchers in the audience. The plenary was by Prof. S. Kathriarachchi, Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ, on "Spotlight on to the facets of abuse". There were four symposia which covered a wide area of topics of research and clinical significance. The themes of the four symposia included 'Renal stones: An age old problem re-visited', 'Conquering Cancer', 'Non-communicable diseases - Unholy trinity', and 'Challenges in adolescents: Have we addressed?'. Each symposium were carefully planned to highlight the importance of translating research to clinical practice and vice versa. The contribution by the National Science Foundation as co-sponsors of the

symposium 'Conquering cancer' needs to be acknowledged with sincere gratitude.

The enthusiasm shown by both the external and internal researchers was evident, judging from over 100 abstracts received. Two parallel sessions were organized for oral presentations with the intention of providing greater opportunities for young researchers to communicate their research. Most others were presented as e-posters. A memorable day ended after the awards ceremony where, three oral and poster presenters were acknowledged for their commendable research work.



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The Inaugural International Conference on Economics and Development

The Inaugural International Conference on Economics and Development (ICED 2017) was held on 15th and 16th of June 2017 in Colombo. The theme of the conference was "Inclusive Economic Growth: Rethinking the Development Process in a Time of Paradigm Shift". The conference was hosted by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the collaboration of International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM).

The conference was chaired by Dr. (Mrs.) Sumudu Perera, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS). The first day ended with an economic forum with the participation of renowned economists and related personalities in the country. Technical sessions were organized on both days under 12 different tracks.



13th Research Sessions of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

The Research Sessions of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce is held biannually with the intention of providing a platform for researchers and young academics of the faculty to share their research findings, and promote a vibrant research culture within the Faculty.

The 13th in this series was held on 16th of August 2017 at the Prof. K.A. Munasinghe Auditorium, Sri Soratha Mandiraya,

University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Vice Chancellor of the University graced the occasion as the chief guest. The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. U. Anura Kumara participated as the Guest of Honor.

The event was well attended with over 100 academics in attendance. The keynote address of the symposium was conducted by Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Marketing Management, under the topic "Understanding Self-Identity Transformation after Significant Involuntary Losses". The event was co-chaired by Dr. Seshika Kariyapperuma and Dr. Lasith Gunawardena.



Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day 2017

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized 'Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day (VURD: FHSS) 2017' on 16th and 17th August 2017 at the faculty premises aiming final year students (special degree program) studying various disciplines in the related field.

Inauguration of the research day was graced by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences & Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Wasanatha Mendis, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies chaired the conference while Dr. Neranji Wijewardene, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice served as the Secretary. The "Research Day" was organized in accordance with the Corporate Plan and the Research Manual of Research Council of the University.



International Symposium on Polymer Science and Technology 2017

The Department of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura facilitated the 3rd biennial International Symposium on Polymer Science and Technology (IIUPST 2017) in collaboration with industries, institutions and universities on 13th -15th July, 2017 at the Golden Rose Hotel, Borlasgamuwa. Inauguration ceremony of the conference was held with the participation of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Pradeep M. Jayaweera, Head of the Department of Chemistry.



The Second Operations and Technology Management Research Symposium – OTMRS 2017

The Second Operations and Technology Management Research Symposium – OTMRS 2017 which was organized by the Department of Decision Sciences, FMSC, USJP, was held on 22nd December 2017 at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce with the participation of Vice Chancellor, Dean, Heads of departments, industry participants, staff members and Students of the Department of Decision Sciences. The aim of this event was to provide a platform to our research/internship students to present their research or internship project in front of their peers, staff members of the department, and experts from the industry. The Chief Guest of the event was the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and the keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Ranesh Handunnethi, CEO, MAS Silueta Pvt. Ltd.



Contribution to the National Development

Mr. J.C. Weliamuna Appointed as a President's Counsellor

Mr. J.C. Weliamuna, P.C. Member of the Council, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was appointed as a President's Counsellor on 28th April 2017 in recognition of his professional integrity and diligence.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, members of the Council, academic Staff, non-academic staff and students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura expressed their best wishes to him by presenting a plaque at the Council meeting held on 15th June 2017 at the university premises.



Prof. P. B. Mandawala, Acting Director General of Archaeology

Professor P.B. Mandawala was appointed as the Acting Director General of Archaeology. Prof. Mandawala is the Dean of the Faculty of Technology in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and he was the former Head, Department of History and Archaeology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.



President-Elect of Sri Lanka Library Association 2017/ 2018

Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara, Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was elected as the President-Elect of Sri Lanka Library Association 2017/ 2018.



President of the College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka

The ceremonial induction of Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne as the President of the College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka for the year 2017/2018 was held on 23rd August 2017 at Hotel Ramada, Colombo.

Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne is a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pathology and the present Head of the Department of Allied Health Sciences at the Faculty of Medical Sciences,

University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Awards

'Emerging Young Leaders Award' to Chamathya Fernando



Chamathya Fernando, an undergraduate of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura received Emerging Young Leaders Award granted for international youth (18-25) who had shown the tenacity and courage to promote conflict resolution and prevent crime and violence in their communities at U.S. Department of State on 5th May 2017.

Chamathya Fernando coordinates the "Stop the Violence" campaign of Sri Lanka Girls Guide Association (SLGGA); and is a National Trainer for "Voices against Violence," an educational curriculum co-developed by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and UN Women. She has been chosen as the Girl Champion from the Asia Pacific Region for the WAGGGS's Team Girl Campaign for her work under the UN's development goal for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls in 2016. She represented Sri Lanka and WAGGGS as a Youth Delegate at the UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York.

Since 2013, she and her team have reached around 10,000 girls and boys across the country through various activities. She

also focuses on youth issues including education, skills development, reproductive health and rights, and combating racial discrimination and extremism. She helped lead a campaign against violent extremism through which a "Peace Hotline" was established, and they organized interfaith dialogues around the country. As Assistant Director of Community Service of the Rotaract Club of National School of Business Management (NSBM) she has organized many community service projects.

Best Research Paper Presentation Awarded to Hashani Atapattu

Ms. Hashani Atapattu, Computer Science (Special) student won the best research paper presentation award at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Multidisciplinary Research Conference held in Colombo on 29 July, 2017.

Her work, based on the final year research project, presents a computer vision based approach to automatically detect the type of a currency note using a portable device that can be used by a blind person. The proposed approach uses a monochromatic light source to illuminate the currency note in order to segment the currency from the image. A fusion of Bag of Feature of Speeded Up Robust Feature (BoF-SURF) and hue color histogram is used to describe the currency notes and classifying with a Support Vector Machine (SVM). The portable device is setup using a Raspberry Pi 2 model B with a Raspi camera. Based on the type of detection, a feedback is given to the user by specific vibration pattern corresponding to particular currency notes. The results indicate that the proposed technique segments the currency notes with an average completeness of 95% having a spatial error of 0.3 while keeping the average recognition rate at 91 %.

The project was supervised by Prof. R.G.N. Meegama of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences.



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Dr. Dilantha Gunawardana, Winner of the Emerging Writer Award, Godage National Literary Award

Dr. Dilantha Gunawardana, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Botany was awarded the "Emerging Writer of the Year" for the year 2016, at the Godage National Literary Awards ceremony, for his collection of poems "Kite Dreams". He was also shortlisted for the award for the overall poetry prize for the year 2016.



'Best Research Presentation' Awards to USJP



Five research students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (3 students from the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, and 2 students from the Department of Zoology) won "Best Research Presentation" awards at the WILD LANKA International Symposium organized by the Department of Wildlife Conservation held on 15th & 16th August at the Taj Samudra Hotel- Colombo, which made USJP students claiming all the awards.

Mr. Hasitha Karawita, a PhD candidate; Mr. Upali Kumaratunga, a student in the Masters' program in

Forestry and Environmental Management, and Ms. Tara Mallikage, a B.Sc. (Special) degree holder who have conducted their research under the supervision of Dr. Priyan Perera have been able to achieve this feat.

Mr. Chaturanga Dharmarathne, a student in M.Phil. program on Life Sciences and Mr. Dulan Jayasekara, a B.Sc. (Special) degree holder in Zoology, who have conducted their researches under the supervision of Prof. W. A. D. Mahaulpatha, Department of Zoology were also awarded the "Best Presenter" awards.

"Best Innovator Award" Won by Asitha Senevirathna

Mr. Asitha Senevirathna a B. Pharm final year student was awarded the Best Innovator Award at the J'pura Employability Skills Award 2017 on 30th August 2017 for the development of an antibacterial herbal formulation from Garcinia aqueous extract.

This undergraduate research project was conducted by Mr. Asitha Senevirathna and Miss. Kushanthi Anuradha under the supervision of Dr. T.D.C.P. Gunasekara (Department of Microbiology, FMS, USJP), Mr. M.A. Siriwardhane and Mrs. P.L.R. Dabare (Department of Allied Health Sciences, FMS, USJ).



News

Establishment of the Department of Sports Science

University Grants Commission granted approval to establish the Department of Sports Science and Management at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Thus, the student intake would also be increased for the Sports Science and Management Degree program with this establishment.

Sports Science is a discipline that studies the application of scientific principles and techniques with the aim of improving sporting performance. The programme is offered by the Faculty of Applied Sciences in collaboration with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Physical Education Division, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Training Program on Gender Equity and Equality

A Training Program on Gender Equity and Equality organized by the Center for Gender Equity and Equality of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 5th, 6th and 7th July 2017 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This was conducted for the academic staff members of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Many academic staff members representing all the faculties of the university participated in this program. Interactive sessions and lectures were conducted during the training program to discuss gender issues in the workplace, how to overcome them and how to make the workplace better. Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe, Professor of English at the University of Kelaniya and the founding Director of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Kelaniya, Dr. Nishadini Peiris, Faculty of Management, Uva Wellassa University and Dr. Wijaya Jayathilake, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya and Coordinator of the Gender Education and Women's Initiative Unit, University of Peradeniya served as resource persons at this program.



Institutional Training Workshop

An Institutional Training Workshop was conducted by the Soft Skills Development Unit (SSDU) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in order to enhance students' efficiency in their future working environments. This one day workshop took place on 20th June 2017 from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the Bandaranayake Hall of the University. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. W. M. Yaparathna, President of the SSDU, Dr. K. M. Alexander, Secretary of the SSDU and academic members of the Faculty participate in this workshop. Organizer of the Institutional Programme, Dr. Heenkenda, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Economics explained the importance of institutional training to the students before the commencement of the workshop.

Resource persons of the workshop conducted lectures covering various fields on 'Soft skills for successful employees'. Prof. Gnanadasa Perera delivered his lecture on stress management at workplace, development of positive attitudes and motivation. It was followed by the talk on communication skills and leadership skills by famous counselor, Mohan Palliyaguru. Rupawahini Programme Director and experienced lecturer in Soft Skills Mrs. W. P. Thushari conducted a lecture at the workshop covering one of the most important areas of the workplace, "Ethics and impersonation". Final resource person of the workshop, Mr. Dharmananda Weerasinghe addressed the students on how to work and manage other employees of the institute as well as consumers. This event was organised by the Soft Skills Development Unit of the Faculty under the coordination of Miss. Amali Yasintha.



Workshop on Research and Counseling Services

Two day workshop on assuring quality, improving visibility of research and counseling services of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, organised by the Staff Development Committee in collaboration with the Staff Development Centre of University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 7th and 8th June 2017 at Hikkatranz hotel, Hikkaduwa.



Workshop on Polymer Analysis

The center conducted a highly successful one day workshop on Polymer Characterization on 7th July 2017 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the expectation of dissemination of knowledge and technology among the polymer community. Resource persons of the workshop were Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda, Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Dr. Nilmini Renuka, Dr. Narayana Sirimuthu, Dr. Thilini Guneseekara, Dr. Diru Ratnaweera, Dr. Madubhashini Maddumaarachchi, Dr. Dhakshika Wanniarhchi and Dr. Nadeesh Madusanka.



Language Testing Workshop



The Business Communication Unit of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a workshop on "Language Testing" for the academic staff of the Business Communication Unit on 24th July 2017 at the boardroom of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

The workshop was conducted by Prof. Priyanvada Abeywickrama from the Department of English Language and Literature, San Francisco State University. She is the co-editor of TESOL's Applied Linguistics Interest Section forum and is the co-author with H. D. Brown of Language Assessment: Principles and Classroom Practices (2nd ed.). Her research combines her interests in language assessment with issues in second language literacy. A secondary area of her research is discourse analysis in code switching. She frequently presents her research at the annual conferences of International TESOL, the American Association for Applied Linguistics, and the Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC).



Workshop by Ms. Cheryl Edison

A special workshop was organized by the Department of Entrepreneurship together with the American Center Colombo on 10th July 2017 at the American Center, Colombo. The resource person was Ms. Cheryl Edison; a Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur and global business development expert with a track record of successfully launching companies, products and services into new markets across 47 industries. Her fruitful discussion helped both the students and lecturers to get awareness about

the entrepreneurial opportunity identification, matching opportunities with characteristics of the entrepreneur etc. Further, the workshop was furnished with an awareness session on 3D printing.

Mr. Rukmal Weerasinghe; Head of the Department of Entrepreneurship, lecturers and students of the department participated in this workshop.



Placement Seminar for Internship Training



A placement seminar for the students planning on their internship programme under the supervision of National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) was organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences which was took place on 23rd August 2017 at the Bandaranayake Hall of the University.

Coordinator), Dr. W. M. Yaparathne , Chairman of the Soft Skills Development Unit, Dr. K. M. Alexandar, Secretary of the Soft Skills Development Unit and Head of the Department of Archaeology, Mr. Gamini Weerasinghe, Head of the Department of Economics as well as department coordinators of the internship programme participated in the placement seminar.

Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Shirantha Heenkenda, Internship Director (Faculty

Guest Lecture by Dr. Bandula Wijay

A guest lecture by Dr. Bandula Wijay was organized by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, at the Anatomy Auditorium on 4th of August 2017. Dr. Wijay is an eminent inventor, engineer, scientist, educator, entrepreneur, and the ambassador for Science Technology & Innovation for Sri Lanka. He is also the CEO of Leo Med & Bin Lab, a Texas based medical device development company, and is highly appreciated for the invention of a variety of interventional cardiovascular devices such as, the balloon angioplasty and vascular stents.

Dr. Bandula Wijay's delivered a lecture on 'Global healthcare on the horizon & imminent challenges'. His knack for innovation and experiences as a researcher inspired the audience. Prof. Sampath Amaraturunge, Vice Chancellor and Prof. Surangi Yasewardene, Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences also graced the occasion. The lecture was well attended by around 120 participants which included academics, postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Public Talk on "Food Adulterates and Their Effects"

Fulfilling the social responsibility of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, a monthly evening talk is organized regularly on key and timely topics in the 4th week of every month. First public talk titled "Food Adulterates and their effects" was delivered by Dr. Jagath Wansapala, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 26th of July in the Seminar room 1, FGS. In this talk, he highlighted on what food adulterates, natural and artificial adulterates are, how food adulterates affect human health, and how to avoid them.



Public Talk on “Polythene Ban and Beyond That”

The Faculty of Graduate Studies organized a public talk on the proposed ban of thin sheet plastic products on 23rd of August. A panel discussion was held with the active participation of the stakeholders. The policy implementers, private sector, commercial sector/community and recyclers represented as panel members, and it created an informed audience through the panel discussion. Prof. Lal Dharmasiri, President of Central Environmental Authority, Mr. Isuru Samarathunga, Manager-Sustainability, Cargills Supermarket Chain, Mr. Chandrarathne Withanage, National Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Kaushal Rajapaksha, Kalhari Group of Companies participated as panelists.



Breakthrough Drug for Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Being Tested

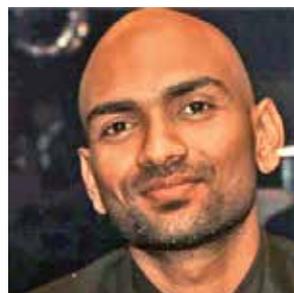
The Dengue Research Center of the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has made a breakthrough in the treatment of the deadly dengue fever. Prof. Neelika Malavige, the Director of the Dengue Research Center of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura claimed in the interview with the Sunday Observer newspaper, that they had found a new way to block the fluid leakage in Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF).

This team of researchers has successfully tested a drug that can be used on dengue patients. If the rest of the clinical trials prove to be as promising as the first clinical trial conducted recently at the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH), Angoda, the drug can be effectively used before long to control the spread of this deadly vector borne disease.

THE MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH TEAM :

Prof. Neelika Malavige
 Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama
 Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunga
 Dr. Chandima Jeewandara
 Dr. Shamini Prathapan
 Dr. Samitha Fernando
 Dr. Harsha Dissanayake

Dr. Anushka Ginneliya
 Dr. Supun Samarasekara
 Dr. Damayanthi Idampitiya
 Dr. Praveen Madushanka
 Dr. Chameera Punchihewa
 Mr. Laksiri Gomes
 Prof. Graham OGG



Library Named as Ven. Dr. Medagoda Sumanathissa Thero Memorial Library



The main library of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was named as "Ven. Rev. Dr. Medagoda Sumanathissa Thero Memorial Library" on 2nd of May 2017.

Other than naming the library as a whole, few of the reading halls were named in gratitude of renowned personalities contributed to the development of the university. Thus, halls were named after Rev. Weragoda Amaramoli Thero, Rev. Balangoda Ananda Maithree Thero, Rev. Paravahera Wajiragnana Thero, Rev. Palannoruwe Sri Wimaladharm Thero, Rev. Prof. Bellanvila Wimalarathana Thero, Rev. Prof. Bellanvila Wimalarathana Thero, Dr. W. B. Dorakubura and Dr. Karunasena Kodithuwakku.

Following is a brief introduction to those personalities.

- > Ven. Medagoda Sumanatissa Thero was the Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura during 1998 – 2005.
- > Ven. Veragoda Amaramoli Thero served at the Vidyodaya University Library as a Librarian during the period 1959 - 1966.
- > Balangoda Ananda Maitreya Thero was a professor of Mahayana Buddhism at the Vidyodaya University, Sri Lanka. He was appointed to the post of Dean, Faculty of Buddhist Studies in 1963. On 1 October 1966, he was appointed to the post of Vice Chancellor at the same university.
- > Ven. Paravahera Wajiragnana Thero was the Vice Chancellor of the Vidyodaya University from March 1966 to September 1966.

- > Ven. Palannoruve Sri Wimaladhamma Thero was the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura from 1963 to 1966. Venerable reverend was also the founder of the Faculty of Science.
- > Prof. Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana was the Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardhanapura since 2000 to February 2017. Prior to his appointment to the post of Chancellor, Ven. Thero held the position of Professor at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
- > Dr. W. D. B. Dorakumbura served at the USJP Library as the Librarian from 1969 to 1996. He could also become the Vice Chancellor of the university during 1992 –1999.
- > Dr. Karunasena Kodituwakku is a Sri Lankan politician, academic and diplomat. He served as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura during 1984 –1988.

10th Anniversary of the Department of Decision Sciences

Department of Decision Sciences proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary on 31st of August 2017 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In order to make this event remarkable, a 'Bodhi Pooja' ceremony followed by a 'Dharma Dëshana' was conducted by Ven. Pattiyawela Mahinda thero with the presence of Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, academic and non-academic members of the department and all the students of the Department of Decision Sciences.



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Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for a New Hostel Building

Foundation stone laying ceremony for a new hostel for the Faculty of Technology to be constructed at the Pitipana premises was held on 29th May 2017. The event was graced by Honorable Minister Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Higher Education & Highways, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University and several other academic and non-academic members of the university. This 'Sarasavi Medura Hostel Project' is planned to be completed in 3 stages.



Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Proposed Staff Quarters Building

Foundation stone laying ceremony of proposed staff quarters building of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 28th August 2017 at Boralesgamuwa. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event as the chief guest.



Center for Advanced Materials Research Collaborates with MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd

The Centre for Advanced Material Research, USJP focuses on advanced technologies in order to uniquely value add to our science and technology output as well as to create a continuous pool of talents required for moving towards an "innovation driven knowledge based economy model for a smarter nation".

CAMR industrial collaboration with MAS Holdings (pvt) Ltd has been successfully initiated. This is a golden milestone of the center as to collaborate with such a reputed industrial partner. Proposal composed of three projects and the first project was initiated on July 2017. This project brought Rs. 3 millions to the centre and already Rs. 1.5 millions were credited to the centre for the 1st phase of the project. Prof Nilwala Kottegoda (Director - Center for Advanced Materials), Prof Laleen Karunanayake (Overall Coordinator- MAS collaborative research), Dr Thilini Gunasekara (PI) and Mr Dumindu Siriwardane (Research assistant) are the team members of the ongoing project.



'Soba 2017' - World Environment Day Commemoration

'Soba 2017' - World Environment Day Commemoration was held on 9th and 10th July 2017 at the Colombo Public Library premises. Center for Sustainability of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura also took part in this event to educate public on environmental related factors.



MOU between World Class University Project, USJP and Korea Brain Research Institute

The World Class University Project of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, initiated a joint venture between the USJP and the Korea Brain Research Institute (KBRI), South Korea by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sampath Amaraturunge signed the MoU on behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Prof. Kyungjin Kim, the President of the Korea Brain Research Institute (KBRI) signed on behalf of the KBRI while Prof. Ranil de Silva, Director of the World Class University Project signed in witness to the signing of the MoU. This MoU was signed on 7th August, 2017 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

KBRI, is the national brain research institute of Korea, and one of the world's leading brain research organization. Dedicated to research in the areas of human neurodegenerative diseases and neuroscience, it aims to become the hub of the brain research in South Korea. The newly implemented cutting-edge Brain Research Equipment Center is equipped with world-class brain research equipment providing a unique experience to national and international researchers. This achievement would provide an opening towards exchange of students, faculty members and researchers of USJP with the objective of realizing research projects and joint publications in areas of human neurodegenerative diseases and neuroscience, and the utilization of the brain bank facilities available at both institutes.

Opening Ceremony of the Newly Built Computer Lab of Faculty of Engineering

The opening ceremony of the newly built computer lab of the Faculty of Engineering was held on 14th June, 2017. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge graced the event as the chief guest. This new computer lab is facilitated with sixty new computers.



Opening Ceremony of the Senior Common Room 'Santhagaraya'

Opening ceremony of newly built Senior Common Room of academic staff 'Santhagaraya' was held on 14th June 2017. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University graced the event as the chief guest. It functions as a staff social club and welfare society of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The membership currently includes over 275 academic and academic support staff within the various departments, Center for IT services, the Library and senior administrative staff of the University.

The Senior Common Room and Welfare Society provide a wide range of opportunities for social interaction, networking and welfare activities of staff members. The newly-refurbished Senior Common Room is located in the rooftop of the Sumangala building.



CV Exhibition

CVs evaluated by industry experts were showcased on 15th August 2017 at the Sumangala entrance of the University which was organized by Career Skills Development Society and Career Guidance Unit.



Establishing the First Ever Diploma in Sociology

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology established the first ever Diploma in Sociology on 12th August 2017. Dr. D.C.P. Chandrakumara, the Dean Faculty Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Mayura Samarakoon, Head of the Department and other distinguished guests attended the event. The first batch of students were enrolled along with the inauguration ceremony held at Prof. Nandasena Rathnapala Hall.

Inauguration of Diploma in Buddhist Studies – 2017



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The inauguration ceremony of the Diploma in Buddhist Studies - 2017 conducted by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies took place at the Sumangala Reading Hall on 13 May, 2017.



Rev. (Prof.) Magamma Pannananda thero preached at the program and Dr. Praneeth Abayasundara delivered the guest lecture. Head of the Department, Rev. (Prof.) Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma thero and the staff members participated in it. Lecturer, Ven. Kudakathnoruwe Vineetha thero served as the facilitator of this diploma.

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Inauguration Ceremony of Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring & Evaluation

Inauguration ceremony of Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring & Evaluation was held on Sunday, 4th June 2017 at Seminar Rom 1, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and many academic members graced the event.



Inter University Debating Contest by the Department of Finance



Inter University Debating Contest by the Department of Finance, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on 26th May 2017 at the Faculty boardroom.

The topic for the grand finale was "Ethical finance simply increases shareholder value". The debate was judged by Mr. Ravi Abeysuriya, Group Director (Non-Executive) Candor Holdings, Mr. Thushara Jayaratne, Director, External Relations and Surveillance, Dr. Sujeewa Hettiarachchi, Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. After an intense



competition between the two teams, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the Trophy, and was able to bring the glory to the Department and the University.

This year, the competition was chaired by Dr. Chandana Gunathilke, and co-chaired by Mr. S.D.L. Kongahawatte, senior lecturers of the Department of Finance. This Inter-university debating competition was initiated in the year 2016, and would continue to be an annual event in the department event calendar.



Final Round of Inter Department Quiz Competition

Final round of the inter department quiz competition was held on 13th June at the Sumangala Reading Hall which was followed by the 1st round taken place on 5th June. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty, Dr. W. M. Yaparathne, Chairman of the Soft Skills Development Unit, Dr. K. M. Alexandar, Secretary of the Soft Skills Development Unit and academics of the Faculty participated to witness the talents of the competitors.

After a cheerful competition, Department of Sociology and Anthropology won the award for the best team, while the Department of the History and Archaeology owing the second place in the quiz competition. This event was organised by the Soft Skills Development Unit of the Faculty under the coordination of Ms. Amali Yasintha.



Information & Communication Technology Agency Designated Department of Statistics for a Social Welfare Data Project

Department of Statistics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, received a project to clean, pre-process, analyze and upload approximately 3.0 million records of welfare data collected by Information & Communication Technology Agency (ICTA). The welfare dataset consists of records of all welfare programs such as, Samurdhi program, elder allowance, financial and in-kind assistance on education, disaster relief, and allowance for disabled persons and allowances for religious school teachers etc. The data were collected from Divisional Secretariat level and stored in Excel sheets. Analysis of such data gives useful insights to the government authorities to take decisions scientifically in which the ultimate beneficiaries are the general public. However, ICTA had noticed that the data were not in a proper state to analyze.

Then, the above project was offered to the Department of Statistics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, which was gladly accepted as it gave a much needed exposure for the Statistics students to experience every phase of real life data analysis. Around 30 students participated in the project, and the project was co-supervised by Dr. Chitraka Wickramarachchi and Mr. P. Dias. The outcome of the project was presented to the Department of Project Management and Monitoring, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs; Information & Communication Technology Agency and Policy Development Office, Prime Minister's Office.

Dr. U. Anura Kumara, re-elected Dean

A special faculty board meeting was held on the 24th of May, 2017 to appoint a new Dean for the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura as the term of office of the current Dean was to end on 28th May 2017. The meeting was chaired by the acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.B. Mandawela. Dr. U. Anura Kumara, the incumbent Dean of the Faculty was re-elected as the new Dean for a 2nd term.



“පුජා ව පුජනීයානං”

මහවග්ගානු හා සමාජවිද්‍යා පීඨයේ පීඨාධිපතිවරයෙක් ලෙසත් පාලි හා බෙදීම් අධ්‍යයන අංශයේ අංශාධිපතිවරයෙක් ලෙසත් සේවය කළ සම්මානිත මහාචාර්ය චන්ද්‍ර වික්‍රමගමගේ මහතා විසින් අනිතවයෙන් සම්පාදිත මහාවංස සංස්කරණය චතුර වෙනුවෙන් උපහාර ශාස්ත්‍රීය සංග්‍රහ සම්පාදනය කළ විද්වතුන්ට පිළිගැන්වීම සඳහා “පුජා ව පුජනීයානං” නම් ප්‍රති උපහාර උළෙල 2017 ජූනි 21 දින පීඨමණ්ඩල රැස්වීම් ශාලාවේ දී විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ කුලපති මහාචාර්ය බෙල්ලන්විල විමලරතන නායක ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් පැවත්විණ.

මෙම අවස්ථාව සඳහා පීඨාධිපතිතුමන් මහාචාර්ය මාගම්මින පඤ්ඤානන්ද හිමි, මහාචාර්ය රත්නසිරි අරංගල ඇතුළු විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයීය ආචාර්ය මණ්ඩලය මෙන්ම කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ මහාචාර්ය උදා හෙට්ටිගේ, හිටපු අධ්‍යාපන අධ්‍යක්ෂ සිරිසේන චිතානගේ වැනි විද්වත්තු සම්බන්ධ වූහ.



Commonwealth Recognized Postgraduate Degree in Management at PIM

Commonwealth has offered full tuition free scholarship programme, for Master of Business Administration at the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It convinced worldwide recognition on the respective degree programmes offered by PIM.

Screening of a Short Film by a Student

Initial screening of the short film "Blind Man" was held at Sumangala Reading Hall on 22nd May 2016 at 5.00 p.m. This was the first short film directed by Indunil Subasinghe studying in the Department of Sports Science at the Faculty of Applied Sciences.



Alumna Scholarships Awarding Ceremony

USA and Denmark alumna scholarships awarding ceremony was held on 16th May 2017 at Administration board room of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor graced the ceremony as the chief guest. Mr. Ranjith Iddamalgodha and Mr. Piyadasa from USA Alumna, Dr. Janaki Gunarathne from Denmark scholarships, participated in the event as sponsors. Seven students were awarded at this ceremony.



'Fight the bite' - Dengue Control Programme

A dengue control programme was launched by the members of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, and Dean, Prof. Surangi Yasawardene which was held on 23rd June and 13th July 2017. Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana and Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe took leading roles in conducting this program effectively. The main concern was to destroy mosquito breeding sites.

This event was a joint effort of students, academics, and non-academics of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. This effort by the Faculty of Medical Sciences was a fine example for the way forward in minimizing the dengue epidemic in Sri Lanka.



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Dengue Control Programme

A dengue control programme was conducted on 23rd June, aiming to clean possible environment conditions for dengue mosquito growth around the Sumangala Building and the Cultural Centre under the guidance of Dr. Alexander Kapukotuwa, Head of the Department of History and Archaeology, and the Secretary of the Soft Skills Development Unit (SSDU). Students who represented both SSDU and the department actively engaged in cleaning the university premises throughout the day. Event was organised by the Soft Skills Development Unit of the Faculty under the coordination of Miss. Amali Yasintha.



MOU to Develop Yagirala University Managed Forest as a Herbal Garden

Center for Sustainability, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science of University of Sri Jayewardenepura and MAS Active signed an MOU on developing 5 acres of Yagirala university managed forest as a herbal garden on 29th August 2017 at Vice Chancellor's office boardroom. Prof. Sampath Amaraturunge, Vice Chancellor signed the MoU on behalf of the University and Charaka Gunawardhana, General Manager, Human Resource and Administration, Lakshman Dayasiri, General Manager, Finance, Nilan Deerasinghe, Asst. Manager, Finance and Rishan Ukwatta, Executive, Environmental Sustainability participated in the agreement signing process on behalf of the MAS Active. Dr. Priyan Perera, the Director, Center for Sustainability, Dr. Prasanthi Gunawardene, Head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, Prof. Hiran Amarasekara, Prof. Nilanthi Bandara and several other lecturers of the department and staff members graced the event.

The expected outcome of this project is to remove the invasive species "Dillenia suffruticosa" (Para) that spread across the forest area and transform 2.5 hectares of land (5 acres) to a natural herbal garden that will be enriched with biodiversity. By the year 2017, through reforestation and maintenance, this property can be used as an educational facility as well as an ecotourism attraction. An area within it will also be developed into a 'butterfly garden'.



Agreement of Cooperation between USJP and Chuo University

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Chuo University, Japan was signed on 18th July 2017 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The areas of cooperation include any programme offered at either university that is felt to be desirable and feasible for the development and strengthening of cooperative relationships between the two universities. Such programmes may include; exchange of faculty members, exchange of students, joint research projects, joint conference and joint cultural programmes.



MOU between Department of Accounting and Nihal Hettiarachchi & Company

A Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Accounting of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Nihal Hettiarachchi & Company was signed on 20th July 2017 at the boardroom of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chnancellor, Dr. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Harendra Kariyawasam, Head of the Department participated in the event.



MOU between USJP and Research Triangle Institute International, USA

A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Research Triangle Institute International USA concerning Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) Investigation was signed on 17th August 2017 at the Vice Chancellor's office.

The present investigation is a continuation of collaboration of RTI with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, which has resulted in four well-received research and policy advocacy articles and multiple conference presentations on the topic of 'chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology'.



MOU between the International Institute of Knowledge Management and Staff Development Centre

The Staff Development Centre of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (SDC-USJP) signed an MOU with the International Institute of Knowledge Management (IIKM), the hosting partner for the International Conference on Global Education and E - Learning (GLOBED 2017). This occasion was marked with the presence of Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. R. B. Marasinghe, Director of the Staff Development Centre, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Isanka P. Gamage, Managing Director of the International Institute of Knowledge Management.



Center for Advanced Material Research collaborate with Finco Engineering

Center for Advanced Material Research has initiated an industrial collaborative research with Finco Engineering (Pvt) Ltd. An MOU between two parties was signed on 6th June 2017. Vice Chancellor signed this MOU on behalf of the university.



Forest Restoration at Yagirala

Materializing the MOU between the Stretchline (Pvt) Ltd and Center for Sustainability (CFS) of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, USJP, restoration of 3 acres of degraded forest in Yagirala Forest was initiated on 5th May 2017. Representing Stretchline (Pvt) Ltd, about 20 delegates including the management of company's sustainability division participated in this initiative. It is expected to restore a total of 17 acres by the end of 2017 under this project.

The forest restoration program is implemented under the supervision of Dr. Priyan Perea, Director - CFS and Mr. Kosala Gunawardena (Forest Manager of the Yagirala University Forest) with the technical inputs of Prof. B.M.P. Singhakumara of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science.



Plenary Lecture and Interactive Session by Prof. Ranil De Silva

Prof. Ranil De Silva, Director of the World Class Universities Grant Project and Director, Interdisciplinary Centre for Innovations in Biotechnology delivered an invited plenary lecture at the 58th International Symposium of the Korean Society of Life Science under the theme 'New Era of Biotechnology to 4th Industrial Revolution'. The symposium was held from August 3rd to 4th, 2017 in Korea. The title of the talk was "Banking the Brain and Blood: A Sri Lankan Experience in Translational Challenges in Life Style Factors; What East Can Offer the West".

Prof. Ranil De Silva, also conducted an interactive session at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Korea, Seoul, South Korea on 8th August 2017 during this academic visit. The event was organized by the Sri Lankan Embassy in South Korea, and was attended by high profile industries in the field of natural products, traditional medicine and cosmeceutical. The foremost objectives of this event were to promote Sri Lankan natural products and highlight their effect on healthy living and to promote international, traditional and complementary medicine. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura could also become an affiliated partner in the educational exhibition, and trade fair 2017- TradMed International 2017 Sri Lanka which was organized in line with this event. The event was co-chaired jointly by the H.E. Ambassador, Ms. Manisha Gunasekera and Prof. Ranil de Silva.



Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana's Keynote on 'How to Live an Ethical Life'

A keynote Speech on "How to live an ethical life" was delivered by Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana at the Annual Convocation of Java Institute which was held on 2nd of June 2017 at BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka. In this speech, he elaborated the contrast between laws and ethics and how these ethics were learnt by people. He further elaborated few ethical concepts that were common to any discipline. He concluded with consequences of unethical life while reiterating the importance of maintaining an ethical life by any graduate. This keynote address was delivered in a very eloquent and impressive manner.

Publications

The Launching Ceremony of a Pali Commentary

The launching ceremony of the Pali Atuwawa titled 'Dasabodhisattupattikathā Attakathā' by Rev. (Prof.) Madagampitiye Wijithadhamma thero, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 19th June 2017 at the Sumangala Reading Hall.



'Vinivida' - Audio Book Launching

With the donation of audio equipment and monetary facilities provided by Ven. (Prof.) Madagoda Abhayathissa thero, thirty three (33) written books were converted into audio books with the help of the undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS). These 33 audio books include variety of subjects such as, Sociology, Psychology, Sinhala, Buddhist Civilization etc., and many subject areas focusing government competitive examinations which were previously in written form.

The launching of this collection, 'Vinivida' took place on 29th June 2017 at the board room of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with the participation of Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, and Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. U. Anura Kumara. Rev. (Prof.) Madagoda Abhayathissa thero, Rev. (Prof.) Magamma Paññananda thero, Head of the Department of Economics, Mr. Gamini Weerasinghe, Prof. Samanchandra Ranasinghe, Dr. A. M. Nimal Wasantha Mendis, academics and undergraduates of the FHSS supported in the launching ceremony.

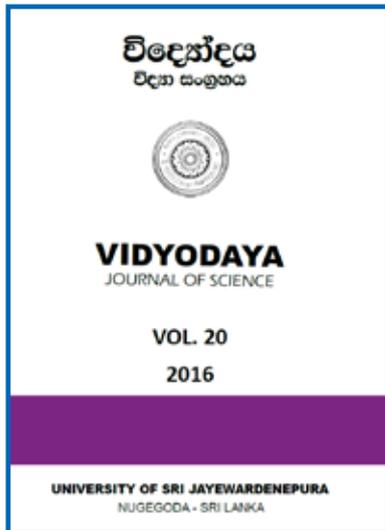
This audio book series would surely help to dispel the difficulties faced by the visually disable students of the university in reading written books which were not yet translated into brail format adequately.



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Vidyodaya Journal of Science

Vidyodaya Journal of Science Volume 20 was published on August 2017.



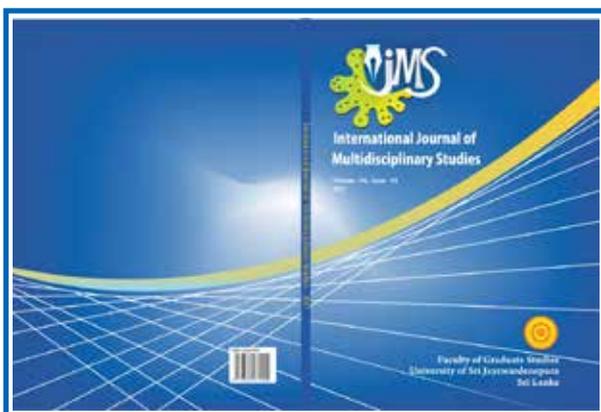
Vidyodaya Journal of Management

The latest publication of Vidyodaya Journal of Management Volume 03: Issue 01 which comprises of research articles from academics from various local and international universities was published in July, 2017. The Vidyodaya Journal of Management (VJM) is one of the attempts that faculty has taken to uplift the university to become a ranked university in Asia Pacific region. VJM is a double blind peer reviewed semi-annual journal. VJM disseminates and shares new knowledge among academics, professionals and other pertinent parties by publishing high quality research papers in the areas of business, management and relevant multidisciplinary studies.



IJMS Volume 4: Issue 1

First issue of the 4th volume of International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies was published in July, 2017. Seven papers from different disciplines were published in this issue. Invited paper titled 'Challenges in the delivery of 'Urban Villages' through complex stakeholder partnerships, and multi-discipline approaches: Achieving cohesive built form at Kelvin Grove Urban Village in Australia, and Melrose Arch in South Africa' was submitted by Prof. Paul S. Sanders from School of Design, Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.



Sri Lanka Journal of Economic Research (SLJER) Volume 4 - Issue 2

Sri Lanka Economic Research Journal (SLJER) is the international journal of the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE). SLFUE is a network of all Departments and Units of Economics within the Sri Lankan state university system.

Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura took up the Editorial Office of SLJER on behalf of SLFUE for the year 2016/2017 with the responsibility of publishing two issues of SLJER Volume 4. Dr. (Mrs.) Sumudu Perera held the position of Chief Editor and Mr. Janaka Fernando was the Co-editor of the journal.

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Launching ceremony of 'Sports Sociology'

The launching ceremony of the book 'Sports Sociology' written by Mr. Sudarshana Keerthirasthna who is a Physical Instructor of the Department of Physical Science was held on 5th of July 2017 at the Sumangala Reading Hall.



Sixth volume of 'Classic' magazine by the Association of Public Administration

The Sixth volume of 'Classic' magazine was launched on 23rd of August 2017 at the Reading Hall in Sumangala Building, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This is one of main academic activities of the Association of Public Administration (APA), and this magazine had been published for last several years continuously. Undergraduates, academics, alumnus, school children and many other parties had published their articles including subject related matters, contemporary themes, research findings and creative works in this magazine. The Association plans to distribute the magazine to the public libraries and school libraries in the country. Two reputed alumnus of the Department of Public Administration, Mr. A. Sarath De Silva (The former General Manager, Bank of Ceylon) and Dr.W.A. Wijewardene (The former Deputy Governor, Central Bank) participated as Chief Guests of the event. This event was marked as another successful milestone of the department fulfilling one of the prime duties of disseminating knowledge to the community.



Thereby, the first issue of SLJER was launched in December 2016. The second issue of SLJER was launched on the 7th June 2017 at the 22nd meeting of the SLFUE which was hosted by the Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. The current publication consists of four journal articles, one perspective and one book review from renowned authors in the field of Economics. The Journal Review was conducted by Dr. (Ms.) Dilini Hemachandra, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.



Award Ceremonies and Convocations

Certificate awarding ceremony of the Certificate Course on 'Research Methodology and Scientific Writing'

With the vision of producing quality postgraduates, the Faculty of Graduate Studies started a short course on "Research Methodology and Scientific Writing" in June 2017. Certificate awarding ceremony of this course was held at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Graduate Studies on 9th August 2017 with the presence of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor as the chief guest.



Sports

J'pura Team for World University Games-2017

A team of 18 members from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura represented World University Games 2017 which was held in Taipei from 19th August to 30th August 2017.



World University Games - 2017

University of Sri Jayewardenepura Team



2017 Aug 19 - 30



1st Row (L/R) - A G R M Athauda, Chinthaka Manimehwadu, Indika Wettasinghe, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Vice Chancellor), Mrs. Nishanthi Vidanage (Acting Director of Department of Physical Education), Erandi Warusavithana, Thilini Pramodika, Kasuni Himaya Pitigala,

2nd Row (L/R) - Lakhini Sashibhani, Kavindi Ishadika, O D I L A Kumara, K L A Y Isuru, K W I Udanjaya, A A Samith Lakmal, N H Ellawala, Bawanthi Hettiarachchi

Absentees - A J M O D Madushanka, G K D S Piyarathna, R M S J Ranasinghe, N H Henderson, M T P L Perera



Cricket Championship to J'pura Team

Cricket Team of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the Cricket championship at the 2017 Inter-University Games held at the University of Colombo.

'J'pura Warna 2016'

Annual Colours Awarding Ceremony of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, 'J'pura Warna 2016' was held on 21st June 2017 at the Waters Edge. This was organized by the Sports Council of the University of Sri Jayewadenepura.



Sponsorship to Japura Netball Team

Japura netball team was awarded with a sponsorship for their playing kit from the 1985-1986 Society of Japura Graduates. The event was held on 18th of July 2017 with the presence of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, President of Japura Alumni Association, Mr. Ranjith Iddamal goda, President of 1985-1986 Japura Graduate Society, Mr. J. M. A. Doughlaus, Acting Directress of Physical Education Department, Mrs. Nishanthi Vidanage and former Co. President of the Japura Sports Council Mr. Nuwan Niroshana. Representing the 1985-1986 Society of Japura Graduates, the Secretary of the society, Mr. Piyal Pathmanaga, Mr. Kulathunga and representing the Japura Alumni Association Mr. Gamini Silva also participated in the event.



Sponsorship to J'pura Basketball Team

85/86 Society of Business Administration of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura sponsored the Jayewardenepura Basketball Team. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, officials of the Society, Acting Directress of Physical Education, Ms. Nishanthi Vidanage and the members of the Basketball team graced the occasion of the official gathering for awarding of the sponsorship on 11th of August 2017.



Community Celebrations

54th Commemoration of Ven. Rev. Weliwitiye Sri Soratha Thero

54th Commemoration of Reverend Weliwitiye Sri Soratha Thero, the trailblazer of contemporary piriven university system and the pioneer of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 19th July 2017. Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalarathana Thero, Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. P. B. Mandawala, Dean of the

Faculty of Technology, Dr. S. A. A. M Subasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and other academics participated in the commemoration ceremony.

A bodhi puja ceremony in this regard was also held on 17th July 2017 at the university premises conducted by Ven. Padalangala Dammadewa Thero.



106th Memorial of Most Ven. Rev. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero

The 106th memorial commemorating the forefather of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Thripitaka Vaagishwaracharya, Mahopadhyaya Pandithashiromani most Venerable Reverend Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero, was held on the 2nd May 2017 at the vicinity of the shrine room of the university.

Rev. (Prof.) Medagoda Abhayatissa thero from the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies shared the memorial message at this ceremony which was graced by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor and many others representing both the academia and the student community of the university.

Parallel to this ceremony, Rev. (Prof.) Magamma Paññananda thero unveiled the nameboard of the main library, 'Ven. (Dr.) Medagoda Sumanathissa Thero Memorial Library'.



Annual Poson Dharma Deshanawa

Annual Poson Dharma Deshanawa 2017 organized by the Library Staff Welfare Society was held on 15th of June 2017 at the Main Library premises. Ven. Prof. Medagoda Abhayathissa thero, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura conducted the event.



Tree Planting Program at Yagirala

Center for Sustainability of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a tree planting program at Yagirala to celebrate the World Environment Day 2017 on 5th June 2017.



'Geethanjali Bathi Gee Saraniya 2017'

Annual inter department bakthi gee competition organized by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies was held on 6th June 2016. It was a function that brought together all departments of the faculty under one roof to perform, and be a part of an evening full of devotional tranquility. Coordination of this event was by Dr. A. M. Nimal Wasantha Mendis, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, under the guidance of Ven. Dr. Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma, Head of the respective department and Ven. Prof. Magamma Paññananda. The evening was graced by Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Dayarathna Ranathunga and Prof. Amara Ranathunga, well-known musicians in the country.



Annual Charity Program of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

Annual Charity program of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Teachers' Association (FMTA), University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on 19th and 20th May 2017 at Bd/Kurugama Vidyalaya, Monaragala, Bd/ Gampaha Vidyalaya, Wellawaya and Bandarawella Darmapala Maha Vidyalaya, Bandarawella. Laboratory equipment, chemicals and science models were handed over to science laboratories of all three schools. A foster parent scheme was also initiated from June 2017.



Scholarship Awarding by Mr. Chulananda Perera

Director General of Sri Lanka Custom and Japura Alumni Mr. Chulananda Perera, with his family awarded several scholarships to needy undergraduates of the Faculty of Management and Commerce on 25th July 2017 at the boardroom of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

As Mr. Chulananda Perera was a previous captain of the Japura Wrestling Team, his presence to the university gave opportunity to the contemporary wrestling team to meet him and express their gratitude for his sponsorships in developing the facilities of the team.



Scholarships to Underprivileged Medical Students

Realizing the importance of free education, Dr. E.A.S.T Edirisinghe coordinated opportunities to offer scholarships to thirteen financially unstable medical students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, under the foster parent scheme conducted by "Dhamadeepa Padanama" (ධම්මදීප පදනම) at Naradha Center Buddhist Temple - Colombo. This scholarship program was held by Dhamadeepa Padanama for 10th consecutive time in August 2017.

A sum of Rs.2500.00 will be deposited monthly to the bank account of the relevant medical student by the responsible foster parent through Dhamadeepa Padanama at the beginning of every month until the medical student finishes his or her Final MBBS examination. The medical student will utilize the money for his or her educational or other related needs.



Scholarships Awarding and Flood Relief Program of USJP

Scholarships awarding and flood relief program for the flood affected university staff and students was held on 18th August 2017 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event as the chief guest.

Flood Relief Campaign at Bulathsinhala

Flood Relief Campaign organized with the support of over 300 participants from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 1st June 2017 at Bulathsinhala. This was organized by the welfare division and all the unions (academic/non-academic/administration/students) after having a discussion with Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university. This endeavor aimed at helping those in need due to heavy rains.



ගංවතුරින් පීඩාවට පත් සිසුන් සඳහා සහනාධාර වැඩසටහනක්

2017 වසරේ මැයි මස ඇතිවූ ගංවතුරින් පීඩාවට පත් මානවශාස්ත්‍ර හා සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨයේ තෝරාගත් සිසුන් කිහිපදෙනෙකු සඳහා ශිෂ්‍ය සුභසාධන සහ උපදේශන මධ්‍යස්ථානය සංවිධානයෙන් ලංකා ජාතික සර්වෝදය ශ්‍රමදාන සංගමයේ දායකත්වයෙන් විශ්ලී ආහාර ද්‍රව්‍ය, අත්‍යවශ්‍ය භාණ්ඩ හා ගෘහ භාණ්ඩ ලබා ගැනීම සඳහා වවුචර්පත් පරිත්‍යාග කිරීම 2017 ජූලි මස 28 වන දින පැවැත්වුණි. ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ උපකුලපති, මහාචාර්ය සම්පත් අමරතුංග මහතා, මානවශාස්ත්‍ර හා සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨයේ පීඨාධිපති, ආචාර්ය ඩී. පී. චිස්. වන්දනුමාර මහතා, ලංකා ජාතික සර්වෝදය ශ්‍රමදාන සංගමයේ ලේකම්, වෛද්‍ය වින්සා ආරියරත්න මහතා ඇතුළු කාර්යමණ්ඩලය සහ ශිෂ්‍ය සුභසාධන සහ උපදේශන මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ සභාපති, ආචාර්ය සුනිල් රාජනෙත්ති මහතාගේ මගපෙන්වීම සහ දායකත්වය මෙම වැඩසටහන සඳහා ලැබුණි.



Donations and Medical Campaigns at Flood Affected Areas in Ratnapura

The Buddhist Society of Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP initiated much needed relief activities to help people affected by floods and landslides across Sri Lanka. The Buddhist Society in collaboration with Faculty of Medical Teachers' Association and Student Union collected donations from academic and non-academic staff, students and others, and urgently dispatched those to Ratnapaura along with the relief team of about 100. The team included FMS staff members, past student doctors, demonstrators and medical students.

Health campaigns were organized with much support and guidance from Centre for Disaster Management, Ministry of Health. The team visited 5 relief campaigns in Thunandhahena, Millakade and Ellawala in Ratnapura district.

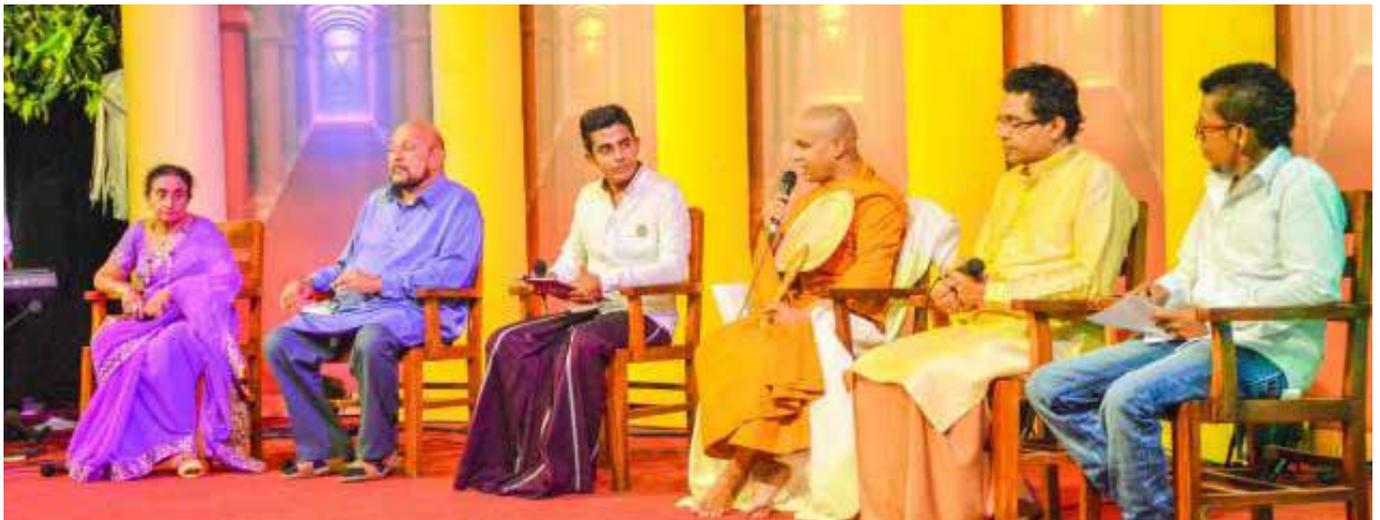


Concerts and cultural Events

'Deepaloka Sudam Sabhawa'

'Deepaloka Sudam Sabhawa' was held on 2nd June 2017 with the coordination of Cultural Center and Art assembly of the university. This event was jointly organized by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university with other academic members and the Department of Geography and Buddhist Association.

This event was enriched by Rev. Mavarale Bhaddiya Thero, Prof. Sanath Nandasiri, Mr. Jagath Wickramasinghe and Mr. Chamara Weerasinghe with their valuable participation. This experience was able to place an everlasting memory in the minds of the entire audience.



Talent Show of the Department of Public Administration

The talent show of the students of the Department of Public Administration was held on 23rd of August 2017 at the Reading Hall of the Sumangala Building, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, demonstrating excellent performances of the students including dramas, dancing events, songs, and various other performances.



Conferences and Research › Contribution to the National Development › Awards › News Publications › Award Ceremonies and Convocations › Sports › Community Celebrations
Concerts and cultural Events › Student Activities › News Feature › Creative Writing

Sathsara Viyamana – 2017

Operations Students' Management Association (OMSA) of the Department of Decision Sciences proudly presented "Sathsara Viyamana", the annual classical musical show, on 16th June 2017 at 6.30 p.m. at the National Youth Centre Maharagama. The aim of this event was raising funds for the students' outbound training program, the CSR project and for field visits.

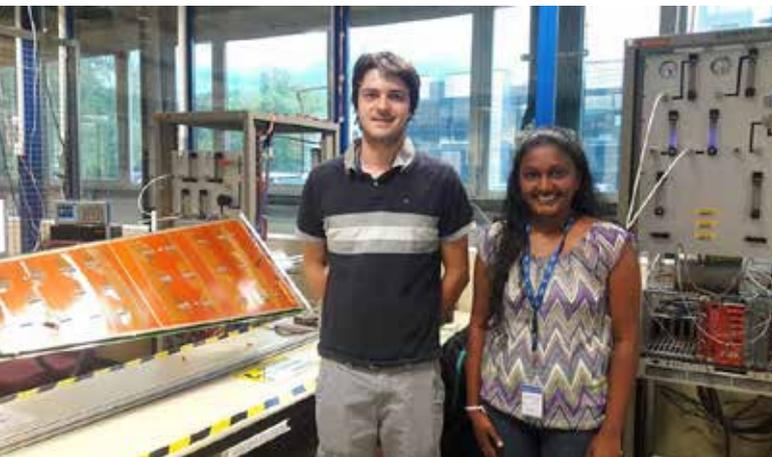
The event was glorified by renowned singers, Amarasiri Peiris, Athma Liyanage, Uresha Ravihari and Kasun Kalhara with the instrumental support led by Manoj Pieris, and Wasantha Rohana with his graceful words.



Student Activities

Winner of CERN Summer Openlab-2017 (Non-member state) Internship Award

For the first time, from the Department of Physics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, a Physics Special Degree student Ms. Chamini Pathiraja participated in the prestigious summer student programme at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva from 25 June - 20 August, 2017.



2nd Runner Ups of the 15th Inter Medical School Physiology Quiz

Students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences became the 2nd runner ups of the 15th Inter Medical School Physiology Quiz (IMS PQ) held on 16th & 17th August 2017 hosted by University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. 103 teams from 20 countries including UK, Japan, Australia, Singapore, China, Thailand etc. competed for the Raman Challenge Trophy granted in honor to Professor Raman who was the first Malaysian Professor of Physiology: a firm believer in the physiological basis of medical practice. That was a fascinating opportunity for the USJP students to demonstrate their mastery of physiology to the rest of the world.



Dilrukshi Wins 1st Place at the 29th Japanese Speech Contest - 2017

B. S. Dilrukshi an undergraduate student specializing English at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the 1st place in Category B of the 29th Annual Japanese Speech Contest 2017 in Sri Lanka.

Launching Ceremony of Research Clusters and Poster Exhibition

The official launching ceremony of research clusters and poster exhibition of the final year students of the Department of Business Administration was held on 28th June 2017 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaraturunge, Vice Chancellor of the university and Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce graced the event as the chief guests.



Outbound Training – 2017

Annual outbound training organized by the Department of Decision Sciences for the final year students of the department was held from 23th to 25th of June, 2017 at the Sembuwatta Lake, Matale with the aim of cultivating leadership skills and a profound personality in undergraduates. They were exposed to several activities like Flying Fox, Confidence Jumps, Leadership and Team building exercises etc. during the outbound training.



'Sankranthiya – 2017'

'Sankranthiya – 2017', the annual get-together of the students of the Association of Public Administration was held on 15th July 2017 at the university playground with the presence of the academic staff and more than 200 students who represented all four batches of the Department of Public Administration. This get-together is annually organized by the 2nd year students of Association of Public Administration with the purpose of welcoming the 1st year students to the department, and strengthening the unity among all the students. This event was colored with various entertainment activities and musical events.



Flood Relief Program by the Students of Department Of Human Resource Management

The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) initiated a volunteering program on 8th June 2017 with the help of the lecturers and students to provide relief for the students of Niggaha Primary School who were affected by disastrous floods and landslides. The generous donations were collected from HRM Society and the lecturers. Some bottles of water were donated by the Maharagama Youth Center. The undergraduates were able to clean a school which was damaged by the floods, and donate a water pump and distribute school bags, exercise books etc. among the students.



'HR Ape Iskole'

The Human Resource Career Guidance Unit under the program of 'HR Ape Iskole' conducted a workshop on group dynamics and leadership development for the students of R/Panawanna Dharmarama College in the Pelmadulla Educational Zone on 22nd June, 2017 and the students of WP/Kelaniya Henegama Maha Bodhi Vidyalaya in the Kelaniya Educational Zone on 30th June, 2017. Some of the third year students of the department also attended the workshop as trainers.



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"Hasaral Dahasak 2017"

Annual CSR project organized by the Operations and Technology Management Students Association (OMSA) was held on 18th November 2017 at the Rotawewa Ethabandiwewa Vidyalaya, Horowpathana with the presence of staff members and students of the Department of Decision Sciences. OMSA contributed in donating stationary items to the students along with renovating the main hall of the school to uplift their quality of the learning environment.



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News Feature

In this issue, we run a feature article on recent developments taken place in the Library, USJP.

Library as Everyone's Favourite Place!

University of Sri Jayewardenepura Library which was named recently as, 'Reverend Dr. Madagoda Sumanathissa Thero Memorial Library' was established in 1979. Prior to that, it was the Library of the Vidyodaya University.

Starting from a small collection of books at Maligakanda Vidyodaya Pirivena, it has now grown up to 250,000 monograph collection widening up to electronic resources as well. The present Library erected near the statue of most Venerable Welivitiye Sri Soratha Mahanayake Thero, the first Vice Chancellor of our University, is of a collective contribution of previous Librarians Rev. Weragoda Amaramoli (1959-1966), Mr. W. A. Jayawardene (1966-1969), Prof. W.B. Dorakumbura (1969-1996), Mr. P. Vidanapathirana (1999-2010) and myself starting from 2011 and acting librarians in certain periods.

USJP Library is developing progressively to meet diverse needs of library customers, by embracing the changing technological adaptations, and predominantly finding ways to handle ever increasing volume of information day by day. Being the largest university in Sri Lanka in terms of student number, it has taken the necessary steps to face the challenges of meeting the requirements of seven faculties; Humanities & Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, Management Studies & Commerce, Medical Sciences, Graduate Studies, Technology and Engineering. The main library extends its services to nearly 15,000 users together with 3 branch libraries; Medical, Technology and Engineering. All the library services, including branch libraries are carried out by a dedicated team consisting of 13 academic and 66 non-academic members.

One of the major achievements of our library in the recent past is the introduction of open source library management system 'Koha' in 2014. Until then, we used the commercial package called windows for Alice for which we had to pay a huge sum of money as annual maintenance charges. This migration helped us not only to save money but also to have an efficient system with remote renewing facilities. Further, the system allows us to input catalogue entries in Sinhala without transliterating. Going beyond a further step to normal institutional repositories, USJP library's institutional repository, Scholar Bank has deposited university theses in addition to the publications and academic work of staff and students. Now almost all the membership is enjoying the facilities of this automated circulation system using 'Koha'.

Catering to the demands of the users, the Library subscribes to electronic databases including JSTOR and Research4life further to the electronic databases receiving through CONSAL (Consortium of Sri Lankan Academic Libraries), Emerald, Taylor & Francis and Oxford University Press. Library organizes sessions in collaboration with vendors on training of these electronic databases in addition to the awareness sessions conducted by the library staff.

The enhanced research culture of the university is well supported by establishing a research support division in the library. Among the services of the research support unit, one-to-one support on literature searches, information retrieval, referencing tools are very popular.

An efficient document delivery service is provided with the aim of fulfillment of 100% requests of journal articles extending the service to BLDS (British Library Document Delivery Services) through CONSAL. We have assigned a dedicated team on this task headed by an Assistant Librarian.

Being the first university library in Sri Lanka to start a laptop lending service to students in 2015, we allow students to bring in their own laptops, tabs and other electronic equipment to the library. As our library is covered with Wi-Fi facility, users can access internet either using their own gadgets or borrowing library laptops. SMS alert services is another initiative taken by USJP library aiming its users. Library notices and upcoming events are notified via this alert service to the registered users.

We have set up English Learning Zone (ELZ) in the library by housing English story books in simple language and fiction in abridged versions. This section is made very attractive with the support of colourful chairs and movable rotational racks. This was established upon the request made by the English Language Teaching Unit, USJP. This designated area is greatly used by the first year students where our library staff conducts collaborative programs with the ELTU. ELZ is not only dedicated for improving English but also highlighting reading as a leisure time activity.

Continuously updated webpage of the library (www.lib.spj.ac.lk) acts as an entry point to library resources. All the services and facilities provided by the library are described in this attractive webpage.

We have developed tailor-made modules on information literacy to support our user community. These sessions make them learn about effective information retrieval, synthesizing of the results and finally organizing of selected information. User education unit is established to streamline these library sessions and orientation programmes conducted for our user community.

In addition to the existing main collections, lending, scheduled reference and permanent reference, we have a separate collection called "Depository Collection". In order to give a fresh look to the existing collection, we sorted out the library books which have not been used for the past 30 years or so, are housed in the 'Depository Collection'. Refurbished 'Ceylon Room' has a valuable collection on

works of Sri Lankan authors, material about Sri Lanka, and theses and dissertations of the university. Ola leaf collection in the Ceylon Room is preserved and conserved for the use of future scholars. Recent addition of new equipment to the bindery section will help us to do most of our bindery needs in-house.

We are concerned about the security of library property as well as people. Thus, a security surveillance system, CCTV, is in operation in designated areas of the library. Unauthorized movement of library properties are restricted by accompanying RFID tags with books and the detection gates.

Giving emphasis to the physical appearance of the library, we introduced specially designed furniture. Interior Designing was done by providing reading promotion posters and pots with foliage on appropriate locations. Instead of reproducing same furniture items we already have, we always look for attractive and multifunctional furniture. READ shaped letter formation book rack gives not only an elegant look to the library, but it is being used to house "Just - returned" books which are in high demand and frequently circulated. 'Interactive Study Area' is equipped with 40 computers for users. These computers are kept on specially designed triangular shaped movable tables. These tables can arrange in different ways to suit the purpose. Gadget corners are kept in the far ends of the lobby for those who want to do quick browsing. The purpose of the KIOSK with touch screen facility is to put up library notices and announcements and to provide a large screen for browsing OPAC. Physical organization of the library and library floor plan can also be browsed through the KIOSK. Going through the concept of 'fast casual', library has established the 'Nescafe Corner'. This offers library patrons the facility of enjoying a hot cup of tea or coffee from the token operated vending machine amidst of natural light, natural ventilation and Wi-Fi.

Outreach service is another emerging service of USJP library. These outreach services are extended to temples and libraries in other associations, supporting to organize their library collections etc. Among the future plans, the main development will be the addition of a reading room with all modern facilities like learning commons, individual study corrals, discussion rooms, and informal seating arrangements, laptop and mobile charging units etc. Open reading room which is serving our customers on 24x7 basis will be renovated to give a better service. Upon receiving of the upper floors, a fully furnished auditorium, individual study units for researchers, escalators and many other services will be introduced making the library as everyone's favorite place!

Creative Writing

In this issue, we carry two poems by Dr. Dilantha Gunawardana, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Botany, winner of the 'Emerging Writer of the Year' for the year 2016, at the Godage National Literary Awards ceremony.

I Love You Because Of Einstein

First we were strangers,
 And next neighbors and then lovers,
 Step by step inching towards a common future.

And you didn't pay me lip service only real compliments,
 You didn't pity me nor show me mercy,
 You didn't leash me or put puppet strings on my elbows,
 You didn't slide sandpaper on my past, just painted my future,
 You made a paper boat out of my existence,
 And placed me on heart puddles.

And through test tubes,
 That will bear litmus tests and petri dishes,
 That will hold conjugating staphylococci,
 Through crucibles that will mix pink manganese
 With blue copper and through pans that will sizzle
 Cloves of garlic on olive oil – we will go on.
 And choice, is our pointed compass,
 Showing us our true north and the west-wind,
 Blowing us forward, a catamaran,
 With two hulls and one deck lost to the tides of time.
 And we will always nestle our groovy affection,
 Butterfly, Eskimo and French kisses,
 Hickeys as ripe as blood oranges,
 And making love is like reciting a prayer
 With our bodies, a profession of our singularity
 With quirks and foibles, we keep on pedestals.

And I love you – when I say that, what I mean is,
 I'm yours forever. And forever is that formula
 Of $E=mc^2$ – Two beings full of energy
 Practicing nuclear fusion for an infinity.
 It seems, Einstein invented our love.

Climate Change

Have you seen pale white skin
 Turn gold like a thanksgiving turkey
 Tan-happy, the hazel eyed woman,
 Sits on a sun chair, looking out
 To a stationary sun and the Yucca trees.
 The coal ministries are back
 Singing halleluiah, the dust bowl
 Is buzzing with mossies that are as plastic
 As the cacti in Utah, while
 Everywhere else in the world, especially
 In the cyclone belt, there is Californication
 Of a climate, opening golden gates
 To the furor of the weather gods. While
 A little child in a Bangladeshi slum
 In his broken English, sings, "rain, rain
 Go away". Mayhem is just a little waterless
 Tap in the Australian outback,
 Where there are no longer billabongs
 Only matildas stocking sun creams.