



NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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University of
Sri Jayewardenepura

weera Appointed as the New Dean of FOE

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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Contact:

Librarian,

University of Sri Jayewardenepura,

Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

Tel/Fax: +94 11 2804194

Web: www.lib.sjp.ac.lk

E-mail: editors.nl@sjp.ac.lk

The newsletter of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura
"Saviḍu" is a tri-annual newsletter carrying the vibrant academic,
cultural and communal life of
the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



NEWS



Appointing a New Dean to the Faculty of Engineering



Dr. Nishan Dharmaweera was appointed as the new dean of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with effect from 20th November 2023.

He was appointed after he served as the Acting Dean of the faculty, after the term of Dr. Thilaksiri Bandara.

He has been a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering since 2016 and was appointed as the Head of the Department in 2022.

Dr. Dharmaweera obtained his bachelor's degree in engineering in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering with a First Class Honours from Monash University, Australia. He continued his postgraduate studies at the same university and obtained his PhD in the field of Telecommunications Engineering. He also worked at the Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden as a Postdoctoral Researcher.

Ceremonial Induction of the New Dean of the Faculty of Engineering was held on 21st November 2023 with the participation of Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice-chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Dr. Nishan assumed duties following a Pirith Chanting by the Honorable Mahasangha, Heads of departments, academic, non-academic and administrative staff members participated in the induction ceremony.



J'PURA EXPO 2023 – Department of Business Economics



J'PURA EXPO 2023 made a triumphant service for the second consecutive year, captivating audiences on the 14th and 17th December. This grand occasion featured seven remarkable events held at the prestigious University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the magnificent Mihilaka Madura premises of BMICH.

The first phase, held at the university's premises, was an enthralling affair. The Expo Genius Quest: Inter-university Innovation Competition kicked off the proceedings with its final round, setting the stage for a thrilling display of ingenuity. The Inauguration ceremony of J'PURA EXPO 2023 followed suit, gracing the Sumangala Hall with its presence. During this momentous occasion, the launch of the J'PURA EXPO magazine and Book of Guide on financing Export-oriented SMEs added a touch of sophistication to the event. The Industry Forum, themed "Navigating Growth: Elevating Export Competitiveness," was a captivating highlight of the day.

With an esteemed panel comprising Ms. Thilaka Jayasumdara (Secretary of Ministry of Industries), Dr. Kingsely Bernard (Chairman and CEO of Sri Lanka Export Development Board), Mr. Sudattha Silva (Additional Director General of Sri Lanka Customs), Mr. Sarath Ganegoda (Executive Director of Hayles PLC), Ms. Taniya Abysundara (President of Sri Lankan United Business Association and Ceylon



United Business Alliance) and moderated by Prof. Sumudu Perera (Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) the forum delved into insightful discussions on propelling export competitiveness to greater heights.

The second phase of J'PURA EXPO 2023 unfolded at the Mihilaka Madura premises of BMICH on the 17th December. The Export Product Fair and Exporters' Hub took centre stage during the opening ceremony, providing a platform for small and medium-sized exporters from across the island to showcase their exceptional products.

The Exporters' Hub featured a distinguished lineup of experts, including Mr. Aminda Lakmal (Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing Management, FMSC, USJ), Mr. Dilan Rathnayake (Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing Management, FMSC, USJ), Prof. M.A. Jagath Wansapala

(Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, USJ), Dr. W.L.I. Wijesekara (Senior Lecturer, Department of Food Science and Technology, USJ), Mr. Malintha Gajanayaka (Head of Corporate Affairs / Export Promotions at Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka)), Mr. Chaminda Pathiraja (Additional Secretary (Thrust Area Development), Ministry of Industries), Mr. Ranjith Wimalasooriya (Additional Secretary (Restructuring and Public Enterprises), Ministry of Industries), Mr. K.M. Rizvi (Director (Public Enterprises), Ministry of Industries), Mr. Sanjeewa Pattiwila and Representatives from Department of Commerce (Actg. Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce), Mrs. Anoma Premathilake (Director Marketing, Export Development Board), Mrs. Indumini Kodikara (Director- Export Services, Export Development Board), Mrs. Manoja Dissanayake (Actg. Director-Industrial Products, Export Development Board), Mr. G.P.N. Mahesh Abesekara (Additional Secretary (Policy Development), Ministry of Industries), Ms. Inoka De Alwis (Director Policy II, Ministry of Industries), Ms. Nalani Balasubramaniam (Director Sector III, Ministry of Industries), Mrs. O.M.C. Kumudinie Mudalige (Director-Policy & Strategic Planning, Export Development Board), Mrs. Sriyani Sepalika Jayawardhana (Director-Regional Development, Export Development Board), Mr. Janak Sanjeewa Badugama (Director Export Agriculture Export Development Board), Mr. Gopikrishna Selvananthan (Member of the Board of Advisors, Sencom Europe C-Corp, Holland, Netherlands).

These events were truly a celebration of innovation and collaboration, uniting industry leaders, experts, and aspiring entrepreneurs in a shared vision of elevating export competitiveness and fostering growth.

On the same vibrant day, as the sun cast its golden glow over the Mihilaka Madura premises of BMICH, an enlightening session on safe labour migration was conducted. The esteemed panel, featuring luminaries such as Mr. Nishantha Warnasooriya, the National Project Coordinator at ILO Sri Lanka, and Ms. Sesath Thambugala, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Japan, shed light on the crucial aspects of ensuring the safety and well-being of our migrant workers. Joining them were Mr. Imthath Basar, Senior Project Coordinator at IOM Sri Lanka, and Mr. Nikaril Kanth, Senior Assistant Secretary at the Development Division of the Ministry of Labor and Foreign Employment, who added their invaluable insights to the discussion.

Following this impactful session, a Workshop on Empowering SMEs to E-platform took centre stage, igniting the atmosphere with a fervor for innovation and digital transformation. The workshop's first session, led by the dynamic Mr. Aminda Lakmal, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Marketing Management, FMSC, USJ, delved into the intricacies of leveraging e-platforms to empower small and medium enterprises. This was followed by an engaging session conducted by the visionary Mr. Chandika Witharana, Chief Executive Officer at Asia Pacific Institute of Business Analytics (Pvt) Ltd, who unveiled the potential of e-platforms in revolutionizing business operations.

The grand finale of the workshop featured a riveting session on LEAP (Digital Ecosystem) by Commercial Bank and their Digital Products, captivating the audience with a glimpse into the future of digital commerce. As the day unfolded with these transformative sessions, it became abundantly clear that the J'PURA EXPO 2023 was not just an event but a catalyst for change and progress in the world of business and commerce.



Prof. Rasika Perera Appointed as the New Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Professor P.P. Rasika Perera assumed the position of Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, commencing 13th November 2023.

With an illustrious career in Clinical Biochemistry, Prof. Rasika Perera brings extensive expertise and an exceptional academic record to his new role.



Ceremony of Assigning of 2023/1 & 2023/7 Batches of JICA Volunteers

The ceremony of assigning of 2023/1 & 2023/7 Batches of JICA volunteers was held on 20th September 2023 at the Department of External Resources, Secretariat Building, Colombo 1. Among the 7 volunteers, Ms. Sakiko Honda was officially assigned to the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She will be engaged in Japanese language education and promoting intercultural understanding for two years and we hope her service will be a significant milestone in Japanese education at our university. It undoubtedly will be a valuable experience for our students. We warmly welcome her to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



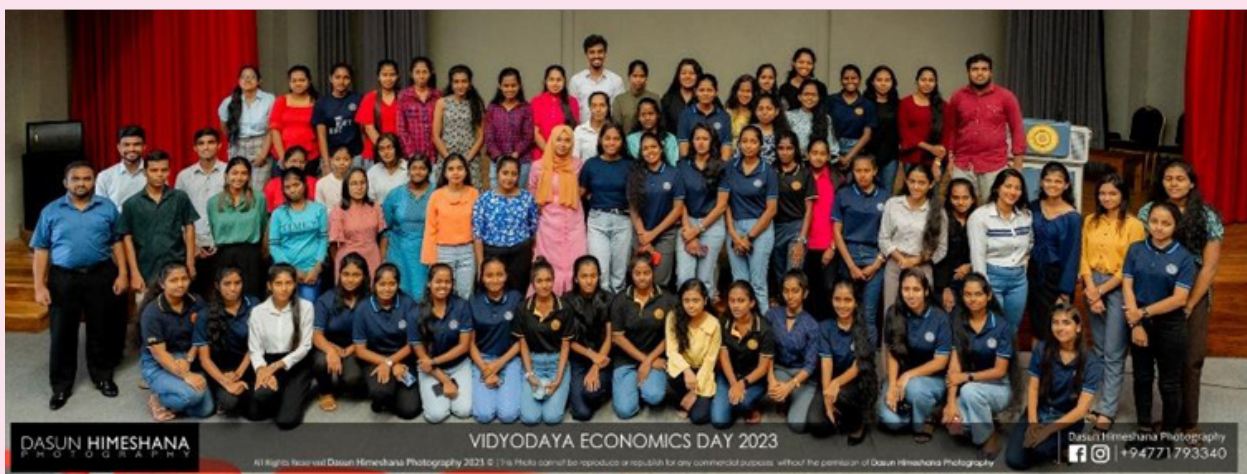
Vidyodaya Economics Day 2023



The Vidyodaya Economics Day 2023 was organized under the captivating theme, 'Setting Sail on the Road to Renaissance: Sri Lanka's Epic Journey.' This remarkable event took place on the 13th of October at the Sri Sumanagala Auditorium, drawing together scholars, academics, and students to celebrate economic insights and innovation.



The highlight of the day was the launch of the department's e-book, titled 'Fundamentals Macroeconomics.' This digital resource promises to be an invaluable asset to economics students, offering a comprehensive and contemporary guide to the intricacies of macroeconomics. The event was graced with the presence of distinguished speakers, including the keynote address delivered by Dr. Anil Perera, Director of the Department of Domestic Operations of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.



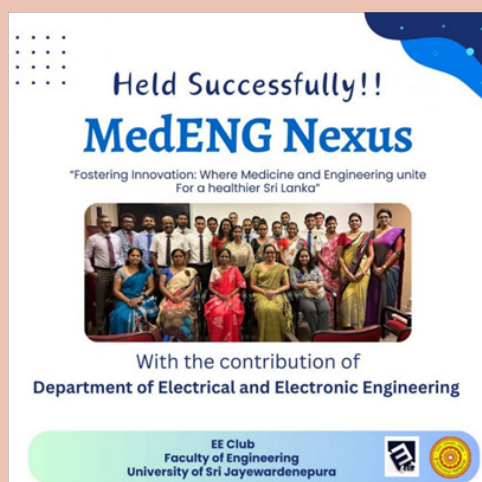
Launching Ceremony of the Master of Science Degree Programme in Waste Management and Circular Economy

Senior Professor Kennedy Gunawardana, Professor Anil Jayantha, Professor Hilary Silva, and Professor Kingsley Karunaratne held a launching ceremony of the MSc. in Waste Management and Circular Economy on 16th December 2023 at Hotel Galadari Colombo.

This function was held with the funds allocated by the Techno-Economic-Societal Sustainable Development Training in Sri Lanka (TESS) Project co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.



MedENG NEXUS



“Fostering Innovation Where Medicine and Engineering Unite on a Healthier Sri Lanka”

MedEng Nexus is a collaborative effort of the Galle Medical Association, Faculty of Engineering, USJ, and Faculty of Engineering and Technology, CINEC Campus, together with the industry partners. The first step was taken with the contribution of our Electrical and Electronic Department. MedEng Nexus will be a great landmark for biomedical engineering undergraduates.

DELT Speech Star 2023



The Department of English Language Teaching hosted the DELT Speech Star Competition 2023 on the 5th October 2023, showcasing an array of exceptional talents in the field of public speaking. The competition featured the first-year undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, who demonstrated their eloquence mainly under two categories; non-English department students and the English Department students, especially to have a reasonable field to compete.

The competition not only highlighted the extraordinary speaking talents but also served as a platform for the participants to build their confidence, enhance their communication skills, and express their thoughts on the main theme "Motivation drives success".

After rounds of captivating speeches and engaging debates, the judges selected three winners from each category. The winners of the Category 1 (Non-English Department students) are G. A. Umayangani (1st place), Nisangi Gunasekara (2nd place) and Minodi W. C. (3rd place). The winners of the Category 2 (English Department) are T. M. De Silva (1st place), Sandali Hansika (2nd place) and Shamla Hamza (3rd place).



Shaping the Future: The Department of Business Economics Hosts Curriculum Workshop for New Degree Program



In a dynamic and ever-evolving academic landscape, the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura took a significant stride toward excellence by organizing a Curriculum Workshop for the development of a new degree program. The primary objective of this program was to undergo a comprehensive New Curriculum Review, ensuring that the department stays at the forefront of educational innovation and meets the evolving needs of students and industries.

Dr. P.S.J. Fernando (Head of the Department) and Dr. Ananda Rathnayaka jointly initiated this transformative workshop.

The Curriculum Workshop brought together a distinguished group of academics and experts, each contributing their unique perspectives and experiences to shape the future of the Business Economics curriculum. The esteemed participants included Prof. M.A.K. Sriyalatha, Prof. M.S.S. Perera, Dr. (Mrs.) P.P. Lalanie, Dr. (Mrs.) D.R.J. Siriwardhane, Dr. R.M.A.K. Rathnayake, Dr. P.J.S. Fernando, Mrs. A.A.D.T. Saparamadu, Dr. M.P.K. Withanawasam, Mrs. Thilani Navaratne, Mr. Dilan Rajapaksha, Ms. Oshadhie Silva, Ms. D.M.D.C. Sandamali, and Ms. Nisali Siyara Samarakkody. This diverse panel ensured a comprehensive and inclusive review of the curriculum. Recognizing the importance of a holistic approach to curriculum development, the workshop also included non-academic staff members Ms. M.A.D.D. Kumari, Mr. M.K. Samansiri, and Ms. Mithara Dissanayake. This inclusive approach aimed to garner insights and perspectives from all facets of the department, fostering a collaborative environment for curriculum design.

The two-day workshop was held on 8th and 9th November 2023, at the Oak Ray Regency Hotel in the picturesque city of Kandy. This location provided a conducive environment for focused discussions and collaborative brainstorming sessions aimed at designing a curriculum that aligns with the department's vision and meets the industry's demands.

The Curriculum Workshop addressed crucial aspects of the new degree program, aiming to



enhance the overall learning experience for students. Key objectives included identifying emerging trends in business economics, incorporating innovative teaching methodologies, and ensuring the curriculum remains dynamic and responsive to the evolving needs of the job market.

Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in spirited discussions about curriculum structure, course content, and the integration of practical skills development. The importance of fostering critical thinking, creativity, and adaptability among students was emphasized, reflecting the department's commitment to producing well-rounded and future-ready graduates.

The Curriculum Workshop was not just a forum for discussions; it was a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange. By bringing together seasoned academics and industry experts, the workshop facilitated the creation of a curriculum that blends theoretical knowledge with practical applications, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for the challenges of the professional world.

The workshop's collaborative nature allowed for the pooling of diverse expertise, resulting in a curriculum that reflects the latest advancements in business economics and aligns with global industry standards. The insights and recommendations gathered during these two days will play a pivotal role in shaping

the future of the department and its impact on students' lives.

As the Curriculum Workshop concluded at the Oak Ray Regency Hotel in Kandy, the Department

of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura embarked on a new chapter of academic excellence. The dedication of Dr. P.S.J. Fernondo, Dr. Ananda Rathnayaka, and the esteemed participants, combined with the picturesque backdrop of Kandy, created an environment of inspiration and innovation. The outcomes of this workshop are poised to elevate the department's educational offerings, preparing students to not only excel academically but also to thrive in the dynamic landscape of business and economics. The future, shaped by the collective wisdom of these dedicated professionals, holds great promise for both the department and its students.

Celebration of the 13th Anniversary of the Department of Entrepreneurship



October 2023 stands as a significant milestone in the history of the Department of Entrepreneurship, marking the 13th anniversary of its establishment. To commemorate this momentous occasion, a Dhamma Sermon was organized on the 22nd October.

Additionally, a splendid event named 'Entrepreneurs Night' took place on 29th October, organized by the CEFEN students' wing of the Department of Entrepreneurship. The vibrant event witnessed a large turnout, with enthusiastic participation from current students, alumni, and the academic staff, creating a memorable celebration.



Felicitation Ceremony for Dr. S.M.K.S. Seneviratne - FAHS



As a mark of gratitude to Dr. Sujatha Seneviratne, for her invaluable service to the Department of Nursing and Midwifery as the founder head of the department and also as the most senior academic to the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the faculty organized a felicitation ceremony on 19th December 2023 at Mandarin Hotel, Colombo. Dr. Sujatha Seneviratne, Professor Inoka Uluwaduge, the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, and academics of the faculty participated in the event. Professor Sudath Warnekulasooriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo also graced the event as a special invitee.

Dr. Seneviratne started her academic carrier as a probationary lecturer in 2001 and she retired from her long service on 12th

December 2023. Her pioneering role in establishing the B.Sc. Nursing programme in a conventional university of Sri Lanka is highly commendable.

Inauguration Ceremony of the Master of Arts in Sociology Programme

Master of Sociology (one-year programme) 2023-2024 started with an enrolment of 40 students and Senior Prof. Mayura Samarakoon serves as the course coordinator of this programme. This programme is an opportunity for the students to apply sociological perspectives and methods for analysing social realities, grounded in a strong theoretical and substantive understanding of social institutions, social relations, and social policies.



Mental Health Day Celebration - 2023



On 10th October 2023, the Department of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura celebrated World Mental Health Day with multiple stakeholders. This year's Mental Health Day theme was "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right."

Mr. Samitha Sudhieshwara Perera presented a theatrical drama at the Colombo South Teaching Hospital's Professorial Psychiatry unit. He earned first prize in the Colombo International Theatre Festival with his performance of "Inviction." Apart from the Multi-Disciplinary Team in the professorial mental unit, the Director, Mrs. S. Kiriwadeniya, medical students and nurses from other units took part in this event.

This year much emphasis was given to counselling programmes addressing the rising mental health

issues among the university students. Two programmes on 'counselling for academic staff' were organised, and they were warmly received and accepted by many academic staff members in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and other faculties.

Dr. Dulshika Waas, Dr. Prasangika Seneviratne Alles, and Dr. Luckshika Amarakoon conducted this on 10th October and 1st December 2023. These two-hour seminars were designed to strengthen academic counsellors' counselling abilities to provide better student counselling.

Dr. Prasangika Senaviratne Alles gave a Q & A session for students at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 10th October 2023 as part of a primary programme related to Mental Health Day organised by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura's Career Guidance Unit. For the students, this was a very intriguing session.

Dr. Luckshika Amarakoon was invited to speak about 'How to Be Happy' at a staff medical camp activity organised by the chief medical officer of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the non-academic staff of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 1st December 2023. The non-academic personnel thoroughly appreciated this engaging workshop.



The renovated 'S1 Hall' names after Emeritus Prof. S.B. Hettiaratchi of the Department of History and Archaeology

Expressing the deepest gratitude for the immense service rendered by Emeritus Prof. S.B. Hettiaratchi, the Former Vice-Chancellor, Former Dean of the FHSS and a Former Staff Member of the Department of History and Archaeology, the renovated 'S1 Hall' of the department was named as 'Prof. S.B. Hettiaratchi Hall', in parallel to the 61st Anniversary Celebration Program series of the Archaeology Museum, USJ, on the 10th of October 2023.

Accordingly, the renovated lecture hall was opened by Emeritus Prof. S.B. Hettiaratchi and the session was graced by the current Vice Chancellor of the USJ, Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, the Dean of the FHSS, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, and other dignitaries.



The Department of History and Archaeology felicitates Alumnus Mr. Gamini Samaranayake



Appreciating those who deserve is essential for the well-being of any society. Hence, rather than advising but by setting an example of this good quality to the undergraduates, the Department of History and Archaeology organized a felicitation ceremony for Mr. Gamini Samaranayake, an alumnus produced by the department, on the 10th October 2023, from 1.00 pm onwards, at Prof. Mendis Rohanadheera hall of the department.



Mr. Gamini Samaranayake is a graduate of Archaeology from the batch of 1987. He started his career by serving in the Anuradhapura regional office of the Department of Archaeology, from 1988 until his retirement in 2021. His 33 years of service within the field of Archaeology is impeccable and he truly is a living example of a genuine archaeologist. Accordingly, 'Gamini', a felicitation book was launched for him during the occasion followed by an appreciation award. Furthermore, his contemporary

batch mates, Prof. Karunasena Hettiarachchi and Prof. Pathmasiri Kannangara also warmly spoke of their memories of Mr. Gamini Samaranayake recalling their friendship over four decades.



CONFERENCE & RESEARCH



6th Operations and Technology Management Undergraduate Research Symposium (OTMURS) -2023: Shaping the Future of Innovation and Operations



University of Sri Jayewardenepura
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6TH OTMURS 2023
OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER & PANELLIST

PANELLISTS

MS. GAYANI DE ALWIS
Global Chairperson
WILAT SL

PROF. RENUKA HERATH
University of Kelaniya

PROF. M.H.A. SISIRA KUMARA
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

03rd November 2023
01:00 P.M. - 06:00 P.M.

New Faculty Board Room, FMSC

DSc
Research Center for Innovation, Operations, and Quality Management
Department of Decision Sciences
Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

In a vibrant showcase of academic prowess and innovation, the 6th Operations and technology Management Undergraduate Research Symposium (OTMURS) took centre stage on the 3rd November 2023. Hosted by the Research Centre for Innovation, Operations, and Quality Management within the Department of Decision Sciences, this annual event proved to be a dynamic platform for recent graduates to illuminate their research, explore emerging trends, and engage in insightful discussions revolving around technology and operational management.

Graced by the distinguished presence of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, the symposium's inaugural moments were marked by a passionate call to continuously update knowledge within the field of study and research methodologies. Dr. Jayawickrama emphasized

the paramount importance of staying abreast of the rapid advancements in the industry.

The symposium gained further eminence with the keynote address delivered by Ms. Gayani De Alwis, the Global Chairperson for Women in Logistics and Transport. Her expertise in Logistics Management

illuminated the audience as she stressed the critical role of technological advancements in fortifying supply chain resilience amidst an increasingly disruptive global landscape.

Following this enlightening keynote, the research presentations commenced, showcasing the dedication and innovation of the participating students. A distinguished panel of industry experts and academic stalwarts, including Ms. Gayani De Alwis, Prof. Renuka Herath from the University of Kelaniya, and Prof. M.H.A. Sisira Kumara from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, provided invaluable feedback. Their insightful critique and constructive suggestions aimed to further refine and elevate the students' work, nurturing a culture of continuous improvement and excellence.

In a nod to sustainability and environmental consciousness, the symposium underscored its commitment to eco-friendly practices. The proceedings of the event will be made available in e-version, ensuring accessibility and reducing the ecological footprint by utilizing library repositories.



International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2023



The third International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (ICIET) 2023 organized by the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 23rd-24th November 2023 at the Homagama, Faculty of Technology premises. ICIET 2023 showcased the finest of technological research under the timely theme of 'sustainable technologies for economic resilience'.

The keynotes of the conference were delivered by Senior Professor P.B.R. Dissanayake, Senior Professor in Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, President, Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, Dr. Ajantha S. Atukorale, Director, University of Colombo School of Computing, President, Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), and Mr. Kasun Jayamaha, Head of Information Technology, Unilever Sri Lanka.

This year, over 200 abstracts were presented under 15 tracks spanning over a broad range of technological research studies. For the first time in conference's history, both poster and oral presenters delivered their presentations physically. The conference was an unforgettable experience for scholars, budding researchers, industry personnel, and many other stakeholders. A wide range of pre-conference workshops were also held in virtual mode on 22nd November 2023.



The conference committee was led by the general chair Prof. Nilmini Liyanage, Dean, Faculty of Technology and co-chairs, Prof. Lasanthi Jayathunge and Dr. Gaya Nayomi Jayakodi.



Participation for Experiential Classroom XXIII Conference



Ms. D.C.H. De Silva and Ms. H.N.R. Gunawardane represented the Department of Entrepreneurship of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura at the Experiential Classroom XXIII Conference, organized by the University of Notre Dame from 28th September to 01st October 2023 in South Bend, Indiana, USA. The Experiential Classroom Conference is renowned as the premier

entrepreneurship programme in the United States, focusing on sharing leading-edge teaching and programme building practices, as well as enhancing teaching skills, particularly among individuals new to the field of entrepreneurship.

First International Research Conference on Gender Studies, 2023



The First International Research Conference on Gender Studies organized by the Gender Equity and Equality Centre of the Equal Opportunity Cell in the Faculty of Humanities and social Sciences was held on 12th and 13th October 2023 at the university premises.

Snr. Prof. Pathmalal Manage, Vice Chancellor of the University was the chief guest of the event and Dr. Akiko Nakayama, Hiroshima University, Japan was the Keynote speaker of the inauguration session. 'Truth, Fiction & Reality on Gender Studies' was the title of the plenary session and the event was graced by four plenary speakers; Mr. Ajith Rohana, Senior Inspector General, Sri Lanka Police; Ms. Sunethra Rajakarunanayake, Award winning writer; Ms. Pushpa Ramyani De Zoysa, National coordinator – Training, National Hospital and Mr. Chevaan Daniel, Group Director, Capital Maharaja (Pvt) Ltd. Rev. Prof. Pinnawala Sangasumana, Director, External Degrees and Extension Course Unit and Rev. Maha Sanga of the Faculty, Sn. Prof. Surangi Yasawardhane, Dean, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Prof. Inoka Uluwaduge, Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Nayana Wijesundara, Librarian, Heads of the Departments, Professors, Senior Lecturers and academic, administrative and non-academic



staff members were graced the event.

The success of the conference was attributed to the collective efforts of all committee members. Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean/ FHSS and advisor of the conference, Prof. Neranji Wijewardhane, Chair, Dr. Nelum Kanthilatha, Secretary, Mr. Anura Jayasinghe, Treasurer, Dr. Hansamala Ritigahapola, Media coordinator, Ms. Imanga Nadeeshani, Dr. Himalika Ranaweera, Dr. Samanthika Lokugamage, Dr. Dilhani Ranaweera and all the committee members were dedicated to ensuring the success of the conference.





WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS



Knowledge Dissemination Workshops on Waste Management and Circular Economy

Senior Professor Kennedy Gunawardana, Professor Anil Jayantha, and Dr. Kingsley Karunaratne participated in two knowledge dissemination workshops on waste management and circular economy held in Jaffna from 5th to 6th October 2023 and in University of Vocational Technology, Ratmalana on 16th November 2023. These workshops were conducted as a requirement of the tasks assigned to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as a partner country under the Techno-Economic-Societal Sustainable Development Training in Sri Lanka (TESS) Project co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.

Final Workshop for Curriculum Revision of the MBA / M.Sc. Programme 2023



It is a delight to share the successful completion of the curriculum revision workshop of the MBA/M.Sc. programme which was held on 20th September 2023, at Cinnamon Bey, Beruwala. The main objective of this final workshop was to have a collaborative, insightful, and holistic discussion to derive significant outcomes in producing industry-focused and updated MBA and M.Sc. programme for the year 2024 and onwards.

The key achievements of the workshop are a successful revision of the two-year MBA/M.Sc. programme with diverse specializations catering to the evolving needs of aspiring business professionals. Two early exit options have been introduced for the programme ensuring flexibility and adaptability for our students is another outcome of the workshop.

The commitment and dedication of the curriculum revision committee members consist of Prof. Aruna S. Gamage, Prof. M.D. Pushpakumari, Prof. M.A.K. Sriyalatha, and Ms.Pivindi Alwis, have been instrumental in steering the discussions and shaping crucial decisions.



Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Senior Prof. H.H.D.N.P. Opatha, Senior Prof. Roshini Samarasinghe, Prof. Saman Yapa, Chair, Postgraduate Centre for Business Studies, Prof. Wasantha Perera, Chair of the Board of Study at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. M.A.K. Sriyalatha, MBA programme coordinator, and MBA lecture panel are appreciated for their unwavering dedication. This workshop is a giant step towards continuing the journey towards delivering an outstanding and promising MBA/M.Sc. programme in Sri Lanka with unwavering commitment.



Workshop for Evidence Collection and SER Preparation



Prof. Sunethra Thennakoon, Coordinator of the QAC of FGS welcomed all the members who were present at the Quality Assurance Cell (QA Cell) meeting and invited Prof. Charmalie Nahallage to explain the evidence collection and SER preparation according to criterion three, and four in the PGPR Manual.

Prof. Nahallage stated the sources of evidence under criterion three (Human and Physical Resources and Learner Support) and criterion four

(Teaching-Learning and Research) in detail with Best Practices and the Standards.

Furthermore, Prof. Nahallage explained the importance of each policy in the three and four criteria and the importance of considering more about implementing policies and ToRs of the staff of FGS.



Workshop on Personality Development for the Non-Academic Staff of the FHSS



The one-day workshop on Team Building and Personality Development for the Non-Academic Staff Members of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was successfully held on 18th December 2023, at the Yagirala Forest Research and Conservation Education Centre. The workshop was organized under the guidance of Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the soft skills of the non-academic staff members and cultivate a harmonious blend of personality and professionalism within them. The organizers aimed to provide the participants with valuable tools and techniques to improve their communication, interpersonal skills, and overall effectiveness in the workplace. Furthermore, the workshop focused on enhancing leadership capabilities and effectively achieving organizational objectives.

The workshop also included practical exercises and role-playing activities to provide hands-on experience and encourage active participation. Participants were given opportunities to apply the concepts and skills learned throughout the day.

At the end of the workshop, participants were provided with resources and materials to further support their personal and professional development. They were also encouraged to continue practicing the skills learned and to seek ongoing growth opportunities.

Overall, the workshop on Team Building and Personality Development aimed to empower the non-academic staff members of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with the necessary skills and perspectives to excel in their roles and contribute to the success of the institution.

'English as Power' for the 2021/2022 Batch of Pharmacy Students

In order to improve the English communication skills among students of B. Pharm Degree Programme 2021/2022 Batch, the first session of the programme, 'English as Power' was held on 09th November 2023, at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, with the humble contribution of the former Head and a senior lecturer in the Department of English Language Teaching, University of Sri Jayewardenepura,



Dr. Madhubhashini Disanayaka Ratnayake as the resource person. Throughout the session, which was around three hours, a number of 50 students were engaged with several interactive activities followed by audio-visual presentations that let them view English language as a powerful tool of communication in the modern world.

The feedback from students was encouraging and the department intends to provide more opportunities to enhance English fluency of students, parallel to the usual teaching-learning activities in time to come.

The Workshop on 'Basic Techniques in Facial Soft Tissue Surgery' Organized by the Faculty of Dental Sciences

The Faculty of Dental Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, in collaboration with the College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Sri Lanka, organized a workshop titled 'Fundamentals of Facial Soft Tissue Surgery' for intern dental surgeons on 28th November 2023. The workshop provided comprehensive coverage of theoretical aspects in facial soft tissue surgery, encompassing applied surgical anatomy and techniques for handling soft tissue. Practical hands-on sessions were conducted in the Anatomy Dissection Room of the Faculty of Medicine.

Consultants from the Ministry of Health and academic staff from the Dental Faculty at SJP generously contributed as resource persons for this event. The workshop attracted a significant turnout, with over 80 enthusiastic dental surgeons actively participating in the sessions.



'Basics of Pharmacy' Programme for Motivated Learners

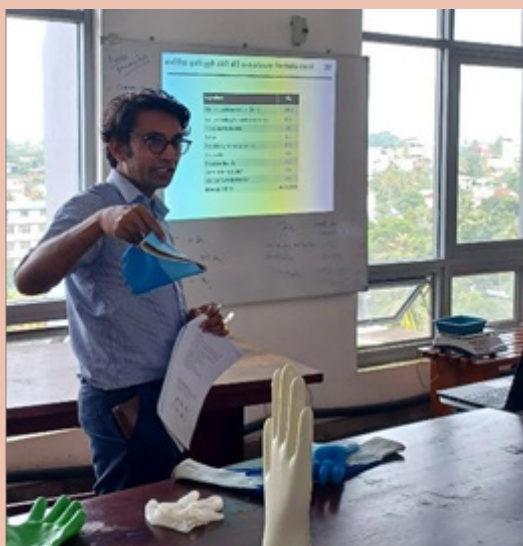
An educational programme to enhance the knowledge and awareness about the discipline of pharmacy, the Basics of Pharmacy Programme was organized and held by the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences on 2nd and 3rd December 2023 at the Department.



There were 12 participants for the programme from various backgrounds including registered pharmacists, administrators, pharmacy trainees, entrepreneurs, and nursing assistants. The two-day session included topics on pharmacology, good pharmacy practices, pharmacognosy, pharmaceuticals, and medication safety. A laboratory demonstration on different pharmaceutical formulations was also conducted. The session was resourced by academics in the department. Feedback highlighted much enthusiasm among participants who requested more of these sessions in the future.



Successful Completion of Glove Manufacturing Training Programme Led by Dr. Dhammika Weerathunga



A comprehensive training programme was successfully conducted by Dr. Dhammika Weerathunga, from the Department of Polymer Science. The two-day event, held on the 21st and 22nd of October 2023, provided valuable insights into glove manufacturing, identification of defects, and troubleshooting methods.

During the hands-on sessions, participants prepared gloves by themselves, while being aware of the various stages involved in the large-scale industrial production process. The training programme covered a spectrum of topics, ranging from raw material selection to the final quality assurance processes.

In an era where quality control and product safety are paramount, Dr. Dhammika Weerathunga's training programme has undoubtedly empowered participants with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in the competitive landscape of glove manufacturing.

After the completion, participants who did not possess a knowledge regarding the manufacturing process of gloves previously have been fully armed with theoretical and practical aspects, making them highly attractive candidates as employees among glove industry. The participants who came from glove manufacturing industries also could gain thorough knowledge about the reasons for their daily plant practices.

The next training programme is scheduled to be conducted on 17th and 18th of February 2024. It will focus on 'balloon manufacturing' which is an easy to start as a cottage industry. The programme will be conducted in Sinhala medium, and all the handouts will be given in Sinhala.



A Seminar on “Complex Halide Perovskites” by Professor Hemamala Karunadasa from Stanford University



Sri Lanka Association of Advancement Science Section E2 in collaboration with the Chemical Society of University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a seminar on “Complex Halide Perovskites” by Professor Hemamala Karunadasa on 21st December at Physics Lecture Theatre.

Prof. Hemamala Karunadasa is a world-renowned Sri Lankan scientist, currently working at the Department of Chemistry, Stanford University, United States. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University. Her dedication as a material chemist has paved the way for the discovery of new materials with applications including clean energy.

Prof. Champa D. Jayaweera, Head of the Department of Chemistry welcomed the esteemed guest of the session and Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe, President of the SLAAS Section E2, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry introduced Prof. Karunadasa to the audience as the guest speaker of the session.

During her lecture, Prof. Karunadasa described the principles of halide perovskites, highlighting the synthesis and properties of some of the key halide perovskites discovered by her research group. The seminar was a very informative session for the audience including undergraduates and graduate students from the Department of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Committee members of the SLAAS Section E2, faculty members of the Department of Chemistry and other academic institutes were also among the participants in this event. Furthermore, Professor Karunadasa also shared her experience as an undergraduate and graduate in chemistry, which motivated the fresh graduates and undergraduates to pursue their higher studies in chemistry.

The seminar was concluded successfully with an informative Q&A session which addressed numerous questions from the audience. Prof. Theshini Perera delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the Chemistry Department of USJ and the SLAAS.

Two-Day Advanced Level Teacher Training Workshop in Electronics, Organized by the Department of Physics

The Department of Physics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, in partnership with the North Central Province Education Department, hosted a two-day A/L teacher training workshop in Electronics on the 9th and 10th December 2023. The workshop, which took place at the Department of Physics, gathered Physics teachers from different schools in the North Central Province.

The main objective of the workshop was to offer practical knowledge in electronics – an area that is often neglected by many teachers in Sri Lanka due to a lack of familiarity. During the two days, the teachers participated in practical sessions, acquiring hands-on experience that is essential for their teaching methods. A remarkable result of the workshop was the teachers' commitment to update their knowledge, aiming to share this new expertise with their students in the North Central Province. The workshop arranged by the Department of Physics comes out as a very effective initiative to spread vital knowledge within the Sri Lankan education system. Filling the gap in electronics education, this session is expected to have a positive and lasting effect on both teachers and students in the North Central Province. A resource book for electronics practicals was printed and distributed among teachers.

The workshop began with an inauguration ceremony attended by Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Shantha Gamage, Head of the Department of Physics, and Ms. H.M.T.S. Herath, Deputy Director of Education, Provincial Department of Education, North Central Province.

The resource persons were Dr. Wasanthi De Silwa (coordinator), Mr. Dhanushka Dharmasiri, Dr. Indika Wanniarachchi, Prof. Duleepa Pitigala, Prof. Shantha Gamage, and demonstrators of the Department. Special thanks go to the Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Assistance registrar and Assistant bursar, Faculty of Applied Science, and all the academic and non-academic staff members who supported in various ways in this workshop. We applaud the Department of Physics, the organizers, and all the participating teachers for their contribution to advancing education in Sri Lanka.



A Workshop on GPA Calculation



A workshop on GPA calculation was held on 07th September 2023 at SBGF 04 Hall. The resource person of the workshop was Mr. Sandun Fernando, an officer attached to the Examination Unit of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

This workshop was organized by Dr. R.P.C.K. Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of Public Administration for

the purpose of making the third-year undergraduates of the Department aware of the process of GPA calculation.



Mental Well-being for Pharmacy Undergraduates



A programme titled, 'Discussion on Mental Well-being' was conducted by the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on 5th December 2023 for Bachelor of Pharmacy undergraduates of 2019/2020 batch.

The programme was resourced by Ms. Rasika Manohari,

Consultant Professional Psychological Counsellor, Senior Psychotherapist, Professional Consultant in Drug Counselling/Prevention/Rehabilitation, and the Student Counsellor for the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

This programme was organized as a request by students for more extra-curricular and mental wellness programmes, and the feedback of the programme was very encouraging.

CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



FAHS Academic Contribute to Health Education



Prof A.A.Thamara D. Amarasekara, From the Dept. of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS, did a session on "Issues related to testing and assessment practice in nursing education" for the nursing tutors at the Post Basic College of Nursing Sri Lanka on 7th November 2023.

Prof. Thamara Amarasekara, also contributed by conducting a theory and practical session on "Infection Control in Neonatal Intensive Care Units at the "Trainers of Trainees Workshop on NICU care" on 17th November 2023 at the Castle Street Hospital for Women, Sri Lanka.

Keynote by Prof. Thamara Amarasekara



Prof. A.A. Thamara D. Amarasekara, From the Dept. of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS, delivered the "Keynote speech" at the Diploma Awarding ceremony for the Nursing students - Batch 2018- A, School of Nursing, Colombo, on 7th September 2023 at the BMICH.

Training and Education on Using Medication without Harm - A talk by Prof. Nithushi Samaranayake



The National Convention of Healthcare Quality and Safety was organized by the Directorate of Healthcare Quality and Safety (DHQS), the focal point for the National Healthcare Quality and Safety programme of the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka, on 15th September 2023 to coincide with the annual World Patient Safety Day celebrations.

At the plenary session 1 on 'Engaging Patients for Patient Safety', Prof. Nithushi Samaranayake spoke on 'Training and Education on Using Medication without Harm'. Her talk focused mostly on educational efforts initiated by the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for undergraduates and patients to use medicines safely. This is yet another effort by the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on promoting health and well-being in our society.



FAHS academic contributions to the Inter-unit Quality and Safety Competition of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital



The Colombo South Teaching Hospital organized an inter unit quality and safety competition where medication safety in the hospital was assessed in over 50 wards/ICUs/theatres/pharmacies and took place on 6th, 7th, and 8th December 2023.



Prof. Nithushi Samaranayake, Dr. Savini Senadheera, and Ms. Indunil Weliwaththa, who are academics of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura contributed as part of the evaluation team. In addition, three pharmacy graduates who are alumni of the Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree Programme of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Ms. Sachinthana Kekunuwala, Chief Pharmacist, Dental Hospital, Colombo, Ms. S.P.K Premadasa, Pharmacy Tutor, NHS, Kalutara, and Ms. U.G.S Siripala, Pharmacist, Teaching Hospital, Rathnapura,

contributed as the rest of the evaluation team. This was an honorary contribution by FAHS to uplift the medication safety of CSTH.



AWARDS

Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa Wins the IOBSL Young Scientist Award



Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa from the Department of Biosystems Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka (IOBSL) Young Scientist Award during the Inauguration Ceremony of the 43rd Annual Sessions of the Institute of Biology Sri Lanka which was held on 22nd September 2023 at the Ariyana Reach Hotel, Maharagama. The award is a recognition of his excellent contribution to the progress of the field of Biology in Sri Lanka as a young biologist. Dr. Sanjeewa's

research interests largely focus on the bioprospecting of marine bioresources in developing drugs, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, and functional foods.

Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa received his BSc Honors Degree in Agriculture from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. He obtained a M.Sc. and a Doctoral Degree in Marine Life Sciences from Jeju National University in South Korea. After completing his Ph.D. he also served as a post-doctoral researcher at the same University. In 2019, Dr. Sanjeewa was honored with the Best Researcher Award by The Korean Society of Phycology for his scientific involvement in marine life sciences. Nationally, he won the award for the most outstanding young researcher in the field of life sciences at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) Excellence Awards 2022. He currently serves as a senior lecturer attached to the Department of Biosystems Technology, at the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Prof. Shyamalee Samaranayaka Wins Two Prestigious Awards at the WONCA World Conference

Prof. Shyamalee Samaranayaka from the Department of Family Medicine received two prestigious awards at the WONCA world conference held in Sydney Australia in October 2023. WONCA is the World Association of Family Doctors. The fellowship of WONCA is awarded to doctors who have contributed significantly for the development of Family Medicine globally and in recognition of services to the WONCA as an organization. She is the fifth recipient of this award from Sri Lanka.

The Montegut scholarship is awarded by the American board of Family Medicine to doctors who contribute to the development of Family Medicine in their countries and the region, one award for the region annually. Prof. Samaranayaka is the first recipient of this award from Sri Lanka



Presidential Awards: Dr.Kasun Thambugala



Dr. Kasun Thambugala, an academic at the Genetics and Molecular Biology Unit was recognized as one of the top 2% of the scientists in the world along with Prof. Meththika Vithanage and Dr. Anushka Rajapaksa. He received the most prestigious Presidential Award for his publication on fungal antagonists applied against fungal plant pathogens on 21st November 2023.

Faculty of Technology Lecturers Receive Recognition at the President's Awards for Scientific Research (PASR) for Publication Years 2019 and 2020



Dr. Danushika Manatunga



Dr. Rohan Dassanayake



Dr. Gayan Priyadarshana

Three academic staff members from the Faculty of Technology received the President's Awards for Scientific Research (PASR) for publication years 2019 and 2020 at the award ceremony held on 21st November 2023 at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exposition Centre of the BMICH, Colombo 07. Dr. Danushika Manatunga and Dr. Rohan Dassanayake from the Department of Biosystems Technology and Dr. Gayan Priyadarshana from the Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology were awarded the President's Awards for their contribution to scientific research.

Dr. Marylou Dharmakan Awarded with the Daphne Attygalle and Sir Nicholas Attygalle Award



Lecturer of the Family Medicine department in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Marylou Dharmakan (MBBS, DFM, MRCGP int, MD Family Medicine) was awarded the Daphne Attygalle and Sir Nicholas Attygalle award for the best paper in cancer at the 136th SLMA Anniversary International Medical Congress. The paper was titled "Caregiver burden and quality of life among family caregivers of advanced cancer patients attending the palliative care clinic at the National Cancer Institute, Maharagama- Sri Lanka."

President's Awards for Scientific Research (PASR) 2023



Dr. Nuwan Gunarathne, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, received three prestigious awards for his groundbreaking research papers at the President's Awards for Scientific Research (PASR) 2023.

The research papers are, "Low carbon consumer behaviour in climate-vulnerable developing countries: A case study of Sri Lanka", published in Resources, Conservation and Recycling (2020, Volume 154, Art. No. 104592), "Challenges facing sustainable urban minibus public transport industry in the

e-waste recycling industry in Sri Lanka", published in the Journal of Cleaner Production (2020, Vol 251, Art. No. 119641) and "Environmental and managerial information for cleaner production strategies: An environmental management development perspective", published in the Journal of Cleaner Production (2019, Vol 237, Art. No. 117849).

Dr. Gunarathne's exceptional contributions to the field of environmental management and sustainable development have earned him well-deserved recognition at this esteemed scientific forum.

Dr. Oshan Wedage receives Sri Lankan President's Award for Scientific Research - 2023



Sen. Lect. (Dr.) Oshan Wedage of the Department of History and Archaeology, USJ, received the Sri Lankan President's Award for the years 2019 and 2020, in recognition of his research work over the last few years, which includes his writings and contribution to several highly significant research and publications on Pleistocene human origins and adaptations. The award ceremony, patronaged by President Ranil Wickremasinghe and other dignitaries, was held on the 21st of November 2023, at Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Hall in Colombo.

The Sri Lankan 'President's Awards for Scientific Research' is an event organized by the National Research Council of Sri Lanka to evaluate and recognize the strongest scientific research conducted in the country. The published scientific works selected for reviewing are source normalized based on weighted citations from internationally accepted journal ranking systems, avoiding bias towards any scientific discipline. Accordingly, the level of contribution of Sri Lankan research scientists in any scientific discipline is assessed and awarded for their research and innovation relating to science and technology.

The Department of History and Archaeology is proud to mention that this is Dr. Wedage's 5th consecutive time receiving the President's Award for his research work. The staff and the students of the Department of History and Archaeology congratulate Sen. Lect. (Dr.) Oshan Wedage for his significant career achievement!



Annual Awarding Ceremony of the Department of Commerce, 2023

On 26th September 2023, the Department of Commerce held its much-anticipated annual award ceremony at the Senate Boardroom, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Ranil Pathirana, Director of Hirdaramani Group of Companies, as the esteemed Guest of Honor. Additionally, special participation was acknowledged by Infinity 4.0, the platinum partner of the Lions Club of Colombo Centennial, with President Suneth Chithrananda and two executives from their club. The ceremony recognized outstanding achievements, with the Infinity 4.0 Case Study Competition winners announced as "The Scorpions" from the University of Moratuwa and in addition to celebrating academic excellence, the event showcased generosity through the awarding of Hirdaramani Scholarships to deserving students across different years. Furthermore, the ceremony recognized the Best Students of 2023 from each academic year, applauding their outstanding performance across subjects. This event served as a moment of appreciation, acknowledging the remarkable achievements of the Department of Commerce students throughout their academic journey and fostering a sense of pride and inspiration within the university community.

Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga and Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa Listed as World's Top 2% Highly Cited Researchers in 2023



Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga



Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa

For the second consecutive year, Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga and Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa from the Department of Biosystems Technology have been listed in the list of world's top 2% highly cited researchers in 2023 as depicted by Stanford University in collaboration with Elsevier publications.

Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga is an esteemed scholar and an expert researcher in the field of mycology, plant pathology, and biotechnology and he has published over 50 papers with local and international authors. He stands with a notable H-index of 25 with over 4200 citations and he is currently serving as the head of the Department of Biosystems Technology as well.

Dr. Asanka Sanjeewa, is well recognized for his excellence in research in the field of marine biotechnology. He was also the recipient of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) Excellence Awards 2022 - The Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the Field of Life Sciences, earlier this year. Dr. Asanka has an H-index of 29 with over 2500 citations and he is currently serving as a senior lecturer attached to the Department of Biosystems Technology.

Innovation Triumphs: Faculty of Technology, USJ Excels at Techno-2023 Exhibition

Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura received two awards at the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) Techno-2023 exhibition and competition held at BMICH from 20th to 22nd October 2023.

Mr. T.G.C. Madusanka, a Master of Philosophy student from the Faculty of Technology, won first place in the Inventor Promotion Zone under the university category for his innovation 'Mycelium-based biodegradable packaging material.' This project was fully funded by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the principle investigator Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga and a team comprising

Prof. Renuka Nilmini, Dr. Suranga Rajapaksha, and Dr. Choolaka Hewawasam, from the Faculty of Technology.

Furthermore, Mr. H.G.C. Dilshan, a third-year undergraduate student from the ICT department of the Faculty of Technology, won third place in the Inventor Promotion Zone for his project 'Citizen Identification System using Image Processing.' The award ceremony was held at the Wimalasurendra Auditorium, IESL on 22nd December 2023.



Best Paper Award at International Research Conference (IRC), Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), Padukka



The paper titled "How do mathematics teachers utilize their specialized content knowledge in teaching the concept of derivative?" emerged victorious at the International Research Conference (IRC) held on 15th December 2023, organized by SLTC Research University. This outstanding work earned the prestigious "Best Paper Award" under the Mathematics and Statistics Track, showcasing excellence in the field. The authors of this article were Mrs. Rovini Rathnayake (SFT, FOT), Dr. Gaya Jayakody (SFT, FOT), and Dr. Shelton Perera (SLTC).

This study is part of a funded project that delved into the Specialized Content Knowledge (SCK) of Sri Lankan advanced-level mathematics teachers, particularly in teaching two crucial topics in Calculus: the concepts of limit and derivative. The implications drawn from this study pave the way for enhancing teacher training programmes in Sri Lanka, ensuring educators in Sri Lanka are equipped with the expertise needed to inspire and educate the younger generation.

Business Information Systems Student Symposiums (BISSS) and Award Ceremony



The Business Information Systems Student Symposiums (BISSS) Award Ceremony organized by the Department of Information Technology was held at the Faculty Board Room on the 21st of September 2023 with the virtual participation of the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Head of the departments, academic staff members of the Department, invitees from the corporate sector, current undergraduates, and the passed-out graduates of the Department.

The award ceremony was organized with the intention of recognizing the best undergraduate research and projects and ultimately finding the best research and project. The chair of BISSS 2023, Dr. Shashikala Subhashini officially welcomed the gathering and the Head of the Department of Information Technology Prof. Lasith Gunawardena delivered a speech addressing the objectives of the award ceremony, the nature of the student symposium, and its intentions. The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama delivered a special address virtually where he praised the Department's contribution to the faculty on numerous occasions to creatively address various challenges posed by the ever-changing environment.

The Chief Guest and the Plenary speaker of the symposium Mr. Jehan Perinpanayagam, CEO of Infomate Pvt Ltd, Chairman SLASSCOM, and Chairman ACCA member network panel ACCA Sri Lanka, addressed the gathering on the topic 'IT & BPM, A Key Industry for Economic Revival'. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Dakshi Kapugama, Principal Business Intelligence Officer – Insights and Digital, Department of Energy and Public Works, Queensland Government Australia delivered her speech on the topic 'Text Mining in Action: Machine Learning for Illuminating Insights Across Diverse Industries.'

The best research award was awarded to Sandali Jayakody for the research titled, 'Factors affecting



the Intention to Adopt Non-Fungible Tokens with Special Reference to the Creative Digital Artists in Sri Lanka'. The best project award was awarded to S.P. Pasindu Gayashan and W.R.S. Jayawardhana to for the project titled "Sustainable Social Commerce System". Afterwards, the Award winners and the participants shared their experiences and knowledge on BISSS and their industry wide experiences and knowledge so far to motivate the upcoming undergraduates.

The event was concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Kaveesha Silva, Co-secretary of BISSS. This event was chaired by Dr. Shashikala Subhashini while Mrs. Thamali Chandrasiri and Ms. Kaveesha Silva acted as the Co-secretaries of BISSS.



First-Year Undergraduates of the Faculty of Applied Sciences Triumph in EU-Dilmah Sustainable Climate Action Challenge – Island-wide innovation competition



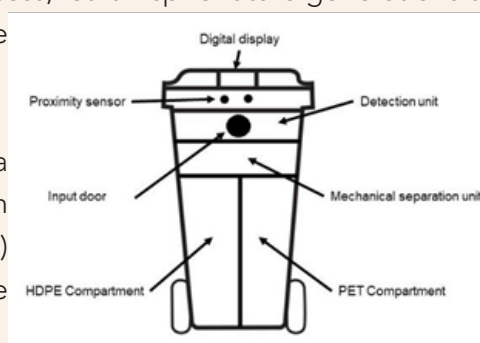
In a remarkable feat, two first-year undergraduate students, following the Polymer Science/Chemistry/Physics combination of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rukshika Fernando and Thisal Vitharana, secured first place in the esteemed Sustainable Climate Action Challenge, an island-wide innovation competition organized by the European Union and Dilmah Tea Corporation.

Inspired by their studies in polymer science, they envisioned a single unit named 'EcoSort' that would harness the power of Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) to

efficiently identify and mechanically segregate individual plastic types into separate compartments. Within the tight timeframe of six weeks, the duo not only conceptualized but also brought their idea to life: a functional prototype with a digital display and a proximity sensor to automatically turn the detection laser beam on and off. EcoSort currently segregates high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which will be expanded to other polymers in the future to be used on a commercial scale. Throughout the process, the students were mentored by Dr. Dhammika Weerathunga, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Polymer Science, and Mr. Dhanushka Dharmasiri, Lecturer at the Department of Physics.

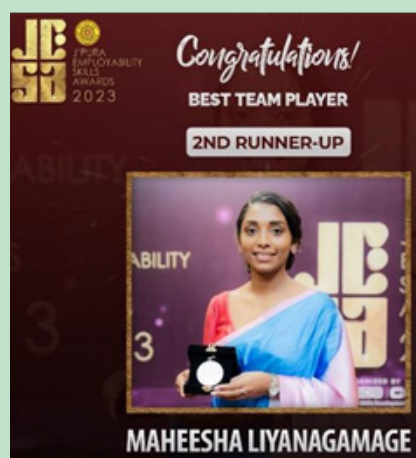
To fortify their proposal, Rukshika and Thisal conducted extensive research, engaging with key stakeholders involved in plastic waste management. Their victory not only contributes to global efforts for sustainable practices but also inspires fellow students to actively engage in finding solutions to critical issues, shaping an eco-friendlier future. This accomplishment places these first-year undergraduates on the map of environmental innovation and marks a significant milestone for the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. As we celebrate their success, let it inspire future generations to explore, innovate, and contribute towards a more sustainable world.

Dr.Dhammika Weerathunga (first from the left), Rukshika Fernando (second from the left), Prof. Upul Subasinghe Deen of the FAS (middle), Thisal Vitharana (second from the right) and Mr. Dhanushka Dharmasiri (first from the right) with the invention.



The Department of Accounting Students Shines at JESA 2023

The Department of Accounting celebrates the outstanding achievements of its students at the J'pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA) 2023, held on 15th December 2023 at the Hotel Golden Rose, Boralesgamuwa. Supun Muthukuda secured the 1st runner-up position in the "Best Employability Skills Achiever-Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce" category, while Maheesha Liyanagamage and Shan Dilhara achieved the second runner-up positions in the "Best Team Player" and "Best Young Entrepreneur" categories, respectively.



Nomin Premarathna Excels as Best Employability Skilled Awardee at JESA 2023



Cheers and applause filled the air as Nomin Premarathna, a fourth-year student in the Department of Decision Sciences, bagged the esteemed Best Employability Skilled Award at the JESA 2023 Awarding Ceremony.

This fantastic win marks the second time in a row that a student from our department has snagged this impressive award!

This award isn't just about being smart in class. It's about being amazing in lots of things! Nomin

totally aced it in academics, leading teams, playing sports, doing art, helping out in the community, and more. He's like an all-rounder champion!

Apart from being a star in studies, Nomin's been a leader in the Leo Club of USJ 306 A2. He has held different roles there and won awards for being so awesome. But that's not all—he is also the captain of the Japura swimming team and a big part of Ranwala Balakaya, where he organizes events and shows off his talent as a performer.

Gold award for Nursing and Health Sciences at the National Educator Awards



Prof. Lalitha Meegoda from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, USJ was awarded the Gold award for Nursing and Health Sciences at the National

Educator Awards. The National Educator Awards was conducted by the SLIIT University, Malabe on 01st December 2023 for the first time in Sri Lanka.

Silver Award for Nursing and Health Sciences at the National Educator Awards



Prof. A.A.T.D. Amarasekara, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, was awarded the silver award for Nursing and Health Sciences at the National Educator Awards. The National Educator Awards was conducted by the SLIIT University, Malabe, on 01st December 2023 for the first time in Sri Lanka.

Awarding Ceremony of the W.A. Wijewardena Public Management (Merit) Scholarship 2023

The W.A. Wijewardena Public Management (Merit) Scholarship established in 2013 to consistently recognize and support outstanding undergraduates for their exceptional academic achievements was awarded to four outstanding students reading for the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Management (Public) Degree Programme and Bachelor of Science Management (Special) Degree Programme consecutively for this year too. A brief event for the awarding ceremony was conducted on 03rd November 2023 at the Mayo Hall of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The event was glamourised with the presence of the founder of the scholarship as well as a Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka,

Dr. W.A. Wijewardena, Head of the Department of Public Administration, Dr. R.P.C.K. Jayasinghe, and a few other Senior and Junior staff members of the Department.



Two USJ Students in French Awarded Full Scholarships for French Studies in France



Thasheela Wijensundara and Aminda Wickramaratne, two students currently following French at the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts, have received full scholarships for language stays at the University Centre for French Studies in Grenoble, France, courtesy of the Embassy of France in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Their academic plans were discussed with the Dean of the Faculty of

Humanities and Social Sciences Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, attended by Professor Nilanthi Rajapakshe Head of the Department, and French lecturer Ms. Charitha Liyanage. The scholarship recipients expressed gratitude for this valuable academic opportunity to explore French Language and Culture. Special thanks are offered to the Senior lecturer in French Irosha Chandrasekera, Olivia Bellemère, Cultural Counsellor and Thomas Bellil Attaché for Education of the Embassy of France in Sri Lanka and Maldives for the extended support.

Dr. S.M.K.S. Seneviratne of FAHS receives the Vocational Excellence Award of the Rotary Club of Colombo South for the year 2023/2024

Dr. S.M.K.S. Seneviratne. Senior lecturer, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was honored with the 'Vocational Excellence Award' by the Rotary Club of Colombo South for the year 2023/2024, for her dedicated services rendered for the uplifting the nursing profession in the country. The dedicated service as the pioneer behind the establishment of the B.Sc. Nursing programme within a conventional university marking a significant milestone in the evolution of nursing education, service as the Founder Head of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, and the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts to advance the nursing profession were considered for this prestigious award. The awarding ceremony was held on 17th October 2023 at the Hotel Galadari, Colombo under the patronage of the Rotary District Governor.



BESA Award Winners of FAHS!!



The Best Employability Skills Awards (BESA)-FAHS were bestowed upon accomplished undergraduates from the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences during the J'apura Employability Skills Award (JESA) Ceremony held on 15th December 2023.

BESA Winner of FAHS - Mr. Sandun Saranga, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Batch 2018/2019)

First Runner-up - Mr. Teshan Karunaratne, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Batch 2019/2020) Second Runner-up - Ms. A.N.N. Dinuwanthi, Department of Nursing and Midwifery (Batch 2018/2019)



Bachelor of Pharmacy Graduates Emerge Winners of QUIZZOTICA-23



Four Bachelor of Pharmacy undergraduates won first place at QUIZZOTICA-23, an inter-faculty quiz competition organized by the Botany and Plant Biotechnology Society of University of Sri Jayawardenepura held on 9th December 2023. Ms. V.P. Malsha, Mr. D.A. Arosh Lakshitha, Ms. M.V. Dinuli Sasindi, and Ms. J.M. Pavithra Sewwandi participated in the winning group.

Best Student Performance Award in Quiz Competition for FAHS Pharmacy

PHARMAKON 2023 which was organized by the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was held on 25th September 2023 to celebrate the World Pharmacists Day. A team of seven pharmacy undergraduates represented FAHS, USJ and a fourth-year student from the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ms. K.D. Jisna Kaushani was awarded a certificate out of the three certificates given for best student performances at the quiz competition held.



Awarding of Dr. U.B. Ramanayake Gold Medal



Dr. U.B. Ramanayake gold medal was awarded to the best-performing student of the Sociology and Psychology subject of the BSc. in Management (Public) (Special) Degree programme offered by the Department of Public Administration. The awarding ceremony of the Gold Medal for the year 2023 was held at the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of Public Administration

on 19th November 2023. Ms. R.N. Lakmali with best performance received the gold medals from the founder of the gold medal award, Dr. U.B. Ramanayake.

Best Innovator of JESA Awards – 2023 from FAHS!



At the J'apura Employability Skills Award (JESA) Ceremony 2023 held on 15th December 2023, Ms. Dilki Gunasekara from the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the Best Innovator Award for her innovation,

'A modified cream with anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activities formulated based on an Ayurvedic formulation' which was done as her 4th year research project. The research was supervised by Dr. W.J.A.B.N. Jayasuriya (Principal supervisor), Dr. H.M.D.R. Herath, and Dr. A. Nadeshkumar who are Senior Lecturers of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, FAHS, USJ, and Dr. J.M. Dahanayake from Department of DravyagunaVignana and Swasthavritta, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo.

FAHS Undergraduates Emerge Winners of Drama Competition on Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness - Towards Health and Wellbeing!

On behalf of the World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2023 (WAAW 2023), an inter faculty drama competition was organized by the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists where 24 faculties of 10 universities in Sri Lanka



competed, representing Agriculture, Allied Health Sciences, Medicine, and Veterinary Science disciplines.



A 10-minute drama video was prepared by each participant group on the theme 'Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together with One-Health Concept'. Undergraduates of B.Sc. Medical Laboratory Sciences, FAHS, USJ emerged winners (1st Place) for their drama titled 'Overdose' (<https://youtu.be/RwIbIGDEUX4?si=i9KJ1ubeYsV8C5sH>), and undergraduates of Bachelor of Pharmacy, FAHS, USJ emerged second runners up (3rd Place) for their drama titled, 'Savoma Ek Wemu, Prathijeewaka Prathirodhathawa Awama Karamu' (<https://youtu.be/RbrV5OTZtpE?si=IM4medv0XPsv-jFP>) at this event. These creative messages by undergraduates of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka is an ideal example of how healthcare professionals can be ambassadors for combating antimicrobial resistance.



FAHS Undergraduates Emerge Winners of Interfaculty Quiz Competition



The Inter University quiz competition which was organized by the Biological Science Society, Faculty of Applied Science, USJ was held on 18th November 2023.

Eleven teams competed, each team consisting of four students. Among them, the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences emerged as the first runners-up!

The group members who participated in this team were M.A. Hasantha Madushan - Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Batch 2019/2020 batch)

D.R.A. Rajitha Dilshan - Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences (Batch 2019/2020 batch)

H.G. Tharindu Deshan - Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences (Batch 2019/2020 batch)

R.A.K. Induwara Rajapakshe - Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences (Batch 2019/2020 batch)



Research Excellence Awards for Allied Health Graduates at the 49th Convocation 2023

Dr. Nirosha Edirisinghe and Ms. Lakshika Anjalee, both Allied Health graduates from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura were awarded gold medals for Research Excellence from the Board of Study in Medical Sciences at the 49th Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura held on 8th October 2023.

Dr. Edirisinghe, a nursing graduate was honored with the prestigious Ph.D. Gold Medal for Research Excellence, and Ms. Lakshika Anjalee, a pharmacy graduate received the MPhil Gold Medal for Research Excellence from the Board of Study in Medical Sciences, for attaining the highest benchmarks in international and national research publications, patents, and research awards, all within the stipulated academic timeline.

Dr. Edirisinghe was supervised by Prof. A.A.T.D Amarasekara, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. C.S.E. Goonewardena, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. P.T.R. Makuloluwa, Department of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, and Dr. S.N. Perera, National Cancer Control Programme, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

Ms. Lakshika Anjalee was supervised by Prof. Nithushi Samaranayake, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Ms. Victoria Rutter, and Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, United Kingdom.



SLMA Prizes for Research Received by FAHS Academics



Mrs T.L. Chalani Lasanthika, Lecturer Probationary, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health received two prestigious awards at the 136th SLMA Anniversary International Medical Congress 2023.

The first award was the Wilson Peiris Prize for the paper titled, Socio-demographic, anthropometric and

biochemical determinants of dialysis adequacy among patients undergoing hemodialysis in selected government hospitals in Sri Lanka.

The second award was the S. Ramachandran Prize for the best paper titled, Nephrology: Socio-demographic, anthropometric and biochemical determinants of dialysis adequacy among patients undergoing hemodialysis in selected government hospitals in Sri Lanka.

This award-winning research of Ms. Chalani was supervised by Prof. J.K.P. Wanigasuriya, Centre for Kidney Research, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. U.P.K. Hettiaratchi, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Prof. A.A.T.D. Amarasekara, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, and Prof. C.S.E. Goonewardena, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.



Students' Achievements of the Department of Polymer Science

Join us in celebrating the exceptional accomplishments of our outstanding students from the Department of Polymer Science. Their dedication and ingenuity have earned them prestigious accolades for their final year research projects, showcasing the department's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in the field of polymer science. Meet these exceptional individuals whose pioneering work has garnered well-deserved recognition and continues to push the boundaries of scientific discovery.



Dilusha Jayanidu De Silva - second runner-up in the Inter-University Undergraduate Research Competition in Chemical Sciences 2023 organized by section E2 of the Sri Lankan Association for Advancement of Science (SLAAS).



Thisitha Saveen Jayaweera -Best Presenter Award in the Oral Presentation category in the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2023 organized by the Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (13th October 2023).

Ms. Panchanie Karunaratne, a Student from the Department of Physics Wins the BESA Trophy for Applied Sciences



Ms. Panchanie Karunaratne, a fourth-year multi-talented undergraduate pursuing a special degree in Physics, received the prestigious BESA award of the Faculty of Applied Sciences for the year 2023. Amid the fierce competition, our young star's talents rose above the other contestants, capturing the judges' attention and ultimately securing the award.

The BESA award is dedicated to the most optimistic and brilliant all-rounder excelling in academics, sports, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities from each faculty. It is part of the J'pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA), the ultimate platform for honouring the accomplishments of young, talented undergraduates, organized by the Career Skills Development Society (CSDS). This year's award ceremony was held on 15th December 2023, at the Golden Rose Hotel

Boralesgamuwa, where a tapestry of exceptional talents was unveiled and celebrated.

Congratulations to Mrs. Harini Kaushalya Amarasinghe, President of the University of Windsor's Master of Management Society

It is with great pleasure and pride that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Harini Kaushalya Amarasinghe, our esteemed Senior Lecturer, on her well-deserved appointment as the President of the University of Windsor, Odette School of Business, Master of Management Society.

Mrs. Amarasinghe is an exemplar of dedication and academic excellence, currently pursuing her Masters in Business Data Analytics at the University of Windsor, Odette School of Business, Canada. Her academic journey has been adorned with notable achievements, underlined by her remarkable educational qualifications: B.Sc. in Marketing Management (Special) from the prestigious University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, Masters in Economics attained from the esteemed University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and Achievement as a CIMA (UK) Passed Finalist, showcasing her commitment to academic excellence and expertise in her field.



Her relentless pursuit of knowledge and unwavering commitment to academic brilliance have been evident throughout her educational journey, and her leadership qualities stand as a testament to her capabilities.

As Mrs. Amarasinghe takes on this pivotal role, her vision, dedication, and dynamic leadership are sure to usher in a new era for the Master of Management Society. We are confident that her insights, guidance, and commitment will inspire and empower students, fostering an environment of academic excellence and growth within the society.

We extend our best wishes to Mrs. Harini Kaushalya Amarasinghe as she embarks on this esteemed role. Her tenure as President promises to be a period of

innovation, collaboration, and advancement for the Master of Management Society.

Students of the Faculty of Applied Sciences Emerge First Place at the IBMBB Open-day Quiz Competition

A group of students from the Faculty of Applied Sciences participated in the Inter-University Quiz Competition held at the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology on the 20th October 2023 and secured first place. The team members are as follows:



Ms. Asanthi Danusha – Bachelor of Science Honors in Genetics and Molecular Biology degree programme

Mr. Sahan Madusanka - Bachelor of Science Honors in Genetics and Molecular Biology degree programme

Mr. Manuranga Prabath - Bachelor of Science Honors in Applied Sciences (Biology) degree programme

Ms. Rihana Harris - Bachelor of Science Honors in Biology degree programme

Ms. Ragavi Ratnaranjan - Bachelor of Science Honors in Biology degree programme

Bhagya Ranasinghe: A Shining Star at the 49th Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura



The 49th Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 2023 was a momentous occasion that celebrated academic excellence and the promise of a brighter future. Among the many distinguished graduates, Bhagya Ranasinghe from the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce emerged as a shining star. Bhagya's outstanding achievements were recognized with the Honorable Aggamaha Pandit Professor Walpola Sri Rahula Nahimi Commemorative Gold Medal, awarded by the Siddhalepa Group. In this article, we take a closer look at Bhagya Ranasinghe's remarkable journey and extend our warmest wishes for her future endeavours.



The Honorable Aggamaha Pandit Professor Walpola Sri Rahula Nahimi Commemorative Gold Medal (ඉරු අග්ග මහා පණ්ඩිත මහාචාර්ය වල්පොල ශ්‍රී රාහුල හිමි සමරුම් මුද්‍රිකාව) is a prestigious award that signifies academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to societal betterment. This award pays tribute to the legacy of the esteemed scholar Aggamaha Pandit Professor Walpola Sri Rahula

Nahimi and embodies his dedication to education.

Bhagya Ranasinghe's academic journey at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has been nothing short of remarkable. Her commitment to academic excellence has been evident in her outstanding

academic achievements. She has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to her studies and a passion for acquiring knowledge.

Beyond her academic pursuits, Bhagya has actively engaged in various student organizations and extracurricular activities, showcasing her leadership skills and her ability to foster a sense of community among her peers. Her contributions to these initiatives have not only enriched the university experience for others but have also reflected the values championed by the Siddhalepa Group, emphasizing holistic well-being and the preservation of cultural heritage.

As Bhagya Ranasinghe steps into the next phase of her academic and professional journey, she carries with her the prestigious Honorable Aggamaha Pandit Professor Walpola Sri Rahula Nahimi Commemorative Gold Medal as a testament to her exceptional dedication and achievements. Her future is bound to be as bright as her past achievements.

In closing, Bhagya Ranasinghe's recognition at the 49th Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is a testament to her commitment to excellence and her unwavering dedication to both her academic pursuits and the university community. We extend our warmest wishes to Bhagya as she embarks on this new chapter in her life. Her success is an inspiration to us all, and we look forward to seeing her continue to shine in her future endeavours.



Inter-University Finance Quiz Competition



A team of students from the Department of Finance at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura emerged champions in the Inter-University Finance Quiz Competition, organized by the Department of Finance, University of Kelaniya, in collaboration with Acuity Knowledge Partners. This competition drew participation from several esteemed institutions and unfolded in two rounds. The preliminary round, held on November 14th, 2023, featured

diverse finance-related questions, and the teams from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Kelaniya, and American National College advanced to the final stage. The final round of the competition took place on October 25th, 2023, where the team, led by Nayanajith Athukoralage, emerged victorious, comprising members Tharusha Rashmin, Yashan Samarakoon, Megumi Iddamalgoda, and Mahee Yasasvi.

Varsity Battles 2023 – Inter-Faculty Quiz Competition



Demonstrating remarkable finance acumen, a team from the Department of Finance, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura achieved first place in Stage 01: Intra-University Round of the Inter-University Capital Market Quiz Competition organized by the Securities and Exchange Commission in collaboration with the Colombo Stock Exchange. The event unfolded at the Soratha Building Main Hall on 6th November 2023, spotlighting the university students' academic excellence and

competitive spirit.

The team comprising Mr. Nayanajith Athukoralage (Leader), Mr. Tharusha Rashmin, Ms. Megumi Iddamalgoda, and Mr. Prince Dinakara emerged victorious at the intra-university round of the competition and will be representing the university at the National Level Competition.

SPORTS

Hasara Wijayrathne Crowned Women's Double Champions at 71st National Badminton Championship 2023



The fervour and dynamism of the badminton court witnessed an extraordinary spectacle as Ms. Hasara Wijayrathne, alongside her partner Ms. Jananuwani De Alwis, clinched the illustrious Women's Double Championship title at the prestigious 71st National Badminton Championship 2023. Held at the Mercantile Badminton Association courts from the 4th to 10th December, this exhilarating tournament showcased the prowess and finesse of these exceptional athletes.

Hasara Wijayrathne, a shining star both academically and athletically, has been making waves in the world of badminton. Her journey towards this latest triumph has been adorned with numerous accolades and remarkable achievements. Notably, she led the University of Sri Jayewardenepura's Women's Badminton Team as their Captain in 2022. Her stellar

performance earned her the prestigious title of the most popular University sports star in 2023.



This triumph at the National Badminton Championship adds to Hasara's extensive list of achievements. She represented Sri Lanka at the FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, China, and showcased her exceptional skills at the U21 South Asian Regional Badminton Championships in Maldives, securing the Gold Medal in Women's Doubles and a Silver Medal in the Mixed Team category. Her prowess also shone at the 13th South Asian Games in Nepal, where she contributed significantly to

the Team's Silver Medal and at the U21 South Asian Regional Badminton Championships in Nepal, where she secured a Bronze Medal in the Mixed Team category.

Finance Super League – 2023



The “Finance Super League,” an inter-department Volleyball Tournament organized by the Students’ Association of Finance (SAF), successfully took place on the 21st of October, 2023, at the Volleyball Court of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The main goal was to strengthen the bond among Faculty undergraduates while simultaneously promoting the development of interpersonal skills and leadership qualities, focusing on instilling a sense of teamwork. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams across various departments of FMSC, with the Department of Marketing emerging victorious as the champion.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



The Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony 2023



The Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony organised by the Buddhist Society of Faculty of Medical Sciences was held on 13th October 2023 to honour the respected donors of cadavers and their family members. These selfless donations have made it possible for countless young, aspiring medical students to obtain the necessary skills for them to be moulded into capable and proficient medical officers in the country.

A religious event of 'Bodhi Puja' was held at Sunethra Devi Temple near the faculty before the all-night pirith chanting. The procession of Casket of Relics included flags and canopy bearers, and carriages of traditional tripod torches. All-night pirith chanting followed the alms-giving ceremony on the next day morning. Venerable monks passed blessings and merits especially to those who have donated bodies and to their relatives. These events were attended by the relatives of the cadaver donors, Dean and the staff of the FMS, and students of all batches.

This meritorious event not only provided the opportunity to inculcate values and attitudes but to form bond of fellowship among medical undergraduates.



Navaratri Festival Celebration

Navaratri, a Hindu festival venerating the divine feminine energy and dedicated to goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswathi, was joyously celebrated by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura through the “Vaani Vizha 2023” on 05th November 2023 at Munasinghe Hall.

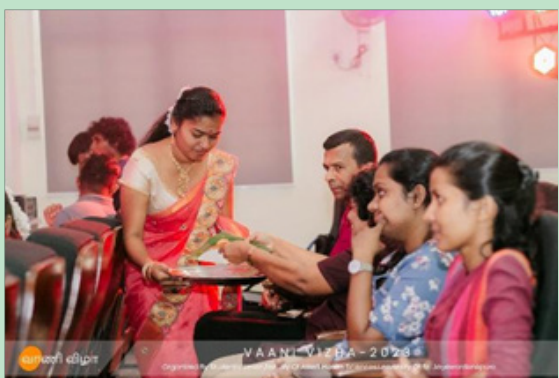
The day commenced with a spiritually enriching touch, as traditional pooja rituals were performed, accompanied by the melodious recital of “Sagalakalavallimalai.” Setting the tone for cultural revelry, the oil lamp lighting ceremony was gracefully conducted by our honorable Faculty Dean, Prof. Inoka Uluwaduge, and our cherished faculty lecturers.

The cultural events unfolded with grace, featuring captivating classical dance performances that showcased the artistic prowess of the students. Our esteemed Chief Guest delivered an insightful speech, adding a dimension of wisdom to the festivities.

Musical events, including soulful solo singing, a lively Mashup, and the traditional art of Villupaatu, illuminated the stage, bringing the diverse talents of the students into the spotlight.

Simultaneously, the essence of sharing and togetherness was embodied through the distribution of prasadam, symbolizing the blessed offerings of the festival. As the day progressed, the celebration took an interactive turn with intriguing game shows, engaging participants and concluding the event on a spirited note.

The “Vaani Vizha” not only celebrated the cultural richness of Navaratri but also showcased the talents and unity within the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, creating memories that resonate with the spirit of the festival.



Annual Carol Service - 2023



The annual Christmas carol service of Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized by the Catholic and Christian Students' Society of the faculty was held on the 6th December 2023 at the Apeksha hospital, Maharagama. The lecturers of medical faculty, doctors from the catholic guild, priests, students from the medical faculty and other faculties, staff of the hospital and patients were present at the event.

The true meaning of the Christmas season was shared with the gathering by the carols sung by the students of the medical faculty and the other faculties. Rev. Fr. Jude Nicholas, chaplain to the cancer patients in Maharagama shared a meaningful Christmas message.

The inter-religious dialogue was depicted by the carols sung by the Buddhist and Hindu societies. At the end of the carol service, donations were done to the paediatric wards in the hospital. This was a heartwarming event that brought joy and comfort to the patients, families and also the staff of the hospital. Against the backdrop of a challenging environment, the uplifting melodies and heartfelt lyrics resonated, creating a sense of unity and hope. The gathering found solace in the music and the event served as a reminder of the power of community support during difficult times.



PUBLICATIONS

Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics (SLJBE): Showcasing Insights and Research Excellence



The Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics (SLJBE), an esteemed publication by the Department of Business Economics, continues to be a beacon of scholarly discourse and rigorous research. This esteemed journal, endorsed by the University Senate, embarked on its journey in June 2004. Since 2019, the SLJBE has been published bi-annually, in May and November, fostering the dissemination of high-quality research in Business Economics.

Contributions in Volume 12 (Issue 2) - 2023

1. Youth in the Sri Lankan Population: Expansion, Education, and Challenges (De Silva W.I.)
2. The Impact of Economic, Political, Institutional Factors on Exchange Rate Regime Choice in Sri Lanka (Siyara B.A.R. and Perera L.A.S.)
3. A Critical Legal Study Relating to the Plausibility of a Regulatory Framework on Cryptocurrency in Sri Lanka (Samaradiwakara S.)
4. An Analysis of the Impact of Non-Performing Assets on the Profitability of Sri Lankan Commercial Banks (Kalinga M.L., Jayasinghe N.M.A., and Weerasinghe K.G.G.)
5. Evaluating the Impact of Bilateral Trade Agreements on Sri Lanka's Export Performance: Gravity Model Approach (Hettiarachchi G.R.P. and Kuruppu I.V.)
6. Work Life Balance on Employee Performance with the Mediating Effect of Job Satisfaction in the Provincial Council in the Western Province (Rathnayaka R.M.K.G.S. and Dissanayake D.M.T.D.)
7. Technical Efficiency and its Determinants in Dairy Farmers in Kurunegala District: Stochastic Frontier Production Function (Herath D.M.H., Thayaparan. A., and Phillip P.M.G.)
8. The Effects of Social Media Advertising on Consumers Ayurvedic Beauty Products Purchasing Decision of Generation 'Y': Special Reference to Kurunegala District in Sri Lanka (Dissanayake D.M.T.D.)

9. Attitudes Towards the Appraisal of Academics' Employment Performance in Public Universities in Sri Lanka (Kanthi Manel D.P.)

The SLJBE serves as an essential platform, catering to the scholarly community of both local and international academics, professionals, and students. Anchored by an eminent editorial board comprising local and foreign professors in economics and management, the journal facilitates a robust exchange of knowledge and expertise.

This compilation of articles in Volume 12 (Issue 2) of the SLJBE exemplifies the breadth and depth of research undertaken, unveiling significant insights into various facets of Sri Lanka's economic, social, and legal landscape. Each article contributes meaningfully to the journal's objective of advancing the understanding of Business Economics, solidifying its position as a valuable resource in the academic realm.

Prof. K.M. Alexander launches his new book on 'Fundamentals of Archaeology and Field Archaeology'



Disseminating the scholarly knowledge and decades of practical experience in archaeology, Prof. K.M. Alexander of the Department of History and Archaeology of the USJ launched his new book titled 'පුරාවිද්‍යා මූලධර්ම හා ක්ෂේත්‍ර පුරාවිද්‍යාව' (trans: 'Fundamentals of Archaeology and Field Archaeology'), on 14th December 2023, at the occasion held at the Resource Centre of the Department.

Co-authored with Sen. Lect. (Dr.) Oshan Wedage, Sen. Lect. Inoj Abeynayake, and Asst. Lect. Gayathri Vidanapathirana, Prof. K.M. Alexander has attempted to disseminate scholarly knowledge and experience covering the aspects of 'Introduction to Archaeology, Definitions of Archaeology, Inter-disciplinary scope of Archaeology, Archaeological Explorations, Fundamentals of Archaeological Excavations, Archaeological Documentation, Matrix Context Documentation, Artifacts Drawing, Study of Pottery, Rescue Archaeology, and Ethics in Archaeology'.

Accordingly, this book will serve as a reference reading material for students following the archaeology discipline at their undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The book launching session was graced

by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (USJ), Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, the Director-General of the Central Cultural Fund, Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe, and the staff members of the department. This book is priced for Rs. 1,200/= and is available at the department to purchase for the interested readership. A special discounted price of Rs. 1,000/= will be offered for undergraduate students (internal and external).



'Classic' Magazine Launching Ceremony



The Association of Public Administration of the Department of Public Administration proudly launched the 9th volume of 'Classic' Magazine on 27th October 2023 at the New Board Room of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The latest volume of the Magazine was under the theme of "Crisis to Richness Targeting 2048", a contemporary issue currently undergoing by all the Sri Lankans. Moreover, this volume of the magazine consists of many scholarly articles written by proud alumni members of the Department of Public Administration who are currently serving in different renowned organizations all around the world. Further, the contribution to the magazine given by the undergraduates of the Department in terms of articles, poems, free verses, arts using multiple languages such as Sinhala, Tamil, and English were remarkable. Additionally, the 9th volume of the 'Classic' magazine includes the interviews conducted with some proud alumni members

of the Department of Public Administration.

The keynote speaker of the event was Dr. W.A. Wijewardhena, one of the former Deputy Governors of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. At the same time, the event was glamourised with the participation of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. R.P.C.K. Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of the Public Administration, the academic members of the Department as well as the faculty as well as proud alumni from the Department of Public Administration.



STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES



විවරණ 2023

The 'විවරණ' G.C.E. Advanced Level Accounting Special Seminar was organized for the 5th consecutive time by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting.

The seminar, which took place on the 18th December 2023 at Badulla Central College, was conducted by a few lecturers from the Department of Accounting serving as resource persons. It was attended by school teachers and students from the Uva province preparing for the G.C.E. Advanced Level in the Commerce stream in January 2024.



ECONINSIGHT 2023's First Phase Triumphs: Gampaha District Seminar Resounds with Success



The eagerly awaited inaugural phase of ECONINSIGHT 2023, a prestigious G.C.E. Advanced Level Economics seminar, orchestrated by the adept hands of the Business Economics Students' Association from the esteemed Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, unfolded seamlessly on the 20th September. This remarkable event transpired with the enthusiastic participation of over 600 A/L students.



We are elated to share the exceptional news that the Gampaha District Seminar emerged as a resounding triumph, surpassing all expectations. The proof of this resounding success is abundantly clear through the positive and enthusiastic feedback graciously provided by both the erudite educators and the discerning students themselves.

The first phase of ECONINSIGHT 2023 stands as a testament to the commitment, dedication, and meticulous planning of the organizers. It not only served as a platform for the dissemination of valuable knowledge but also as an embodiment of the Department of Business Economics' unwavering commitment to fostering academic excellence.

As we look ahead to the subsequent phases of ECONINSIGHT 2023, we anticipate that this remarkable success will continue to resonate and leave an indelible mark on the academic journey of A/L students across Sri Lanka.

සිප්සව් (Sipsavi) 2023 Free Online A/L Seminar Organized by the Biosystems Technology Society

Biosystems Technology Society of the Department of Biosystems Technology organized a two-day free online seminar to help prepare the A/L BST school students with their Biosystems Technology exam paper. Several undergraduates from the Department joined the session as resource persons to discuss model exam papers via Zoom and YouTube Live.



IBST Day - Stepping Forward to the World of Industries after Graduation



IBST day, organized by the Industrial Biosystems Technology specialization area of the Department of Biosystems Technology in collaboration with the BST Society was held on 10th October 2023 at Ven. Sri Soratha Auditorium, Faculty of Technology as an event of the inaugural BST week. The event consisted of guest speeches from the industry on 'the bridge between' delivered by Mr. Akshaya Kumarajeewa, Assistant Regional Brand Manager for Asia, Middle East & Africa for Blue Band, and 'shape your attitude and sharpen your skills to be a competitive graduate' by Mr. Dinusha Liyanarachchi, Managing Director, Trendy Solutions Pvt. Ltd. The alumni panel discussion, featuring graduates from the first and second batches was a highlight of the day, where they answered students' questions about their industry experiences



Food Fiesta 3.0 - Unrevealing the Potentials for the Sustainable Future of the Food Processing Industry



Food Fiesta 3.0 organized by the Food Processing Technology specialization area in collaboration with the BST Society was held on 11th October 2023 at the Faculty of Technology as a part of the BST week 2023. The event began with an industrial workshop session on 'facing challenges in the food industry' with the presence of the keynote speaker Commodore Senaka Hanwella (Retd), General Manager, CBL Exports (Pvt) Limited and several alumni representing various food industries. The Food Fiesta, the food festival organized by the students of the specialization area was the most attractive event in which students ran live food stations. The day ended with an exhibition of technology workshop projects of the current undergraduate students which was an immense opportunity for them to show case their competencies.



Practical Insights Day - Enlightening the Next Generation of Students with Practical Knowledge



The Practical Insights Day organized by the Agriculture and Environmental Technology specialization area in collaboration with the BST Society was conducted on 12th October 2023 at the Faculty of Technology as another event of the BST week 2023. This was an educational event which aimed to disseminate new knowledge and experience on laboratory and field work aspects of agriculture and environmental technology to the G.C.E. Advanced Level students of Mahinda Rajapaksha Vidyalaya, Homagama through carefully curated practical sessions. These sessions were helpful for the school students to get a hands-on experience related to their Advanced Level Biosystems technology practical exams.



The Eternal Elegance - "A Love that Never Dies" 2023



The English Day event of the Department of Accounting under the theme of "The Eternal Elegance - A Love that Never Dies", organized by second-year undergraduates of the Department of Accounting, was successfully held on the 12th September 2023, at Sri Sumangala Auditorium.

The main objective of this event was to improve English language skills, nurture creativity, and unearth hidden potential within the students. This goal was effectively met through a range of diverse competitions.



The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, and Senior Prof. K.D. Gunawardana, the Head of the Department of Accounting, along with the participation of academic and non-academic members of the Department, as well as our

enthusiastic undergraduates.



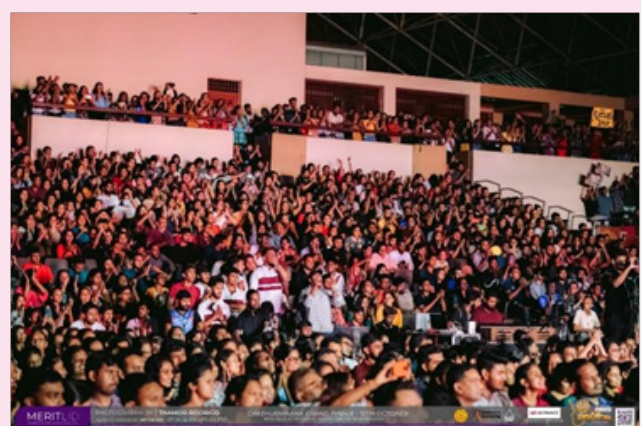
චතුර්මාස 2023



The Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting conducted the Grand Finale of චතුර්මාස, an inter-university talent competition on 12th October 2023 at the National Youth Centre Auditorium.

The grand finale was a spectacular event featuring the performances of nine finalists, AFMA performances, and guest artists such as the WAYO band, Mr. Sahan Chamikara and Ranwala Balakaya. The ultimate champions were the 'Agni' team from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The first runner-up was Mr. Sanka Daminda from the University of Kelaniya, while the second runner-up positions were secured by the 'Number 53' team from the University of Kelaniya and Mr. Dasith Jayasinghe from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Through චතුර්මාස, AFMA were able to create a platform to unleash the hidden potential of undergraduates of state universities while delivering an unforgettable entertainment experience to an audience of over 2,000.



Breaking Barriers and Leading the Way: Ms. Niluka Jayasinghe's Special Programme on Women in Career



In the quest for gender equality and empowerment, there is an unwavering need to inspire and equip the next generation of women with the insights and wisdom required to succeed in the professional world. Recognizing this imperative, the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura took a momentous step by hosting a special programme dedicated to women in career development. This inspiring initiative, conceived by Dr.

P.S.J. Fernando, Head of the Department of Business Economics, aimed to provide 2nd-year and 3rd-year students with valuable perspectives and experiences that would empower them on their career journey. To bring this vision to life, Ms. Niluka Jayasinghe, a distinguished figure in the field of finance and business, was invited to share her expertise.

Meet the Expert | Ms. Niluka Jayasinghe is an accomplished professional with an impressive list of qualifications and over 15 years of industry experience. As the Founder and Managing Director of Global Bookkeeping & Accountant Services, she holds the distinguished titles of FCA, and CPA, and has a BSc in Management (Marketing) from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Her extensive knowledge and wealth of experience make her the ideal mentor and role model for aspiring students looking to make their mark in the professional world.



A Deep Dive into Women in Career | The special programme on Women in Career, held on 26th October 2023, was a pivotal event for both second year and third year students at the Department of Business Economics. The lecture took place at the Prof R.A.A. Perera Lecture Theatre, FMSC, and it was a gathering brimming with inspiration and insights.

Ms. Jayasinghe's talk revolved around her personal journey, sharing her experiences, challenges, and triumphs as a woman in the professional world. She emphasized the importance of resilience, determination, and self-belief in conquering obstacles and achieving success. Through her narrative, she motivated the students, encouraging them to chase their career aspirations with unwavering confidence.

Inspirational Insights and Wisdom | Ms. Jayasinghe's lecture was not just about her own journey; it was also a platform for students to gain invaluable insights and wisdom that could shape their careers. She delved into various topics, including leadership, work-life balance, and navigating the unique challenges that women may face in their professional journeys. Her candid advice and practical tips resonated with the audience, leaving them with a deeper understanding of what it takes to thrive in their chosen fields.

Empowered for the Future | The special programme on Women in Careers, featuring Ms. Niluka Jayasinghe, was an unquestionable success. It not only provided students with inspiration and guidance but also instilled a sense of empowerment. As they left the lecture theatre, the second-year and third-year students were armed with newfound confidence and a clearer vision of how they could succeed in the professional world.

Dr. P.S.J. Fernando's commitment to nurturing future leaders was beautifully exemplified through this programme. Ms. Niluka Jayasinghe's contributions have undoubtedly paved the way for a new generation of women who will go on to break barriers, lead the way, and make significant contributions in the world of business and economics. This event was not just a lecture; it was a catalyst for change and a beacon of hope for aspiring women in their careers.



Unleashing Creativity: Mr. Laleendra Sannasgama Inspires Business Economics Students at Special Art Camp



In a refreshing departure from the traditional academic routine, the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura recently hosted a Special Art Camp for second-year and third-year students. This unique programme, initiated by the visionary Head of the department, Dr. P.S.J. Fernondo, aimed to provide students with an immersive experience in the world of art and design. The esteemed guest lecturer for this creative endeavour was Mr. Laleendra Sannasgama, an accomplished Art Teacher

from St. Aloysius College, Rathnapura.

Exploring the World of Art and Design | The primary goal of the Art Camp was to familiarize students with the fundamental principles of art and design, encompassing both traditional and digital media. Through a combination of instructional sessions, group discussions, and hands-on experiences, students had the opportunity to delve into the diverse disciplines of visual art.



Dr. P.S.J. Fernondo's commitment to fostering holistic education was brilliantly manifested in the invitation extended to Mr. Laleendra Sannasgama. As a seasoned Art Teacher, Mr. Sannasgama brought a wealth of knowledge and creative energy to the Art Camp, creating an environment where students could explore and express their artistic talents.

The Artist Behind the Inspiration | Mr. Laleendra Sannasgama, the resource person for the Art Camp, is renowned for his expertise in nurturing artistic talent. Serving as an Art Teacher at St. Aloysius College in Rathnapura, Mr. Sannasgama has dedicated his career to inspiring and guiding young minds in the world of art. His presence at the Art Camp added a unique dimension, providing students with insights and practical knowledge that extended beyond the confines of textbooks.



A Journey into Artistic Expression |

Throughout the Art Camp, Mr. Laleendra Sannasgama guided students through the intricacies of various art forms and design concepts. From traditional techniques to the nuances of digital media, students gained hands-on experience that not only broadened their artistic horizons but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the world of visual communication.

The interactive nature of the sessions allowed for open discussions, enabling students to share their thoughts, ideas, and artistic interpretations. Mr. Sannasgama's guidance encouraged students to experiment, take creative risks, and embrace the power of self-expression.

As the Art Camp concluded, it left an indelible mark on the second-year and third-year students of Business Economics. Dr. P.S.J. Fernando's vision to integrate creative exploration into the academic journey was successfully realized through the expertise of Mr. Laleendra Sannasgama. The Art Camp not only provided students with new perspectives on art and design but also served as a reminder that creativity is an integral aspect of a well-rounded education.

The Department of Business Economics looks forward to building on this creative foundation, nurturing a culture where students are not only adept in business and economics but also possess the imaginative prowess to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Master Trainer Dr. Cary Bruce Inspires Second-year Students to Excel in English Communication

On the bright morning of 31st October 2023, the FMSC New Faculty Board Room at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura came alive with enthusiasm and anticipation as Master Trainer Dr. Cary Bruce graced the stage for a guest lecture that promised to transform the way second-year business economics students approached English communication. This initiative, inspired by the visionary Dr. P.S.J. Fernando (Head of the Department of Business Economics), aimed to equip students with the skills to speak fluently in English, particularly for presentations and job interviews. Dr. Fernando's commitment to academic excellence was demonstrated through his invitation to Dr. Cary Bruce, a seasoned expert in the field.

Communication and Drills | Dr. Cary Bruce commenced the guest lecture with a captivating discussion on the significance of effective communication. He emphasized that clear and articulate



communication was not just essential in the realm of business economics but a life skill that would serve the students well in their careers and personal lives. To instil this skill, he conducted interactive exercises and drills, allowing students to practice and refine their English-speaking abilities. These exercises were designed to boost their confidence and fluency, helping them overcome language barriers when presenting their ideas or during job interviews.

The Laws of Public Relations | Another vital aspect of Dr. Bruce's lecture was the exploration of the Laws of Public Relations. He elucidated that understanding the dynamics of public relations was pivotal in the business world, as it directly impacted a company's reputation and success. Dr. Bruce provided real-world examples of companies that had either succeeded or faltered in their public relations efforts, reinforcing the importance of this knowledge. By the end of this segment, students had a clear grasp of how to effectively manage their public image, both personally and professionally.

Making Good Choices | Making good choices is a fundamental life skill, and Dr. Cary Bruce seamlessly integrated this theme into the lecture. He discussed the power of decision-making and its far-reaching consequences. By sharing anecdotes and case studies, he guided students on how to make informed choices that aligned with their personal and professional goals.

Dr. Bruce stressed the significance of ethical decision-making, promoting integrity and accountability in all aspects of life. This segment left students with a profound understanding of the long-term impact of their choices.

The guest lecture by Master Trainer Dr. Cary Bruce was an eye-opening experience for the second-year students of business economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Dr. P.S.J. Fernondo's foresight in bringing such a distinguished expert to the campus provided students with a unique opportunity to refine their English communication skills, understand the laws of public relations, and learn the art of making good choices. Dr. Bruce's engaging and informative presentation left a lasting impression on all who attended, equipping these students with valuable tools to excel in their academic and professional journeys.

As the programme continues, it is evident that the knowledge and skills imparted by Dr. Cary Bruce will empower these students to stand out in the competitive world of business economics and make meaningful contributions to their chosen fields. Dr. Bruce's visit will be remembered as a turning point in their educational journey, where they learned that success is not only about what you know but also about how effectively you can communicate, build relationships, and make wise choices.



Empowering Tomorrow's Business Leaders: Mr. U.L Pushpakumara's Guest Lecture Series on Advanced Excel Training



In a world where data drives decision-making, the ability to harness, analyse, and visualize information is a skill that cannot be overstated. Recognizing the ever-growing importance of data proficiency, the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura took a visionary step forward by initiating a guest lecture series on Advanced Excel Training. This transformative programme, designed for second-year and third-year students, aimed to equip budding professionals with practical skills in

data analysis, visualization, and automation using Microsoft Excel. Dr. P.S.J. Fernando's (Head of the Department of Business Economics) commitment to academic excellence materialized in the invitation to Mr. U.L Pushpakumara, an industry veteran, to share his insights and knowledge.

Meet the Expert | Mr. U. L. Pushpakumara is no stranger to the world of data and finance. With an MSc in Operational Research from the University of Moratuwa and the prestigious title of Fellow

Chartered Accountant of Sri Lanka, he brings over 30 years of invaluable industry experience to the classroom. His wealth of knowledge and practical expertise was at the forefront of this guest lecture series, providing students with a unique opportunity to learn from a seasoned professional.

Data Visualization: Unveiling the Power of Visual Storytelling | The Advanced Excel Training programme was divided into two critical areas, the first of which was Data Visualization. In this segment, students delved into the art and science of visually representing data. Mr. Pushpakumara guided them through the principles of data visualization, introducing various tools and techniques to effectively communicate insights from complex datasets. This included creating eye-catching charts, graphs, and dashboards that enable stakeholders to make informed decisions based on data-driven narratives. Moreover, ethical considerations in data presentation were emphasized, ensuring that students understand the responsibility that comes with manipulating data for effective communication.



Advanced Excel: Mastering the Spreadsheet for Data Excellence

| The second pillar of the training focused on Advanced Excel skills. Mr. Pushpakumara took students on a journey through the intricacies of Microsoft Excel, providing them with advanced techniques to manage and analyze data. From complex formula usage to data cleaning, automation, and the creation of sophisticated charts and dashboards, students gained practical knowledge that

would make them more proficient in handling data in their future careers. The hands-on approach to learning Excel empowered students to explore its full potential and use it as a powerful tool for data analysis.

A Bright Future Awaits | As the guest lecture series came to an end, students left with a newfound confidence in their ability to work with data. The knowledge imparted by Mr. U.L. Pushpakumara has not only enhanced their proficiency in data analysis, visualization, and automation but has also made them more competitive in data-driven industries.

The Advanced Excel Training programme was a testament to the unwavering commitment of Dr. P.S.J. Fernando to empower students with the skills and knowledge they need to excel in their future job roles. As the next generation of business leaders, these students are now better equipped to harness the power of data, make informed decisions, and thrive in an increasingly data-centric world. The guest lecture series by Mr. U.L. Pushpakumara has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the journey of these future professionals.

Nurturing Future Economists: Central Bank of Sri Lanka Hosts Insightful Workshop for Business Economics Students



In a pivotal two-day event, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka played host to a workshop focused on “The Role of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka” for fourth-year students of the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Held at the Centre for Banking Studies on 2nd and 3rd November 2023, the workshop aimed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the vital role the Central Bank plays in shaping the economic landscape of Sri Lanka. Spearheaded by Dr. P.S.J. Fernondo, Head of the Department of Business Economics, along with Dr. M.P.K. Withanwasam and Ms. D.M.D.C. Sandamali, this programme has been a continued success for the past 10 years.

Distinguished Resource Persons | The workshop featured an impressive lineup of resource persons, each an expert in their respective fields within the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The diverse range of speakers brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the students, offering insights into various aspects of the Central Bank’s functions.



Day 01 – Thursday, 02nd November | Ms. F.A. Hassim, Senior Assistant Director, Bank Supervision Department: Ms. Hassim shared her expertise on bank supervision, shedding light on the critical role the Central Bank plays in ensuring the stability of the banking sector.

Mr. A. A. Pradeep, Senior Assistant Director, Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions Department: Mr. Pradeep delved into the supervision of non-bank financial institutions,



emphasizing the regulatory measures in place to safeguard the financial system.

Dr. K. Ambagahawita, Deputy Director, Payments & Settlements Department: Dr. Ambagahawita provided valuable insights into the intricacies of payments and settlements, highlighting the Central Bank's pivotal role in maintaining a robust financial infrastructure.

Mr. D.P.D. Senaratne, Assistant Director, Payments & Settlements Department: Mr. Senaratne complemented the discussion by focusing on the practical aspects of payments and settlements, offering a real-world perspective to the students.

Day 02 - Friday, 03rd November | Mrs. Y.N.W. Ranatunga, Deputy Director, International Operations Department: Mrs. Ranatunga shed light on the international operations of the Central Bank, emphasizing its role in managing foreign exchange reserves and ensuring stability in international financial transactions.

Dr. V S Jayawikrema, Senior Economist, Economic Research Department: Dr. Jayawikrema delved into economic research, providing students with an understanding of how the Central Bank analyzes economic trends and formulates policies.

Mr. P.M.K. Weerasinghe, Deputy Superintendent, Currency Department: Mr. Weerasinghe focused on the currency department, discussing the intricacies of currency management and the measures taken by the Central Bank to ensure the stability of the country's currency.

Mrs. W.G.E. Nilmini, Assistant Director, Financial Intelligence Unit: Mrs. Nilmini enlightened students on the role of the Financial Intelligence Unit, emphasizing the importance of financial intelligence in combating financial crimes.

Course Coordinator's Contribution | Mrs. Hiruni Chamodi, Assistant Director at the Centre for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, played a pivotal role as the course coordinator. Her efforts were instrumental in organizing this insightful workshop, ensuring that students received a well-rounded and enriching learning experience.

The two-day workshop, under the able guidance of Dr. P.S.J. Fernando, Dr. M.P.K. Withanwasam, and Ms. D.M.D.C. Sandamali, marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of the fourth-year students of the Department of Business Economics. The Central Bank's commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of its functions and role in the economy has undoubtedly equipped these students with valuable insights that will serve them well in their future careers as economists and financial professionals.

The Department Mini Welcome 2023 - "COMRADE"



The Commerce Department's second-year students hosted a lively Mini Welcome event on 20th October, giving a warm welcome to first-year students with a fun Batman theme called "COMRADE - Where Heroes and Villains Collide." The event took place at the university grounds, and aimed to help students make friends and develop leadership skills.

The Mini Welcome offered a break from studies and a chance for students to connect, learn, and have fun together. There were also entertaining activities to make the day even more memorable.

OMSA Night '23: A Night of Elegance and Student Unity

The Operations and Technology Management Students' Association (OMSA) once again illuminated the halls of the Department of Decision Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with their highly anticipated event, OMSA Night '23. This annual affair, held on the 4th November 2023, brought together the vibrant energy of fourth, third, and second-year students, alongside the esteemed academic staff.

OMSA Night '23 wasn't just an event; it was a celebration of unity, talent, and the spirit of togetherness. The evening was a tapestry woven with fun games, mesmerizing talent showcases, and the highlight of the night—the coronation of the OMSA King and Queen.

Beyond the glitz and glamour, OMSA Night '23 served as a training ground for students, providing a platform to hone their organizational skills on a grand scale. The students took charge, orchestrating every aspect of the event, showcasing their prowess in event planning, execution, and management. It wasn't just about coming together; it was about learning through hands-on experience and fostering a sense of responsibility among the student body.



The Outbound Training (OBT) 2023

On 27th October 2023, the Department of Commerce organized an outbound training programme at Che Adventure Park, Hanwella, for third-year students. Approximately a hundred students and eight lecturers participated. The goal was to help students discover their hidden talents and leadership qualities through fun activities like team building, zip line, archery, and more. Going outdoors aims to provide students with a unique learning experience, encouraging them to think openly and work well in teams. Throughout the day, students learned about team building, open-minded thinking, and the importance of leadership during uncertain times. The activities emphasized cooperation, decision-making, and trusting each other within the team.

Student-led Business Stalls

The second-year students of the Department of Entrepreneurship organized business stalls on the 25th September and 31st October. These initiatives were carried out as part of their hands-on experience in the subject ENT 2372: New Venture Creation, aimed to showcase creativity and innovation in exploring and creating businesses. These were organized under the guidance of Ms. G.R. T Perera and Ms. D.C.H. De Silva.



Forums on Entrepreneurship

The second-year students organized four forums on the dates 04th, 11th, and 13th of September (as a requirement of the subjects ENT 2374 & ENT 2375) featuring expert participation relating to the selected topics. Topics included Intellectual Property, Foreign Market Opportunities, Technopreneurship, and SMEs. These forums were organized under the guidance of Ms. P.T.D. Liyanage (Subject Coordinator), Ms. D.C.H. De Silva, Ms. H.N.R. Gunawaradane, Mr. M.H.D.N. Perera, Ms. H.E. Sooriyarachchi, Mr. P.L. Rathnasekara, Ms. S.A.S.M. Serasinghe and Ms. G.R.T. Perera.



Participated in the SECRA Conference

Mr M.H.D.N. Perera, Department of Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce participated in the SECRA Conference held in Östersund, Sweden from the 9th to 15th October 2023.

HR Ape Iskole



After a hiatus of 4 years, the Students' Association of the Department of Human Resource Management relaunched the project "HR Ape Iskole" with massive success on 07th September 2023 at the University premises. The vision of "HR Ape Iskole" has always been to empower and enrich the lives of students in rural areas by fostering their dynamic and leadership skills.



The inaugural phase of this project engaged 50 students of the Prefects Guild of Anura Central College, Yakkala with the guidance of Prof. Aruna S. Gamage, as well as the head of the department of HRM, Senior Prof. Hemantha Kottawatta. The programme comprised two distinct sessions: an outbound training (OBT) programme as the first session, followed by an inspiring motivational session and a university tour. The OBT session was

organized to develop the leadership, communication, creativity, risk-taking, and decision-making skills of the students. The motivational session conducted by Professor Aruna S. Gamage, filled the students with profound determination to strive for success and to secure university admission.



“HR Ape Iskole” for 775 School Children of Horana Zone



The Department of Human Resource Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, together with HRM family (The students’ association of the department) organized the second phase of “HR Ape Iskole” after four years, at the university premises for 775 school children who came to this programme by representing 31 schools which belongs to Horana Education Zone.

This programme was aimed to enhance the leadership skills of the school children while motivating them to pursue their goals. The programme was held as two sessions. The first session was a motivational programme conducted by Prof. Aruna S. Gamage, a Senior lecturer of the Department of HRM of the university. In the second session, students actively participated in an outbound training programme held at the university grounds which was aimed to enhance the leadership skills & and teamwork of the students.



Mr. S. Sirilal, the commerce subject instructor of the Horana Educational Zone coordinated the schools with the HRM Family in organizing this event. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the faculty of Management Studies & Commerce, Senior Prof. Hemantha Kottawatta, Head of the Department of HRM, as well as academic members and undergraduates of the department.



Talents' 2023



As 2023 drew to a close the Arts Circle of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura exceeded expectations with the crowning jewel of their annual itinerary - Talents 2023! This year's extravaganza was held on the 7th November at the Navarangahala, Royal College, Colombo 07.

This year's line-up boasted a colourful blend of music, dance, art and theatre. As enthusiastic undergraduates took to the stage, whether it be in the choir, or the stage play, many types of dances such as Latin, hip pop, traditional, contemporary, Bollywood etc. or even the orchestra, camaraderie and confidence sense that everyone fostered that night. Activities were not only limited to the undergraduates but also to members of the staff and alumni.

All our talented performers were applauded by an equally enamoured audience, including chief guest, Mr. Rohana Weerasinghe, Vice-Chancellor, Snr. Prof. M.M. Pathmalal, Dean of the Faculty, Senior Prof. Aloka Pathirana. The torrential downpour that night could not quell the high turn-up of that evening, making testament to Mother Japura's unconquered spirit.



Appreciation Event of the Students and Staff of the Genetics and Molecular Biology Unit



The Genetics and Molecular Biology (GMB) Unit recognizes the importance of students to be engaged in extracurricular activities for their mental well-being and the development of one's personality and soft skills and organized an event within the Unit to convey this to the students on the appreciation event held on 16th October 2023. It was in the form of an appreciation event, where students who have been involved in many extracurricular activities and have participated in inter-university events were presented with a badge that stated, "You are an Inspiration!"

The objective was bifold; it was to recognize the efforts of the students actively involved in extracurricular activities and to inspire the other students to do the same. The Unit also appreciated all the representatives of the Biology and GMB Programmes for their commitment toward the smooth functioning of the programmes as the liaison between staff, the administration, and students. Staff members who have received national awards and international grants were also recognized for their achievements. Experiences and success stories were shared, and the evening ended with games and a potluck. It provided a much-needed break from the race around the clock for both students and staff and strengthened the ties between them.

The Kickstarter Weekend



The Kickstarter weekend organized by the Department of Information Technology was successfully held on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of September 2023 at the university premises. This campaign was organized to enhance the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge of the students.

The Opening Ceremony was held at the Senate Boardroom with the participation of the staff members and the students of the Department of Information Technology. The head of the Department Prof. Lasith Gunawardena delivered the welcome speech. The esteemed guests of the Opening ceremony Mr. Kanishka Weeramunda - CEO, Square Hub Sri Lanka and Mr. Rajive Silva - CEO, Azend Technologies emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship among the undergraduates of Sri Lanka and officially inaugurated the Kickstarter weekend. On the second day of the Kickstarter weekend Entrepreneurial mentoring, skill development session was conducted by Mr. Shohan Kulasooriya – Founder of Deegentics Pvt Ltd, Mr. Mohammed Jaseem - Representative from ICTA Sri Lanka, Ms. Naveendri Premarathne - Founder & CEO at The Makers and Mr. Kithmal Warnasooriya - Founder & CEO at Elysian Crest. The students were formed into different groups to present their entrepreneurial ideas and seven groups were selected for the final round based on their ideas. The final round for the Kickstarter weekend was held to find a winner for the Kickstarter weekend and three teams were selected. The respected judges for the final round were Dr. Dushanth Jayawickrama, Mr. Dinushan Wanigasekara, Dr. Kumaratunge, Dr. Ashwini Amarasinghe, Dr. Gangodawilage, Mr. Hasanka Padukka, Mrs. Dinali Ruwanpathirana, and Mr. Sachindra Samararatne. Team Ammo was selected as the most popular team based on the

likes on Facebook. Team Way Finders emerged as the winners of the Kickstarter weekend followed by Team Ammo as the first Runner-up and Team the Shining Stars and Team Warriors as the second Runner-up.

Furthermore, Prof. Lasith Gunawardena, Head of the Department of Information Technology



Celebrating Nature's Wonders: Recap of the Week of Botany 2023

The Society of Botany and Plant Biotechnology cherished a splendid week along celebration "the week of botany 2023" from 4th to 13th December. The opening ceremony was held on 4th December 2023 with the presence of Professor Upul Subasinghe, Dean FAS as the chief guest. On the 5th of December an online puzzle competition was held exclusively for botany students to showcase their skills. An interesting guest lecture was held on 6th December by Olga Nuneza, an emeritus professor in biology, Mindanao state university, Philippines.



"Esperanza 2023", an exhibition held on 7th December 2023 catered for students and enthusiasts from non-botany backgrounds. "Quzziotica 2023" held on 9th December 2023 brought interfaculty

collaborations transforming the quiz into a shared journey of knowledge.

The “Scientists’ Diaries” on 11th December 2023 led by Dr. Dimuthu S. Manamgoda allowed students to delve into her PhD. journey unveiling the vast potential in the field of botany. On 12th December 2023 Dr. Gamini Kumara Withana led a motivational programme inspiring resilience and personal growth. The week of botany was successfully completed with the “Botany Evening” on 13th December where all winners received well-deserved gifts and certificates.



Teacher's Day 2023



**TO THE DEDICATED HEROES OF KNOWLEDGE,
WE SALUTE YOU!**



In a heartwarming celebration of academic mentorship, the Department of Marketing Management at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura orchestrated a memorable Teachers' Day on 7th October 2023, at the Munasingha Hall. The event, a testament to the strong bond between students and lecturers, unfolded as a delightful tribute to the guiding lights of the department. Highlighting their profound appreciation for their educators, students presented personalized peg dolls to each lecturer, a charming embodiment of the remarkable individuals shaping their academic journey. These miniature figurines served as tangible tokens of gratitude, capturing the unique essence and personality of each lecturer. The thoughtful gesture aimed to express not only admiration but also the profound impact these educators have on the students' academic and personal growth.

The event radiated warmth and camaraderie, fostering a sense of unity within the academic community. As these tiny reflections of incredible individuals found a place in the hearts of both students and lecturers, the Teachers' Day celebration at the Department of Marketing Management stands as a beautiful tribute to the symbiotic relationship that defines a thriving educational environment.



Personality and Skills Development Programme 2023



The Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized the 17th Personality and Skills Development (PSD) Programme in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA), Diyatalawa. This six-day programme, held from December 18th to 23rd December 2023, specifically catered to Year III undergraduates of the department. The initiative was in direct alignment with the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) set for the MAR3348: Personality and Skill Development course within the B.Sc. Marketing Management (Special) Degree programme.

The prime objective of the PSD programme was to afford students a valuable opportunity to augment their competencies and skills, with a focus on leadership, communication, teamwork, and self-confidence. The programme comprised a well-balanced mix of in-class and outdoor sessions, providing participants with a comprehensive learning experience. This collaborative effort between the Department of Marketing Management and the Sri Lanka Military Academy aimed to empower and equip students with the essential tools and knowledge for personal and professional growth.



Outbound Training Programme (OBT) of Master of Business Administration /Master of Science in Management Programme 2023

An Outbound Training Programme (OBT) was successfully concluded with over 65 students of the MBA/ M.Sc. in Management Intake 2023 on 04th and 05th November 2023, at Occidental Paradise, Dambulla. This OBT Programme was conducted to provide a dynamic and immersive learning experience for aspiring MBA students. This programme aims to break away from traditional classroom settings, fostering independent learning and leadership development in a unique outdoor environment.



Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, led a special workshop for students on the development of communication, managerial, and social skills on the first day. This OBT Programme was a well-rounded experience, integrating a variety of outdoor adventure activities including ice-breaking events, team-building activities, leadership development games, confidence-building games, and problem-solving games.

In addition to that, there was an evening gathering with some entertaining indoor activities. Those entertaining events provided students with an opportunity to unwind, socialize, and expand their professional networks in a more informal setting.

This OBT Programme was graced by the presence of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Prof. Kumuduni Sriyalatha, Coordinator, MBA/M. Sc. Programme, Prof. W. Mahesh N. Fernando, representing the panel of lecturers of the MBA programme, and Ms. W.R.M. Shehani Shanika, Assistant Coordinator, MBA/M.Sc. Programme. Throughout the programme, students have participated in a series of activities that cover various aspects of leadership, teamwork, creativity, and social skills, empowering students to adapt and thrive in diverse managerial scenarios.

The Genetics and Molecular Biology Unit Reaches Out to the Community

The Genetics and Molecular Biology Unit annually organizes outreach programmes targeting school children with the hope of priming the next generation of leaders to take initiative and think out of the box as a way of giving back to society.



'Panipuri & Lemon Tea' Stall: Transform Theoretical Learning into Real-life Experience

The Association of Public Administration (APA) organized a series of food stalls, aiming to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical experience. The event was held in front of the Soratha building, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. It was heartwarming to see the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, The Head of the department, and other academic, non-academic executives and non-academic members actively participating in the festivities, engaging with undergraduates in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.



'BoondiLadoo' Stall: Transform Theoretical Learning into Real-life Experience

The Association of Public Administration (APA) organized a boondiladoo stall. The event was held in front of the Soratha building, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The Head of the department, other academic members, and the students enjoyed these sweet treats. It was a great opportunity to strengthen the bond between undergraduates of the department with the university community.



A Two-day Field Visit to Galle, Maththala, and Katharagama



A two-day field visit was organized for the third-year undergraduates of the Department of Public Administration on the 20th and 21st September 2023. On the first day, the students were able to observe the role performed by the Entrepreneurial Councils and Entrepreneurial Associations within the Galle District and the current progress of the Samurdhi and Aswesuma programmes (welfare policies of the government). Several discussions were conducted with

selected 20 entrepreneurs in Hikkaduwa and Wanduramba areas in the Galle District. At the same time, a survey was conducted with the selected Samurdhi and Aswesuma beneficiaries in the Kadawathsathara and Bope-Poddhala divisions. On the first day, all the activities were coordinated and facilitated by the District Secretary of the Galle District. On the second day, several discussions were carried out in the Katharagama Division with the selected entrepreneurs and Samurdhi and Aswesuma beneficiaries. Students visited the Maththala International Airport during the latter part of the field trip. The field visit was successfully completed with 100 students and the academic members of the department.



'Classic' Talent Show-2023

In parallel with the Classic Magazine Launching Ceremony, a Talent show with the contribution of all the undergraduates representing all four years was conducted on 27th October 2023 at the Sumangala Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The event was carried out exceptionally with numerous dancing, singing, music, compering, and drama items which continued for more than four hours. All activities were in Sinhala, English, and Tamil Language. The Chief Guest of the Classics Talent show was Professor Praneeth Abeysundara who was excited about the event. In addition to him, the event was glamourised with the participation of Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. R. P. C. K. Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of the Public Administration, and Academic and Non-academic members of the university.

Further Famous artists Mr. Abhishek Geethadeva and Ms. Niranjani Shanmugaraja participated as special guests at the event. The event had a very successful ending with a bunch of positive comments received from the audience.



Methmini Munasinghe, a Student from the Department of Physics Gains Astronomical Knowledge at ISRYA in China



Ms. Methmini Munasinghe, a fourth-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Physics, has returned from a life-changing experience at the International School for Young Regional Astronomers (ISRYA) held in Kunming, China. The programme, organized by the prestigious Yunnan Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yunnan University, took place from 5th to 20th December 2023, and brought together aspiring astronomers

from across South and Southeast Asia.

ISRYA provided a unique platform for young minds like Methmini to deepen their knowledge in various astronomical fields, ranging from the intricacies of binary stars and exoplanets to the pulsating rhythms of stars and the explosive drama of cataclysmic variables. Hands-on sessions on photometry and spectroscopy further equipped participants with practical skills crucial for astronomical research. Returning to Sri Lanka, Methmini carries with her not just a certificate of participation but a treasure trove of knowledge, newfound confidence, and the unwavering spirit of collaboration fostered by ISRYA. Her experience serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring astronomers in the region, demonstrating the transformative power of international exchange and the boundless potential of young minds reaching for the stars.



Uniform Scholarships for Nursing Undergraduates by LEO Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The LEO Club for the first time in its history, very generously awarded uniform scholarships to six nursing undergraduates in their second year of study at the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, USJ aiming at supporting them for the Oath-taking ceremony, a significant event in the academic life of nursing students which usually takes place during the second academic year of the B.Sc. Nursing Programme. The official handing over of the donation to the Dean of the Faculty and the Head of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery was held on 18th December 2023 at the department premises. Professor Inoka Uluwaduge, Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Sunethra Jayathilake, Head, Department Nursing and Midwifery, Dr. Indu Rajapaksha, Senior Lecturer, Department of the Basic Sciences, the President, Secretary and members of the LEO Club, a member representing the Nursing Alumni USJ, and academic members of the Department participated at this occasion.

The Archaeology Museum of the Department of History and Archaeology celebrates its 61st Anniversary



Celebrating the 61st anniversary of the Archaeology Museum of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, a series of programs were organized by the Archaeology Museum and the Department of History and Archaeology, USJ, on the 10th and 11th of October 2023.

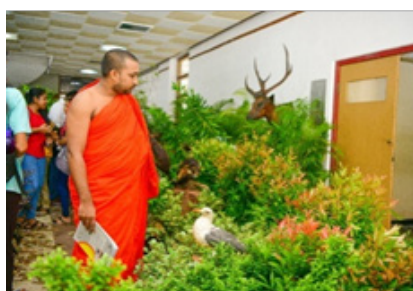
Accordingly, a special two-day Museum exhibition was organized in collaboration with the National Museum of Natural History (Colombo) and the Zoology Museum of the

Department of Zoology of the USJ. The Museum exhibition was preceded by the opening ceremony at the Sumangala Auditorium, graced by the Vice Chancellor of the USJ, Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, the Dean of the FHSS, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, and other dignitaries.

Accordingly, the visitors could experience specimens of preserved animal species provided by the

aforesaid collaborating institutions. The gallery had been set as a forest, to let visitors experience the appropriate setting for the exhibiting specimens. In addition, diverse galleries of the Archaeology Museum were open to the public, such as Pre and Proto-history of Sri Lanka, clay and terracotta artifacts, traditional traps, stone carvings, mural paintings, local and foreign coins, etc. Each gallery was properly interpreted to the visitors by our own undergraduate students of the department, allowing them to gain experience in the role of a Museum Officer, which is a prospective job role for them in the future.

In addition, Renowned for his advocacy in wildlife conservation and environmental protection, Dr. Jagath Gunawardane, a lawyer, environmentalist and educator, delivered a guest lecture on 'Study of Eco-system and their Conservation', at this opening ceremony. Furthermore, in appreciation of the generous contribution made by the donors of the museum objects received in the past few years, including staff members and the public, a certificate awarding session was also conducted by the Archaeology Museum to properly thank and appreciate the generous donors. On behalf of the staff, students, and the university, the Archaeology Museum and the Department of History and Archaeology would like to extend sincere thanks to each and everyone who helped in word and deed to make this program series a success.



INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Advanced Level BST Practicals Workshop



An Advanced Level (A/L) practical workshop organized by the Department of Biosystems Technology at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 16th November 2023. About 70 students from the Piliyandala education zone joined the workshop which provided them with hands-on experience in various practicals related to the grade 12 and grade 13 A/L Biosystems

Technology syllabuses.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. H.K.B.S. Chamara under the guidance of Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga, Head of the Department of Biosystems Technology. Academic staff members, including Prof. Lasanthi Jayathunge, Dr. Lanka Undugoda, Dr. Jasintha Jayasanka, Dr. Pradeep Gajanayake, and Dr. Udayagee Kumarasinghe assisted with the workshop content and Department demonstrators helped in the conduct of the workshop.

The event aligned with the Department's initiative to motivate school students to pursue higher education at the university level after their A/Ls.



Visit of a Delegation from the Curtin University, Australia

A delegation from Curtin University, Australia, joined a discussion session on future collaborations such as joint Doctor of Philosophy programmes, joint postdoctoral research initiatives, joint publications, sharing knowledge and experience, and staff-student exchange programmes. The event was coordinated by Dr. Rumesh Liyanage, attached to the Food Processing Technology Specialization area of the Department of Biosystems Technology.

The delegation consisted of Prof. Ranil Coorey, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Curtin University, Prof. S.B. Nawarathne, Retired professor from the Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJ, and two students from Curtin University those who are completing their undergraduate studies in USJ currently. The delegation also visited the department laboratories. The event was held on the 22nd December 2023 at the Faculty of Technology board room.



Field Visit to CBL

A Field Visit to CBL was organized by Ms. D.C.H. De Silva and Ms. S.A.S.M. Serasinghe on 19th October 2023, for second and third-year students of the Department of Entrepreneurship to enhance their understanding of manufacturing firm processes and to get a practical exposure on running a food manufacturing business.



Visit of a High-level Delegation from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University), Australia



In celebrating long-term association of RMIT University with four Sri Lanka Universities (University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Ruhuna) and University Grants Commission, a high-level delegation led by Deputy Vice-chancellor of RMIT University: Professor Calum Drummond AO, visited Sri Lanka and a workshop was held at Monarch Imperial, Battaramulla to celebrate the

success of the programmes and explore In celebrating long-term association of RMIT University with four Sri Lanka Universities (University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Ruhuna) and University Grants Commission, a high-level delegation led by Deputy Vice-chancellor of RMIT University: Professor Calum Drummond AO, visited Sri Lanka and a workshop was held at Monarch Imperial, Battaramulla to celebrate the success of the programmes and explore establishing an innovation partnerships between Sri Lankan industry sponsors and universities. These stakeholders have been working in a highly successful joint Ph.D. programme which currently has 32 candidates. The programme has subsequently been extended to the probationary lecturers of all Sri Lankan Universities in partnership with the UGC.



The workshop was held on 30th November 2023 with the presence of RMIT delegates, the Australian high commissioner, Sri Lankan government representatives, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, UGC chairman, vice-chancellors of the four universities, Deans and academics of the universities.

The progress of USJ-RMIT collaborations was presented by Dr. Rumesh Liyanage, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology. Senior Professor Pathmalal M. Manage, the vice-chancellor, Professor Nilmini Liyanage, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Dr. Nishan Darmaweera, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and Dr. Dinuka Ariyaratne of the Faculty of Medicine participated in the workshop and panel discussions representing the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Workshop on 'Leadership'

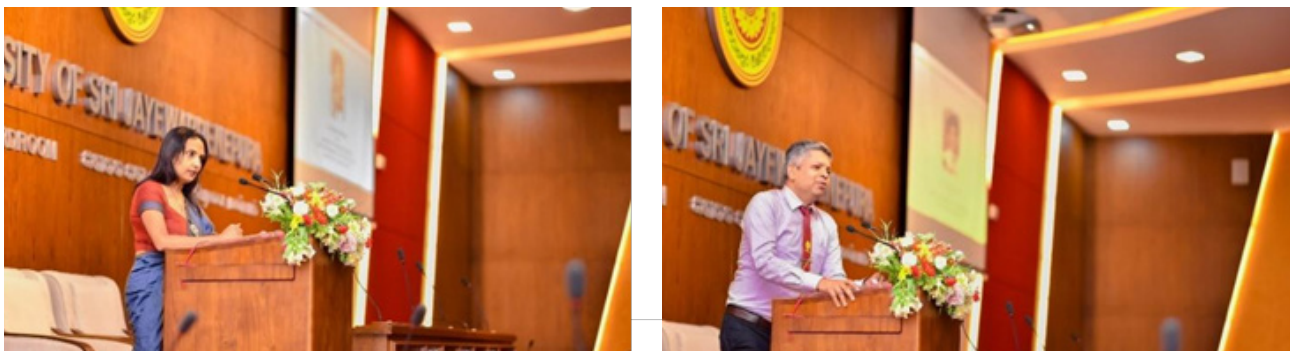
A workshop on 'leadership' was organized on 1st November 2023, as a part of the subjects ENT 2374 & ENT 2375, with the participation of Mr. Dian Gomez as the guest speaker to enhance students' practical knowledge. This was coordinated by Ms. S.A.S.M. Serasinghe as a requirement of the subjects.



Corporate Mentoring Programme – Phase 02

The Corporate Mentoring Programme was initiated with the primary objective of nurturing the personal and professional development of third-year undergraduate students in the Department of Marketing Management, with a focus on enhancing their personality attributes and providing exposure to the corporate world. On 29th March 2023, a comprehensive briefing session on the programme's structure and processes was conducted at the university premises to orient the participating students. Subsequently, the programme underwent a rigorous evaluation phase, with feedback sessions held on 31st August and 22nd September 2023, involving both mentors and mentees from Phase 01. These sessions were instrumental in identifying areas for improvement and adjustments that would be implemented in Phase 02 of the programme.

To officially kick off the programme, a networking session took place on 05th October 2023, at the Senate Board room of the University, bringing together the mentors and their assigned mentees. This interaction marked the formal launch of the programme and set the stage for meaningful mentorship relationships to blossom. Phase 02 is now well underway and is scheduled to conclude by the second week of January 2024, continuing its mission of empowering students with valuable insights and experiences to prepare them for a successful transition into the corporate world.



PANEL OF MENTORS – PHASE 02

Empowering the Next Generation – Marketing Architect 2.0 Session



Marketing Architect 2.0 is a webinar series organized by the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the second consecutive year. It has been designed to cover trending topics and insights that will help to design a sharp marketer. As a continuation of the programme, a session was held at the New Faculty Boardroom on the 12th October 2022 titled “Empowering the next generation: A path from a marketer to future marketing leaders” by Mr. Ravi Jayawardena, Group Chief Executive Officer, Maliban Group, Sri Lanka. The session was an engaging presentation conducted by the resource person which comprised of the importance of both practical and academic knowledge for the graduates to become future marketers.



The signing of MOU with ekaterra Ceylon (Private) Limited

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura and ekaterra Ceylon (Private) Limited (ECPL) formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 31st October 2023, at the university premises. The MOU aims to foster collaboration between the University's Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) and ECPL. The partnership entails annual internships in International Marketing for FMSC undergraduates, a generous contribution of Rs. 200,000 to the Marketing Management Association for their Sustainability Project, and mutual engagement in knowledge-sharing sessions. Additionally, FMSC commits to providing human resources for up to five research projects conducted by ECPL within marketing scopes. The agreement, governed by Sri Lankan law, emphasizes confidentiality, adherence to organizational policies, and a commitment to mutual development. The MOU's duration remains in force until termination by mutual agreement. The signing ceremony was attended by the Dean of the Faculty and the Vice-chancellor, symbolizing a significant step towards academic-industry collaboration and student development.

A Meeting with the Alumni of the Department of Public Administration

A discussion on the future prospects and the current concerns of the Department and get together was carried out with the proud alumni belonging to 1998/1999 batch on 16th September 2023 at the Old Faculty Board Room of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



31st Annual General Meeting and Get-Together 2023-Alumni Association of Public Administration



The 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Get-Together of the Alumni Association of Public Administration of the Department of Public Administration took place on 19th November 2023, at the New Faculty Board room of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Distinguished alumni members, including those currently employed in prestigious organizations nationwide and retired high-ranking government officials, attended the event.



The day began with member registration, fostering a lively networking atmosphere for alumni to reconnect. Dr. R.P.C.K. Jayasinghe, the President of the Alumni Association of Public Administration, extended a warm welcome at the official start of the meeting. Significant time was devoted to outlining the progress of the past year's activities, such as an increase in life members, the distribution of scholarship funds by alumni, and

the organization of diverse activities to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of department undergraduates.

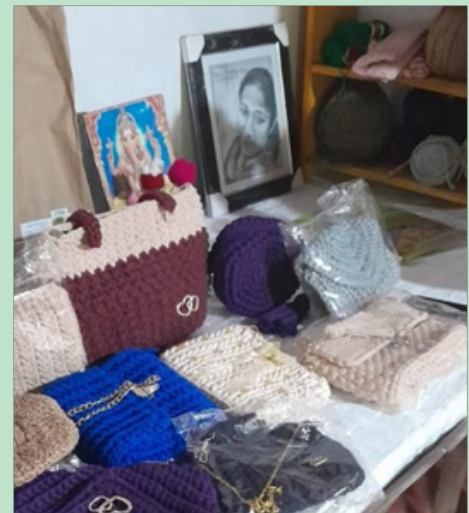
In addition to the AGM, the Alumni Lunch held at the Old Faculty Boardroom and the Get-Together session at the Nest Family Restaurant provided a delightful opportunity for members to reminisce, network, and celebrate the strong bond that unites the Japura Public Administration alumni community.



Students' Business Visits

Physical visits to students' businesses, a component of the fourth-year undergraduate programme at the Department of Entrepreneurship, are organized within the framework of the subject ENT4643: Internship in Entrepreneurship.

These visits serve to offer guidance and support to students in developing their new startup ventures across various aspects. In the most recent instance, these visits were scheduled from 06th to 13th November 2023, under the coordination of Ms. S.A.S.M. Serasinghe.



Stakeholders Meeting to Discuss the Clinical Training and Laboratory Facilities of the Bachelor of Science Honours in Optometry Degree Programme



A stakeholders meeting was conducted by the Department of Optometry of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences to discuss the training and clinical facilities available in the optical industry and their possible contributions to enhance laboratory facilities, of the BSc (Hons) Optometry degree programme on 05th September 2023 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. There were thirty

participants including high officials representing leading companies within the Optical industry.

This meeting was highly successful and almost all industry representatives agreed to provide their contribution to improve the teaching and training facilities for the Optometry undergraduates of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura by providing clinical training facilities, donating highly valuable laboratory items, and in many other ways.



Renowned Expert Dr. W.A. Wijewardena illuminated Fourth-Year Students with Captivating two Guest Lectures

Guest lectures were delivered by Dr. W.A. Wijewardana, a renowned former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, specifically tailored for fourth-year students of the Department of Public Administration under the course module PUB 4349: Development Policy and Management. He is also a proud alumni member of the Alumni Association of Public Administration. The Head of the Department, Dr. R.P.C.K. Jayasinghe, and a few other Senior and Junior staff members of the Department participated in this guest lecture. Overall, the guest lecture served as a platform for engaging discussions and reflections on the fundamental principles that underpin societal progress, offering a nuanced exploration of democracy, leadership dynamics, the evolving concept of capital, and the pivotal role of educational and research institutions in shaping an innovation-driven future.

NERDC Visit



On 7th December 2023, a delegation of three demonstrators and five EGT students embarked on an enriching visit to NERDC and its Engineering Museum, orchestrated by Dr. Chathurie Nupearachchi and Dr. Jayathu Samarawickrama. This initiative, the fourth of 2023, aimed to bridge theory and practice. NERDC's dynamic research and development laboratories provided

firsthand insights, fostering engaging dialogues between demonstrators and researchers.

The highlight was the exploration of the Engineering Museum, a captivating journey through Engineering's evolution. Dr. Chathurie Nupearachchi guided students, connecting them with the historical and contemporary facets of engineering. The Head of the Department; Dr. Gaya Jayakody praised the initiative for molding well-rounded engineers. The visit was not merely a field trip but a transformative experience, imparting practical insights and a holistic understanding of the engineering realm. As the delegation departed, they carried not just memories but a renewed passion and appreciation for the dynamic world of engineering.



Two-Day A/L Teacher Training Workshop in Electronics, Organized by the Department of Physics, USJ



The Department of Physics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, in partnership with the North Central Province Education Department, hosted a two-day A/L teacher training workshop in Electronics on the 9th and 10th December 2023. The workshop, which took place at the Department of Physics, gathered Physics teachers from different schools in the North Central Province.

The Department of History and Archaeology collaborates with the University of Sydney for an Archaeological Excavation at Bundala

The prehistoric context of the southern coast of Sri Lanka was first explored during the colonial period and it was revisited by Dr. Siran Deraniyagala in the 1970s'. His research excavation at 'Bundala-Pathirajawela' indicated that the site dated to nearly 125,000BP (Middle-Paleolithic period). In 2019, under the directorship of Dr. Deraniyagala, Sen. Lect. (Dr.) Oshan Wedage of the Department of History and Archaeology further excavated this site, and Associate Prof. Patrick Faulkner from the University of Sydney, Australia, was invited to analyze the discovered shells. During his multiple visits to Sri Lanka since 2019, numerous interesting observations and information could be revealed through analysis.

However, it is an ongoing debate among Sri Lankan scholars whether these shell beds on the southern coast are natural or cultural deposits. Therefore, in order to address this ongoing debate,

the research team looked for potential research locations (suitable shell deposits) to conduct a comparative study with the Pathirajawela shell beds. Based on this requirement, the research team conducted an archaeological exploration within the Bundala National Park from 16th of January - 4th of February 2023.

Based on its results, the research team conducted Archaeological excavations at the following locations having undisturbed shell beds from 28th of August - 30th of October 2023, and obtained samples for OSL dating and other analyses as well.

- Bundala Thunman-handiya
- Bundala Hemagodana
- Canal Bank Section
- Bundala Pathirajawela Section

This research excavation project provided an opportunity for 2nd, 3rd and 4th year Archaeology undergraduate students to acquire practical experience of an archaeological excavation and shell sorting with foreign experts. Funding for this entire project is provided by the Australian Research Council and the University of Sydney as a research grant, received by Associate Prof. Patrick Faulkner. The Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka and the Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka also collaborated in this research excavation.



Mr. Upali Karunathilake generously donates several objects from his valuable collection to the Archaeology Museum of the Department of History and Archaeology



The Archaeology Museum of the Department of History and Archaeology of the USJ would like to thank and appreciate Mr. Upali Anandakumara Karunathilake from Boralesgamuwa, for his thoughtful and generous donation of several objects made to the Archaeology Museum of the USJ, from his valuable self-collection for decades. The donation specially included a valuable painting he bought from the Louvre Museum in France. Mr. Karunathilake expects that the donated objects will be securely preserved, exhibited and be used for research purposes of the academia.

The Head of the Department, Sen. Lect. (Ven.) Dambara Amila Thero, the Curator of the Museum, Mrs. Nilmini Netthasinghe and Ms. Ishini Thamodya, the 3rd year undergraduate who made contact with the donor, participated in this object donation on occasion, 28th November 2023.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Department of Finance and Senfin Securities Ltd.

On the 19th of September 2023, the Department of Finance officially entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Senfin Securities Ltd. where both parties agreed to collaborate on joint research, analytical studies, and awareness initiatives in the fields of finance and capital markets. This momentous occasion was graced by distinguished guests from academia and industry, including the late Mr. Ravi Abeysuriya, the former CEO of Senfin Securities Ltd., the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, and the Head of the Department of Finance.

This collaboration symbolises a moment of great promise and potential for enhanced learning, research, and industry engagement for the students of the Department of Finance and the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The benefits stemming from this partnership are expected to extend beyond the immediate future, leaving a lasting impact on the academic and professional development of those involved.



Ceylon Guardian Stock Market Challenge – 2023

The “Ceylon Guardian Stock Market Challenge – 2023,” jointly organized by the Department of Finance in collaboration with Guardian Fund Management Ltd, is a distinctive competition meticulously crafted to enhance participants’ comprehension of stock markets and investment strategies. This unique challenge spanned from

March to August 2023 under the guidance of industry experts. It offered not just a platform for young finance enthusiasts to test their skills but also fostered an environment for learning and growth. The award ceremony of this prestigious event took place on the 4th of October 2020 at the Senate Board Room, USJ, with the presence of distinguished guests from academia and industry.



The team led by V.G. Vimukthi Poornajith emerged victorious, comprising members M.K. Piushan Ramesh, W. Akila Pawan, and Sudara Sausadi Silva, showcasing exceptional skills. In a closely contested event, the runner-up position was secured by the team led by K.R. Sadunika Karunanayake, alongside members W. H. S. Fernando, W. D. S. De Zoysa Gunasekera, and D.M.S. Binduli Sumanasekara.

The Ceylon Guardian Stock Market Challenge stands as a testament to the commitment of the Department of Finance to shaping the next generation of financial leaders.



