



University of
Sri Jayewardenepura

NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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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



Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage
The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

1. How do you see the role of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in contributing to Sri Lanka's education, economy, and social welfare?

First, I want to say that education is one of the most essential pillars for the development of any country, and that is where we, as a national institution, play a significant role. As you know, Jayewardenepura has the largest student population in the country, with over 17,000 undergraduates, more than 3,500 postgraduates, and around 100,000 external students. Our primary goal is to produce self-confident graduates. We have 11 faculties, and our main aim is to produce confident, self-assured undergraduates who can contribute directly to the economy and national development. We are also very focused on producing entrepreneurs to help the country grow. That's why all our courses now include entrepreneurial approaches. We don't just teach theory; we include industrial internships and practical experiences so our students can become confident graduates ready to contribute to their companies or products.

2. What are the key research areas that the university focuses on, particularly in addressing Sri Lanka's pressing issues like health, agriculture, and sustainability?

Regarding research, we have worked hard to inculcate a research culture within the university. Since 2016, we've had a research council that oversees all our research activities across the faculties. We have 23 research centres addressing crucial issues like cancer, chronic kidney disease, and water quality. These 23 centres represent all faculties of the university. Our research is very industry-oriented; we work directly with industries, identify their problems, and tailor our research to solve them. Since 2016, we've invested more than 1 billion rupees in research, and our efforts are aligned with the national Sustainable Development Goals. Any researcher from any faculty can apply for this research, and we have criteria to evaluate proposals, mainly catering to the SDG goals of the country, as mentioned in the Vidyodaya Vision. We encourage researchers to obtain patents and commercialize their products to contribute to national development. So far, we've produced over 150 PhDs and around 100 MPhils, thanks to our substantial research funding and support. Like this, we contribute to national development through our research bodies.

3. In what ways does the university contribute to environmental sustainability both on and off campus?

This is very important to us. As you can see, the university itself is very green and beautiful. We have become more environmentally conscious in recent years. For instance, when we construct buildings, we make sure to apply for green certification, as we did for the Faculty of Engineering and the Institute of Allergy. We also work closely with the Central Environmental Authority on solid and liquid waste management. We use the expert knowledge and experience from our Science and Engineering faculties to improve the waste management system. Another achievement I'm proud to share is that we recently received international carbon-zero certification based on our consistent practices. We also engage in ongoing projects with industries and schools to promote sustainable development and environmental awareness. Mainly, we have conducted conferences and awareness programs to share knowledge with communities. We have partnered with institutions to carry out tree-planting projects inside and outside the university to contribute to a greener country. We aim to spread this knowledge beyond the campus and contribute to the country's green efforts.

4. How does the university adapt its curriculum to meet the needs of Sri Lankan industries and prepare students for national and international job markets?

We're constantly revising our curricula to meet the country's and industries' needs. We are fully aware that skill development is the key to having a say in any industry, and we align with those trends. A recent example is the establishment of the Computing Faculty, which reflects the

growing demand for ICT skills nationally and internationally. According to recent analyses by SLASSCOM (Sri Lanka Association for Software and Services Companies), our ICT graduates are at the top of the country compared to other universities and private institutions. This makes me very proud. Across all faculties—whether in Humanities, Engineering, Management, or Science—our goal is to produce graduates who are self-confident and equipped to meet the demands of the local and global job market. Therefore, we see progress in our curriculum.

5. What steps are being taken to include more vocational and technical education at the university?

While we don't offer vocational education directly, we focus on producing technically sound graduates. For example, our Science and Technology faculties provide strong practical and technical knowledge. Our engineering students get hands-on experience, and our Medical Faculty ensures that students receive practical training in clinical settings, both on and off campus. We also offer programs in nursing, pharmacy, and optometry. In fact, we are the only university offering a degree in optometry, and our graduates in these fields are in high demand nationally and internationally. Our nursing graduates and pharmacists also have unique skill sets and are highly sought after. So, while we may not have a vocational program, we are committed to producing graduates with the technical skills needed for today's industries.

6. What reforms or improvements are necessary within Sri Lanka's higher education system, and how can institutions like the University of Sri Jayewardenepura lead these changes?

Education reforms are significant because national universities depend heavily on treasury funds. I firmly believe that, first, we must modify our curricula according to national requirements. We must identify the gaps and what the country's industries need. Secondly, we need to reduce our dependency on treasury funding. Universities should aim to generate their income. We are already offering some programs at both national and international levels, and we can expand this to areas like hospitality, languages, culture, and Buddhism, which have a significant global market. By offering these programs, we can attract international students, earn revenue, and reinvest in the university and the country's development.

Education also needs to move from being purely theoretical to more practical-based. Students shouldn't come to university to earn a degree but to learn to think critically and gain more knowledge of the world. We also need to provide opportunities for self-learning and create programs for people who don't have the chance to enter university but still want to gain knowledge and skills. In addition, we must focus on altering the attitudes and behaviour of students in ways that benefit them and the country.

7. How do you envision the future of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura over the next decade?

As the Vice Chancellor, my vision for the next decade is obvious. Our goal is to improve our international and national rankings. In 2017, our international ranking was in 3349. We're ranked now in 1954 globally, but I am confident we can move up shortly. Nationally, we're in second place but want to reach the top spot. Research is one of the most critical factors in improving our ranking. We've encouraged academics to publish in high-impact journals like Web of Science, A and Q grades with high impact factors. We are also pushing for patents and commercialization of research, which will contribute to the national economy.

I am proud to say that we have seven scientists at Jayewardenepura who have been recognized as part of the top 2% of scientists worldwide. These are young scientists from Medicine, Science, Technology, and Engineering. With such talent, I believe it's not a massive challenge for us to become one of the top universities. Most of our lecturers are young and have already achieved great things, and they are passing their knowledge to the younger generations as well, so the future looks very promising. In a few years, we will have a prominent spot in the Asian region.

Professional Diploma in Russian Language: A New Collaborative Initiative



**Russian Language Center
University of Sri Jayewardenepura**
**Professional Diploma in
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE**

**Earn a World-Recognized
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE
Now in Sri Lanka**

At the Russian Language Center of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with
Ural State University of Economics, Russia

Duration : 1 Year (Full Time)
Course Fee - \$1450 (\$750)
* A compulsory fee for textbooks

The Russian Language Training Program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the Russian language and culture, as well as prepare them for further studies in Russia. This program offers intensive language courses, cultural immersion activities, and academic support to help students develop their language skills and adapt to the Russian educational system. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to learn from native speakers.

SPECIALIZED RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

- Humanities
- Medical Field
- Technical Field
- Aircraft Industry
- Natural Sciences
- Russian Language
- Oil and Gas Business
- Transport Operations
- Transport Infrastructure
- Railway Operations Field
- Culture, Creativity, Art Streams

Benefits

- Opportunity to study at any university in the Russian Federation across various fields.
- Exemption from the first-year Russian language course requirement.
- Eligibility to apply for scholarships at any university in the Russian Federation across various fields.

Entry Qualifications

- A minimum of three Simple Passes (S) in the A/L examination in any stream.
- Or
- Qualification of WJQ level 4 or above

More Details
Contact : +94 11 7622 1100 | Email : coordinator.rlgc@sjp.ac.lk
Russian Language Center
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

APPLY NOW!
VISIT OUR WEB : rc.sjp.ac.lk
Russian Language Center
SAJ, SLP

The newly introduced Professional Diploma in Russian Language is a collaborative program between the Russian Language Center at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Ural State University of Economics, Russian Federation. This comprehensive program is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of both the Russian language and culture, preparing them for future academic pursuits in Russia.

The course emphasizes the development of strong language proficiency, offering rigorous training in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Participants will also benefit from immersive cultural experiences, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of Russian traditions, history, and society. In

addition to language training, the program provides extensive academic support, including guidance on studying in Russia, cultural adaptation, and integration into the Russian academic environment.

With these resources, the Professional Diploma in Russian Language ensures that students are well-prepared for both their academic and cultural experiences in Russia. This program is an ideal opportunity for individuals looking to enhance their language skills while gaining valuable insights into Russian culture, laying the foundation for future educational opportunities in Russia.

New Certificate Course in Angampora Introduced



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Certificate Course in Angampora -2024/25

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The newly introduced Certificate Course in Angampora offers a comprehensive introduction to the ancient Sri Lankan martial art, combining combat techniques, traditional weapons training, and spiritual discipline. Participants in the course will engage with both the theoretical and practical aspects of Angampora, learning self-defense techniques, hand-to-hand combat, and meditation practices.

In addition to the physical training, the course delves into the history and cultural significance of Angampora, emphasizing its role in preserving Sri Lankan heritage. Led by experienced practitioners, the program promotes physical fitness, mental focus, and emotional resilience, making it suitable for beginners and those interested in cultural preservation.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a certificate, acknowledging their skills and dedication to mastering this ancient martial art.

Advanced Clinical Pharmacy Workshop – Hands-on Patient Care



The Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, in collaboration with the CASPPER (Collaboration of Australia and Sri Lanka for Pharmacy Practice, Education and Research), organized the 'Advanced Clinical Pharmacy Workshop – Hands-on Patient Care' on 23rd and 24th July 2024 at the University. Five eminent clinical pharmacists from Australia and the United Kingdom resourced the workshop on an honorary basis. Forty one B.Pharm graduates participated and experienced this very unique opportunity. This is the 4th time that the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, FAHS, USJ organized such clinical pharmacy workshops in collaboration with CASPPER.



Guest of Honour at the International Nurses Day – Durdans Hospital



Prof A.A. Thamara D. Amarasekara, from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS, participated as a Guest of Honour at the International Nurses Day celebration on 22 May 2024 at the Durdans Hospital, Sri Lanka. She delivered her presentation on “Nursing leadership: A key element of professional development” to healthcare professionals at the hospital.

Guest of Honour - Capping, Oath Taking and Award Ceremony – Durdans Hospital

Prof A.A.Thamara D. Amarasekara, from the Dept. of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS, participated as a Guest of Honour at the Capping, Oath Taking and Award Ceremony, at the Amrak Institute of Medical Sciences, Durdans Hospital, Sri Lanka, on 2nd August 2024.



Inauguration Ceremony of the Master of Science in Public Policy and Management and Master of Public Management Programs – 5th Intake

The Department of Public Administration hosted the inaugural ceremony for the 5th intake of the Master of Science in Public Policy and Management (MSc PPM) and Master of Public Management (MPM) programs on 10th August 2024, via Zoom. The virtual event was a significant milestone for the department's postgraduate offerings.

The ceremony also featured inspiring experiences from two recently graduated students: Ms. P.D. Bhagya S. Pathirana, Senior Assistant Registrar (Examinations) at General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University, and Ms. Asha Jayawardena, Assistant Commissioner (Operations) at the Department of Community-Based Corrections, Ministry of Justice. Both graduates highlighted their academic journeys and the value of the programs.

The event was well-attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, the Head of the Department of Public Administration, the Director and the Chairperson of the Postgraduate Center for Business Studies, the Coordinator of the MSc PPM and MPM programs, the other academic staff and visiting lecturers marking the beginning of an enriching academic journey for the new intake.



Professor Rupika Senadheera Assumes Duties as Director of EDECU, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Professor Rupika Senadheera officially assumed duties as the Director of the External Degrees and Extension Course Unit (EDECU) at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 3rd May 2024. A brief event commemorating the occasion was held at the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

The event was attended by notable figures, including Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Prof. Ven. Pinnawala Sangasumana Thero, the former Director of EDECU, Prof. Hilary Silva, Chairman of the Board of Study, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. P.I. Anuradha, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Science Management (Public) General (External) Degree, Senior Lecturer W.M.N. Weerathunga, former Coordinator of the same degree program, Dr. K.A.S.K. Kariyapperuma, Head of the Department of Business Administration, Dr. Vilani Sachithra, Head of the Department of Commerce, and Senior Lecturer Thilini Kaushalya, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Commerce (General) External Degree, along with other academic staff members and department representatives.



Professor Senadheera brings a wealth of academic experience to her new role. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (Special) from the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 1991. She went on to complete her Master of Science (Management) from the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the same university in 2000 and earned her Doctoral degree in 2015 from the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Colombo. She was promoted to Professor on Merit in 2019 and is currently attached to the Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

As Professor Senadheera takes on her role as Director of the External Degrees and Extension Course Unit, the university looks forward to her continued dedication to academic excellence and leadership in advancing the institution's educational initiatives.

Diploma in GIS and Remote Sensing 2024/2025 (17th Intake) Now Open for Applications

The Department of Geography at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is now accepting applications for the Diploma in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing for the 2024/2025 academic year. This program is designed to provide professional qualifications in Geoinformatics, catering to non-graduate employees and students looking to advance their careers in this rapidly expanding field.

The diploma aims to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to excel in GIS and Remote Sensing, offering new career opportunities and enhancing professional development. The program is ideal for individuals seeking to gain expertise and credentials in these cutting-edge areas of technology.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to build a strong foundation in GIS and Remote Sensing.

Diploma in GIS & Remote Sensing 2024/2025 (17th intake) DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

Applications are invited from interested candidates for Diploma in Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) offered by the Department of Geography at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The aim of this Diploma is to create a career path with professional qualifications in the fields of Geoinformatics, for those non-graduate employees and students.

This is unique and state-of-the-art technology based World Class Diploma developed by a panel of local and international experts in GIS and Remote Sensing, which will be conducted by highly qualified and experienced academic staff. This will be an excellent opportunity to increase employability for the student, and obtained extensive knowledge and professional qualifications for the employees, in the fields of GIS & RS.

Lectures and practical classes are to be conducted on
Saturdays: 8.00am - 12.00pm

Duration : 01 Year
Medium : English/
Course Fee : Rs. 75,000/-

The course fee has to be paid in two installments, Rs. 30,000 at the registration and the balance Rs. 25,000 within six months from registration.

Eligibility Pass the GCE Advanced Level Examination in two (02) Subjects and 2 years working experience of relevant fields **OR** Professional or any other Equivalent Qualifications accepted by the university senate **with** adequate knowledge in both Spoken and Written English.

Application form and other required information can be either downloaded from <http://www.sjp.ac.lk>, or sending an email to the course coordinator (geoginfo@sjp.ac.lk) or physically visit the office.

Application send us as soon as possible
(Before 10th August 2024)

For More Details: Miss. H.K. Kanthana (Course Assistant)
Mobile: +94706795047; Office: +94112758753

Prof. R.M.K. Ratnayake (Coordinator)
Department of Geography
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Mobile: +94714489296; Office: +94112758753
Email: geoginfo@sjp.ac.lk

Registrar,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Diploma in Japanese Language: Enhancing Opportunities and Cultural Exchange



**Diploma in
JAPANESE LANGUAGE**

SLQF Level 3 & JPLT/N Level 4

- Duration: One year
- Course fee: Rs. 75,000
- Mode of teaching: On-site & Online

Application Deadline - 30th August, 2024

Applications and more details can be obtained from www.fhss.sjp.ac.lk

Conducted by
Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The Diploma in Japanese Language presents significant opportunities for both individuals and the broader community. This qualification provides individuals with enhanced language proficiency, unlocking diverse career paths and academic advancements in areas such as international business, translation, and cultural studies. Mastery of the Japanese language also allows for a deeper understanding of Japan's rich cultural and economic landscape, benefiting those interested in fostering cross-cultural connections.

For the community, the diploma contributes to the local economy by developing skilled professionals capable of bridging communication gaps and supporting bilateral relations with Japanese enterprises. This program not only equips individuals with valuable linguistic skills but also strengthens community ties with global markets, promoting cultural and economic exchange.

Guest of Honour at the Oath Taking Ceremony – University of Ruhuna



Prof A.A.Thamara D. Amarasekara, from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS, participated as a Guest of Honour at the Oath Taking Ceremony of the nursing undergraduates of the 2021-2022 Batch, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna on, 30th August 2024.

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH RELATED EVENTS

Commendation for Mrs. Udeshika Chandrarathne, Mr. Asel Hettiarachchi, and Mrs. Oshadhie Silva on their noteworthy publication

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is proud to recognize the remarkable academic contribution of Mrs. Udeshika Chandrarathne, Mr. Asel Hettiarachchi, and Mrs. Oshadhie Silva, whose article, "Emotional Burdens of Transnational Care: Insights from Sri Lanka's Skilled Migrants," has been published in the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal (ABDC C-ranked, Q2, Scopus-indexed).

Their research offers a deep exploration into the psychological strains experienced by Sri Lankan skilled emigrants who provide care for their elderly parents while living abroad. The study highlights the emotional complexities and unique challenges of transnational caregiving, exacerbated by distance, and the support systems that assist in managing this burden. As the trend of skilled migration from Sri Lanka continues to rise, the article brings critical attention to the growing issue of elderly care for those left behind.

Drawing from interviews with 10 skilled migrants, the study reveals how emigrants navigate these challenges through various coping strategies, influencing their decisions about returning home.

This publication not only reflects the academic dedication of Mrs. Chandrarathne, Mr. Hettiarachchi, and Mrs. Silva, but also adds valuable insight into the evolving field of transnational family dynamics and the psychological impact of migration. The University expresses its commendation for their work and looks forward to further impactful research contributions.

University of Sri Jayewardenepura at the Forefront of Dengue Research

The global fight against dengue fever receives a significant boost from the dedicated research efforts at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ). Professor Neelika Malavige, a leading researcher at USJ, is featured in a recent article on Think Global Health, highlighting the critical role Sri Lanka and USJ play in tackling this climate-sensitive disease.

The article emphasizes Sri Lanka's extensive experience managing dengue outbreaks. Dengue is a major public health concern in the country, with two seasons annually. Professor Malavige's 21 years of clinical research experience at USJ showcase Sri Lanka's commitment to combating this disease.

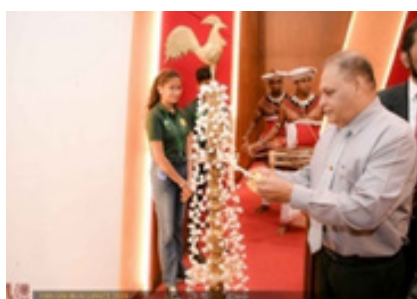
Professor Malavige leads a team at USJ collaborating with the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDH Hospital) in Colombo. Despite limited funding, their research has identified potential factors contributing to dengue severity and translated these findings into clinical trials. The research at USJ prioritizes developing treatments for early intervention to prevent severe dengue cases. Additionally, they aim to create reliable and affordable point-of-care diagnostics for faster and easier patient identification.

Professor Malavige urges global leaders to prioritize research funding for neglected diseases like dengue. This funding gap hinders our understanding of how dengue impacts the body compared to more well-funded diseases like COVID-19.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is at the forefront of the fight against dengue. Professor Malavige's research is crucial in developing new treatment options and improving diagnosis.



UNI-IN ALLIANCE 2024: A Celebration of Innovation and Research



The 10th annual “UNI-IN ALLIANCE 2024” Research Symposium, hosted by the Society of Industrial Scholars, took place on 16th August 2024, in the Senate Board Room at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ). The event was a dynamic platform for academics, researchers, and students from across the country to present their cutting-edge research and innovations.

This year’s symposium featured presentations across 11 distinct tracks, showcasing a wide array of topics spanning Information Technology, Humanities, Medical Sciences, Engineering, and Environmental Sciences. The breadth of subjects reflected the interdisciplinary nature of the event, fostering insightful discussions and cross-collaborations among various academic fields.

The symposium welcomed esteemed guests, including Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Chairman of Rupavahini, as the Guest of Honor, alongside Prof. S. M. C. U. P. Subasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science at USJ. Prof. Ranjith Premasiri delivered a thought-provoking keynote address, where he underscored the critical need to bridge the gap between nature and technology in modern scientific endeavors.

A key highlight of the event was the final round of the highly anticipated Innovation Competition, “FUTURUM 2024.” The competition, focused on advancements in

Artificial Intelligence (AI), brought forward groundbreaking ideas that emphasized the role of AI in shaping the future. The finalists demonstrated impressive applications of AI technology, sparking conversations about its potential in transforming industries.

The event not only underscored the significant research contributions of USJ's students but also provided an invaluable platform for future innovators to exchange ideas and collaborate. UNI-IN ALLIANCE has become an important event within the university, promoting academic growth and fostering a spirit of innovation that transcends traditional academic boundaries.

As the 10th edition of this annual gathering, UNI-IN ALLIANCE 2024 once again solidified its position as a pivotal event that continues to shape the future of research and innovation at USJ and beyond.

Research Grant Awarded to Dr. E.U.U. Rathnathunga by SLCARP

The Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) has approved funding for a project proposal submitted by Dr. E.U.U. Rathnathunga, titled "Development of an Efficient Semi-Artificial Vertical Farming System Supplemented with Sunlight and Bio-Fertilizer for Selected Solanaceae Crops." The project has been awarded a grant of Rs. 3.71 million to be conducted over a period of three years, starting in 2024.

The project aims to develop an advanced vertical farming system that incorporates natural sunlight and bio-fertilizers to enhance the cultivation of selected crops from the Solanaceae family. In addition to contributing to the advancement of agricultural practices, one of the significant outcomes of the project will be the graduation of a PhD candidate.

This funding marks a significant step in supporting innovative agricultural research and development in Sri Lanka, with the potential for impactful contributions to the country's agricultural sector.

CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AO CMF Course: Advances in TMJ Surgery and Management of TMJ Disorders



The Department of Oral Surgery at the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, in collaboration with AO Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (AO CMF) and the Department of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, successfully organized a Cadaveric Workshop titled 'AO CMF Course—Advances in TMJ Surgery and Management of TMJ Disorders'. The event took place on 7th August 2024 and focused on hands-on training in Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) surgery.

The practical sessions, conducted in the Dissection Hall of the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, offered an immersive learning environment for participants. The workshop provided a valuable platform for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery trainees and surgeons to enhance their skills and knowledge in TMJ surgery through direct interaction with cadaveric specimens.

This collaborative effort between the faculties of Dental and Medical Sciences underscored the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation in advancing medical education and training, contributing significantly to the development of expertise in TMJ surgery.

Pioneering collaboration: University of Sri Jayewardenepura partners with Daraz for innovation and growth

On 26th July 2024, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Daraz, a leading e-commerce company, at the university's premises. This partnership marks a milestone in fostering cooperation between academia and industry to drive innovation and growth.

Daraz, which operates through www.daraz.lk and its mobile application, has made a remarkable contribution to shaping the course COM3373 – Sustainable Commerce, offered to third-year students in the Department of Commerce. This collaboration emphasizes the mutual understanding and goodwill between the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) at the university and Daraz, aiming to enhance the development of both organizations. The MoU was signed by key representatives from both parties. From the university, Senior Professor M. M. Pathmalal (Vice Chancellor), Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama (Dean, FMSC), and Dr. Vilani Sachitra (Head of the Department of Commerce, FMSC) were present. Daraz was represented by Mr. Kaushal Mendis (Chief Peoples Officer), Mr. Prabuddha Batheegama (Human Resource Business Partner), and Mr. Jonathan Sundersingh (Manager – Talent Acquisition).

Both parties expressed their openness to exploring further areas of collaboration, acknowledging the dynamic and evolving relationship between academia and industry. This partnership sets a strong foundation for future innovation and growth in both sectors.



FAHS Contribution to Teaching and Learning in Nursing

Prof. A.A. Thamara D. Amarasekara, from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, FAHS, conducted a workshop on Problem-Based Learning and Team-Based Learning for Nursing Tutors at the School of Nursing Galle on 30th July 2024.



Successful first phase of the 'විවරණ' 2024 seminar series concludes

The first phase of 'විවරණ' 2024, an Advanced Level Accounting Special Seminar organized by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA) of the Department of Accounting at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was successfully held on 27th June 2024 at the National College of Education, Maharagama. Now in its 6th consecutive year, the seminar drew over 850 A/L students and accounting teachers, cementing its reputation as an important event for Advanced Level Accounting education.

A distinguished panel of resource persons from the Department of Accounting, including Mr. Rangajeewa Herath, Dr. Isuru Manawadu, Mr. Chathuranga Sandaruwan, and Ms. Amali Henadirage, led the seminar, providing students with valuable insights into key accounting concepts. The event also featured speeches by Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, and Senior Professor Kennedy Gunawardana, Head of the Department of Accounting, who emphasized the critical role of accounting education.

Sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, the seminar was honored with an address from the institute's president, Mr. Heshana Kuruppu. Additionally, motivational talks were delivered by Ishini Amararatne, the top scorer in the 2022 A/L Commerce stream, and Sakithma Yatawatta, both students of the Department of Accounting, inspired attendees with their personal academic journeys.



The feedback from both students and teachers was highly positive, with participants expressing appreciation for the seminar's clear and practical approach to accounting education.

In the lead-up to the event, a special segment on ITN's Piniwiyana program aired on 17th June 2024, raising awareness about 'විවරණ' 2024. The program featured a discussion led by Ms. Amali Henadirage, AFMA Coordinator; Kalindu Ladduwahettige, President of AFMA; and Ishini Amararathne, Secretary of AFMA, highlighting the department's leadership in accounting education and AFMA's contribution to student development.

With the successful conclusion of its first phase, 'විවරණ' 2024 continues to build momentum as a premier platform for A/L Accounting students, with further phases eagerly anticipated.

Addressing Sri Lanka's economic crisis through reform

An article titled "ආර්ථික පෙරළලියක අවශ්‍යතාවය" by Dr. (Mrs.) Dinesha Siriwardhane was published in the Lankadeepa newspaper on May 20, 2024. In this insightful piece, Dr. Siriwardhane discusses the urgent need for an economic revolution in Sri Lanka, addressing the country's current macroeconomic challenges, structural imbalances, and the pressing lack of essential reforms.

The article emphasizes the importance of adopting modern economic strategies to overcome the ongoing crisis. Dr. Siriwardhane stresses that without significant policy changes, the nation's economic recovery will remain stalled. She highlights the need for innovative



policy reforms, targeted investments, and a rethinking of Sri Lanka's economic priorities.

Dr. Siriwardhane's analysis focuses on the necessity of transforming the country's economic structure by emphasizing sustainable development. She points out that addressing systemic weaknesses through appropriate reforms is key to reviving the economy and achieving long-term stability.

This article is part of the ongoing national conversation on Sri Lanka's economic future, igniting discussions on potential recovery strategies. Dr. Siriwardhane's perspectives offer critical insights into the steps required to steer the country toward a stable and prosperous economic future.

Defining the path for Sri Lanka's future leadership

On August 29, 2024, Mr. Pasindu Dissanayake appeared on Sirasa TV's Mawatha program, aired by Newsfirst, where he discussed the topic "රටේ මිළඟ නායකයා ඇරඹිය යුතු තැන" (Defining the path for Sri Lanka's future leadership). Dissanayake emphasized the importance of visionary leadership in guiding Sri Lanka out of its current socio-economic challenges. He outlined key areas where the next national leader should focus, including strengthening governance, fostering sustainable economic growth, and addressing critical social issues such as poverty and education reform.

This thought-provoking discussion highlighted the need for strategic decision-making and effective policies to ensure long-term stability and prosperity for the country. The program resonated with viewers, sparking public debate on leadership and the nation's future.



The Department of Public Administration takes part in National Dialogue on Tax Fairness and Social Contract for Sustainable Development Goals



The Department of Public Administration of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura proudly participated in the 'National Dialogue on Fair Taxation and Stronger Social Contract for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),' held on 12th June 2024, at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo. This significant event was co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Finance/Inland Revenue Department, the University of Moratuwa, and the National Innovation Agency of Sri Lanka. The primary objective of this forum was to foster a national discourse on fair taxation by bringing together diverse perspectives from key stakeholders. The dialogue addressed key issues surrounding taxpayer perceptions in Sri Lanka, with a focus on tax morale, trust, fairness, transparency, and the digitalization of tax systems. Dr. R. P. C. K. Jayasinghe, Head of the Department, alongside three undergraduates, actively participated in this vital conversation.

Collaborative Programme with the Road Development Authority, Sri Lanka

A project proposal titled 'Value-added Tree Planting on Highways, Interchanges, and Roadsides' for the Paliyagoda interchange was submitted to the Road Development Authority (RDA) on 15th May 2024. The programme was coordinated by Dr. E.U.U. Rathnathunga, Senior Lecturer, and Dr. J.A.S. Chathuruka, Head and Senior Lecturer, both from the Department of Urban Bioresources. Senior Professor Pradeep Jayaweera, Dean of the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, also provided consultation, along with project assistants K.L. Kalutharavithana and K.G.P.C. Lakshan, undergraduates from the Department of Urban Bioresources.

The programme's landscape planning design was submitted for practical implementation at the interchange, with the objective of increasing the economic value of Sri Lankan roadsides and promoting sustainable practices aligned with zero carbon emission goals. This initiative highlights the collaborative efforts between academic and government sectors in enhancing the environmental and economic potential of national infrastructure.



"රන් අස්වනු පුරන් කුඹුරු අක්කර 100" Pilot Project Successfully Concludes First Phase

The first phase of the "රන් අස්වනු පුරන් කුඹුරු අක්කර 100" pilot project, conducted by the 306 A2 Sinha District in collaboration with the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, was successfully concluded with a ceremony held on 3rd April 2024 in Polgasovita. The project, which focused on promoting farming among local farmers, identified and supported 8 farmers out of 46 from the Western Province.

Sinha Prasad Gamage, President of the 306 A2 Sinha District, along with Project Coordinator B.K. Mr. Wimalasiri, and other members of the Sinha Social Committee, represented the project. Agricultural Instructors from the Department of Agriculture participated as resource persons, providing essential support throughout the initiative.

Senior Professor Pradeep Jayaweera, Dean of the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, along with Senior Lecturers Dr. Udari Rathnathunga, Dr. Surani Chathurika, and Dr. Anusha Ekanayake, as well as Demonstrator Ms. Prathibhani Maddumage from the Department of Urban Bioresources, and Senior Lecturer Dr. Janitha Walpita from the Department of Multidisciplinary, also contributed significantly as resource persons.

According to Mr. Wimalasiri, the first phase of the project successfully cultivated 50 acres of fallow paddy fields in the Horana, Bandaragama, and Kahathuduwa areas during the 2023–2024 season. A notable achievement of the project was the introduction of a low-cost silica promoter developed by the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, which is still at the research stage. This silica promoter was introduced as an alternative to the expensive imported versions currently in use and was provided to farmers at the start of the season.

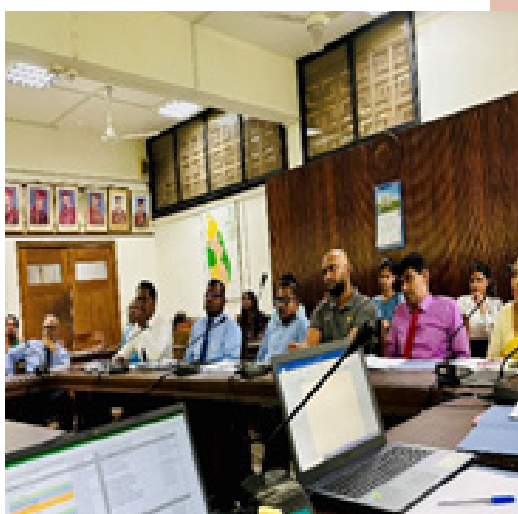
The success of the programme was attributed to the collective efforts and contributions of all the resource persons involved, ensuring a productive and impactful outcome for the participating farmers.



Stakeholder Consultation Meeting for Curriculum Revision



The Department of Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura conducted a stakeholder consultation meeting on August 21, 2024, in the Faculty Boardroom. The meeting was part of the ongoing curriculum revision process for the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Economics and Bachelor of Arts Honours in Financial Economics degree programs, with the revised curriculum scheduled for implementation in January 2025.



The consultation session brought together representatives from both government and private sector organizations, as well as academia. The discussion focused on identifying existing gaps in the current curriculum and gathering valuable input to guide the revision process. The session concluded with a series of insightful suggestions that will significantly contribute to the enhancement of the programs.



The Department of Economics remains committed to delivering a curriculum that meets the evolving needs of industry and academia, ensuring our graduates are well-prepared for future challenges.

Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience: World Environment Day Celebrated by Green HUB



Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience

RESOURCE PERSON
Dr. Padmi Ranasinghe
 Doctoral Researcher, Urban Planning and Public Policy (Environment and Sustainability)
 College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs,
 University of Texas at Arlington, USA

MODERATOR
Dr. Pavithra Jayasinghe
 Doctoral Student
 Department of Geography
 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 University of Sri Jayawardenapura

ORGANIZED BY
Prof. Dr. Asha Nimali Fernando
 Coordinator- Project on Environmental ethics and Mental wellbeing
 Green Hub
 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 University of Sri Jayawardenapura

JUNE 07 | P.M. 6.00

VIA ZOOM



Meeting ID : 966 9442 6011
 Passcode : GRH@1234

Green HUB successfully celebrated World Environment Day with a series of impactful green initiatives. As part of its project on Environmental Ethics and Wellbeing, an online session was held on 7th June 2024, focusing on the theme “Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience.” The event, which began at 6 PM, demonstrated Green HUB’s commitment to addressing urgent environmental challenges.

The session provided valuable insights into the significance of land restoration and the importance of building resilience against desertification and drought. Participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing knowledge and exploring practical solutions to contribute to global environmental restoration efforts.

The event brought together a diverse audience, all of whom contributed to meaningful conversations. By the end of the session, Green HUB successfully reinforced the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling these critical environmental issues and fostering a more sustainable future.

Restoring Heritage: Repatriation of Vedda Artifacts from Swiss Museums



In 2022, a significant project was initiated by Dr. Oshan Wedage, Dr. Patrick Robers, Dr. Gayhard, Mr. Basil Thuring, and Mr. Uruwarige Wannilattho to repatriate cultural items belonging to the Vedda community of Sri Lanka, which had been held in Swiss museums since the colonial period. The items, including human skeletons and cultural artifacts collected by the Sarasin Brothers, were thoroughly examined and confirmed as belonging to the Vedda by the team. With their deep historical roots, the Vedda community made a formal request for the return of these items to preserve their cultural heritage.

The Swiss government agreed to the repatriation, and in late May 2024, a formal handover ceremony was held in Basel. The artifacts were successfully returned to Sri Lanka, where they will be conserved by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura before being displayed at the Vedda museum, 'Wariga Mahagedara'. This project, involving key institutions from both Switzerland and Sri Lanka, was marked by the presentation of a commemorative trophy in recognition of the contributors' efforts to restore the cultural heritage of the Vedda people.

The successful return of these artifacts signifies an important step in preserving Vedda's cultural identity and history and highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing historical injustices.

More details: <https://www.bazonline.ch/basel-cramer-gibt-skelette-an-ureinwohner-zurueck-904901517958> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jL-9puZtbJ8>

'Nethusara' CSR initiative: Vesak program at Pillawa Bodiraja temple

On 19th May 2024, as part of the 'Nethusara' Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, a special Vesak program was carried out by the first-year undergraduates of the Department of Commerce in collaboration with the Commerce Students' Society (COMSO). The project involved a temple cleaning effort and the offering of Vesak lanterns at the Pillawa Bodiraja temple. This meaningful event demonstrated the students' commitment to community service and reflected the spirit of Vesak through acts of generosity and goodwill.

'Harmonies of Hope' by FMS Arts Circle



On 13th July 2024, the Arts Circle of the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura visited Shantha Sevana Hospice in Maharagama, spending meaningful time with the patients and staff. The visit was filled with moments of fellowship, where students sang songs and shared messages of hope with the patients.



In addition to the emotional support provided, the group also made a significant donation of medical supplies, including 17 bottles of Polibion (250ml), over 5,000 Vitamin B tablets, 160 tablets of Augmentin, 32 bottles of Zincovit (200ml), 60 rolls of 1/2-inch microplasters, 20 rolls of 1-inch microplasters, and 21 tubes of Metrogel (30g).



To further enhance the experience, the students provided evening tea for the patients, creating an atmosphere of warmth and care. This visit proved to be an enriching experience for the students, allowing them to connect with the patients and offer both practical and emotional support.

O/L History Revision Seminar II Held at Hinguralakanda Maha Vidyalaya



Following the success of last year's seminar, which significantly improved the History results at Hinguralakanda Maha Vidyalaya in the 2023 G.C.E. Ordinary Level exams, the History and Archaeology Students' Association organized a second *G.C.E. O/L History Revision Seminar* on 2nd May 2024. The event, held at Hinguralakanda Maha Vidyalaya in Dehiowita, attracted over 60 students preparing for the 2024 exams.

The seminar covered key areas such as multiple-choice questions (MCQs), map marking, and essay-type questions, all based on past exam papers and the current syllabus. Students received assistance with subject-related issues and learned valuable exam strategies, aimed at improving their performance in the upcoming exams. Following the seminar, a book donation was made to the school library, further supporting the students' academic development.

Lecturer Damith Ranagala, along with undergraduate members of the association, led the seminar. The event was well-received, with participants appreciating the practical insights gained. Additionally, the seminar provided valuable teaching experience for the undergraduates involved, contributing to both student success and educational development at Hinguralakanda Maha Vidyalaya.

Empowering future leaders in higher education through the “Nenasara” project

On 29th May 2024, the Marketing Management Association (MMA) of the Department of Marketing Management, in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted around 100 students and staff from Amunekandura Maha Vidyalaya, Monaragala, as part of the “Nenasara” project.

Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, inspired the students by highlighting the importance of higher education, the proud history of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and the numerous opportunities available within the faculty. Prof. Kusumalatha Lankamulla, Head of the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication, also encouraged students to set high aspirations, emphasizing the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences’ distinguished heritage.

The students participated in a guided campus tour, exploring academic and recreational facilities, and interacted with enthusiastic undergraduates. This visit aimed to ignite both academic and personal growth, leaving a lasting impression on the students’ educational journeys.



Faculty of Dental Sciences Launches Tobacco and Areca Nut Cessation Initiative



On 17th August 2024, the Faculty of Dental Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura hosted a training programme focused on "Tobacco and Areca Nut Cessation." Organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Dental Association and sponsored by the World Dental Federation, the event aimed to raise awareness among dental professionals and students about the harmful effects of tobacco and areca nut use, particularly their links to oral cancers and other potentially malignant oral diseases.

The programme featured expert presentations from distinguished speakers, including Prof. Hemantha Amarasinghe, Head of the Department of Community Dental Health, Prof. Ruwan Jayasinghe, Professor in Oral Medicine and Periodontology, and Dr. Nilantha Rathnayake, Consultant in Community Dentistry. Their discussions emphasized the critical role of cessation efforts in reducing the risk of oral health crises.

Building on the success of this event, a community outreach initiative will follow. In this second phase, dental students and academic staff from the Faculty of Dental Sciences will participate in screening efforts for oral potentially malignant lesions and oral cancers, while continuing to promote tobacco and areca nut cessation within the broader community.

AWARDS OF ACADEMIC STAFF

Presidential Awards for Inventions 2020

The University congratulates Dr. Chathuri Senanayake of the Department of Biosystems Technology and Dr. Rajitha Gunaratne of the Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology on receiving the prestigious "Presidential Awards for Inventions 2020." Presented by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, this award recognizes their exceptional contributions to technological innovation.

Dr. Senanayake's pioneering work in Food Technology and Dr. Gunaratne's advancements in Polymer Technology demonstrate their dedication to pushing the boundaries of scientific research. Their achievements reflect the innovative drive within the university's academic community.

This recognition highlights not only their individual successes but also their commitment to developing impactful solutions in their respective fields.



Mr. Dilan Rajapakshe secures third place in ADB Thesis of the Year Award 2024

Mr. Dilan Rajapakshe, a lecturer in the Department of Business Economics, has been awarded third place in the Public Management cluster of the Thesis of the Year Award 2024, presented by the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Programme. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional research contributions by scholars in the field of development.

The award was presented for his thesis titled “Unveiling the Power of E-government in Combatting Public-sector Corruption across Heterogeneous Societies,” which was completed as part of the Two-year Master’s Programme in Public Policy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan.

The recognition highlights the significance of the research in contributing to the broader understanding of how e-government systems can play a pivotal role in addressing public-sector corruption across diverse societal contexts.



Achieving Excellence in Sri Lankan Nursing Education

Prof. Lalitha Meegoda, Professor in Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura received an award in recognition of achieving excellence in Sri Lankan nursing education at the “Sri Lanka Nurses Day” organized by the Sri Lanka Nurses Association.



AWARDS OF STUDENTS

BIS Student Wins Best Startup Award at SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards 2024

Tharindu Fernando, a 3rd-year student from the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has won the Best Startup Award (Central Province) at the prestigious SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards 2024.

The SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards recognize outstanding achievements in the Sri Lankan IT industry. This recognition is for his innovative startup, "IdeaCipher", a company he registered in his second year. IdeaCipher has a number of revenue-generating mobile apps each with over 100,000 downloads.

Tharindu's achievement highlights the Department of Information Technology's as well as Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among its students. The Bachelor of Business Information Systems program equips students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the field of information technology, and Fernando's success is a testament to the program's effectiveness.



Undergraduates from the Department of Chemistry win top honors at SLAAS Poster Competition for Green Chemistry Innovation

Undergraduates from the Department of Chemistry of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the SLAAS Inter-University Undergraduate Poster Competition under Theme 1 and the Best Green Chemistry Poster Award.

In a proud achievement for the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, a team of talented undergraduates from the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, achieved a remarkable feat by securing 1st place in the SLAAS Inter-University Undergraduate Poster Competition 2024 under the theme "Chemical approaches for sustainable urban waste management" and the "Best Green Chemistry" Poster Award 2024 which was awarded by the Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science: Section E2 in Collaboration with SLAAS Environment Committee held on the 01st of June, 2024.

The winning team comprised the following dedicated undergraduates:

1. R.R. Hewawasam
2. D.S. Elvitigala
3. A.W.W.M. Gunawardena
4. S.M.R.I. Opatha
5. N.H.A.D. Dilshan

With the expert guidance of Dr. Chandima Narangoda, the Lecturer-in-charge, and Dr. Asitha Cooray's immense assistance, the team skillfully tackled the complexities and broad nature of the theme, ultimately gaining recognition for their exceptional performance. The team expressed gratitude for the support from the Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Champa Jayaweera, and the other lecturers in the department.



Winning the Gold at the FoodSci Quest 2024: A Proud Moment for the Department of Food Science and Technology



In a remarkable achievement, the Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura has once again proven its excellence. At the Inter University Quiz Competition Food Sci Quest 2024 on 23rd August 2024, held alongside the prestigious Pro Food Pro Pack 2024 exhibition, our students have brought honor to the university by winning the coveted gold medal.

Hosted by the Institute of Food Science and Technology Sri Lanka, the competition saw the participation of 35 Food Science undergraduates from 11 state universities across the country. The challenge was intense,

with the brightest minds in the field competing for top honors. Representing the Department of Food Science and Technology, four dedicated third year students Nishadi Rodrigo, Charmy Vijedasa, Upeksha Rupasinghe, and Amandi Cooray stood out among the competitors. Their hard work, knowledge, and teamwork were on full display throughout the event. Among them, Upeksha Rupasinghe emerged as the most outstanding Food Science undergraduate, securing the gold medal with her exceptional performance.

The competition was a rigorous test of knowledge and skills, with teams from each university putting forth their best efforts to secure victory. The quiz aimed to showcase the talent and dedication of students in the field of Food Science and Technology, while also contributing to the reputation and glory of their respective universities. It featured a viva format with surface intermediate and deep levels, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of the participant's knowledge and skills.

This victory not only highlights the individual brilliance of Upeksha but also underscores the collective strength of our department. It is a testament to the quality of education and training provided at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

J'pura Astrals: Pioneering Space Research with Silver Award at Global Competition



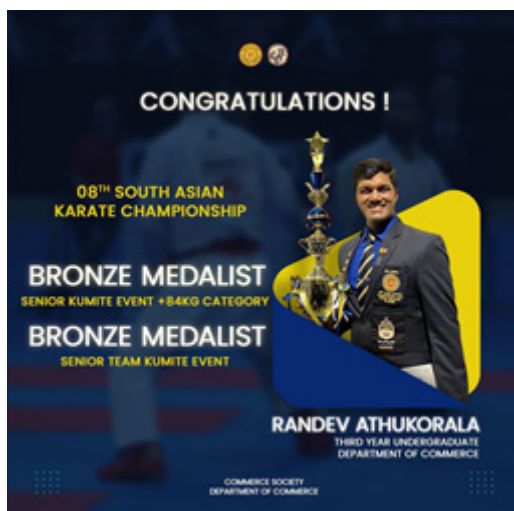
The J'pura Astrals, a team of undergraduates from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, made a significant mark at the International Space Science and Scientific Payload Competition (ISSSP) with their project focused on studying the effects of space radiation on plant growth in microgravity. Competing under the theme "Creative Design of Space Experiment," the team was one of only 15 selected globally to advance to the final round of this prestigious competition.

The ISSSP, sponsored by the Chinese Society of Astronautics, Beijing Institute of Technology, International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, fosters innovation and collaboration in space exploration. The J'pura Astrals focused on a vital area of research: understanding how space conditions, particularly radiation and microgravity, affect plant growth. Their experiment is crucial for the future of long-duration space missions and planetary colonization, as it explores ways to protect plants from the harmful effects of space radiation, contributing to food sustainability for astronauts.

The team, consisting of Dinithi Dissanayake, Chamika Wijesinghe, Oshadi Weerasinghe, Pavith Amarasinghe, Gayodya Thenuwara, and Dulanka Mallawarachchi, progressed through the preliminary round to compete in the final, held from 11th to 13th August 2024 in Hong Kong. Their efforts were rewarded with the Silver Award, along with the Best Poster Award. Additionally, their project supervisor, Prof. (Mrs.) M.L.C. Attygalle, was honored with the Best Instructor Award for her exceptional guidance.

This achievement reflects the team's dedication and innovation, and it underscores the University of Sri Jayewardenepura's growing contribution to space research, particularly in exploring sustainable life support systems for future space missions.

Outstanding achievement by Randev Athukorala at the 8th South Asian Karate Championship.



The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is proud to recognize the outstanding achievement of Randev Athukorala, a third-year undergraduate from the Department of Commerce, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Randev earned two bronze medals at the recently concluded 8th South Asian Karate Championship held in Thimphu, Bhutan. He competed in both the Senior Kumite +84 Kg category and the Senior Team Kumite category. His dedication and perseverance have brought great honor to the university and the nation.

Outstanding Academic Performance of Students from the Department of Accounting



Eight students from the Department of Accounting earned the distinction of being among the Top 18 GPA holders in the 2018/19 batch. Notably, Binara Perera achieved the highest GPA of 4.00, earning the title of 'Batch Top'. This accomplishment reflected their commitment to academic excellence, successfully balancing their studies with professional qualifications, internships, responsibilities with AFMA, and extracurricular activities.

The students who received this recognition were Binara Perera, Akila Gamage, Saviesha Samaraweera, Neka John, Vidhusha Suntharalingam, Rishan Ashrof, Nadini Amarakoon, and Shaini Karunanayaka.

Victory for two Medical Students at Bestweb.lk 2024

The Bestweb.lk 2024 tournament, organized by LK Domain, recently concluded with Medtalks.lk earning significant recognition. Managed by students from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Medtalks.lk was awarded the title of the most popular website in the Health and Welfare category. Additionally, the site secured a bronze medal as the third-best website in the same category.

Medtalks.lk, led by medical students Hiran Chamuditha Munasinghe and Kaweesha Akalanka from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, is dedicated to providing free health education and awareness on safe health practices. Operating across multiple social media platforms, the service aims to bridge the knowledge gap in Sri Lanka, answer health-related inquiries, and debunk health myths. All content is reviewed by medical professionals, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the information shared.

In just one year, Medtalks.lk has garnered over 70,000 subscribers, with videos reaching up to a million views. The platform's success is a testament to its commitment to improving health literacy in Sri Lanka, in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3): Good Health and Well-being. The recognition at Bestweb.lk 2024 highlights the platform's impact and growing influence in the field of health education.



ASN Inter-University Neurology Quiz 2024: USJ Secures 1st Runners-up

The Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists (ASN) Inter-University Neurology Quiz 2024 was held on 3rd August 2024 at Courtyard by Marriott Colombo. This prestigious event brought together 12 medical faculties from across Sri Lanka, all competing for the championship title in neurology.

Designed to challenge participants' knowledge in basic, applied, and clinical neurology, as well as the history of neurology, the competition featured 40 thought-provoking questions. Correct answers were awarded 10 marks, while wrong responses resulted in a 5-mark deduction. The teams competed using a buzzer system, making quick thinking and rapid responses crucial to success.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) team performed impressively, leading in the first half of the competition and ultimately securing the position of 1st Runners-up with 65 marks. The champions of the quiz were the University of Colombo, who scored 95 marks, while General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) came in third place with 35 marks.

The USJ team, consisting of Dinul Doluweera, Lambhotharan Yoganathan, Rashmi Munasinghe, and Hasithi Galhena from the 27 batch, was coordinated by Dr. Nilanka Perera from the Department of Medicine. The team benefited from extensive training led by Senior Professor Saman Gunathilake, along with a dedicated group of staff and alumni including Prof. Saraji Wijesekara, Dr. Shiran Paranawitharane, Dr. Shanindra de Alwis, Dr. Indika Wettasinghe, Dr. Roshan Liyanage, Dr. Hirantha Hettige, and Dr. Nawashika Harshani.

The team's outstanding performance was a reflection of their dedication, hard work, and the high-quality training they received. Their success is a testament to the potential and high standards of medical education at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



USJ victorious at the Inter-Medical Faculty Debating Championship 2024



The highly anticipated second annual “Inter-Medical Faculty Debating Championship 2024” hosted by the English Literary Association of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on the 12th, 13th and 14th of July 2024.

This remarkable event brought together 13 enthusiastic medical student teams representing 9 medical faculties from across the island where participants engaged in spirited debates and showcased their eloquence on critical medical topics.

The preliminary rounds of the tournament took place on the 12th and 13th of July via the Zoom online platform. The outstanding performances of four teams; UoP Med A, Japura Med A, Kelaniya Team B and Ragama Rebuttle Rebels throughout intense series of debates secured their places in semifinals.

The grand final and award ceremony, held on the 14th of July 2024, marked the culmination of this prestigious competition. The event took place on Colombo South Teaching Hospital and was graced by the presence of Dr. Thushari Dissanayake, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Nilanka Perera, the Senior treasurer of the English Literary Association, FMS and many other members of the academic staff along with colleagues and spectators who came to witness the remarkable performances of emerging generation of future doctors. After an intense and mind -lowing debate showcasing exceptional skill and intellect of the finalists, University of Peradeniya (UoP) Med A and Japura Med A, Japura Med A emerged as the champions of Inter-medical faculty Debating Championship 2024.

Ashfaaq Sheriffu from team Japura Med A was awarded the “Best speaker” title.

The future editions of the Inter-medical Faculty Debating Championship will surely continue to nurture and empower the bright minds of tomorrow.



The legacy of Japura debaters was further illuminated by Senara Vidanapathirana (29th batch) and Amirah Izadeen (30th batch) by qualifying as semifinalists in Hulfsdorp debates 2024 organized by Sri Lanka Law College. This victory was remarkable as out of 28 teams only 8 teams were selected for the semifinal rounds.

This year marked many historical milestones in debating of English Literary Association inspiring upcoming generation of debaters to follow those footsteps towards the victory while promoting healthy competition.

AWARD CEREMONIES ORGANIZED

Certificate Awarding Ceremony *Diploma in Polymer Processing Technology and Process Analysis Offered by the Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology, Faculty of Technology*



The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the 'Diploma in Polymer Processing Technology and Process Analysis', conducted by the Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology (MMT), Faculty of Technology (FOT), University of Sri Jayewardenepura completed successfully on the 29th September, 2024 for its first batch of students of the intake 2022-2023.

This one- year diploma (SLQF 03) programme, offered by the polymer processing technology specialization of the Department of MMT, FOT, has been designed to introduce basics in polymer processing technologies and high-tech polymer instrumental analysis related to various fields including plastics, latex, dry-rubber, tyre & non-tyre products, nanotechnology, polymer

composites etc. The diploma consists of both theory and practical modules related to those fields. The diploma mainly focuses in opening up new employment opportunities in the polymer field for the young generation passing G.C.E. A/L, help advancing into higher hierarchical levels for the current employers in the field, and as an added qualification for technical executives and managers working or intend to work in the polymer industry.

The programme officially commenced on 07th January, 2023 with its first intake of 18 members. The first round got successfully completed on 29th September, 2024 passing all the members where 09 members achieved *Distinctions* while 06 obtaining *Merit Passes* and 02 ended up with *Passes*. Applications for the second batch will be called in near future.

LAUNCH OF BOOKS, JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, ETC.

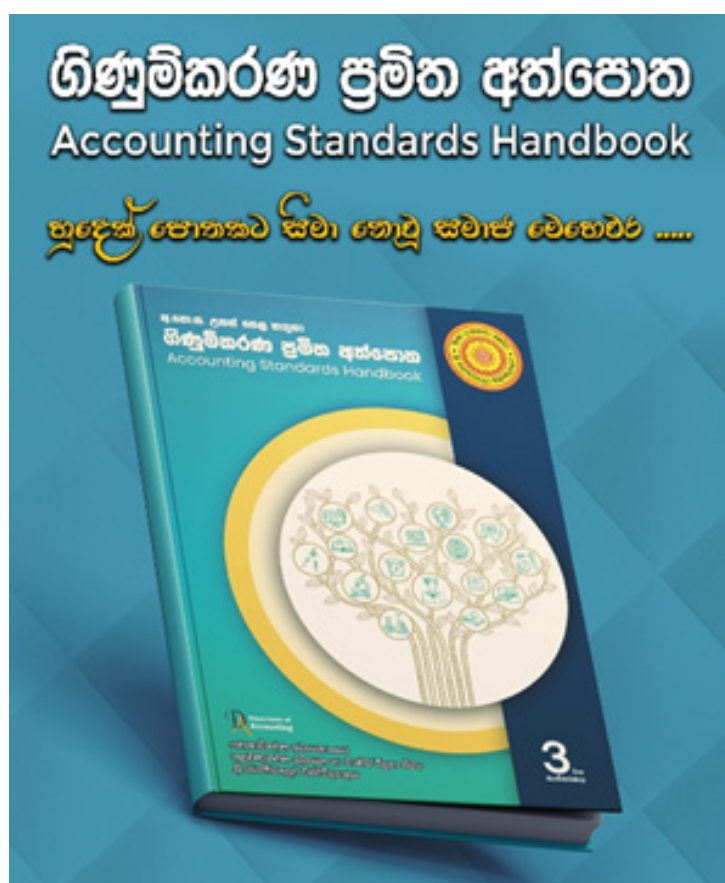
Launch of Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics Volume 13, Issue 1 (2024)



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA
SRI LANKA

The Department of Business Economics launched the Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics (SLJBE) Volume 13, Issue I (2024 May) which is a peer-reviewed bi-annual journal on the field of business economics and related research fields. Volume 13 (Issue 1) comprises eight (08) articles from scholars and, twenty-eight (28) manuscripts were received for the 2024 May Issue. Dr. (Mrs.) D.R.J. Siriwardhane served as the Executive Editor of the journal, and Ms. S.G.U.S. Chandrarathne and Ms. Sathsarani Weerasinghe served as the Editorial Assistants. The department congratulates the authors and highly acknowledges the invaluable service of reviewers.

Publication of the ගිණුම්කරණ ප්‍රමිත අත්පොත (Accounting Standards Handbook)



The third edition of the 'ගිණුම්කරණ ප්‍රමිත අත්පොත' was published by the Department of Accounting and the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the department, in June 2024. The objective of the "Accounting Standards Handbook" is to equip Advanced Level Accounting students with essential knowledge of accounting standards and to update both students and teachers on recent amendments to these standards. Written in accessible Sinhala, this handbook covers the relevant scope of all nine accounting standards pertinent to the Advanced Level exam, along with the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting. This handbook is authored by the lecturers of the Department of Accounting. The main sponsor for this handbook was the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

In parallel, AFMA organized a project to distribute 300 Accounting Standards Handbooks free of charge to accounting teachers in underprivileged schools across the country. It provides essential knowledge of accounting standards and helps keep them updated on recent amendments, ensuring equitable access to this important educational tool for schools that may lack such resources.

'Sandakada 2024' Anthology of Buddhist Poetry Launched by APA on 'Poson' Poya



The Students' Association of Public Administration (APA) successfully organized 'Sandakada' 2024, an anthology of Buddhist poetry, in celebration of Poson Poya. The virtual launch took place on 28th June 2024, via Zoom, bringing together competitors from universities across Sri Lanka.



The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Head of the Department of Public Administration, Senior Prof. Kennedy Gunawardana, Head of the Department of Accounting, and Ms. Udara Dikkumbura, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education. The judging panel led by Prof. Saman Chandra Ranasinghe and Senior Lecturer Tharindu Dhananjaya, selected the top eight poems among more than 70 poems to fostering literary talent among Sri Lankan students.



SPORTS

The Sri Lankan Kabaddi Federation has announced the list of participants of the Sri Lanka National Kabaddi Team for Bangabandhu Cup 2024 International Kabaddi Tournament to be held at Bangladesh and International Women's Kabaddi League. Two female undergraduates from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura were able to secure their places in the squad.

The squad includes Ms. Prasadini Madhuwanthi a second year undergraduate from Department of Sport Science and Management, Faculty of Applied Sciences. She has won many awards to her name which includes the First Prize at the Sri Lanka School National Kabaddi Championship.

The squad also includes Ms. Saduni Madushani a first year undergraduate from Department of Sport Science and Management, Faculty of Applied Sciences. From 2016 to 2022 she has been a member of the winning team of the Southern Provincial Inter School Kabaddi Championship and a members of the team which placed second in the Inter School Kabaddi Championship (Samastha Lanka). At the same time, she was chosen for the National Youth Kabaddi Squad in 2022.



Umayanga Mihiran Leads Sri Lankan Junior Boxing Team to Victory at 34th International Championship



Penang, Malaysia – In a thrilling showcase of skill and determination, the Under 20 Junior Boxing Team from Sri Lanka, led by Umayanga Mihiran, emerged triumphant at the 34th International Boxing Championship held from December 11th to 15th. This prestigious event brought together nearly 120 athletes from twelve countries worldwide.

Umayanga Mihiran, a first-year student at the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, showcased exceptional leadership and talent. Competing in the challenging weight class of 51 kg, Umayanga secured the gold medal by defeating the most talented fighters from the participating nations.



As the national champion in the 51 kg weight class, Umayanga's strategic prowess and determination shone on the boxing ring, earning praise and recognition for Sri Lanka. The junior boxing team's outstanding achievements mark a historic moment for Sri Jayewardenepura Boxing, demonstrating the prowess and dedication of the young athletes under Umayanga's leadership.



The University and the entire nation extend their heartfelt congratulations to Umayanga Mihiran and the Junior Boxing Team for their remarkable success on the international stage. This victory not only adds glory to Sri Lanka's boxing legacy but also inspires aspiring athletes across the nation.

Umayanga Mihiran, a first-year student at the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura were among several boxing players who were chosen

to participate in the selection rounds for Summer Olympics 2024. This selection was based on the performances at the 96th National Boxing Championship. The selection rounds for Paris Summer Olympics will be held from 23rd May – 03rd June 2024 at Bangkok, Thailand.

Selection rounds for the 2024 Summer Olympics to be held in Paris is being held at Kathmandu, Nepal. The selection rounds from 13th -15th May are exclusively for the South Asian athletes.

Many Sri Lankan athletes participated in these selection rounds hoping to make their Olympic dreams a reality. Mr. Chameera Ginige a Physical Education Instructor at the Department of Sports Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences has been selected as a semi-finalist for Table Tennis. Semi-final round will be held on 15th May 2024 (tomorrow) and he will be facing a Tabel Tennis player from Nepal.

The Novices Boxing Tournament 2024 organized by the Sri Lanka Boxing Association was held at Royal-MAS Arena Colombo from 12th May - 16th May 2024. Approximately about 88 athletes around the participated for this tournament.

During the Tournament Savidu Wanniarachchi, Sanjana Chethani and Thilina Dissanayake representing J'pura Sports Club, showed immense perseverance and determination by showcasing exceptional talent and securing high achievements.

Both Savidu Wanniarachchi who competed under 48Kg weight class and Thilina Dissanayake who competed at the 67.5 kg weight class won Bronze Medals. Sanjana Chethani which cometed under Women's 48kg weight class won the Silver. The highlight of the achievements is that even though there were many boxers who have participated in at national level tournaments, this was the fir time for the participants to win medals.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Student-organized Popcorn Dansala for Vesak festival

Vesak, a festival widely celebrated across Sri Lanka, is marked by acts of goodwill and generosity. In commemoration of Vesak full moon Poya day on the 23rd of May 2024, the second-year students of the Department of Entrepreneurship, with the support of their lecture panel, organized a popcorn Dansala. This event showcased their commitment to social contribution and involvement in meritorious activities, embodying the spirit of Vesak through acts of kindness and service to the community.



TALENTS '24: A Celebration of Aesthetic Excellence

Organized by the Arts Circle of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the 'Talents' concert has become the most anticipated aesthetic event of the year. With participation from all batches within the faculty, the concert continues to surpass the high standards set by previous years.

'Talents 2024', held on 30th June 2024, was once again a remarkable success. The undergraduates of the faculty overcame numerous challenges to deliver captivating performances that left the audience in awe. Their resilience and artistic spirit were recognized and applauded by the chief guest, Prof. Praneeth Abesundara, who graced the occasion.

This year's event, centered on the theme 'Mother Sri Lanka,' featured a diverse range of performing arts, including music, dance, painting, and drama. The virtuosity of the instrumental performances, paired with soulful melodies, highlighted the hidden musical talents of the medical and dental undergraduates. Meanwhile, the electrifying choreography and compelling monologues showcased their artistic depth and creativity.

Beyond delivering an enthralling performance, 'Talents' serves as an important platform for medical and dental students to broaden their horizons and relieve academic stress. The faculty strongly believes that nurturing creativity is essential in fostering empathy and emotional intelligence, qualities that are vital in any profession, especially in the medical field.

Talents remains a stage where artistry and humanity intersect, and the event is already eagerly anticipated for next year, promising to once again showcase the vibrant energy and exceptional talents of its performers.



'Ama Dhara' Dharma Sermon Program

The Students' Association of Public Administration at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully organized the annual "Ama Dhara" Dharma Sermon as part of the 'Sadaham Suwaya' program, in celebration of the Vesak festival on the 21st of May 2024, at the Paramadharmawardhanaramaya Temple in Raththanapitiya. The occasion was graced by the revered presence of Venerable Rukmalpitiye Dheerananda Thero, whose insightful sermon elevated the spiritual atmosphere of the event. Adding to the significance, the Head of the Department of Public Administration, the academic staff, and students, also honored the ceremony with their esteemed participation. The event provided a sacred opportunity to commemorate the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and passing. It served as a meaningful platform for attendees to reflect deeply on the Buddha's teachings, renewing their commitment to universal values.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Subhasha – Sinhala Language Challenge Tournament 2024

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences recently organized the Subhasha – Sinhala Language Challenge Tournament 2024, a prestigious competition that celebrated the Sinhala language and showcased the linguistic abilities of its students. The event provided a platform for participants to demonstrate their proficiency in various aspects of the language and literature, engaging in rounds that tested eloquence, comprehension, and creative expression.

The competition was intense, with each contestant displaying exceptional skill. After a series of challenging rounds, the results highlighted the remarkable talent within the faculty. N. H. Isuru Ushanta de Silva from the Department of History and Archaeology secured first place, impressing the judges with his profound understanding and innovative approach to the Sinhala language. In second place, W. Kavindu Dilshan from the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing his deep knowledge and articulate expression. Third place was awarded to Nalindu Dilshan Jayawardene, also from the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication, who demonstrated remarkable skill and creativity.

The competition not only underscored the participants' dedication to the Sinhala language but also reflected the faculty's ongoing commitment to fostering linguistic and cultural excellence. The winners are to be congratulated for their outstanding achievements.



Celebrating Unity and Tradition

Bringing a vibrant spirit of unity and tradition alive to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the History and Archaeology Students Association organized a joyous Sinhala-Hindu Awurudu festival, on 02nd May 2024, at the premises next to the University Gymnasium.

Under the guidance of the Head of the Department, Sen.Lect. (Ven.) Dambara Amila Thero, the Students Association, together with the support of the academic and non-academic staff of the department, brought a festive atmosphere filled with traditional Awurudu games and cultural performances. The Department Awurudu festival was not only a platform for cultural exchange but also an opportunity to tighten the bonds among students within the department. The students and staff members enthusiastically participated in a variety of Awurudu games, highlighting their skills and embracing the joyful customs associated with the Sinhala and Hindu New Year. The History and Archaeology Students Association extends their heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to making this event a success.



Piano and Keyboard Techniques Workshop for Creative Music Students

On 7th March 2023, the Department of Music and Creative Technology hosted a Piano and Keyboard Techniques Workshop aimed at providing second-year undergraduates of the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Creative Music Technology and Production with an immersive learning experience. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Sachiththa Fernando, a musician and visiting lecturer from the University of Kelaniya.

Throughout the workshop, students participated in a series of in-depth sessions exploring advanced piano and keyboard techniques. The sessions were designed to be interactive, with hands-on activities allowing students to apply the techniques in a practical setting. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding and enhance their technical skills in music production.



Department of Food Science and Technology at ProFood ProPack Exhibition 2024: Showcasing Innovation and Excellence



The ProFood ProPack & Agbiz exhibition is a premier event that brings together industry leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts from the food and packaging sectors. This year's exhibition, held at BMICH from 23rd to 25th August, provided a significant platform for showcasing the latest trends, technologies, and products shaping the future of the food and packaging industry. Department of Food Science and Technology representing University of Sri Jayewardenepura, had the honor of participating in this prestigious event, where we showcased our innovative products and highlighted our contributions to the food science and technology field.

Our university's presence at the ProFood ProPack & Agbiz exhibition showcased our commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry through advanced research and innovation in the food sector. Our participation highlighted our cutting-edge research, product development, and the collaborative efforts of our students and faculty. Through our exhibits, we aimed to demonstrate the practical applications of our research and the impact of our innovations on the food and packaging industries.

We have been at the forefront of developing sustainable and innovative food products that meet the evolving needs of consumers. At the exhibition, we presented ten of our latest products, each representing the culmination of extensive research, development, and testing by our dedicated teams.

Here are the ten innovative products we showcased at the ProFood ProPack Exhibition:

1. **"EcoYuca"** - A biodegradable packaging material made from cassava processing byproducts (peel) offering an eco-friendly alternative to conventional plastic, reducing waste and pollution.



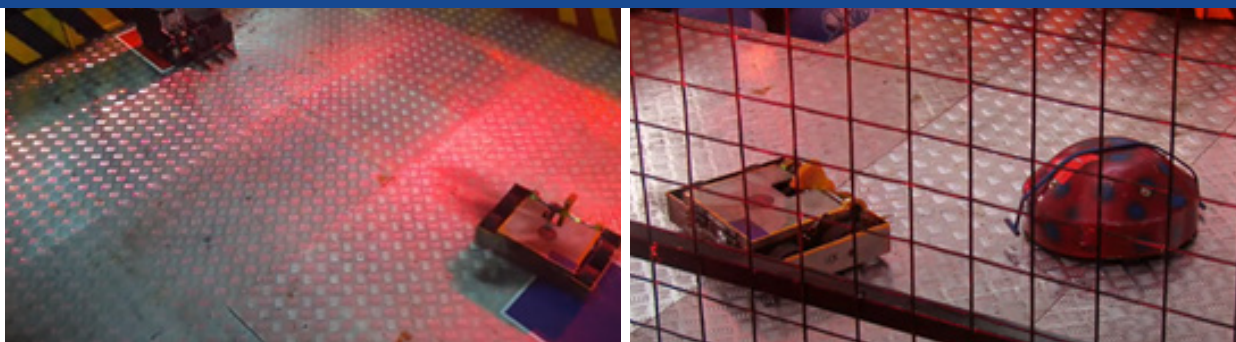
2. **"Fermerize"** - A vegan, non-dairy beverage made by fermenting rice milk with Lactobacillus, offering probiotic benefits, and being lactose and allergy-free.
3. **"Flavens-Yellow Bread"** - A low-glycemic wheat bread infused with spices, making it a healthier alternative to white bread, especially for people with diabetic conditions. It is cost-effective, easy to produce, and appeals to health-conscious consumers.
4. **"Glowcado"** - A natural, eco-friendly orange food colorant made from avocado seeds offers a sustainable alternative to synthetic dyes. The seeds, typically considered waste, are rich in polyphenolic compounds, providing color and antioxidant benefits.
5. **"KapSpray"** - A natural spray that accelerates fruit ripening and acts as an insect-repellent, antifungal, and antibacterial agent. It ensures quick ripening while maintaining the natural quality.
6. **"Malty Brew"** - A nutrient-rich malted drink powder made from soybeans, green grams, ginger, and watermelon seeds, offering antioxidant properties, immunity-boosting properties, and many other health benefits.
7. **"Purovita"** - A water purification solution made from natural Sri Lankan ingredients, using Ingini seeds to reduce harmful contaminants. It ensures clean water by reducing hardness, heavy metals, and turbidity.
8. **"Spice Whirl"** - A protein-rich, nutrient-dense spread made with probiotics, offering a healthy alternative to traditional spreads. It supports lactose intolerance, improves digestion, and boosts immunity.
9. **"Tropio"** - A virgin coconut oil-based fat spread including natural antioxidants designed as a healthier, plant-based alternative to conventional fat spreads available in the market.
10. **"Turpogin"** - A pasteurized milk blend infused with ginger, turmeric, and pomegranate peel extracts, offering enhanced immunity and anti-inflammatory benefits.



Our university's stall at the ProFood ProPack Exhibition was a vibrant hub of activity, attracting visitors with its innovative design and interactive displays. The stall featured dedicated sections for each of our products, allowing visitors to experience them up close. Undergraduates were present to provide insights, answer questions, and demonstrate the unique features of our offerings. The stall served not just as a display area, but as a space for meaningful engagement and knowledge sharing, embodying the spirit of collaboration that lies at the core of our university's mission.

Participating in the ProFood ProPack Exhibition was an enriching experience for our university, providing a platform to showcase our innovations and engage with industry leaders. We take pride in our contributions to the food and packaging industries and are excited to continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible through research and innovation.

Electro Combat Robot Battle 2024: A Groundbreaking Event in Robotics



The Mechatronics Technology Students Society (MTSS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura proudly hosted its first-ever ElectroCombat Robot Battle, a revolutionary event that brought together students, professionals, and tech enthusiasts to explore the world of robotics. This historic competition, held on August 3rd, 2024, marked a major milestone in the university's journey toward promoting innovative technology and pushing the boundaries of engineering.

In the lead-up to the event, MTSS organized two successful awareness sessions—one in April and another in May. These sessions ignited excitement and curiosity, drawing significant attention from the university community and beyond. The engaging sessions highlighted the immense potential of robotics, while also encouraging students to unleash their creativity and tackle real-world engineering challenges.

ElectroCombat was not just about competition; it was an educational experience that fostered

collaboration, teamwork, and problem-solving. Participants dove deep into the intricacies of robotics, developing cutting-edge solutions and gaining valuable hands-on experience. The event showcased the boundless possibilities of robotics technology, empowering future leaders in the field.

With the competition successfully concluded, the event has propelled Sri Lanka's robotics landscape to new heights, leaving an indelible mark on the tech community. MTSS is proud to have created a dynamic platform for aspiring innovators, and ElectroCombat will undoubtedly continue to inspire the next generation of robotics enthusiasts.

AFMA මුද්ධානිවන්දනා 2024

'AFMA මුද්ධානිවන්දනා 2024' was organized by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting, to commemorate Vesak Poya. The program featured a Dhamma sermon delivered by the Venerable Dehiwala Sunanda Thero at Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya on the evening of 20th May 2024, followed by a 'Belimal Dansala' at the same venue. Additionally, an inter-university online Vesak lantern competition was held, with first place awarded to Imesh Perera's team from the University of Vocational Technology, second place to Sandil Dissanayake's team from the University of Colombo, and third place to Kavishka Fernando from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Workshop on 'Embracing change: adaptability and agility'

On 8th July 2024, the second-year students of the B. Com (Hons) degree program at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura participated in a workshop under the managerial skills development II course. The workshop, titled 'Embracing change: adaptability and agility', featured Ms. Shanika Kumarasinghe, lecturer (probationary) at the Department of Commerce, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), as the guest speaker.

The session was organized by Ms. Nisansala Kulathunga, course coordinator of COM 2176 – managerial skills development II. It focused on equipping students with essential skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving business environment. The workshop provided practical insights into how adaptability and agility can enhance success in both personal and professional spheres, preparing students to handle the complexities of modern work environments.

AFMA FitTrek 2024: A Three-Day Leadership and Team-Building Program



The Department of Accounting, in collaboration with the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), successfully organized 'AFMA FitTrek 2024', a three-day outbound leadership and team-building training program held from 8th to 10th July 2024 at the Commando Regiment Training School in Uva Kudaoya.



Co-sponsored by ACCA Sri Lanka and Hirdaramani Group, the event involved lecturers and second-year students in a series of activities, including leadership exercises, confidence and endurance training, and entertainment sessions. The program was designed to enhance students' skills while fostering stronger bonds among participants.

This initiative highlighted the Department's ongoing commitment to promoting personal growth and holistic development for its students.

AFMA මැතිවුරු 2024

The Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting, organized 'AFMA මැතිවුරු 2024' in commemoration of Esala Poya on 20th July 2024. The event involved distributing flowers and incense sticks to worshipers at the Sri Vijayarama Rajamaha Temple and the Sunethra Devi International Buddhist Centre, facilitating spiritual observances. This initiative not only promoted religious and cultural values but also strengthened the bond between the university and the surrounding community.



A comprehensive insight into Germany's education and economic systems

The Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura recently hosted an engaging session as part of the BCC 2276: English for Business Economics course. Held on May 2nd, 2024, at 8:00 am, the session offered students an in-depth exploration of Germany's education and economic systems.

The workshop was conducted by Ms. Gina Mitschke and Ms. Tessa Glöckner, postgraduate students from the University of the German Armed Forces in Munich, Germany. It provided students with a detailed understanding of Germany's educational structure and the role it plays in preparing individuals for their professional futures.

The session opened with a comprehensive overview of Germany's education system, highlighting its unique structure, curriculum, and key elements that contribute to fostering academic excellence. Students explored the philosophies behind Germany's approach to education, appreciating its importance in shaping well-rounded professionals.

Following the discussion on education, the focus shifted to the economic system of Germany. Ms. Mitschke and Ms. Glöckner presented an in-depth analysis of the country's economic policies, market trends, and key industries, offering valuable insights into the factors driving Germany's economic strength and global standing.

The participation of Dr. P.J. Fernando, Head of the Department of Business Economics, and Ms. Malthi Weerakkodi, English Coordinator, along with other lecturers, added further depth to the session, contributing to its success.

Overall, this workshop offered students a unique opportunity to gain a broader perspective on the global business environment. By understanding the education and economic systems of a country like Germany, students are better prepared to navigate the complexities of international business and make meaningful contributions to the global economy.

The Department of Business Economics remains dedicated to organizing such informative sessions to empower students with the knowledge and skills required for their future professional journeys.



ECONINSIGHT 2024 Online Economics Seminar

The Business Economics Students' Association recently held the first phase of the 9th consecutive ECONINSIGHT seminar series, designed to support A Level Economics students. This phase, held online on 7th May 2024, was conducted by Dr. Janaka Fernando, Head of the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Dr. Ananda Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer of the department.

Dr. Fernando and Dr. Rathnayake, both experienced educators, provided valuable mentorship and guidance to the participating A Level Economics students, offering insights and support to enhance their understanding of the subject.

The Business Economics Students' Association remains committed to its mission of empowering future economists and expresses gratitude to all participants and supporters for their contributions to the success of the event.

The final seminar of ECONINSIGHT 2024 is scheduled to take place on 21st May 2024, at the National Youth Services Center in Maharagama.



ECONINSIGHT 2024 A/L English Medium Special Seminar



The Business Economics Students' Association successfully concluded the final phase of the 9th ECONINSIGHT Advanced Level Economics seminar series with an online session held on the 11th of June 2024 via Zoom. This English Medium seminar focused on the critical topic of Central Banking and was conducted by Mr. Asel Hettiarachchi, a lecturer from the Department of Business Economics.

This virtual event marked a significant milestone, bringing together A/L Economics students from various districts, and providing them with invaluable knowledge.

As ECONINSIGHT 2024 came to a close, the Business Economics Students' Association expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants, supporters, and the dedicated speakers who contributed to the seminar's success. The Association reaffirmed its commitment to empowering future economic leaders and supporting their educational journeys.



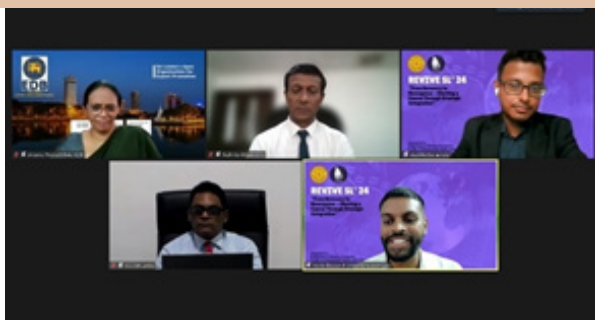
REVIVE SL '24 Industry Forum: "From Recovery to Resurgence - Charting a Course Through Strategic Integration"

The REVIVE SL '24 Industry Forum, themed "From Recovery to Resurgence – Charting a Course Through Strategic Integration," was held on Friday, 7th June 2024, via Zoom, starting at 2:00 p.m. Organized by the final-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the forum facilitated an engaging dialogue between industry experts and students.

The panel of distinguished experts included Mr. Shanil Fernando, Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka; Mr. Nalinda Wijerathna, Director of Commerce and Head of Regional Affairs and Trade Promotion Divisions at the Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka; Mr. Mathisha Arangala, Lead Economist at Verité Research; and Ms. Anoma Premathilaka, Acting Additional Director General of Development at the Sri Lanka Export Development Board. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Asel Hettiarachchi, a lecturer from the Department of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The forum focused on key areas of international trade and economics, providing participants with valuable insights into Sri Lanka's current economic landscape and the opportunities ahead. Each panelist brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the discussion, contributing unique perspectives on strategic integration and the future of Sri Lanka's economy.

The event concluded with positive feedback from both participants and panelists, marking another successful initiative organized by the undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics. The Department extends its gratitude to all contributors and looks forward to future events that continue to foster learning, collaboration, and growth.



'ඵලුර භවසක්' – A special university tour organized by BIZCON



Following the successful second phase of ECONINSIGHT 2024, the Business Economics Students' Association organized a special university tour for the A Level students who participated in the physical seminar. This exclusive tour took place at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, providing students with a unique opportunity to experience university life firsthand.



This immersive experience not only enhanced the students' understanding of higher education but also inspired them to envision their future academic and career paths. The Business Economics Students' Association remains committed to supporting young economists and looks forward to organizing more enriching experiences.

Talent Show of MAR 2272



On 28th August 2024, the K.A. Munasinghe Hall became a hub of creativity as the 2nd-year undergraduates of the Department of Marketing presented a vibrant talent show. This event, part of the evaluation for the MAR2272: Fine Arts course, showcased a diverse array of student talents, including singing, instrumental performances, dancing, acting, compering, crafting, painting, poetry, and story writing.

The students' performances were evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges, each an expert in their respective field. Under the coordination of Ms. Sachithra Somasiri, the students displayed exceptional proficiency both on stage and behind the scenes.

The talent show not only emphasized the artistic abilities of the participants but also highlighted their organizational skills in managing and executing a large-scale event, reflecting a holistic approach to their Fine Arts education.

ECONINSIGHT 2024 A/L Economics Physical Seminar

The Business Economics Students' Association concluded the physical phase of the 9th ECONINSIGHT Advanced Level Economics seminar series, which was held on the 21st of May 2024, at the National Youth Services Center in Maharagama.

Over 500 students from Colombo, Kalutara, and Gampaha districts attended the seminar, marking a significant milestone in supporting A/L Economics students. Led by Dr. Janaka Fernando, Dr. Ananda Rathnayake, and Mr. Pasindu Dissanayake, the seminar provided invaluable mentorship and insights. As the event came to a close, the Business Economics Students' Association expressed sincere gratitude to all participants and supporters for their enthusiastic contributions, which played a pivotal role in the seminar's success. The Association reaffirmed its commitment to empowering future economic leaders.



Annual General Meeting of Students' Association of Public Administration- 2024



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Public Administration (APA) for 2024 was successfully held on 29th August 2024 at the New Faculty Board Room, FMSC, marking the appointment of the new Executive Board and Committee Members for 2024/25. The event brought together esteemed academics and passionate undergraduates from the Department of Public Administration.

Key highlights included a welcome speech by the outgoing Co-President, the presentation of the previous AGM's meeting minutes, and the Income and Expenditure statement by the outgoing Treasurer. The formal appointment of the new Executive Committee was the centerpiece of the event, followed by insightful speeches from the Head of the Department and the newly appointed President. Adding significance to the occasion, a symbolic grant of donations to the Association and the Department was made, underscoring the commitment to growth and service. The event concluded with the awarding of Certificates of Appreciation to the outgoing committee.

INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Study Tour to Malaysia – MBA / M.Sc. in Management Programme 2024



A foreign study tour to Malaysia was organized from 3rd to 7th June 2024 for students of the MBA / M.Sc. in Management programme by the MBA Unit of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The tour saw the participation of over 40 students and five professors. Despite the challenges of organizing such a tour during an economic crisis, it marked the first foreign study tour after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary objective of the tour was to provide students with international exposure and the opportunity to connect theoretical knowledge with practical experiences. The itinerary included visits to various organizations such as universities, factories, theme parks, and resorts, allowing students to observe management practices in different settings. Students described the tour as one of the most exciting and enriching experiences of their academic lives.

During the visit, the group had the opportunity to visit INTI International University, where discussions were held on potential partnerships between the two institutions. These discussions, led by INTI representatives Prof. Goh Khang Wen, Pro Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement, and Prof. Asokan Vasudevan, Director of International Relations and Collaboration, focused on the possibilities of conducting collaborative research and organizing student exchange programs.

In addition to the academic engagements, the students visited the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's largest and oldest pewter craft company. They also explored key attractions such as Batu Caves, Genting Highlands, including a cable car ride, and the Sunway Lagoon theme park, offering a blend of educational and recreational experiences.

The study tour was accompanied by several professors, including Wasantha Perera, Chairman of the Board of Study, Faculty of Graduate Studies; Saman Yapa, Former Chairman of the Board of Study, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce; Y.K. Weerakoon Banda; Hemamalie Gunatilake; and Kumudini Sriyalatha, Coordinator of the MBA / M.Sc. Programme. Their involvement further enriched the academic value of the tour, enhancing the students' learning experiences in an international context.



Completion of Corporate Mentoring Program – Phase 03

The Department of Marketing Management proudly announced the successful completion of the third phase of its Corporate Mentoring Program. This initiative provided third-year students with a valuable opportunity to gain insights and experiences from the corporate sector, significantly enhancing their soft skills and helping them identify their true interests for future internships and careers.

The students had the privilege of direct interactions with 52 industry professionals, many of whom are distinguished alumni of the Department of Marketing Management. This exposure has been instrumental in preparing students for the professional world, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in their future careers.

As part of the program's conclusion, two comprehensive online feedback sessions were held. One session focused on gathering feedback from the mentors, while the other offered mentees the opportunity to share their experiences.

Dr. Sandamali Galdolage, Head of the Department, and Ms. Sachithra Somasiri, Coordinator of the Program, expressed their sincere gratitude to all the mentors for their exceptional contributions to the success of the program.



Blockchain Applications for Modern Society



The Department of Information Technology conducted a session titled "Blockchain Applications for Modern Society" on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, as part of the ongoing DIT Tech Talks series.

The session offered an introductory overview of Blockchain technology and its current applications, providing attendees with insights into the various uses of Blockchain in today's world. Additionally, the event included guidance on developing and presenting ideas for the International Blockchain Olympiad competition. Mr. Gabriel Chan, Secretary General of the International Blockchain Olympiad, served as the resource speaker for the event.

The session aimed to inspire participants to explore further the potential of Blockchain technology in modern society.

Alumni Members of the Department of Public Administration Visit the University



The University of Sri Jayewardenepura recently hosted a reunion for the distinguished alumni of the 1987/88 and 1988/89 batches of the Department of Public Administration on 1st June 2024. The event took place in the Main Board Room of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, providing a nostalgic setting for this special occasion.

The reunion was honored by the presence of several prominent alumni, including Prof. Aruna Shantha, Prof. Disa Bandara, and Mrs. Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary of the Ministry of Education. Their participation underscored the significant contributions made by the department's graduates in the fields of academia and national governance.

The event was further enriched by speeches from Senior Prof. Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, and Dr. R. P. C. K. Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of Public Administration, adding to the celebratory atmosphere of the occasion.



Discussion for partnership and collaboration with the Siam University, Thailand

The Students' Association of Public Administration of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, held fruitful discussions with Mr. M. L. Duminda Jayaranjan, Dean of International College, Siam University, Thailand on 18th June 2024. This meeting marks an important step toward fostering collaboration between the two universities that reflects the department's commitment to expanding its global connections and offering students a broader perspective through international partnerships. The Department of Public Administration is eager to pursue this partnership with Siam University, aiming to create meaningful opportunities that will positively impact its students, enhance academic exchange, and promote cross-border educational initiatives. Representing the department, Dr. R. P. C. K. Jayasinghe, Head of the Department, along with the President and Secretary of the Association of Public Administration, participated in the discussions with Mr. Jayaranjan.



USJ Gynaecology and Obstetrics Unit Collaboration Elevates Maternal Care at Colombo South Teaching Hospital



In conjunction with World Mother's Day, the Colombo South Teaching Hospital's 'Maathru Saheli' program, initiated by the USJ Gynaecology and Obstetrics Unit, commenced on May 12. Spearheaded by Professor Manori Gamage, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the program aims to revolutionize maternal care.

Under the guidance of the Sri Lanka Obstetrics and Gynaecology Association and the Ministry of Health, the program prioritizes providing essential facilities for birth assistants to accompany pregnant mothers during childbirth. By allowing mothers to choose a trusted companion for support during delivery, the initiative seeks to alleviate the psychological distress often associated with hospital births.

The program addresses concerns about uncomfortable hospital conditions and inadequate facilities, which have previously led to distressing experiences for mothers during childbirth. By fostering collaboration between medical professionals and maternal support networks, such as family members or close friends, the initiative aims to create a supportive environment conducive to positive birthing experiences.

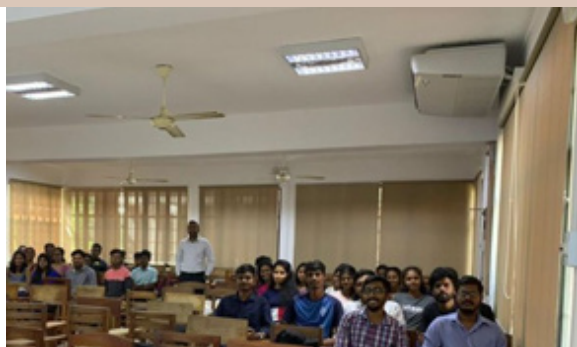
Professor Manori Gamage emphasized the importance of empowering mothers and ensuring their comfort throughout the childbirth process. By sharing their experiences with a trusted companion, mothers can approach childbirth with confidence and a sense of security, leading to more positive outcomes for both mother and child.

The collaboration between the USJ Gynaecology and Obstetrics Unit and the Colombo South Teaching Hospital underscores a commitment to enhancing maternal care standards and prioritizing the well-being of mothers during childbirth. This initiative marks a significant step towards improving maternal healthcare practices in Sri Lanka.

Guest Lecture on Project Budgeting and Risk Management for BIS Students

A guest lecture on the critical topics of Project Budgeting and Risk Management was held on 3rd May 2024, for third-year BIS degree students. The session was conducted by Mr. Prabhath Gunawardhana, Program Manager at LSEG, and organized by Dr. Shashikala Subhashini as part of the Software Engineering course. The lecture emphasized the significance of project budgeting and risk management in the modern software development industry.

LSEG, a prominent software development company in Sri Lanka, had previously hosted a field visit for BIS students last year as part of its continued engagement with academic programs.



Workshops on Professional Skills Development



A workshop series was organized for the third- and fourth-year students of the Department of Entrepreneurship under the subjects ENT: 3371 and ENT:4342, aimed at enhancing their professionalism, both in the corporate world and as entrepreneurs starting their own businesses. This series was organized from 22nd to 26th August (for the fourth years) and from 28th to 31st August (for the third years).

The sessions were conducted by Dr. Manesha Kodithuwakku and a team from Union

Assurance. The resource persons focused on giving students exposure to interview skills, business etiquette, presentation techniques, problem-solving, negotiation skills, and the key requirements of the corporate sector.

The workshop series was organized by Ms. G.R.T. Perera and Ms. Malshadi Serasinghe, under the guidance of Ms. Naduni Gunawardene, as part of the course requirements.