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SAVIDU

# NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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University of Sri Jayewardenepura at the front line in the National COVID response

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

# NEWS

## Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge assumed duties as the Chairman of University Grants Commission

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge assumed duties as the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) on 3rd January 2020 at 2.00 pm, at the University Grants Commission. Honorable Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardhana, Minister of Information and Communication Technology and Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Secretary to the Ministry, Mr. Anura Dissanayake and UGC Secretary participated in the event. In addition, Prof. W. G. Balagalla, UGC Officials, Deans of the Faculties of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Professors, Members of USJ Alumni Association and other academic staff members were among the participants in the event. Prof. Amaratunga assumed duties amidst pirith chanting of the Most Venerable Maha Sangha, including Rev. Prof. Madagampitiye Wijithadhamma and Rev. Prof. Medagoda Abhayathissa.



# Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage assumed duties as the 26th Vice-Chancellor of USJ



Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage assumed duties as the 26th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on the 09th of September 2020 at 8.00 a.m. amidst the blessings of the Maha Sangha.

One of the greatest possessions of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is a Sacred Relic of Lord Buddha, which was presented to the most Venerable Welivitiye Sri Soratha Thero by the King of Thailand. The Relic is a symbol of the value of the University. The bestowal of the Sacred Relic, on any newly appointed Vice-Chancellor at the assumption of duties, has been a tradition in the university: it is presented by the Chancellor of the University. What is reflected through this tradition is the veneration, respect and duty expected from the successive Vice- Chancellor. Following the university tradition, the Chancellor - Chief Prelate (Mahanayake) of Kotte Sri Kalayani Samagri Dharma Maha Sangha Sabha of Siyam Maha Nikaya, Ven. Dr. Ittapana Dhammalankara Maha Nayake Thero - bestowed the relic upon the newly appointed Vice- Chancellor, Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage.

In his speech, Senior Prof. Liyanage elaborated his plans for the development of the university. He requested the assistance of the staff body of the university, in his realization of the vision and the implementation of the mission – by uplifting the standards of education within the university, while providing students with a comfortable learning environment and the staff with a satisfied working environment. Ven. Balangoda Sobhitha Thero and Ven. Kirinde Assaji Thero (Venerable members of the Council of the university), the Maha Sangha of the academic staff, Snr. Prof. Liyanage's family members (Snr. Prof. Janitha Liyanage, Vice-Chairperson, University Grants Commission and son), Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Deans of the Faculties, Librarian, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Management, Council members of the university, Members of the University Alumni Association, Emeritus Professors of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, retired academic, administrative and non-academic staff members and other members of the academic, administrative and non-academic staff were present at the occasion.

# Prof. Renuka Nilmini appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Technology



Prof. A. H. L. R. Nilmini, Head of the Department of Engineering Technology of the Faculty of Technology, was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Technology for 3 years by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, on 9th September 2020. Prof. A. H. L. R. Nilmini obtained her BSc Chemistry Special Degree from the University of Colombo and her PhD in the field of polymers used in drug and gene delivery, from Cardiff University, UK. In 1999, she started her career as a Research Officer attached to the Polymer Chemistry Department of Rubber Research Institute (RRI) of Sri Lanka: since 2012, she had worked as the Head of the Polymer Chemistry Department of RRI before she joined the University. In 2016, she joined the Biosystems Technology Department, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura as a Senior Lecturer and in the same year she was appointed as the Head of the Department. In 2018, she was appointed as the Head of the Engineering Technology Department.

# Senior Prof. Aloka Pathirana appointed as the New Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences



Senior Professor A. Aloka Pathirana was appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura with effect from 17th November 2020. He obtained his MBBS degree from Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in 1990 and joined the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as a probationary lecturer in 1996. He obtained his Master's in Surgery from University of Colombo in 1997 and received his FRSC from Royal College of Surgeons of England, United Kingdom in 1998. He was appointed as Chair Professor in July 2020. He was also appointed as Head, Department of Surgery in June 2020 and performed administrative responsibilities till he assumed duties as Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences.

# Mr. A.B. Welivita appointed as the new Registrar of USJ



Mr. W. M. R. W. Anurudda B. Weliwita was appointed as the 10th Registrar of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with effect from 30th November 2020. He was appointed to this position following the retirement of Mr. K. G. Britto. A pirith ceremony was held at the Registrar's Office in the administration building on 30th November 2020 at 9. 15 a.m. with the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, all Deans and other senior administrative staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Mr. Weliwita completed his primary education at Sangarajapura Maha Vidyalaya, Kandy and secondary education at St. Sylvester's College, Kandy. He is an alumnus of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, having graduated in the year 2000 from the Department of Business Administration in the Faculty of Management Science and Commerce. In 2002, Mr. Weliwita joined Rajarata University as an Assistant Registrar. He became a Senior Assistant Registrar in 2008. He completed his Master's in Management in 2013 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Afterwards, he joined the university administrative staff in May 2015 as the Deputy Registrar of the Academic Establishment Division and since then has provided an outstanding service to the university.

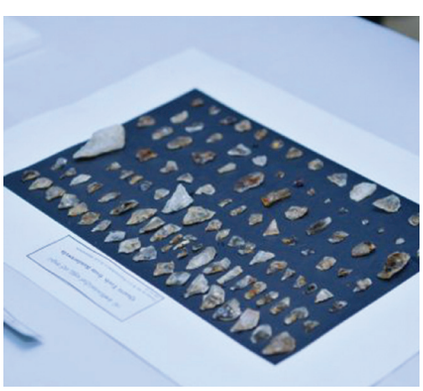
# 58th Anniversary Celebration and Exhibition of the Archaeology Museum of USJ

The Archaeology Museum of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura celebrated its 58th Anniversary on 31st October 2019. In parallel to the anniversary celebrations, an exhibition was held at the Museum, organized by the Department of History and Archaeology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Vice-Chancellor of the University), Prof. K. M. Alexander Kapukotuwa (Head of the Department of History and Archaeology) and academic members of the faculty participated in the museum exhibition and in the anniversary celebrations.



This Archaeology Museum is the first archaeological museum in Sri Lanka, which was established by the founder of the Vidyodaya University, erudite monk Venerable Weliwitiye Sri Soratha Nayaka Thero. A large hall in the Sri Sumangala Library had been allocated for an archaeological museum, according to the journals published in the Vidyodaya University of Ceylon. Mr. Leelananda Kaldera had been appointed as an exhibitionist, because of his extensive experience in museum administration and archeological excavation. The museum was officially opened on October 28th, 1962.









The Archaeological Museum was restructured and renovated by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, as the Vice-Chancellor, with the assistance of Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara (the former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), Professor K.M. Alexander Kapukotuwa (Head of the Department of History and Archeology), Mrs. N.M.P. Neththasinghe (Museum Curator) and other staff members.

Some of the valuable antiquities in the museum are: a four-and-a-half-foot-long Sigiri portrait; a fourteen-page copy of the 1815 Sinhala-English Covenant (Kandyan Convention) from the State Archives; Roman, Portuguese, Dutch and Indian coins; coin-making molds; models of famous Khajuraho Group of Monuments in India; parts of sculptures of wood; the part of a historic human skull found in the Pahiyangala cave; rock relics found at Abhayagiriya; a collection of models donated by the High Commissioner of India demonstrating the excellence of Indian art in the era of Mohenjodaro Harappa, and exotic tiles, carvings and clay tablets. Also, the Japanese tile, which survived the Hiroshima Nagasaki disaster, is a reminder of the horrors and tragedies of World War II. Ven. Kamburupitiya Thero's exploration related to the Ambalantota area has also added several important items to the museum, such as idols and ancient earthen lamps. The model statues of Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva are also among the collection.

# USJ to start Bio-Medical Engineering in collaboration with US Universities in Texas

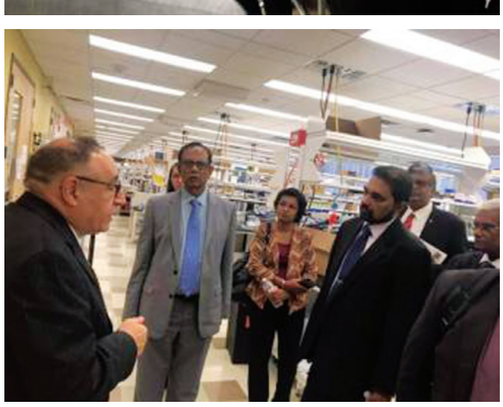


The University of Sri Jayewardenepura explored the possibility of starting a Bachelor of Engineering course in Bio-Medical Engineering in collaborating with the Bio-engineering Department at Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Houston in the future. As an initial step, USJ academics visited Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Houston.

Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Dean Faculty of Technology, Professor Sudantha Liyanage, Dean Faculty of Medical Sciences, Prof. Surangi Yasawardena, Dr. Akila Subasinghe, former Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Ranil De Silva, Director, World Class University Project and Prof. Hiran Amarasekera, Director, Digital Media and Communication visited various US Universities in Houston, Texas.







Dr. Bandula Wijay, one of Sri Lanka's most eminent inventors of medical devices and the Ambassador for Science Technology and Innovation, residing in Texas, USA organized this tour. Dr. Wijay has also patented more than 30 medical devices and is the founder of four medical device companies in USA. The delegation visited the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME) at the University of Houston, Texas. During the visit, the prospects in the fields of Biomedical Informatics, Remote Sensing and Brain-Computer Interfacing (BCI) were discussed in detail. The Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Houston extended its support for developing a program at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

USJ academics also visited Baylor College of Medicine to learn about American medical education. Prof. Will Clifton of Rice University stressed the importance they place on supporting student start-up projects during their degree program. The University has a "Design Kitchen" for the undergraduates to develop their new medical devices and conducts regular 'BOOT CAMPS' for entrepreneurship and innovation/ invention.

# Academic Collaboration between USJ and China – VC's Visit to Chongqing Jiaotong University




Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, visited Jiaotong University in China on the 29th of September 2019. This university was established in 1951 as a public university. While performing in different fields of studies, their main expertise focuses on the field of Engineering. The main purpose of the visit was to establish a long-term collaboration between the Universities.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two universities. Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge signed on behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura while Prof. Huang Chengfeng, Vice President of Chongqing Jiaotong University signed for the other party. Mr. R.N. Weerasinghe (Chairman - Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Professor Mao Minyong (Director of International Office of the Chongqing Jiaotong University) together with Academic staff members and some industry representatives participated in the fruitful discussion on academic, cultural, and investment relationships between Sri Lanka and China.



# University of Sri Jayewardenepura aims to become the first "Carbon neutral" university in Sri Lanka



As a leading higher education institute and a pioneer in environmental education in Sri Lanka, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has recognized the importance of being accountable for the environmental impacts of its daily operations. Materializing a concept of Dr. Priyan Perera, the Center for Sustainability of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with the Forestry Department and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, has launched a novel project to make the University of Sri Jayewardenepura the first "Carbon neutral" university in Sri Lanka. Under this project, it is expected to restore a 400ha forest in Karuwalagaswewa. An MoU was signed between the USJ and the Forest Department on 9th October 2019. This carbon insetting strategy will be a model project of national significance for other higher education institutes to follow.

Global warming is taking a toll on the earth and its inhabitants. We have already reached 1.1oC of global warming and we could reach 1.5oC by 2030. For the first time in a state university of Sri Lanka, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has calculated its carbon footprint, recognizing the urgent need for climate action and remediation. The Center for Sustainability of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has taken the initiative for the carbon footprint calculation.



# Prof. Neelika Malavige and Dr. Chandima Jeewandara from USJ receive a NIAID grant to launch the Asian and American Center for Arbovirus Research and Enhanced Surveillance program at USJ



Prof. Neelika Malavige from the Centre for Dengue Research and Dr. Chandima Jeewandara received funding of 1.15-million-dollars for over 5 years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in the form of a sub-award agreement from the University of California, Berkeley. This grant (1U01AI151788) will support the launch of the Asian and American Centre for Arbovirus Research and Enhanced Surveillance (A2CARES), headed by Dr. Eva Harris and Dr. Josephina Coloma from University of California, Berkeley, USA.

A2CARES is a consortium of world-renowned investigators in arbovirology, epidemiology, immunology, viral diagnostics, phylogenetics, and clinical research in Nicaragua, Ecuador, Sri Lanka, UK, and the US. Research Triangle Institute (RTI), a non-profit research organization in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA with regional and project offices in over 75 countries and Duke University, home to the Duke Human Vaccine Institute in Durham, North Carolina, USA, will serve as the CREID Coordination Center (RTI/Duke CC).

# NSYSU – USJ Joint Symposium towards a Better Environment: Challenges and Solutions



To address the challenges of environmental changes, a joint symposium – organized by the World Class University Project (WCUP), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) in collaboration with National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan (NSYSU) and the Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJ – was successfully held on 29th November 2019 at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJ. The Vice Chancellor, Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, and Prof. Ranil de Silva, Director, World Class University Project (WCUP), USJ welcomed the arrival of 17 NSYSU delegates from Taiwan for the symposium and interactive session. This symposium was indeed an upshot of the strong relationship developed through the two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), Taiwan. The symposium themed "Towards a Better Environment: Challenges and Solutions" focused on the protection of the environment to guarantee better public health. The symposium was chaired by Prof. Ranil de Silva, Dr. Mitch Ming-Chi Chou (Vice President, Office of Research





& Development, NSYSU) and Prof. Laleen Karunanayake (Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJ). It was graced by three keynote speakers; Prof. Chia C. Wang (Director, Aerosol Science Research Center, NSYSU) who addressed the audience on Air pollution, Environmental Changes and Public Health: Current Challenges in Aerosol Science Studies; Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda (Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJ) on Wonders of Nature: Writes the Story of Slow Dance of Molecules and Prof. Pradeep M. Jayaweera (Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJ) on Mineral Dust Aerosols: Air We Breathe and Climate Change.

The delegates from College of Engineering, NSYSU engaged in an interactive session with Faculty of Engineering, USJ which was coordinated by Dr. T. Bandara, Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering to discuss future academic collaborations in the field of engineering with NSYSU.





# NSYSU–USJ: Joint Symposium on Barring the Exploitation of Economically Important Plants in Sri Lanka

To address the importance of the indigenous identity of Ceylon natural products in the global economic development of Sri Lanka, a joint symposium was organized by the Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience (ICIBN), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) in collaboration with National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan (NSYSU) on 05th of December 2019. The Symposium was chaired by Prof. Ranil de Silva, Director, World Class University Project and ICIBN, USJ who addressed the audience on Barcoding of Ceylon Natural Products; The Way Forward for Sri Lankan Economy. The symposium was graced by two more keynote speakers. Prof. Yu- Chung Chiang (Chairman & Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, NSYSU) addressed the audience on The Native and Cultivated Phalaenopsis Species from Biogeography to Horticulture and Prof. Chih-Chuang Liaw (Chairman & Professor, Department of Marine Biotechnology & Resources, NSYSU) explored the Development and Recent Research of Phytomedicines in Taiwan).





# USJ Welfare Division launched a new website



The official website of the Student Welfare Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was launched by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge at the university boardroom on the 19th of December 2019. Professor Hiran Amarasekara, Director of Digital Media and Communication, Senior Professor Hemantha Kottewatte; Director of Welfare Division, Mrs. Thushari Malkanthi, Deputy Registrar of Student Welfare and all the Sub-wardens graced the event. The Vice-Chancellor stated that welfare opportunities should be given to the university students and thanked all who helped it, while declaring the official website open.

# Establishment of the Department of Music and Creative Technology



A new department was established under the headship of Prof. Pradeep Ratnayake to give students the access to learn new methods of music creation that suit the new demands of the entertainment industry in the contemporary digital age. The department offers courses in singing, violin, percussion, esraj, guitar and the sitar, as well as in Western music, where students can learn the piano and are encouraged to sit the exams in either Royal Schools of Music or Trinity College of Music, while pursuing their degree studies.

# Establishment of the Allergy and Immunology Cell Biology Unit at the Faculty of Medical Sciences



As per the Cabinet Memorandum no 20/0761/215/039 dated 27.04.2020 and the decision on 03.06.2020 of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Cabinet Memo No.අමෙ/20/0761/215/039, Allergy Immunology and Cell Biology Unit was established in University of Sri Jayewardenepura to facilitate cutting- edge research and to develop the University of Sri Jayewardenepura into a research university. Dr. Chandima Jeewandara was appointed as the Director Operations and Clinical services and Prof. Neelika Malavige was appointed as Director Research and Education.

Since its establishment, the unit has rendered diagnostic and other services to the Ministry of Health assisting the COVID-19 response including, PCR testing, antibody responses to SARS-CoV2, evaluation of test kits and training of Medical Laboratory Technicians. The two academic members of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine have engaged in many public engagement activities in the form of television discussions, newspaper interviews and in panel discussions. The following are the research activities undertaken by the unit along with Center for Dengue Research and Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine in response to the current outbreak in Sri Lanka.

- Whole genomic sequencing of the SARS-CoV2 strains in Sri Lanka (this is the first time the whole genome was sequenced in Sri Lanka for SARS CoV2)
- Investigating the pathogenesis of SARS-CoV2
- T cell responses to the SARS-CoV2
- Neutralizing and protective antibody responses to the SARS-CoV2:
- Sero surveillance study in the community in the Colombo Municipal Council

# Special Programs and Initiations at FHSS during the Pandemic

*Disi Videsi*




With the hope of enhancing the artistic talents of the students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) during the COVID-19 outbreak, Disi Videsi Art Corner was opened to all the students of the faculty. It was open creating a space for poetry, cartoons, drawings and short stories. The best piece of writing or drawing was selected to be uploaded on the Faculty Facebook page. The platform was an immense success as it not only brought out the creativity of the students but also paved ways to uplift the morale of students during the trying times.

**Deshana Sampradana**

Disi Videsi Art Page later focussed on "Deshana Sampradana" – graduation addresses delivered at Graduation Ceremonies of USJ. These speeches were uploaded on the official Facebook page of the faculty.

**FHSS Help**

FHSS Help is an assistance committee that continues to resolve students' problems. In this vein, a Remote Counselling Program was initiated to ascertain students' physical and mental health during the outbreak.

**Assistance Coordinating Committee**

A special Assistance Coordinating Committee (with a team of lecturers from several departments of the FHSS) was established to help the students who were facing financial, social, and/or psychological problems during the lockdown. The committee has been tireless in its efforts to ensure the well-being of the students during difficult times. Moreover, the scholars of the FHSS took steps to lend a helping hand to the students who are less well- off and are affected by the pandemic. The students were given financial support by the lecturers voluntarily so that the students could overcome the challenges during the time of the pandemic.

**Continuation of Academic Activities during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

With the closure of all universities across the island on 12th March 2020, a special Mentoring Committee was appointed to address issues pertaining to academic activities of the students. To establish the remote learning facility, the committee members shared their contact details so that the students could easily resolve any issues related to online learning, student registration and so on.

- **Strengthening Online Access to Lesson Materials and Enhancing Blended Learning**

Upon identifying the timely need of strengthening online access to lesson materials in the pandemic period, the Computer Center of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) launched and completed a series of technical assistance programs to empower both academic staff and the students. The programs implemented mainly focused on the skills enhancement on the presentation of lecture materials and diversifying and familiarizing with the least cost delivery techniques.

➢ **YouTube Learning Platform for the FHSS Students**

A series of videos called "Vidu Diya Dahara" based on general knowledge and English were uploaded to YouTube. As the series was inclusive of language learning videos called "Learning English; Short Language Related Talks", the students were able to keep in touch with the English Language during the lockdown. More than a dozen videos that have been uploaded thus far have useful lessons to practise English. Apart from that, information on timely social issues were also published as part of this educational series.



➢ **Training Program on ORS**

Understanding the importance of improving the digitalization with the outbreak, a special one-day workshop was organized to provide a training on Online Registration System (ORS) for the Management Assistants of all the departments. The intention of the workshop was to train staff members in doing students' registration via a virtual platform. The workshop was followed by a comprehensive discussion on the possibilities of improving and upgrading the ORS. The event was held on 20th August 2020 at Ramadia Ranmal Resort under the guidance of Professor Shirantha Heenkenda.

# Workshop on Health and Occupational Safety for Staff Members

A workshop on Health and Occupational Safety for academic and non-academic members, organized by the Quality Assurance Cell, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on 16th July 2020.



The workshop was conducted by Prof.Prasad M. Jayaweera (Head/Professor of Computer Science, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Dr. N.W.K.D.K. Dayarathna (Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura). Academic and non-academic members of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences actively participated in this event.

# The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony: new building for Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new building of the Faculty of Humanities took place on the 17th of July 2020 with the participation of the Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Prof. Sudantha Liyanage (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences). In addition, most honorable Maha Sangha, former Deans of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Prof. P. Athukorale, Mr. C. L. K. Nawarathnaa), Mr. Gnanasiri Brito (Registrar), Heads of departments, academic and non-academic staff members participated in this auspicious event.



This event marked another milestone of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The new building will provide space and other facilities for the departments, lecture halls, staff rooms and so forth.

# Session on Research and Postgraduate Scholarship Opportunities in Japan by Senior Prof. H. D. Karunaratne

A session on research and postgraduate scholarship opportunities in Japan was held on 23rd July 2020 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) by Senior Prof. H. D. Karunaratne - a consultant to the University of Tokyo, Japan. This session mainly focused on encouraging junior staff members to apply for research, postgraduate scholarships in Japan, especially at Tokyo University. This session was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences). Junior staff members of the faculty actively participated in the session.



# Opening Ceremony of the Center for differently-abled students

The center for differently-abled students was established with academic and welfare facilities under the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE DP, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The AHEAD grant equipped the newly renovated center with desktop computers, headsets, brail display, bluetooth speakers, video magnifiers and other appropriate facilities such as a computer lab, discussion room, soundproof recording room and open space for the differently-abled undergraduates to maintain a highly functional up-todate education.



A center was officially handed over to the said students on 8th September 2020 with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor (Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage), Dean of the Faculty (Professor Shirantha Heenkenda), AHEAD Project Coordinator (Professor Sunethra Thennakooon), AHEAD Activity Coordinator (Dr. Nelum Kanthilatha), Advisor to the differently-abled students (Dr. Kusumalatha Lankamullage), Head Department of Accountancy (Dr. Harendra Kariyawasam) and other academia of the university.

# Workshop on Procurement Guidelines and Procedures for the FHSS Staff Members



Having understood the importance of raising awareness on procurement guidelines and procedures, Professor Shirantha Heenkenda (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) took the initiative to organize a workshop on Procurement Guidelines and Procedures. The workshop was held on 23rd September 2020 in the Faculty with the participation of the academic and non-academic staff of FHSS. Professor P.B. Mandawala was the key speaker of the workshop, and other notable participants included Mr. K.G. Brito (former Registrar of the university), and Ms. Lalani Priyanthika (the Assistant Bursar of FHSS).

# DAAD information session on Higher Education and Research in Germany



Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) took the initiative to organize an awareness session on the DAAD scholarship program which was held on 24th September 2020 for the internal academic staff members who aspire to pursue their higher studies abroad. The session was conducted by Mr. Nadeesha Palliyaguru, DAAD representative of the Embassy of Germany in Sri Lanka who presented a range of possibilities to enroll in a scholarship program. Participants of the program received opportunities to clarify many of their questions regarding the registration process. They also learned about educational experiences in Germany during the Q&A session.

DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) is a German Academic Exchange Service that focuses on promoting the academic exchange of scholars between Sri Lanka and Germany. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the DAAD regional office located in New Delhi, Mr. Palliyaguru also highlighted the importance of the contribution to strengthen the international exchange between Germany and Sri Lanka.

# Establishment of the Center for Digital Education and Professional Development (CDEPD)

The restructuring of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) computer center, as the Center for Digital Education and Professional Development (CDEPD), which was approved by the council on the 12th of November 2020, was officially implemented with effect from 16th November 2020. One of the main objectives of the CDEPD is to develop the employability skills of the internal as well as external students to excel in the career path. These essential skills are set to be developed through courses, activities, tests, feedback, and leadership training. CDEPD has also taken the initiative to offer fee-levying courses. Moreover, the center is responsible for the Learning Management System, ICT Services & Education, ICT Infrastructure and Maintenance, Professional & Skills Development while ensuring the success of all e-learning activities of the faculty. The main duty of ICT Services & Education sector is to improve ICT competency in FHSS students.

# Establishment of the English Literary Association of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

English Literary Association (ELA) of the Faculty of Medical Sciences was established and began its journey with its inauguration on the 30th of December 2020. The ceremony was successfully completed despite the challenges posed to such an event by the ongoing pandemic.



The vision of the ELA is to create multi-talented students and future doctors with a spectrum of skills, including effective communication and leadership skills, thereby creating not just doctors but pioneers of social change.

The ELA hopes to create a space for young medical students to discover and to cultivate their English language skills and to provide a platform for students to express themselves freely without judgment where they can develop their language skills.

The association will create an avenue for medical undergraduates to listen and interact with accomplished speakers from both medical and non-medical fields. Furthermore, the ELA plans to hold competitions both within the faculty and nationwide as well.

With the patronage of the current Dean of the Medical Faculty, Prof. Aloka Pathirana and the Senior Treasurer/Adviser Dr. Varuni Tennakoon, ELA plans to revolutionize what oration, debating, composing and whatever English Language offers for a medical student.

# Academic collaboration between Dept. of Anthropology and International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC)



A meeting was held with the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Prof.Shirantha Heenkenda), Dr. Claudia Elena Garrido Varas (Coordinator of the ICRC) and representatives of the Department of Anthropology - Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, Prof. Yasanjalie Jayathilake (Head of the Department), and Dr. Tharaka Ananda - on 16th December 2019 at the Faculty on the future academic collaborations between two institutes. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a humanitarian institution based in Geneva, Switzerland, and a three-time Nobel Prize Laureate. State parties (signatories) to the Geneva Convention of 1949 and its Additiona Protocols of 1977 (Protocol I, Protocol II) and 2005 have given the ICRC a mandate to protect victims of international and internal armed conflicts. Such victims include the war wounded, prisoners, refugees, civilians, and other non-combatants. The ICRC is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 190 National Societies. It is the oldest and most honored organization within the movement and one of the most widely recognized organizations in the world, having won three Nobel Peace Prizes in 1917, 1944, and 1963.

ICRC has been supporting the Department of Anthropology by providing expert knowledge in forensic anthropological research, conducting guest lectures, and donating books and research equipment since 2018, under the coordination of Dr. Claudia Elena Garrido Varasto and Prof. Charmalie Nahallage.




Intended collaborative programs for the future are an MOU to be signed between the two institutes, the introduction of a new postgraduate diploma course in forensic anthropology and facilitating student/academic training opportunities in the field of forensic anthropology.

# Marking Sri Lanka on the World Map for Social Robotics




The International Conference on Social Robotics, which is one of the prominent events in the academic calendar for Social Robotics, was held on 26th-29th July in Madrid, Spain with the ollaboration of Madrid Carlos III University and Springer for the eleventh time. The top ranked universities across the globe, especially from the United States, Europe, Japan and so on, participated in the event to publish their findings and to compete at the Robotics Design competition.

For the first time, a team of undergraduates (A.C.Gammanpila, A.Wijesinghe, T.Wanniarachchi, V.Amarajeewa and D.Jayasinghe) from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka got shortlisted as the global finalists, for the robotics design competition. The team represented the country and the university at the global stage and was able to secure the Global 1st Place Award at the Robot Design competition under the Hardware category. The team was guided to success under the supervision of Senior Lecturer Dr. Ravindra de Silva who is specialized in Social Robotics.

The designed social robot not only won the global 1st place, but it also gained a major international attention due to its unique appearance and its impact on society. The robot, with an appearance of the "Sorting Hat" from the Harry Potter movie, was built as a solution for autistic children to learn to interact and express emotions with the society. The robot hat also consists of a brainwave sensor to record the brain data for future cognitive analysis.

# Department of Marketing Management won an ELTA/ELSE AHEAD World Bank Grant



The Department of Marketing Management was able to win a competitive World Bank Grant called AHEAD ELTA/ELSE worth Rs.15 million. The agreement of the same was signed on 18th Nov 2019 at the University, with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Senior Prof. Sampath Amarathunga), Director of the World Bank Project of the University (Dr. Kalum Gamage), Head of the Department (Prof. (Mrs.) Amila Jayarathne), Coordinator of the Project (Dr. (Mrs.) Asoka Malkanthie) and the lecturers of

the Department. The World Bank in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka supports the higher education sector through the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation in Sri Lanka for the development of the higher education sector which is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). The AHEAD operates under three results areas (i) increasing Enrollment in Priority Disciplines for Economic Development, (ii) improving the Quality of Higher Education and (iii) promoting Research, Development and Innovation; and this grant benefits the students of the Department of Marketing Management in five avenues, namely, (a) developing an innovative learning and teaching environment, (b) enhancing the academic industry exposure, (c) approaching the undergraduate capacity development, (d) introducing career oriented course units and (e) enhancing the students' proficiency in English Language.

# Introducing a Master's degree program in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence



Erasmus+ DS&AI project was started in 2018 for the main purpose of introducing a novel Master's degree program in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in Asia with the mission of bringing European-standard advanced education to Asia. Nine Asian universities, three European universities and four European companies are involved in the above project. As a part of the project, a team of four academics (Mr. DDA Gamini, Dr. TGI Fernando, Dr. Chitraka Wickramarachchi & Dr. RM Silva) from the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Statistics participated in a study visit to Greece and the Netherlands with the primary objective of designing the curriculum together with other partner universities, for the Master's degree program in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence during the time period from 4th November to 15th November 2019.

In parallel to the Master's degree program in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, professional training courses are going to be offered by each partner university targeting the people from the industry. In order to design and offer these professional courses at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, they will be organizing an awareness program called "Info Days" inviting the prospective candidates from the industry.

# Department of English and Linguistics Commences its MA in TESL



The orientation programme of the MA in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) of the Department of English and Linguistics of University of Sri Jayewardenepura took place on 3rd October 2020 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This is the first-ever MA programme conducted by the Department of English and Linguistics of the University.

While warmly welcoming the maiden batch of MA students, Dr. Chitra





Jayathilake – the Head of Department of English and Linguistics and the Co-coordinator of the MA programme – highlighted the benefits of reading for this MA in TESL, especially how this postgraduate qualification would help English teachers in the country to broaden their knowledge and to sharpen their skills in teaching. She stated that both the MA programme and the first batch will be historicized as the pioneers, hence, requested the students to put their mark on the university and to leave an imprint on the MA programme.



# The Department of Public Administration launched two Master's Degree programs in 2020

The Department of Public Administration launched two Master's degree programs (Master of Science in Public Policy and Management and Master of Public Management Programs) on 15th March 2020 for meeting the compelling demand of society in pursuing the postgraduate studies in Public Sector.



# Erasmus+ EU programme project grant

Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was awarded a grant for curricular enrichment project by Erasmus+ and EU's programme to support education, training, youth, and sport. The overarching aim of the project is higher education curriculum development to produce professionals who are equipped to improve the liveability of urban and provisional areas in the partner country. This will be achieved through delivering an enhanced curriculum and new didactic practices for Location-based Services (LBS) and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Sri Lankan universities. The benefit will be to achieve safer, more reliable,more comfortable, more environment-friendly and energy-efficient integrated multimodal transportation solutions at regional and urban level with direct impact on the economy and the society. The Technische Universität Wien, Austria, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany; National Technical University of Athens, Greece and three SL universities, namely University of Moratuwa, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, and General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University will participate in this project.

**Project duration:** 3 years from 01.01.2021 (awarded 2020)
**Grant amount (University of Sri Jayewardenepura only):** 94,000 (Euro) per three years
**Project members of University of Sri Jayewardenepura**



**Dr. Choolaka Hewawasam**

Department of Civil and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Technology



**Dr. (Eng) Asanka Weerasekara**

Department of Civil and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Technology



**Dr. Dr. D.J. Jayasanka**

Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology

# Prince Siddhartha in Archery: the historically significant painting displayed at Vice Chancellor's Office



A historically significant painting, which depicts "Prince Siddhartha in Archery," was officially handed over to the Vice-Chancellor on 2nd September 2020 by Professor Alexander Kapukotuwa (Head of the Department of History and Archaeology), and is now displayed in front of the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

The painting, decorated in yellow, brown, orange, red and white, was initially a donation to the first Vice-Chancellor of the University, Ven. Welivitiye Sri Soratha Nayaka Thero, by the Department of Cultural Affairs in 1962. It had been under the possession of the museum of the Department of History and Archaeology. The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Senior Lecturer Ven. Dambara Amila Thero, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. K. M. C. Konthesingha and Archaeology Museum Curator, Mrs. Nilmini Neththasinghe participated in this occasion.





# Stakeholder Consultation Meeting by the Department of Accounting

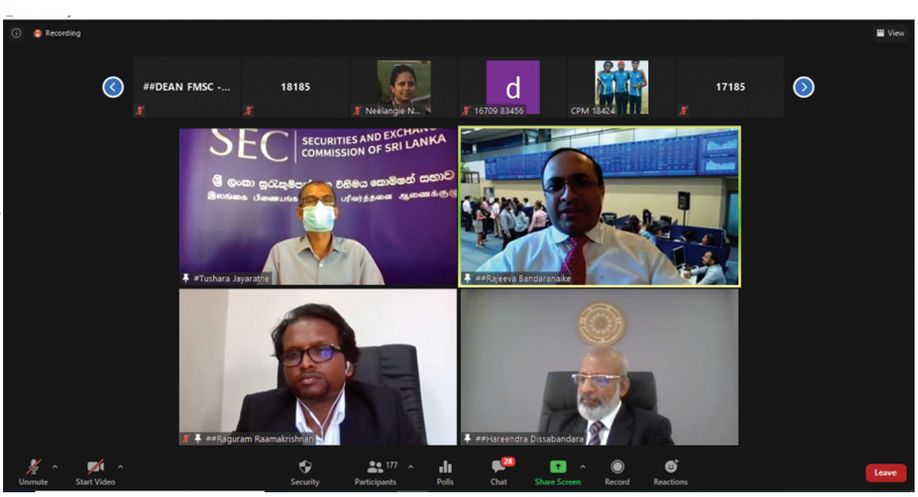
A Stakeholder Consultation Meeting was organized by the Department of Accounting on 8th November 2019 at Golden Rose, with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor, the Head of the Department, and all the staff members of the Department of Accounting. In addition, representatives from the government and private sectors graced this meeting, which was held with the motive of obtaining stakeholder views for the revision of the curriculum of B. Sc. Accounting (Special) Degree Programme.



# University Investment Day 2020




The Department of Finance being one of the twelve academic departments of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, USJ strives to maintain strong links with the key institutions of the financial market of Sri Lanka to produce high quality graduates with a strong theoretical base. Following many discussions, the Department of Finance organized the "University Investment Day – 2020" on 7th December 2020 virtually via the zoom platform, despite the current challenging situation due to COVID 19. This initiative was taken with a view to create awareness of the capital market of Sri Lanka among the students and the entire society at large.




The event was graced with the presence of the Dean, Professor P D Nimal, the Head of the Department, Dr. P A N S Anuradha and other academic staff members of the department. The Department obtained the contribution from various resource persons of the industry for this event by way of guest lectures, presentations and interactive sessions. Mr. Tushara Jayarathne, External Relations and Capital Market Education, Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike - Chief Executive Officer, Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and Raguram Raamakrishnan-Assistant Vice President, CAL Asset Management delivered a very insightful presentation on the key areas such as the role of SEC, securities regulation and market development, the way forward roadmap of CSE with special reference to digitalization and investing in capital markets of Sri Lanka respectively. The event concluded with an interactive Q & A session which was moderated by Senior Professor D. B. P. H. Dissabandara. Following the Q & A session, the Senior Lecturer Ms. N S Nanayakkara delivered the vote of thanks. The event was a great success with a large audience of over 200 participants despite the prevalent pandemic in the country.

# Stakeholder Consultation Session of Department of Business Economics for Curriculum Revision 2020



Department of Business Economics organized a Stakeholder Consultation Session for the B.Sc. Business Administration (Business Economics) (Special) degree programme on 5th November 2019 at the Light House Galley, Colombo. This session was organized with the intention of generating insights from the industry to make the degree programme well-matched to the present day needs of the local and global business environments.

A discussion was held with the presence of Dr. Lalith Weragoda (Group Learning Officer, Sampath Bank PLC), Mr. Nuwan Jayewardene (Associate Director, Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services), Ms. Rathnakala Kumaragurunathan (Associate Director, Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services), Mr. Keith Chathuranga (Associate, Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services), Ms. Sadna Dissanayake (Deputy General Manager-Business Excellence, Hayleys Advantis Limited), Dr. Nisha Arunathilaka (Director of Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka), Mr. Shiran Fernando (Chief Economist, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce), Ms. Therica Miyanadeniya (Director Client Servicing, Nielsen Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd.), Ms. Thilini Dissananyaka (Human Resource Manager, Nielsen Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd.), Mr. Travis Gomez (Product Head, Frontier Research (Pvt.) Ltd.), Mr. Thenuka Thushyalak (Manager-Talent Acquisition, Sampath Bank PLC), Mr. Manjula Keerthiratne (Executive Director HR-Board of Investment), Mr. R.M.N. Jeewantha (Assistant General Manager-Treasury, Bank of Ceylon), Mr. Amal Atapattu (Commercial Finance Manager, Reckitt Benckiser Lanka Limited), Mr. Changa Samaraweera (Director, BizNetworks Pvt. Ltd. & Former President, CIMA), Dr. Anil Perera (Additional Director, Domestic Operations Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Mrs. Gimhani Kariyawasam (Head of HR Operations, NIPS Lanka), Mr. Samitha Dayasekare (Assistant Director, Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade), Mr. Saliya Jayathilaka (Assistant Director, Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade), Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Dr. (Mrs.) Dinesha Siriwardhane (Head of the Department) and other academic staff members of the Department.





# Curriculum Review Industry Discussion: B.Sc. Marketing Management (Special) Degree, Department of Marketing Management




The Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a Curriculum Review Industry Discussion called as "Stakeholder Consultation Session" in the process of revising the current curriculum of the B.Sc. Marketing Management (Special) Degree programme. The Department revises the curriculum in every five years' time with the participation of several stakeholders including senior academics from the national university system, students, alumni association, and experts from the corporate sector; its new curriculum is targeted to launch in 2020.



The discussion was held on 04th October 2019 at the Light House Galley, Colombo with the presence of Group Director – Marketing and Sales, Derana, Former President SLIM, Mr. Thushara Perera; Senior General Manager – Brand and Media Group Marketing, Dialog Axiata – PLC, Mr. Harsha Samaranayake; Head of Marketing and Sales Prima Ceylon Mr. Ravi De Coonghe; CEO – Cinnamon Life Mall, Vice President-John Keells Group, Head of Brand Marketing- Cinnamon Hotels and Resorts, Mr. Dileep Mudadeniya; Director Marketing Excellence and Skills Development, Hemas Holding PLC, Ms. Ramani Samarasundara; Senior Brand Manager – Lifebuoy, Unilever Sri Lanka, Mr. Chetaka Gunawardena; Lead Data Evegelist/Talent Analyst (DGM), MAS Holding PLC, Mr. Chathuranga Abeysinghe; Former CEO at Brandix College of Clothing Technology, Prof. Rohana Kuruppu; General Manager Sales (Sri Lanka and Maldives), MJE Exports Ltd, Mr. Vajira Sugathapala; Director and CEO, 3rd Shift Media, Mr. Prasanaga Jayathunga; Director Sales & Marketing, Ikman.lk, Mr. Stefan Beekmeyer; Chairman ICT Industry Skills Council, Mr. Chinthaka Wijewickrama; Board Director- Computer Society of Sri Lanka, a Board Member ICT Skills Council, Mr.Heshan Karunarathne; and Managing Director Neat Optics PVT LTD, Acro Chem PVT LTD, Mr. Samantha Pathirana, the Head of the Department of Marketing Management and academic members of the Department.

# Discussion with Alumni: Curriculum Revision of B.Sc. Marketing Management (Special) Degree, Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura



The Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized a Discussion Forum called as "Stakeholder Consultation Session with the Alumni of the Department" in the process of revising the current curriculum of the B.Sc. Marketing Management (Special) Degree programme which is targeted to launch in 2020. The discussion was held on 24th Oct 2019 at the Light House Gallery, Colombo with the presence of Mr. Lalith Sumanasiri, Managing Director, Ogilvy Media, Neo@Ogilvy,; Mr. Darshana Jayasinghe, Deputy General Manager, Citizens Development Business Finance PLC; Mr. Dilan Niroshana, Manager – Trade Planning & Marketing Operations, John Keells Holdings; Mr. Nisha Karunaratne, Assistant General Manager – Marketing, C.W. Mackie PLC; Ms. Manojee Dabare, Director, Sales Capital Maharaja Organization Limited; Mr. Mangala Perera, Group Executive Director, C.W. Mackie PLC; Mr. Shalika Suraweera, Senior Manager – Marketing, Asiri Hospitals; Mr. Oshadhi Withanawasam, Co-Founder Chairman and CEO at TIIKM ; Mr. Amitha Amarasinghe Digital Marketing Professional | Trainer | COO, Neo@Ogilvy; Mr. Asanka Udayakumara, Senior Marketing Manager Janet Cosmetics PVT LTD; Mr. Dimuthu Himala Media Planner, Media Factory; Mr. Nalin Gunarathna, Assistant General Manager, FM Derana; Mr. Imesh Abeywickrama, Managing Director Reflect Interiors (Pvt.) Ltd ; Mr. Layan Kodithuwakku Assistant Brand Manager Dialog Axiata PLC; Mr. Sirimevan Senevirathna Senior Manager-Market insights and customer experience AIA Insurance; Ms. Anuradha Liyanaarachi Technology Marketer Arimac Digital; Mr. Ruchika Sandakelum, Product Management Executive Softlogic Retail Pvt. Ltd; the Head of the Department of Marketing Management ( Dr. Amil Jayarathne), Coordinators of the event (Dr. K P Lalith Chandralal, Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama and Dr. Asoka Malkanthie) and other academic members of the Department.



# Workshops on Action Research in Higher Education

Having realized the critical roles teaching, learning and assessment play in higher education, a National Action Research Conference in Higher Education (NARCHE) was organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. As a part of the conference, two workshops were held in February and September 2020 to enhance the participants' understanding of the fundamental principles of action research: academics of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and other researchers affiliated to various universities and private and public sector organizations in Sri Lanka participated in it. Prof. Prasad Sethunga of the Department of Education, University of Peradeniya and Dr. Bimali Indrarathna of the York University, UK were the resource persons of the two interactive and informative workshops.

# Stakeholder Consultation Forum of Department of Finance – 2019



The Department of Finance successfully conducted a Stakeholder Consultation Forum at the Centre of Banking Studies, Ragagiriya on 5th November 2019 with the participation of the industry practitioners and the academics of the Departments. Fifteen industry experts representing financial market sector, corporate finance sector and IT & business communication sector shared their valuable comments in this forum. The forum was conducted as an essential step of the process of revisiting the existing curriculum of the B.Sc. Finance (Special) Degree and to get the insights on industry expectations from Finance graduates.

# Striving for Export Competitiveness 2020




The Department of Business Economics organised an industry forum under the theme, 'Striving for Export Competitiveness' on 10th February 2020 from 5.30 pm onwards at Prof.K.A. Munasinghe Hall of the FMSC.

The forum comprised wellknown panelists from all spheres namely, Dr. Chandranath Amarasekara (Director of Economic Research, Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Dr. Rohan Pallewatta (Executive Chairman, Lanka Harness Company (Pvt.) Ltd.), Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabraal (Former Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Mr. Manjula de Silva (Secretary General and Executive Officer, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce) and Mr. Heminda Jayaweera (Chief Operating Officer, Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology) and the panel discussion was moderated by Dr. (Mrs.) Sumudu Perera (Senior Lecturer, Department of Business Economics, USJ). The discussion was developed in the areas of competitive edges for Sri Lankan exporters, use of new technology and innovations to reach competitive edges, cross border trade and exchange rate, how to boost Sri Lankan trade, and the role of the government in facilitating exports.



# Workshop on 'Foreign transaction facilitation and managing foreign exchange risk'




The Department of Business Economics together with Bank of Ceylon, organised a workshop on the theme of 'Facilitating foreign transactions and managing foreign exchange risk' for the final year undergraduates. This was held on 24th February 2020 at the Head Office of Bank of Ceylon, Colombo 01. The sessions were conducted by resource persons of the Treasury Division and the Trade Finance Division of Bank of Ceylon. Mr. R.M.N. Jeewantha (Assistant General Manager, Treasury), Mr. W.D.H. Sumathiratne (Manager, Trade Services), Ms.D.L.N. Perera (Manager, LC Department - Trade Services), Ms. Y. Aluthgedara (Senior Manager, Imports - Trade Services), Mr. A.W.R. Thushantha (Chief Dealer, Treasury Division), Mr. M.R.A. Shakoor (Deputy Chief Dealer, Treasury Division) and Mr. B.K. Jayasooriya (Dealer, Treasury Division) participated as resource persons.

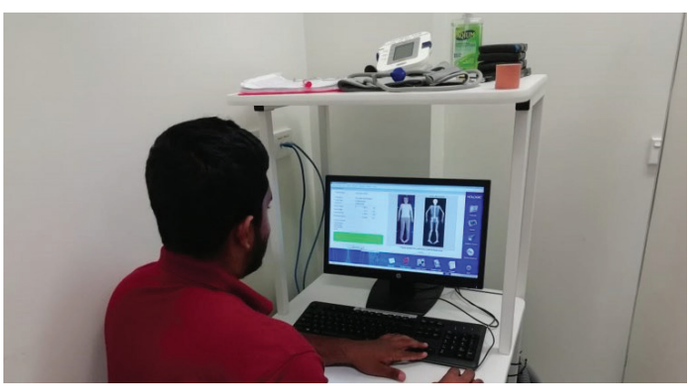



# Inauguration ceremony of postgraduate programmes in Business Economics

The inauguration ceremony of the newly introduced postgraduate programmes in Business Economics was virtually held on 23rd May 2020 via zoom. The ceremony marked the launch of two postgraduate programs, namely, Master of Business Economics: MBEc, and Master of Philosophy in Business Economics: MPhil (BEc) by the Department of Business Economics. Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge (Chairman, University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka) delivered the keynote speech on the theme 'Business Economics'. Moreover, two guest speeches were delivered by Mr. Rohana Wijesekera (Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka) and Mr. Nandika Buddhipala (Chief Financial Officer, Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC).

# Undergraduates from the Dept. of Sports Science Received Internship at ECU, Australia





The Department of Sports Science (DSS) of the Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura received an opportunity to send ten (10) fourth-year undergraduates for a 300 hours internship programme to the School of Medical and Health Sciences (SMHS) of Edith Cowan University (ECU), Joondalup, Perth, Western Australia as a partial requirement of B. Sc. (Honours) in Sports Science and Management Degree programme under the newly introduced course SSM 404 3.0 Internship in Sports Science and Management. This is a new initiation under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ECU & USJ in 2017. All the ten students along with Dr. N. M. S. Sirimuthu (Head of DSS), Dr. (Ms.) Sashie Weerasinghe (Senior Lecturer – DSS) and Mr. Kevin Roshintha Fernando (Coordinator – SSM 404 3.0 Internship in SSM) met Senior Prof. Sampath Ameratunge (Vice-Chancellor – USJ) and Prof. Laleen Karunanayake (Dean – FAS) before leaving Sri Lanka to discuss the internship programme. Students started two months internship on 10th September 2019 with the inaugural meeting at SMHS ECU with Prof. Rob Newton (Associate Dean – SMHS ECU), Prof. Ken Nosaka (Director – Exercise & Sports Science), Dr. Favil Singh (ECU Coordinator for USJ Programme) & Mr. Kevin Roshintha Fernando (USJ Coordinator for ECU Programme).

ECU and Prof. Hallam Pereira (Adjunct Associate Professor of ECU) organized several visits also to Western Australian Institute of Sports, world-recognized Optus Stadium, Basketball Stadiums, Athletic Stadiums, Rugger Centres, several other leading sports facilities at Murdoch University.

# Guest Lecture on 'Digitalisation: Future of Finance'

A guest lecture on 'Digitalisation: Future of Finance' was held for the second-year students of the Department of Accounting on 5th December, 2019 at Fayol. Mr. Clancy Peiris (ACMA, CGMA, Attorney at Law), Senior Manager of the Department of Relationship Programmes of CIMA Corporate Office, London delivered this lecture during his short visit to Sri Lanka. The lecture took a futuristic outlook as it explored the new ventures that are yet to be born in the field of Finance and Accounting.



## Guest Lecture on 'Importance of Soft Skills Development'

The guest lecture on 'Importance of Soft Skills for an Accounting undergraduate' under Management and Personal Capacity Skills Development Program was successfully held on 18th December, 2019. Mr. Channa Gunawardana, Chief Executive Officer Dankotuwa Porcelain PLC, conducted this session, for the Second-year students of the department.



## "Ready Yourself for the Competitive Corporate Sector" by Mr. N. J. Chrisso De Mel

Mr. N. J. Chrisso De Mel, the Director-Group Shipping Department, Hayleys PLC conducted a guest lecture on the theme "Ready Yourself for the Competitive Corporate Sector" on 18th December 2019. This was organized for the second-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics under the BEC 2041: Career Development Training course.



## Guest lecture organized by the Cancer Research Centre / USJ- January 2020

A Guest lecture on "Infrared applications for safe & healthy living":security & disease (cancer & colitis) applications was organized by the Cancer Research Centre, USJ on 09th January 2020, at the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Resource Persons were Prof. A.G. Unil Perera, Regents' Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA, and Prof. Bimalka Seneviratne, Director, Cancer Research Centre, USJ. It was well attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as academic staff members. Discussions are underway to promote collaborative research and to widen the opportunities for students of USJ.



# International Financial Management Guest Lecture Series

The Department of Finance organized a series of guest lectures to the final year students under FIN 4340 International Financial Management course unit. This event took place on 22nd January 2020 at the Centre for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya. Ms. Shanaz Kamileen, Senior Assistant Director of the Department of Foreign Exchange, CBSL conducted a session on "Regulatory Framework for Foreign Exchange Transactions" and Dr. R. A. Anil Perera, Deputy Director, Economic Research Department, CBSL conducted a session on "Trends in International and Domestic Monetary Policy and Implications for Markets". These two sessions immensely contributed to the enhancement of the practical knowledge and awareness of the students about the financial market.




# Shaping Our future



The Department of Human Resource Management and the Alumni Association of Department of Human Resource Management organized a seminar, under the skills development program, for the undergraduates of the department. Mr. Chaminda Rupasena (USJ HRM alumni member), Head of Human Resources, Nawaloka Hospitals shared his knowledge and experience with our undergraduates on 03rd January 2020. The Head of the Department, senior lecturers and lecturers of the department participated in this event.



# A Way Forward - Speak up! and ගී රසවින්දන Programmes



The Department of Economics in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences initiated two programmes at the beginning of 2020 under the theme of Speak up! and ගී රසවින්දන. This was a concept of Head of the Department, Prof. B.W.R. Damayanthi. The aim of the programmes is to improve students' spoken English skills and to reduce their anxiety, thereby to support their personal growth. The programmes held twice a week were meant for the second year, third year and fourth-year undergraduates of the Department of Economics.

# Webinars on nature organized by the Nature and Photography Club of FMS

The Nature and Photography Club of the Faculty of Medical Sciences organized two webinars during the year 2020. The first webinar themed 'Butterflies' was conducted by naturalist Mr. Charitha Udayanga Herath. The speaker focused on the identification of common varieties of butterflies and educated listeners on various aspects on conserving habitats for butterflies. The second in the webinar series was held in mid-December titled "Birds around us" presented by a prominent Sri Lankan Ornithologist Mr. Deepal Warakagoda. These webinars were attended by individuals with a passion for nature, both within and outside the Faculty of Medical Sciences.




# Academic Writing Workshop for FHSS lecturers

A workshop was organized by the National Action Research Conference on Higher Education 2020 (NARCHE 2020) and successfully conducted on 3rd January 2020 to enhance the academic writing skills of the academics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The workshop which was conducted by Dr. Sharon McCulloch of Central Lancashire University, UK and Dr. Bimali Indrarathne of York University UK was funded by the British Council Sri Lanka.

# Student Orientation Programme 2019



The Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce (FMSC) ceremonially welcomed their new batch of students for the academic year 2019/2020, on 02nd December 2019. Snr. Prof Sudantha Liyanage; Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. U. Anura Kumara; Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Deans of other faculties and Heads of Departments graced this occasion with their presence. Further, the academic staff of the faculty, senior students, new students and their parents also participated in this occasion. This two-day orientation programme encapsulated lectures delivered by the well-experienced academics of the university on numerous topics such as study skills, student discipline and student welfare which are pertinent to students as newcomers. The field visit brought out the vivacity of the students by giving them a taste of the university culture. The orientation programme ended in an efficacious note, after enlightening the new students about their new venture and the future that lies ahead of them.

**Workshop on material designing**

A two-day workshop was held on 6th and 7th January 2020 to train the lecturers of the DELT on "Designing Materials for Students with Low and High English Language Proficiency." The workshop was conducted by Dr. Sharon McCulloch of Central Lancashire University UK and Dr. Bimali Indrarathne of York University, UK and funded by British Council, Sri Lanka. According to a study conducted by British Council, Sri Lanka in 2019, universities receive students with varied English language proficiency and should cater to all types of students. In the two-day workshop, it was discussed how to develop materials to help students with low proficiency to increase their proficiency level and how to develop more EAP (English for Academic Purposes) materials for students with higher level of proficiency.

# Commencement lecture for 2018/2019 batch of AHS students



The commencement lecture of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the batch of 2018/2019 was held on 17th February 2020 at the faculty premises. The lecture was delivered by Emeritus Professor, Narada Warnasuriya, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Professor Warnasuriya emphasized the importance of quality healthcare professionals to the society which was a timely topic for students of B.Sc Nursing, B.Pharm and B.Sc Medical Laboratory Sciences. The Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Snr. Prof. D.M.S Fernando, and academic members of the faculty attended the lecture.

# "How to protect your employees"

The Department of Human Resource Management with the collaboration of South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd organized a guest lecture on "Fire safety, Food safety, Chemical safety" for the 3rd year undergraduates of the department under the subject of 'Employee Health and Safety Management' on 13th January 2020. Mr. Sasira Abeyrathna Ellepola (HRM alumni member, USJ), Executive Health Safety and Environmental, South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd, conducted this session. Dr. Dinoka Perera (Head of the Department) and academic staff participated in this session.




# Guest Lecture on Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting and Ethics



The Department of Finance organized a guest lecture for the 3rd year and 4th year students of the department on "Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reporting and Credit" in collaboration with the Acuity Knowledge Partners. The collaboration is an outcome of an MoU signed between the Department of Finance and Acuity Knowledge Partners. This session took place on 29th January 2020 at the Munasinghe Hall of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Mr. Nuwan Jayawardana, Associate Director – Head of Fixed Income and Credit Research, Acuity Knowledge Partners, Ms. Himasha Perera, Associate – Fixed Income and Credit Research, Acuity Knowledge Partners and Mr. Shehan Mendis, Associate – Fixed Income and Credit Research, Acuity Knowledge Partners resourced the session. The associates are alumni members of the Department of Finance. The prime objective of this session was to share practical knowledge among the students of the department to make them enriched with ethics and competent knowledge required for them to face the challenges in the global financial market.

# Employability Skills of HRM Graduates

The guest lecture on "Employability Skills of HRM Graduates" under the Skills Development Program was successfully held on 14th February, 2020. Mr. Danushka Ranasinghe, Manager – Human Resources and Administration, Selyn Exporters (Pvt) Ltd, conducted this session for the students of the department. This session was of great importance to the students. The content of the session enlightened the students on the aspects that they need to improve, to step out into the corporate world. Also, the students were able to acquire an understanding on how to face real life challenges.



# Industry Engagement Program on Sustainability Marketing



An interactive session on 'Sustainability based Tourism Development Strategy' was organized by the Department of Marketing Management with the Hotel and Tourism Industry. The purpose of the program was to provide final year students of the departments to experience and practise the theories and concepts learned in the classroom. The program was conducted at two phases: 26th February and 06th March 2020. The phase one of the program included visiting and engaging in discussions with six hotels in Habarana area that adopt sustainability initiatives, namely Heritance Kandalama, Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana Village by Cinnamon, Aliya Resort & Spa and Jetwing Vil Uyana. The second stage of the program expected students to perform analysis of the data collected during the field visit and suggest strategies to further promote the sustainably based tourism practices of the selected hotels. The program was supported by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. The program set a platform for enhancing the relationship between the university and the industry. The session was organized and coordinated by Prof. (Mrs) D. S. R. Samarasinghe. A team of academics of the Department, namely, Dr. Lalith Chandrlal, Dr. Asoka Malkanthie, Dr. Dushan Jayawickrama, Mr. Aminda Lakmal, Mrs. Pavani Lakshika, Ms. Samudrika Rasanjaree and Mr. B T K Chathuranga participated in the program by evaluating students' presentations. The program was funded by the ELTA/ELSE project of the Faculty to increase their proficiency level and how to develop more EAP (English for Academic Purposes) materials for students with higher level of proficiency.



# Teacher training and outbound training

A teacher training workshop and an outbound training programme were conducted for the lecturers of the DELT on 12th March 2020 to enhance the language teaching skills and team building skills of the staff.



# Workshop on English: EAP, EGP and EOP

As a part of the curriculum revision of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the DELT proposed to introduce English for Academic Purposes (EAP) to second year students who follow their degrees in English medium, and "English for General Purposes (EGP)" courses to the rest of the second-year students who pursue general degrees and degrees in Sinhala medium. "English for Occupational Purposes" (EOP) courses are for the third-year students. Material development workshop for the newly introduced courses was held from 25th – 27th June 2020 in collaboration with the York University, UK. The resource persons of the workshop were Dr. Bimali Indrarathna of the York University, UK, Dr. Sujeewa Hettiarachchi of the English and Linguistics Department, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Major Wimansa Abeywickrama of the Kothalawala Defence Academy.

# Opening of Business Incubator Centre, Digitalized Library and a Language Centre

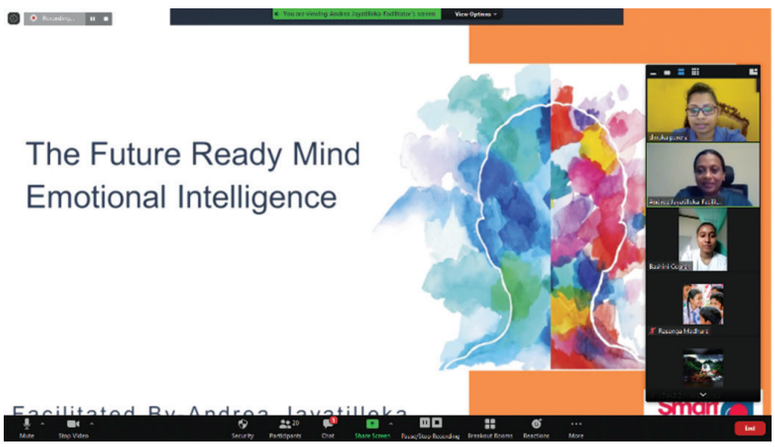


The Department of Marketing Management in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura launched a new venture by establishing a Business Incubator Center, Digitalized Library and a Language Center. All these centres are funded by the World Bank ELTA/ELSE project which was a competitive grant won by the Department of Marketing Management. The Business Incubator Center provides a Model Business which is a platform for undergraduates to practise theories learned in the classroom in a real business context. The profit of the business will be used for students' co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The Digitalized Library and the Language Center bring undergraduates one step closer to the digitalized learning including enhancing English Language Skills. The opening ceremony of the Business Incubator Center, Digitalized Library and a Language Center was held on 20th August 2020. The event was graced by Dr. Kalum Gamage – Director of AHEAD project of the University, Prof. Amila Jayarathne – Head of the Department, Asst. Prof. Asoka Malkanthie – Coordinator of the Project, Mr. Aminda Lakmal, Mr. Harsha Tissera- Activity Coordinators, and the academic staff of the Department, office bearers of the Marketing Management Association and the students of the Department.

# The Future Minds with Emotional Intelligence

The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) together with the Alumni Association of the Department of HRM organized its 1st Virtual Skills Development program for its undergraduates. This program was facilitated by an alumnus of the Department of HRM, Ms. Andrea Jayatilleka – Director of Smart Quest (Pvt) Ltd on 21st August 2020 via the zoom platform.

Ms. Jayatilleka discussed her expertise on one of the most pertinent subjects of our time – emotional intelligence, under the topic "The Future Ready Mind with Emotional Intelligence". She illustrated the importance of emotional intelligence and the tools which students can use to build and enhance their emotional intelligence. This session enlightened students in relation to the corporate world.




# Coffee with a Business Leader: COVID-19 and Survival Strategies

The Department of Business Economics organised 'Coffee with a Business Leader: COVID-19 and Survival Strategies', a dialogue between the industry, students of the Master of Business Economics (MBEc) and Master of Philosophy in Business Economics ((MPhil (BEc)) Programmes on 22nd August 2020. Mr. Priyantha Perera (Executive Director - Sales & Marketing, Sathosa Motors PLC and Director, Access Motors (Pvt) Ltd.) and Mr. Nuwan Gamage (Vice President-Education, Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) and Head of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Sustainability at Arinma Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.) contributed to the program as the resource persons and Dr. P.J.S. Fernando (Coordinator of Master of Business Economics (MBEc)) moderated the session. The intent of the programme was two-fold: to create a platform to discuss contemporary issues in the business world and to enhance the universityindustry linkages.





# Academic writing workshop for MBEc and MPhil (BEc) programmes

The Department of Business Economics organised a one-day workshop on academic writing for the students of the Master of Business Economics (MBEc) and Master of Philosophy in Business Economics ((MPhil (BEc)) Programmes on 22nd August 2020. Dr. Mangala Fonseka participated as the resource person in this workshop. This was organised under the MBE 5104: Research Methods course with the aims of providing a theoretical foundation on academic writing, translation of theory into practice and internalizing aspects of academic writing.



# Biosystems Technology Webinar Series

The Department of Biosystems Technology (BST) at the Faculty of Technology successfully hosted their first webinar series with foreign experts from industry and academia. The BST Webinar Series aimed to provide the knowledge of biosystems technology and biotechnology that has been developed over the past 20 years to address the current global challenges related to the coronavirus pandemic, medicinal plants research and the development of sustainable technologies.



The Guest Speaker, Dr. Sachith Perera, Senior Scientist, Ab Studio Inc, California, USA, conducted a webinar on "COVID-19-Biology, Detection, Prevention, and Treatments". The online presentation touched on the novel coronavirus (named as COVID-19), including the molecular biology of coronavirus, its prevention methods, and ongoing research on vaccine development in the USA. The webinar was hosted via zoom on 5th November 2020, from 9:00-10:30 am.

The distinguished Guest Speaker, Professor Aruna Weerasooriya, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, A&M University Prairie View, Texas, USA delivered a talk on "Medicinal Plants Research and Commercialization Opportunities and Challenges." The talk elaborated on current trends in medicinal plant research and their industrialization opportunities and issues worldwide, and the webinar was held via zoom on 19th November 2020, from 8:30-10:00 am.





The distinguished Guest Speaker, Professor Mary Kirchhoff's (Executive Vice President of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Scientific Advancement Division and the Director of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute, USA) webinar on "Sustainability through Green Chemistry" was scheduled to be held in early 2021.

# Panel discussions on Sri Lankan economy amidst COVID-19



The first webinar on 'Sri Lankan economy and the way forward amidst COVID-19' organised by the Research Center for Business Economics and Development Studies (RCBEDS) of the Department of Business Economics was successfully held virtually from 6.00 pm onwards on 11th September 2020 via zoom. Dr. (Mrs.) D.S.T. Wanaguru (Additional Director, Economic Research Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Mr. Qadhir Sheriff (Associate Director, Acuity Knowledge Partners) and Mr. Tushara Jayaratne (Designation Director, External Relations and Capital Market Education, Security Exchange Commission) participated as the eminent panelists in this online forum.

The second webinar on 'Global economy and the way forward amidst COVID-19' organised by the Research Center for Business Economics and Development Studies (RCBEDS) of the Department of Business Economics was virtually held on 23rd October 2020 via zoom. Prof. (Dr.) Yuri Sadoi (Professor, Faculty of Economics, *Meijo University, Japan*), Dr. Ravi Liyanage (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, *The Kingdom of Raigam)* and Dr. Rohan Pallewatta (Executive Chairman, *Lanka Harness Company (Pvt.) Ltd.*) participated as the eminent panelists in this online forum. The moderator of the sessions was Prof. P.J.Kumarasingha, Professor of the Department of Business Economics.




# Stakeholder Consultation on Curriculum Review and Development



In alignment with the ongoing Faculty Curriculum Review process, the Department of Public Administration successfully concluded a Stakeholder Consultation on Curriculum Review and Development on 9th September 2019 at the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). Scholars and professionals representing both the public and private sector organizations and few alumni members were invited for the session to have a productive discussion with the academic staff members of the Department. The participants emphasized the expected graduate attributes, skills, gaps among the graduates and industry trends, and proposed novel subjects to be included in the curriculum. The discussion was moderated by the Head of the Department, Dr. Pavithra Madhuwanthi. This consultation session was funded by the AHEAD Project of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

# Training Program on Drug Prevention for Police Officers by the Dept. of Philosophy and Psychology

The Department of Philosophy and Psychology organized a special two day workshop series on Drug Prevention which was held on the 19th and 20th September 2020 at the University with the participation of the Most Venerable Prof. Madagoda Abhayatissa Thero, State Secretary of School Sports (Ravindra Samarawickrama), Vice-Chancellor (Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage), Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor Shirantha Heenkenda), Senior Deputy Inspector General (Deshabandu Thennakoon), Deputy Inspector General (Dr. Dinesh Karunanayake), Women SSP (Mrs. Bimsani Jasinghaarachchi), Director General UNESCO, Asia Division (Dr. P.N. Meegaswatte), Director General of NGO attached to the ministry of defense (Mr. Raja Gunarathna), Commandant of Volunteer Naval Force Sri Lanka: (Rear Admiral K.A.S Uthpala), Director (Actg.) National Police Academy Katana: Senior Superintendent of Police (Mr. Manjula Mahagirilla).



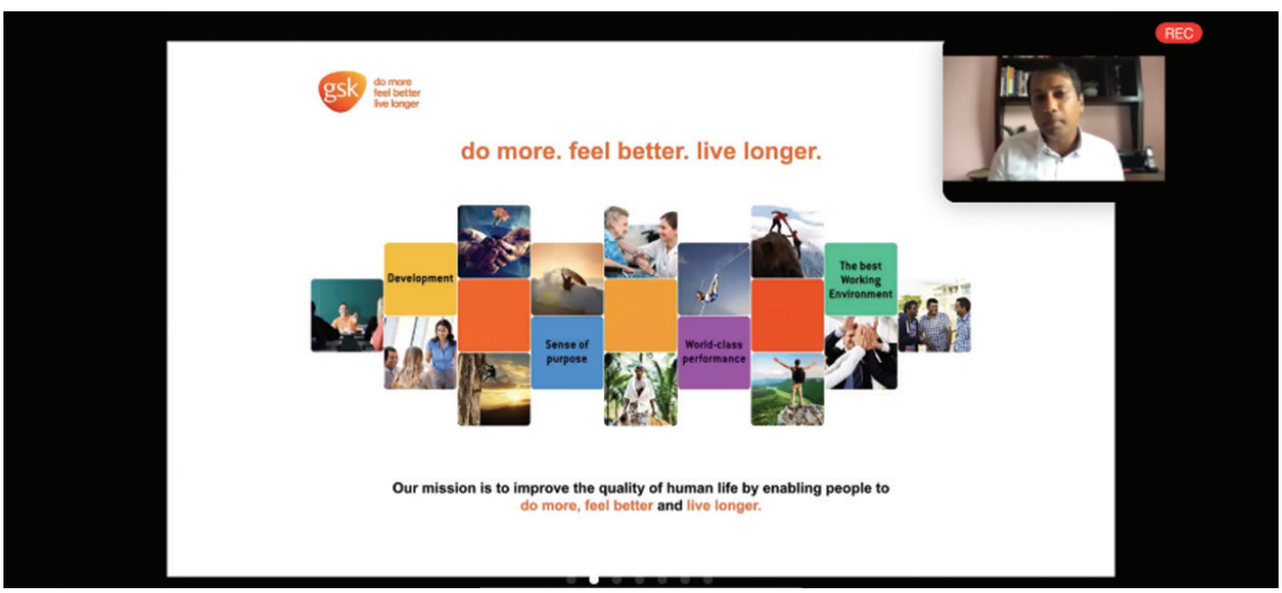
The workshop focused on psychotherapies and counselling services for drug prevention: 150 police officers participated in this event, attached to the Colombo district zone including SOCO division, Police Children and Women Bureau and Police Academy. The lectures and practical sessions were conducted by Senior Professor Gnanadasa Perera. This event included psychodrama, music therapy, laughter therapy, aversion therapy and all other drug related therapeutic techniques. The national media also covered this massive event, and this obviously focused on the wellbeing of Sri Lankan society.

# World Class Professor Program - Gadjah Mada University and The University of Sydney: Statistical Modelling Workshop Series

A Statistical Modelling Workshop Series was held as the world-class Professor Program on 5th November 2020 at 12.30 to 16.30 Sydney Time Via Zoom with the opening session of Prof. Dr. Triyono, S. U., Dean Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Gadjah Mada University with the outstanding contribution of key speaker: Prof. Shelton Peiris from the University of Sydney and Prof. Dr. rer.nat. Dedi Rosadi, S. Si., M.Sc. from Gadjah Mada University. Senior Lecturer, Dr. (Mrs.) Thanuja N. Silva from the Department of Social Statistics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura joined the workshop series as the invited speaker under the topic of 'Use of Long Memory Models to Forecast Weekly Rainfall'.

# Experience Sharing Session

The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) conducted an Experience Sharing Session headed by Mr. Dahami Hewagamage, (USJ HRM Alumni member) Country Head of Human Resources, Glaxo SmithKline. He shared his knowledge and expertise on new trends and opportunities available in the field of HRM. This session was held on Thursday, 3rd December 2020 from 3.00 p.m. onwards via the zoom platform. The Head of the department Dr.(Mrs.) G.D.N. Perera together with the academic staff members of the department participated in this session. All the students in the department were invited to participate in this event.




# Webinar on "Energy Storage Systems: Industrial Applications"

A webinar on "Energy Storage Systems: Industrial Applications" by Dr. Nishad Mendis was organized by Mechatronics Focus area, Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The event was held on 3rd of December 2020 from 2.00pm to 3.30 pm via the online platform zoom. The Guest Speaker, Dr. Nishad Mendis is a Senior Electrical Engineer working in DNV GL's Energy Advisory group in Melbourne, Australia. Before joining DNV GL, Dr. Mendis worked for Eltek as a Solutions Engineer working on the design of implementation of energy storage-based applications, Alstom Grid as a Design and Commissioning Engineer for HV substations and Noratel as a Design Engineer. Dr. Mendis has over fifteen years of professional experience including a Ph.D. on the "Design of Wind Dominated Hybrid Remote Area Power Supply Systems" from the University of Wollongong, Australia, Master of Business administration from Anaheim University USA and a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering with honors from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Dr. Mendis also currently holds IEEE Senior membership and serves as IEEE IAS Executive Board Member.



# Webinar on Building Destination for Post Covid Tourism Revival




Dr. K.P.L Chandralal, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Marketing Management, presented the research findings of the research titled "Projected, Pre-visit and Post Visit images of Sri Lanka as a Tourist Destination" which was undertaken by a research grant received from the university. The research team included Dr. K.P.L. Chandralal, Dr. J.W.D. Chaminda, Mr. Dilan Rathnayake of the Department of Marketing Management and Mr. L.H.T. De. S. Wickramasuriya, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Decision Sciences. The webinar was organized on 11th December 2020 by the Sri Lanka Tourism Board which started with the presentation by Dr. K.P.L. Chandralal followed by the discussion of other panelists.

# Department of Finance appreciates the Student Achievement in the CFA Competition

Department of Finance organized a special on February 2020 to award the students who won the island first place at the CFA Research Challenge Competition 2019. The student efforts were appreciated by the Dean of the Faculty, Head of the Department and other academic members of the Department. The Dean, together with other academic members advised these students on how to face the regional competition and wished them all the very best to face the upcoming challenges successfully. The Department of Finance strives to enhance the student quality through making them partake in both academic and extracurricular activities. By recognizing student achievements, the Department intends to make students actively participate in their studies while motivating them to bring glory to the entire university.



# MoU was signed between Unilever Sri Lanka and Department of Marketing Management



Formalizing the partnership that existed between the Department of Marketing, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Unilever Sri Lanka, an MoU was signed at the University Boardroom on 18th November 2019. The agreement aims to strengthen the links between the worlds of academia and the industry; to transfer knowledge and skills between parties; and also to empower undergraduates in their career development. This will open up opportunities for Marketing Management undergraduates to receive exclusive internship programs provided by Unilever Sri Lanka along with a series of Career Development Training, Mentoring and Knowledge Sharing sessions to make them better prepared for the corporate sector.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Head, Department of Marketing Management, Prof. (Mrs.) Amila Jayarathne, several leading members of the Unilever Sri Lanka including Director-Human Resources & Corporate Relations Ms. Shaweta Pandey, and the Lecturers of the Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

# FHSS Signs MOU with People's Bank




A new system of digital banking was introduced to the students of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 31st August 2020. The system was introduced by the Faculty with the collaboration of People's Bank for the benefit of students of the faculty, and the introduction of this new system is a new step in online banking and was introduced to the Sri Lankan university system for the first time. The system would facilitate the students to use their student identity card as a digital banking card and this would give them the opportunity to easily access and check the status of their bursary and Mahapola scholarships as well. Moreover, through this system, payments for international journals, student welfare payments, student loans and many other financial facilities would be carried out conveniently.

An agreement to establish this system with the collaboration and assistance of the People's Bank was signed at university premises with the participation of the CEO of the bank Mr. Ranjith Kodithuwakku, Mrs. Renuka Jayasinge, the Deputy General Manager (Retail Banking, Process Management and Quality assurance along with the Vice-Chancellor of the University; Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor Shirantha Heenkenda.

# Department of Sinhala & Mass Communication Signs MoU with HELVETAS Inter-corporation gGmbH



Department of Sinhala & Mass Communication of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, USJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HELVETAS Inter-cooperation gGmbH, on 17th August 2020, with initial plans to collaborate on a new project designed to promote and respect the freedom of expression, by empowering a community of youth. Under this agreement, the HELVETAS Intercooperation gGmbH organization will be developing an Incubator Space fully equipped with all tools and devices for the interest of the department's undergraduates. The signing of the MOU is a milestone in the relationship of the two institutions.

Titled as InSPIRE, this agreement has been under construction to enhance the cooperation between both institutions to achieve their common objectives in the direction of connecting students through multi-disciplinary learning and providing them with creative spaces for expression. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage said the agreement would strengthen their institutional relations which ultimately benefit the students by providing them a free space to express creative ideas and develop their ingenious knowledge.

# Prof. Subasinghe Delivers Keynote Address at International Agarwood Conference in Indonesia



Due to the recognition of eminent researches conducted on Gyrinops walla locally known as Walla patta tree, Prof. Upul Subasinghe, Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science of the USJ, was invited as a Keynote Speaker to the 1st International Conference on Agarwood and Aromatic Plants organized by Mataram University, Lombok, Indonesia. In this conference held on 1st and 2nd October 2019, he delivered a speech on his latest research findings on agarwood research in Sri Lanka titled "Agarwood Resin Inducement in Gyrinops walla: Beyond Fungal Inoculations" which was highly appreciated by the participants.



# Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Memorial Lecture



Senior Professor Sagarika Ekanayake, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, and Dean of College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, delivered the Professor Stanley Wijesundara Memorial Lecture -2019 on 12th July 2019, titled "EAT RICE TO BE HEALTHY: VARIETY, PROCESSING AND PREPARATION" at the inaugural session of the 11th Annual sessions of Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), University of Colombo on the invitation of the Director and the Board of IBMBB. The occasion was graced by the family members of Prof. Wijesundara, past Directors of the IBMBB and distinguished invitees. Prof. Chandrika Wijerathna, Vice-Chancellor of University of Colombo was the chief guest on this occasion.

# Webinar on "The great demand for Mechatronics graduates in the industry"




A webinar was organized by Mechatronics Focus area, Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura under the topic "The great demand for Mechatronics graduates in the industry" for the undergraduate students on 9th December 2020 at 4.00 p.m. via Zoom. The guest speaker was Dr. Chandika Wickramathilake, General Manager- Autonomation. MAS Intimates Private Limited. Dr. Wickramatillake holds a doctorate in surface engineering/Materials science from the University of Hertfordshire – UK. He then continued his post graduate education to obtain his doctorate in 2000 from the same University, which was funded by 3M and DERA (Defense Evaluation Research Agency-Farnborough, UK). He is a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and Institute of Materials.

Dr. Wickramatillake has accumulated over 20 years of professional experience working in countries such as the UK, Australia, Netherlands, Spain, Germany, USA to name a few. He was the Project Controls Manager - Vanderlande Industries Ltd. for the mighty Terminal-5 Heathrow airport Project of British Airport Authority. From 2007 to 2011 Dr.Wickramatillake worked as the Contract Manager for United Parcel Service – UPS Worldport Expansion Project in Louisville, Kentucky USA. The large $450 million complex automated material handling system is now the largest distribution system in the world. Dr. Wickrematihileke has worked in Sri Lanka at ALUMEX PLC as Head of Production from 2011 till 2015.

# Professor Dinithi Peiris delivered a Keynote speech

Professor Dinithi Peiris, Dept. of Zoology, Faculty of Applied Sciences delivered the Keynote speech at the International conference on "Herbal remedies for boosting immunity and ameliorate stress in present scenario" on 17th of January 2020. This event was organized by School of Pharmacy, Choukesy Group of Colleges, Chhattisgarh, India.




# Biodiesel Production from Waste Vegetable Oil: Replacing fossil fuel requirements in the transport sector



Biodiesel Production from Waste Vegetable Oil is a project headed by Dr. Udara S.P.R. Arachchige from Faculty of Technology, and is funded by AHEAD operation from the World Bank. The total value of the grant is 25 Million rupees for 3 years period. (01st Jan 2020 – 31st Dec. 2022) The main idea of biodiesel production research is to replace the diesel requirements in the railway sector in Sri Lanka. This reveals an opportunity to retain around US$ 3 million worth of foreign exchange every year in the country that is spent on petroleum diesel imports.

Biodiesel is a renewable energy source, and fossil fuel is a non-renewable energy source. Therefore, it will be a good environment-friendly solution to overcome energy demand today. When comparing to fossil fuel, biodiesel has a less amount of Sulphur content. That will also help to reduce air pollution. The most interesting part is that the raw material for biodiesel production is Waste Cooking Oil (WCO) and that is wasted from restaurants and hotels. The biodiesel production process will help to minimize the waste disposal from those restaurants and hotels.

# "Touch the Peak" – Workshop Series (FHSS, FAHS Episode)

"Touch The Peak" – SJP Annual Job Fair & Entrepreneurial Ventures – Final Episode was a rare opportunity for the fresh undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of the University to raise their awareness of the world of work while seeking for appropriate job opportunities.

The program included a workshop series and a career fair. It was held on 11th and 13th March 2020 at Bandaranayake Hall in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The event was coordinated by Adeesha Mahalekam and Hasini Jayathilaka as Chief Organizers, Jayada Gallage as the Events Secretary, Pasindu Lakshan as Events Treasurer. Nearly 1000 students participated in the event.

**Resource persons**

Dr.Ranil Sugathadasa
Senior lecturer at the Department of Transport and Logistics Management
Faculty of Engineering
University of Moratuwa

Mr. Kumara Galhenage
Deputy General manager
Group Talent Management at Brandix
Dr. L.A.P. Madhuwanthi (Moderator)
Head - Department of Public Administration

Mr. Chathuranga Abeysinghe
Senior GM - Human Resources
Bradix Apparel Solutions Ltd - Essentials

Mr. G.K. Wijerathne
Head of Human Resources (GM)
Piramal Glass Ceylon PLC

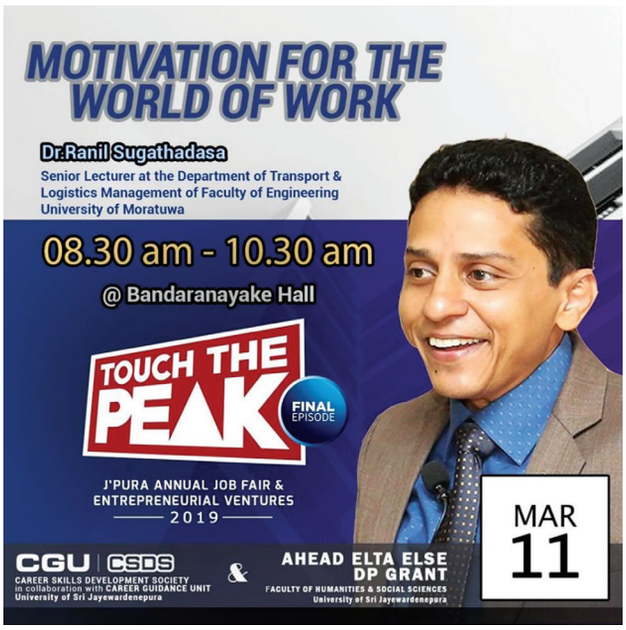
M.M.M.P. Bandara Wijerathne
GM - Human Resources and Administration
Brandix Apperal (Pvt) Ltd

**The main sponsors:**

Platinum Partner- MAS Capital (Pvt) Ltd
Silver Partner- Brandix Apparels Ltd
Gift Partner- Vivid Flora

**Recruitment partners in the Job Fair**

- Sri Lanka Army
- Sri Lanka Navy
- Sri Lanka Air Force
- Sri Lanka Police
- Rentokil PLC
- Sampath Bank PLC.
- John Keels Holding PLC.
- Viani London (Pvt) Ltd
- Omobio (Pvt) Ltd
- ABEC (Pvt.) Ltd.
- Dialog Axiata PLC.
- Unilever Sri Lanka LTD
- Associated Motorways (Pvt.) Ltd
- Kings Hospital Colombo
- Bright International Education & Travels (Pvt.) Ltd
- Remidiumone (Pvt.) Ltd
- Lanka Hospitals PLC.
- Ranwala Foundation



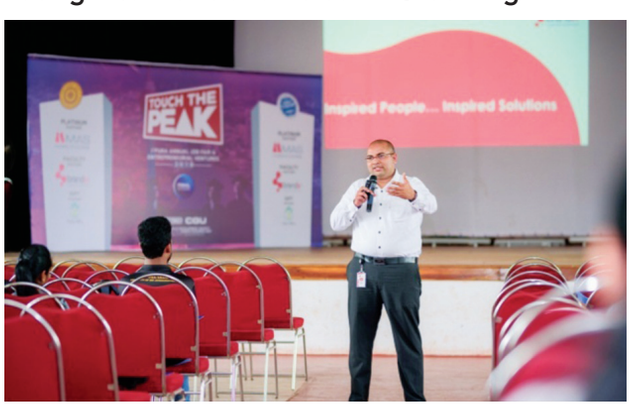




Motivation for The World of Work



Facing Interviews and Personal Grooming




Career Fair

HR Forum



Inauguration Ceremony



**Facing Interviews**





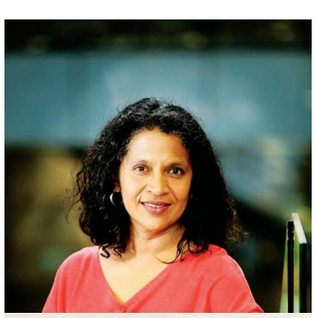
**Tokens of Appreciation**





# Webinar on 'The Road to Age - and Disability-inclusive Transport: Studies from Sri Lanka and New Zealand'

The Road Traffic Injury Research Network (RTIRN), a global network of researchers and professionals focusing on road safety in low and middle income countries, invited Dr. Varuni Tennakoon, Senior Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ, Sri Lanka, and Professor Shanthi Ameratunga, Section of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, School of Population Health, University of Auckland, New Zealand to co-present the webinar on 'The Road to Age- and Disability-inclusive Transport: Studies from Sri Lanka and New Zealand'.



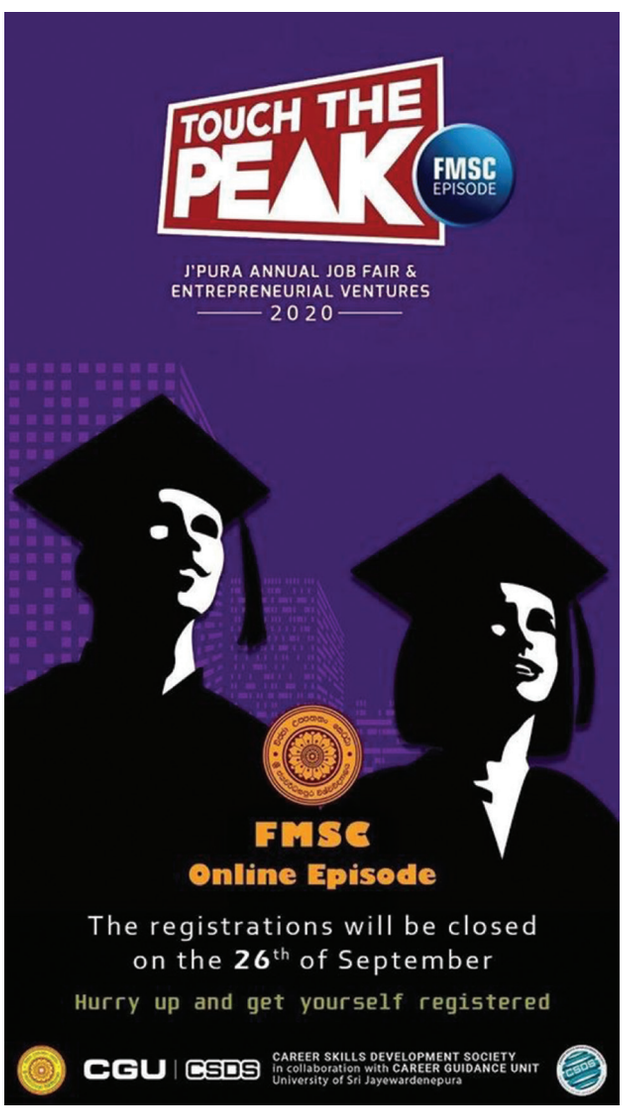


The webinar was held on the 26th of September 2019 with the participation of interested individuals from all over the world. The webinar discussed the implications for age-and disability-inclusive transport plans drawing on perspectives of older residents, disabled people and policy makers in Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

# "Touch the Peak"-FMSC Episode

"Touch the Peak" – USJ Annual Job Fair & Entrepreneurial Ventures – FMSC Episode was conducted via the zoom platform due to the prevailing pandemic situation worldwide. This was indeed a great opportunity for the undergraduates to experience and get used to the new normal situation across the world while preparing themselves for the future world of work. The executive committee members, Nuwani Uthpala and Sachira Udana were selected as the chief organizers of the event. The virtual interview sessions were conducted on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of September 2020 with the tremendous support of the corporate sector. Unilever Sri Lanka Limited, Diesel & Motor Engineering PLC, Nestle Lanka PLC and MAS Holdings Pvt Ltd participated as companies to hold virtual interviewes.






# Glory Night 2020





Glory Night is organized by the Career Skills Development Society with the ultimate goal of felicitating the outgoing members of the executive board for the service rendered by them in enhancing and uplifting the standards of the society and also to delegate the responsibilities to the freshly appointed executive board members.

This year s Glory Night was held on the 29th of February 2020 from 6.00 p.m. onwards at Paradise Inn Bolgoda. The chief organizers of the event were Ganesh Thilanka and Nilasha Dodampage. Kalpani Nishshanka was the sub-chief organizer of the event and Tharanga Dilshan was appointed as the treasurer of the event.

The occasion was graced by the participation of alumni members, members of outgoing executive committee members, members of newly appointed executive board members, and many active members of the Career Skills Development Society. This glamorous night included many events such as awarding membership identity cards for active members of CSDS, awarding medals and certificates for the members of the outgoing executive committee members, presenting the badges and issuing appointment letters to the members of the newly appointed executive committee.







# Shadow of Success: Phase 06




Shadow of Success is an event held with the primary goal of motivating and inspiring our young undergraduates of mother SJP by inviting inspiring and successful role models who have achieved their targets in life in an extraordinary manner and offering them a rare chance to listen to their life experiences.

Shadow of Success phase 06 was held at the K.A.Munasinghe Hall from 5.00 p.m. onwards on the 3rd of March with the participation of Ms. Ashcharya Peiris as the guest speaker. She is a world-renowned personality for being an influential character and she has also achieved success in her career as a fashion designer amidst many bitter experiences and obstacles that she had to encounter in her life.

Kasindu Kesara and Dinusha Erandi were appointed as the Chief organizers for the event and Nuwani Uthpala was appointed as the Sub-Chief organizer of the event. Many members of CSDS and also many other undergraduates participated in the event to ingest valuable and inspiring words of this eminent personality.



# The Shape of USJ Icons-Workshop Series

"Shape of USJ Icon" is a workshop series, organized by the Career Skills Development Society with the major objective of enhancing career skills and positive attitudes of its and to create proficient employees for the world of work. Each phase of this series focuses on a particular area that is of importance for the future of the undergraduates. Mr. Uwin Ariyarathne and Mr. Kalindu Matheesha Somathilake were resource persons on two workshops on Balancing Academics and Extra-Curricular Activities and Obtaining a Foreign Scholarship held in February and March 2020.

Following virtual workshops were conducted for undergraduates while offering free data facilitaties during the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020.

- Self- Motivating Your Way to Success by Mr. Sumendra Jayaram
- Build Your Self Confidence by Ms. Navini Jayasinghe
- Self- Motivating Your Way to Success by Mr. Randhir Witana
- Interview Facing Skills Training by Ms. Shanilka Somasundaram
- How you Groom as a Professional Leader by Mr. Sumendra Jayaram
- Dining Etiquette and Mannerism by Dr. Prasanna Wijesinghe
- Creating Breakthroughs in Difficult Times by Mr. Yasiru Bandaranayke
- How to Stay in Focus During Through Challenges by Dr. Kuma Iddamallena











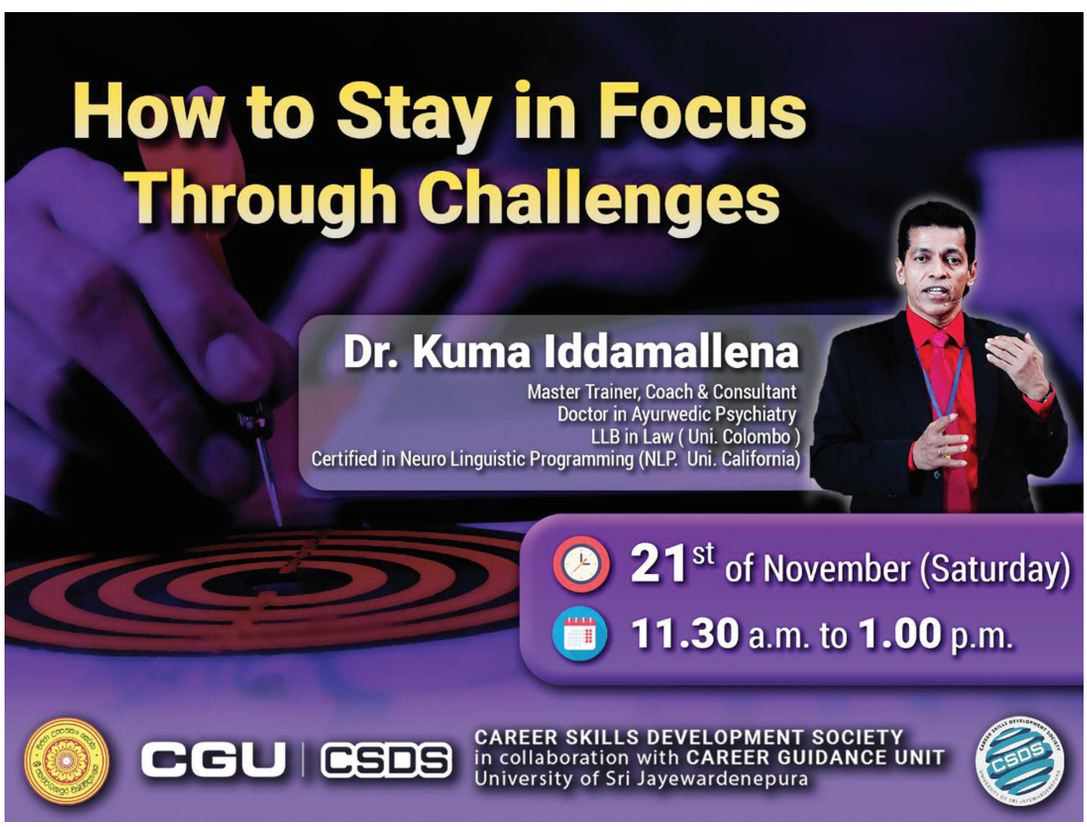


How You Groom as a Professional Leader
31st Saturday
11.30 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.
zoom
Sumendra Jayaram
Strategic Leader
Corporate Trainer
Human Talent Developer
AGM / Head AIA Sri Lanka Academy
CGU | CSDS
CAREER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
in collaboration with CAREER GUIDANCE UNIT
University of Sri Jayewardenepura


CV writing & Interview Facing Skills Training
Phase - ii
SHANILKA SOMASUNDARAM
HR PROFESSIONAL / TRAINER
MAS
zoom
24th Saturday
10.30A.M. to 11.30A.M.
CGU | CSDS
CAREER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
in collaboration with CAREER GUIDANCE UNIT
University of Sri Jayewardenepura


Dinning Etiquette and Mannerism
Dr. Prasanna Wijesinghe
Managing Director, PhD, MHRM, MA (Philosophy), BPh, BTh, NLP
Bridge To Bridge Solutions (Pvt) Ltd
07th Saturday
11.30 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.
zoom
CGU | CSDS
CAREER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
in collaboration with CAREER GUIDANCE UNIT
University of Sri Jayewardenepura


Creating Breakthroughs in Difficult Times
Yasiru Bandaranayke
Dip BUS (AU) . B.COM HR (AU) .
MBA - INT (AU) . Certified Coach (ICF)
CHIEF TRAINER | CATALYST
14th Saturday
11.30 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.
CGU | CSDS
CAREER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
in collaboration with CAREER GUIDANCE UNIT
University of Sri Jayewardenepura


How to Stay in Focus Through Challenges
Dr. Kuma Iddamallena
Master Trainer, Coach & Consultant
Doctor in Ayurwedic Psychiatry
LLB in Law ( Uni. Colombo )
Certified in Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP. Uni. California)
21st of November (Saturday)
11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
CGU | CSDS
CAREER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
in collaboration with CAREER GUIDANCE UNIT
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

# "Scratallision of Minds"

Development Society with the major objective of breaking the boredom of the members of society while making use of the quarantine period effectively to upscale their Intelligence Quotient and Emotional Quotient. The event was held on the 27th of May 2020. The mind challenge consisted of two rounds of multiple-choice questions and a final round that consisted of a puzzle to be solved by the participants.



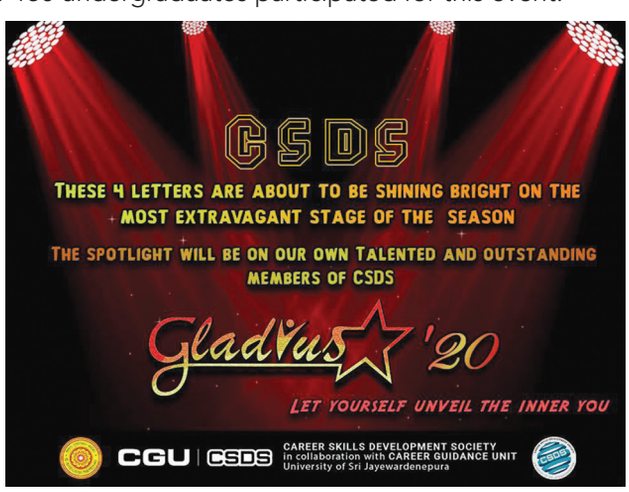




# Gladius'20

Gladius is the first online platform that was created by the Career Skills Development Society to enhance the skills and talents of its members. This event was held on 7th of June 2020 under the commitment of Thilini Mapatuna, Yashodha Nuwan, Sahan Demintha and over 150 undergraduates participated for this event.



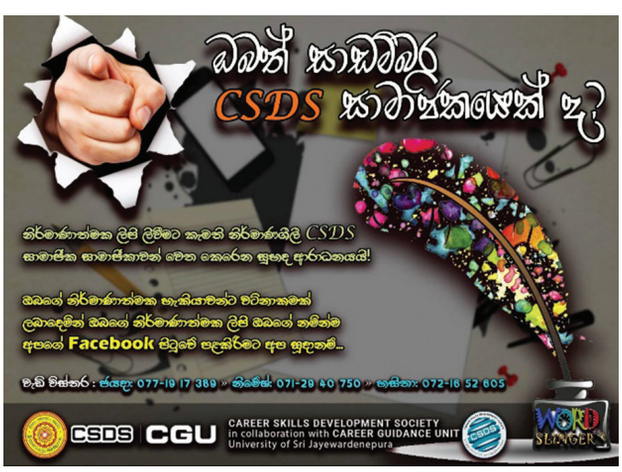
# Word Slinger

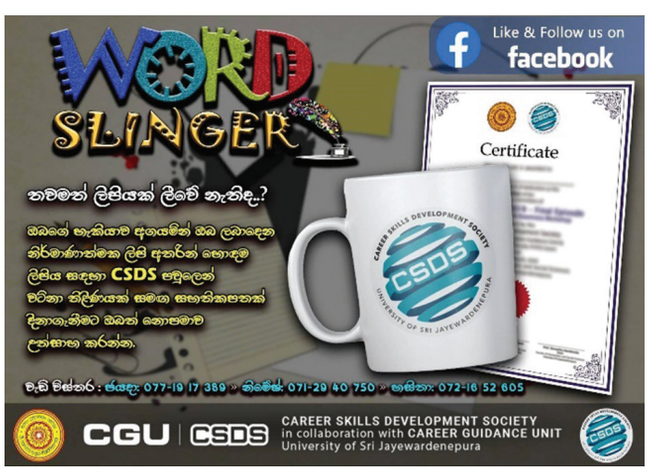
Word Slinger is an article writing competition that was organized to enhance the ability to write articles of the members of the Career Skills Development society both in Sinhala and English language. The articles are collected monthly and the writers are free to write their articles on any topic (except for topics that would arouse criticism). These articles will be proofread by a panel of proofreaders and will be published on the Career Skills Development Society's official Facebook page. This event was conducted via the Zoom app on the month of July 2020.















# Ludo championship

Ludo Championship was organized by the Career Skills Development society to utilize the growing trend of using Facebook-based games that became popular among youngsters worldwide.The competition was held on the 11th of May 2020. Around 80 students participated in this event.

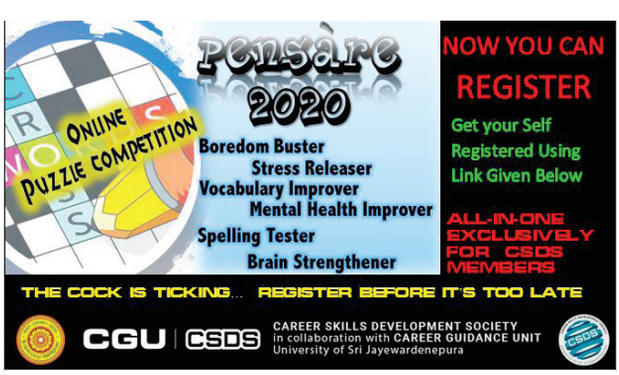



# "CSDS Team Leaders" The Micro Project Program

CSDS Team Leaders is a program that brings into light the hidden leadership qualities of the members through various activities.

**PENSARE**

PENSARE Online Puzzle Competition is an opportunity offered exclusively for members of CSDS to develop their English language skills, vocabulary, accurate spelling, and brainpower. This was an ideal opportunity for the members of CSDS to improve their mental health, to release their stress, and as an act to break their boredom while staying safe at home. The final round of PENSARE was held on the 26th of July 2020.






**Uploading a video for CSDS YouTube channel**

The project was to upload a video for the official YouTube channel of the CSDS named "Miraculous". The video on "uplifting the career skills of undergraduates" was uploaded to the official YouTube channel on the 5th of August 2020.




**Speak to Lead**

Speak to Lead is a speaking competition held in both Sinhala and English mediums. The contest had 4 rounds. The semi-final round and the final round were conducted via the zoom platform on the 09th of August 2020.




**Raising Awareness on Professional Qualifications**

The project aimed to gather all the professional qualifications important to university students and create some articles on them. The group members were particularly concerned about faculties of FMSC and FAS.



# Green Hopes Project

"Green Hopes" is a long-term project which aims at sustainable development whilst protecting the exotic greenery of Mother Nature. Through this project, new concepts are generated and an initiative to "edible gardening" was introduced in 2020 to university undergraduates, Sri Lankan population, and the entire world at large, to promote sustainability.















# CONFERENCES & RESEARCH

## USJ Researchers found Sri Lanka to be the first to use archery and arrow technology outside of Africa

Archaeological findings of a new study, which was revealed on12th June 2020, conducted by a team of researchers including Mr. Oshan Wedage of the Department of History and Archaeology, and Prof. M. M. Pathmalal of the Department of Zoology, have revealed that 48,000 years ago, prehistoric man in Sri Lanka used bones of hunted animals to produce hunting tools and equipment. The bone tools and artifacts analyzed in this study were selected from the faunal assemblages, recovered during the 2009 to 2012 excavations at Fa-Hien Lena, Sri Lanka. Being the site of the earliest fossil appearance of Homo sapiens in South Asia, Fa-Hien cave in Southwestern Sri Lanka is
a crucial locale for understanding the adaptive capacities and cultural flexibility that humans required as they first moved throughout the diverse environments of Asia.

Researchers found evidence for the earliest use of bow-and-arrow technology, a diverse toolkit of bone and tooth tools indicating the manufacture of plant and hide-based items, alongside a complex array of symbolic artifacts. According to the study, indigenous people have been using these instruments to hunt fast moving animals such as monkeys and squirrels in the rainforests. The team unearthed over 130 bone tools from the Fa-Hien Lena in modern day Sri Lanka. Many of the tools had been carved into one or two sharpened points – like arrowheads or the tip of a dart. Some were more geometric in shape and may have been used as harpoon tips or in fishing snares. These tools excavated from the cave support the suggestion that early humans may have created specialized tools to help them survive in such places.




The team also excavated several beads and other ancient jewellery pieces. People may have worn these items as personal decoration to signal some type of social status. The researchers speculate that groups of early humans living in Asia during the Paleolithic interacted in social networks. The discovery from Sri Lanka shows that in creating tools and learning to live in new environments, our species had been uniquely flexible compared to other ancient hominids.

# International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICICH)- 2019



The International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICICH)-2019 organized by the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), USJ was held with much grandeur at the National Institute of Education on 26th September 2019. The conference theme was "Enriching Global Citizens through Traditional Insights".

This is one of the first conferences held by a Sri Lankan University, in the field of Anthropology focusing mainly on the intangible cultural heritage of Sri Lanka. A special session was allocated for the Tamil medium with Tamil abstracts: many scholars from Jaffna and Eastern Universities presented papers in the Tamil medium on Tamil customs and rituals in Sri Lanka.

250 papers including 20 posters were presented in all three languages in six parallel sessions.It was for the first time a conference was conducted in all three languages: Sinhala, Tamil and English respectively. The organizers connected to Anthropological background gave prominence to respect and regard the unique cultures of the country. Best research abstracts representing each of the tracks were awarded gold medals and certificates.



The keynote speech was delivered by Kalakeerthi Rohana Baddage and the Guest of Honour was Dr. Publis Silva. The chief guest was the Acting Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage accompanied by Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean/FHSS. The conference was chaired by Prof. Praneeth Abhayasundara and the Secretary, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage. Prof. Yasanjali Jayathilake, Dr. Nelum Kanthilatha (Treasurer), Dr. Sepala Samarasekara and Dr. Jayantha Jayarisi headed the main organizing team and Dr.Tharaka Ananda served as the coordinator of the conference. Researchers from more than 15 state universities, institutes and departments of the country, as well as foreign universities, participated in the conference.





# 3rd International Conference on Real Estate Management and Valuation



The 3rd International Conference on Real Estate Management and Valuation (ICREMV-2019) themed, *"SMART Real Estate: Towards the Unmet Socio-Economic needs"*, was held on 08th October 2019 at Waters Edge Hotel, Colombo. The overarching aim of the conference was to generate a platform to exchange, learn and share new knowledge and experience, and strengthen the mutual relationships to develop the real estate sector in the country by working collaboratively. The conference featured the inauguration session, technical sessions, industry dialogues and business forums. Nearly 250 members (industry and academia) participated in the conference. Professor (Dr.) Ong Seow Eng, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore, Dr. Atasya Osmadi, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Chartered Valuation Surveyor Mr. H. M.Premathilake, Consultant, Department of Estate Management and Valuation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura delivered keynote addresses. The Chief Guest of ICREMV 2019 was Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Guest of Honour was Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University. The conference was chaired by Dr. Upuli Perera (Senior Lecturer, Department of Estate Management and Valuation) and Mr.Prathap Kaluthanthri was the conference secretary. Dr. Nishani Wickramaarachchi (Head, Department of Estate Management and Valuation and Director, Centre for Real Estate Studies) was the ex-officio conference organizer.

# South Asia's oldest and largest Forestry and Environment Symposium for the 24th year at Negombo

Fulfilling its mission for the 24th consecutive year, "24th International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2019" organized by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on the 11th and 12th of October at Jetwing Blue, Negombo. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Snr. Prof. Sampath Amarathunge, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, several Heads of the Departments, Professors and academic members participated in this symposium. The symposium was chaired by Prof. S.M.C.U.P. Subasinghe, Head, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Dr. Varuni Jayasooriya and Dr. Priyan Perera were the coordinators of the 24th International Forestry and Environment Symposium.

Distinguished as the oldest and most renowned Forestry and Environment Symposium in South Asia, this Symposium is the premier event where researchers, academia, professionals, policymakers, and the industry meet to network, discuss and learn about the latest developments in forestry and environment sectors. The International Forestry and Environment Symposium has a history that goes back to 1995, where the first event was held under the theme of "Forestry for Development", at Coral Gardens Hotel, Hikkaduwa. Since its inception, throughout the years, the symposium has gained wide recognition among academics and professionals in the forestry and environmental sectors, both in Sri Lanka and overseas. Apart from providing a platform for sharing the latest research outcomes related to the forestry and environment sector,

the symposium also supports in making a regional and national impact by sharing knowledge and ideas that cover a wide range of sub-disciplines related to the said fields.

This year's symposium was organized under the umbrella theme of "Frontiers in Eco-Innovation and Sustainability". Over 200 abstracts were received for the symposium: despite their overall high quality, only 137 oral presentations and 22 poster presentations were selected through a meticulous review, which were published in the Proceedings of the International Forestry and Environment Symposium volume 24 (2019) under 11 different sub-themes. The themes were Forest and Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity and Ecological Health, Climate Change and Disaster Management, Sustainable Land Use and Urban Development, Biomass and Sustainable Energy, Waste Management and Pollution Control, Wood Science, Wood and Non-wood Industry, Environmental Economics in Resource Management, Geology, Soil and Water Resource Management, Environmental Engineering and Green Technology, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Tourism.

The symposium gathered more than 250 experts, representing national universities, private universities, other local institutes, professional organizations, industry /private sectors, and foreign institutes. The guest of honor of the symposium, Professor Sampath Amarathunge, Vice-Chancellor University of Sri Jayewardenepura, delivered the opening remarks. A keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Mikel Duke, a Professor of Membrane Science from Victoria University Melbourne, on applications of the Membrane technologies to develop novel treatment methods to address CKDu problem in Sri Lanka. Dr. Asha De Vos, Marine Biologist and Founder of Ocean also delivered her keynote speech on the present status of blue whale research in Sri Lanka. Industrial pioneers, having environmentally friendly business initiatives, also joined hands with the 24th International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2019.



# The International Conference on Health Sciences 2019




The International Conference on Health Sciences (ICH-2019) under the theme of 'Steering Horizons: Aspiring Excellence' organized by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ – in collaboration with the Colombo South Teaching Hospital together with Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and the Base Hospital Homagama – was held on the 17th and 18th of October 2019.

The ICH 2019 gathered all specialists – in Health Sciences and Medicine both from local and overseas institutes under one roof. The programme included one pre-congress session, three symposia and six oral research presentation sessions. The Faculty of Medical Sciences Oration was delivered by Dr. Bawantha Gamage, Consultant Surgeon.

The event being a roaring success was steered by the Chairperson of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ, Prof. Shamini Prathapan with her Secretary Dr.Varuni Tennakoon and the Conference Secretary Dr. Manori Gamage, the Treasurer Prof. Guwani Liyanage along with a group of professors and doctors from the Research Committee, under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and the Dean of the Faculty, Senior Prof. Surangi Yasawardene.






# 6th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches 2019 (ICMA – 2019)



The sixth International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches–2019 organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the USJ was held with much grandeur on the 26th and 27th of November 2019 at the Golden Rose hotel. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Dr. A. M. Mubarak (Chairman, National Science Foundation) graced the event as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively. The Keynote Speech was delivered by Prof. Tom Buchanan of Mount Royal University, Canada.



The conference proceedings hosted on SSRN included timely valued research findings, in multidisciplinary research fields, by researchers from more than 10 countries.





# ICBM 2019



The 16th International Conference on Business Management (ICBM) 2019 of Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) was brought forth in collaboration with the Monash Business School, Australia and the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). The conference was held at FMSC, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 28th November 2019 and at Caulfield Campus, Monash University, Australia from 11th-14th December 2019. The collaboration is an outcome of the implementation of the MoU signed between USJ and Monash University, Australia in 2017 in order to promote teaching and research.



The conference laid its emphasis on the theme, 'Transforming Knowledge into Action: Towards Sustainable Development in Emerging Economies'. Extended Abstracts were invited on ten tracks: (i) Democratic Governance (ii) Human Resource Management (iii) Disaster Management (iv) Managing Sustainable Organisations (v) Supply Chain Management (vi) Organisation Studies (vii) Ethical Organisations (viii) Health Policy and Healthcare Management (ix) Spirituality and Management and (x) Entrepreneurship. These research tracks were managed by 2-3 track chairs appointed by both University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Monash University. The Conference Co-Chairs of FMSC, University of Sri Jayewardenepura together with the Co-Chairs appointed by the Monash University organized and managed the overall conference activities. Approximately 150 delegates from 15 countries participated in the ICBM 2019. From the 230 research papers received, 192 research papers were accepted and presented in the conference.



The ICBM 2019 inauguration, held at Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka on 28th November 2019, was graced by Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Keynote Speaker Professor Felix Mavando (Monash University Australia) and Dr. Lakmal Abeysekera




(Monash University Australia). Seven (07) PhD candidates presented their extended abstracts in the PhD consortium and forty-eight (48) research posters were presented in the poster session held at Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

ICBM 2019 inauguration held at Caulfield Campus, Monash University, Australia on 12th December 2019 was graced by Mr. Kapila Fonseka, Consulate General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka), Dr. U. Anura Kumara (Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Professor Abid Khan (Monash University Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President-Global Engagement), Professor Gary Magee (Deputy Dean- Research, Monash Business School) and Keynote Speaker Professor Premachandra Athukorala, Australian National University, Australia, Professor M.M. Pathmalal and Dr. Pradeepa Jayewardene (Co-Chairs of Research Council, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka).



# 15th International Conference on Pali and Buddhist Studies 2019



The 15th International Conference on Pali and Buddhist studies organized by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 17th December 2019 at the Sumangala Reading Hall.



Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Prof. Sampath Amaratunge), Keynote Speaker (Prof. Hao Weimin, Asst. Prof. University of Beijing, China), Guest of Honor (Ven. Tawalama Bandula, The Vihara Administrator, London Buddhist Vihara, United Kingdom), Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies (Prof. M. D. D. I. Gunathilaka), academic members and many distinguished guests graced the event. Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka). This year's conference was chaired by Ven. Dr. Kumbuke Chandaloka Thero with the assistance of the Conference Secretary, Ven. Prof. Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero.





# 7th International Congress of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA)

The 7th International Congress of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA), organized in collaboration with the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka; Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India and Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO was held on 18th and 21st September 2020 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This conference was not limited to South Asian scholars, but was open for the delegates from the world working in South Asia, who presented their research papers associated with broad themes of archaeology/ history of South Asia. Two special sessions - the Rajagala Archaeological Project in Sri Lanka and the Rakhigarhi Excavations in India were also held to discuss the applications of new scientific research methodologies and the breakthrough results obtained.







The main objective of this conference was to promote, protect and preserve our heritage for future generations. More than 130 scholars presented their findings in this congress. The scholars participated representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, South Korea, Iran, China, Indonesia, UK, USA, etc. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), Prof. Alexander Kapukotuwa (Head of the Department of History and Archaeology), Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe (Co-secretary of the SOSSA 2020) and many other delegates participated in the congress.

# Undergraduate Research Symposium

Undergraduate Research Symposium-2020 organized by the Department of Marketing Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 14th January 2020 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Being the second symposium, the objective was to provide a platform for the final year undergraduates of the department to showcase their capability in conducting a research to their peers, junior students, academics, and corporate sector. Eighteen selected research of the final year undergraduates were presented at the symposium. The extended abstracts based on such research, authored by the respective students and supervisors, were published in the proceedings of the symposium. Students showcased their capabilities in diverse specialization areas in marketing, namely, consumer behaviour, marketing communication, services marketing, sustainability marketing, digital marketing, tourism, and hospitality. The ELTA-ELSE Development project, under AHEAD grants received by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, provided the required financial assistance to succeed the Undergraduate Research Symposium 2020. Delegates from the corporate sector, Dean of the Faculty, Head and academic staff of the department and undergraduates of the department graced the event.

# ICICH 2020, Department of Anthropology

The 2nd International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage organized by the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, USJ was successfully held on 18th and 19th December 2020. The conference was held under the theme of "Fostering Folklore Research: Enriching Global Citizens through Traditional Insights" and as a virtual conference with the participation of the Chief Guest, Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) and Keynote Speaker (Snr. Prof. Saman Chandra Ranasinghe, Professor in the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts).




The conference was able to give an insightful approach to understand the folk culture of the people that has shaped and enriched the attitudes of the global citizens. More than 200 research papers were presented in 25 sessions under the tracks of Folk Religion, Folk Language, Folk Medicine, Folk Art, Folk Life and Culture etc. through the zoom platform. ICICH-2020 was chaired by Dr. Nelum Kanthilatha and Secretary was Dr. Tharaka Ananda: the advisory committee members were Snr. Prof. Yasanjalie Jayathilake (Head, Department of Anthropology), Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, Dr. Praneeth Abhayasundara, Dr. Jayantha Jayasiri, Dr. Sepala Samarasekara and Dr. Raveendra Withanachchi. Mr. Kanishka Wijerathna compered in Sinhala and English media while Ms. Bhagya Dilhani in Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication compered in the Tamil medium.

# Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day 2019



Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day (VURD) 2019, organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) for the third time under the theme "Scaffolding for the Future: Unleashing Undergraduate Research Potential", was held on 5th and 6th December 2019 at the Sumangala Reading hall.

Prof. Sudantha Liyanage (Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda (Advisor of the Research Day and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) graced the event. Prof. Emeritus M. M. Karunanayake participated in the inauguration ceremony as the Keynote Speaker.

This year's undergraduate research day was chaired by Dr. Nishantha Hettiarachchi (Senior Lecturer of the Department of Geography) with the assistance of the VURD Secretary, Ms. D. P. Kanthi Manel (Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Statistics).

The main objective of this research conference was to create a platform for the final year undergraduates, who follow special degree programs in different disciplines, to reach higher levels in their academic research endeavors. In addition, the conference strengthened students' skills which are needed to transform them into quality social scientists and humanists.

# National Action Research Conference on Higher Education at FHSS

Two workshops were successfully organized by the National Action Research Conference on Higher Education 2020 (NARCHE 2020) under the initiative, leadership and guidance of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda.

Having realized the importance of action research in higher education, Prof. Heenkenda had proposed to create a platform for researchers conducting action research in higher education. The proposal was also supported and motivated through the 2020 curriculum revision of the Faculty.

The first workshop, which was to enhance the academic writing skills of the members of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, was successfully conducted on 3rd January 2020. The resource persons were Dr. Sharon McCulloch of Central Lancashire University, UK and Dr. Bimali Indrarathne of York University, UK. The workshop was funded by the British Council Sri Lanka. The second workshop was successfully held on the theme 'Action Research in Higher Education' on 17th September 2020. The resource person was Dr. Bimali Indrarathna. Participants highly commended the workshops conducted through interactive group-based activities as they could learn the basic principles of action research in a comprehensive manner.

# 1st Annual Conference on Business Economics (ACBE)

The 1st Annual Conference on Business Economics (ACBE) was held on 14th February 2020 at the Old Faculty Boardroom of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC). The Keynote Speaker for the event was Dr.Lalith Weragoda, who is the first Ph.D.holder from the FMSC. Dr. Weragoda was the Head of Human Resources, Sampath Bank PLC and currently the Group Learning Officer, Sampath Bank PLC. Delegates from the corporate sector, officers from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage (Acting Vice-Chancellor, USJ), Dr. U. Anura Kumara (Dean, FMSC), academic staff, alumni members and undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics graced the event.

Twenty-seven selected abstracts of the graduates were presented at the conference and were published in the proceedings of the conference.




# 3rd Student Conference in Finance

The 3rd Student Conference in Finance organized by the Department of Finance was held at the Old Boardroom, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, on 29th January 2020. At the conference, seven students who conducted the research study as a part of their degree program in 2018 presented their work. The Chief Guest of the occasion was the Dean of Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. U. Anura Kumara and the keynote speaker for the event was



Prof. P.D. Nimal. The academic staff members of the Department of Finance, industry participants and Heads of other departments of the faculty graced this occasion. Students who completed their research study as a part of their degree programmes in year 2019 and 2017 also participated in the conference.




## Undergraduate Research Day – Department of Business Administration

Under the theme of Managing Work in Contemporary Organizations, the Department of Business Administration conducted the first Undergraduate Research Day of the department on Wednesday, 12th February 2020, at the faculty premises. Senior Professor H.H.D.N.P. Opatha delivered the keynote speech of the Undergraduate Research Day 2020 and the event was graced by the Dean of the faculty, Heads and academic members of the departments and undergraduates of the Department of Business Administration. The Research Day was funded by the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Undergraduate Research Day-2020 was chaired by Dr. M.D. Pushpakumari, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Business Administration. The extended abstracts of 9 undergraduates of the department were presented at the Research Day and published in the proceedings of Undergraduate Research Day 2020.



# 1st Undergraduate Research Symposium on Human Resource Management



The 1st Undergraduate Research Symposium on Human Resource Management was held at the Old Faculty Boardroom, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) on 26th February 2020. The purpose of the symposium was to provide a platform for recently graduated students to present their undergraduate research and to share the findings with their juniors, industrial experts and academics.



The Keynote Speaker for the event was Senior Professor Dr.H.H.D.N.P. Opatha. Dr. U. Anura Kumara (Dean of the FMSC), academic staff and undergraduates of the department graced the event with their presence.

Twelve (12) selected papers of the graduates were presented at the symposium and were published in the proceedings of the symposium.

# Undergraduate Research Day – Department of Public Administration

The Department of Public Administration conducted the Undergraduate Research Day (URD) for the 4th consecutive year on the 28th of February 2020 at the faculty premises. This was an excellent platform for the final year students who have successfully completed research. The keynote speech was delivered by Emeritus Professor W. Indralal De Silva, Senior Professor (Chair) of Demography and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.



# CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Professor Neelika Malavige at the frontline in the National COVID response




Professor Neelika Malavige, Head of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, has been a prominent figure in her contribution to the national COVID response. She serves on several national committees including the expert working group of COVID-19 vaccines at the Ministry of Health, national coordinating committee for COVID vaccine at the Ministry of Health and as a member of the advisory panel of the NMRA on COVID vaccines. She delivered the prestigious Ceylon College of Physicians oration at their annual congress in November 2020 on Immunological and molecular-epidemiological aspects of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka.

Professor Malavige has been serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Infectious Diseases (ISID) and was also recently appointed in 2020 to the External Affairs and Advocacy committee and Publications and Education committee of the ISID. She already serves on the Research committee of this organization.

## Professor Muditha Widanapathirana appointed as the Chairman of the National Child Protection Authority



Professor Muditha Widanapathirana, Chair Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was appointed as the Chairman of The National Child Protection Authority from 1st January 2020. He is the first professor of the Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences.Faculty of Medical Sciences

# AWARDS

## Emerald Award of Appreciation for USJ



The University of Sri Jayewardenepura was recently awarded for consistently being the Top User of Emerald content, from the year 2015 to 2018 in Sri Lanka.This award of appreciation was presented to the Librarian (Dr.Nayana Wijayasundara) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura by the Emerald Publishing Group at the International Conference of University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka (ICULA 2019) held on 18th September 2019.

Following receipt of this award, the Librarian credited the achievement to the Vice - Chancellor for his strong support, Library Staff for their dedication and commitment in enhancing awareness of Emerald, and the university community for the high usage of the database.

'Emerald' was founded in 1967 with the view of providing a platform to welcome new ideas that would advance research and practice of business and management. Today, it has grown into a top global publisher, linking research and practice not only in the field of management but also in fields of health and social care, education, and engineering. Emerald enables users to authorize individual journals, collections of journals or articles in their field of expertise and manages a portfolio of over 300 journals, more than 2,500 books, and over 1,500 teaching cases. At present, Emerald has become an ideal platform for professionals and institutions seeking a reliable, customized and quality knowledge resource.

# USJ wins Best Annual Reports and Accounts Awards for Public Sector-2017

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura was awarded the 'Best Annual Reports and Accounts Awards for Public Sector – 2017' on the 25th of October 2019 by the Association of Public Finance Accountants of Sri Lanka (APFASL), the public sector wing of CA Sri Lanka.









# Prof. Dinithi receives cash award for the best paper by the Journal Gender and the Genome




The Journal Gender and the Genome has offered a $2,500 prize for the best paper on male infertility published by Prof. Dinithi Peiris, Professor in Zoology, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Applied Sciences in the year 2019. The title of the paper is Male Infertility Problem: A contemporary Review on Present Status and Future Perspective which was published on 12th August 2019.

Publication Details: Dissanayake D.M.I.H., Keerthirathna W.L.R., Peiris L.D.C. (2019). Male infertility problem: A contemporary review on present status and future perspective. Gender and the Genome. 3: 1-7. DOI: 10.1177/2470289719868240.

# Department of Food Science and Technology wins awards at Sahasak Nimavum - 2019

Two teams of the Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won Silver and Gold Medals at the Sahasak Nimavum 2019.

**Development of a seaweed-based snack from Ulva Fasciata in Sri Lanka:**

Category: Food Technology
Field: University and Tertiary Education Institutes
Award: Silver medal at Sahasak Nimavum – 2019
Team: Ms. M.M. Jayakody
Dr. M.P.G. Vanniarachchy
Dr. I. Wijesekara

Seaweed is an abundant underutilized natural resource available in Sri Lanka with a good potential to be utilized in the Sri Lankan food industry. Generally, seaweeds are rich with fibre, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and many other bioactive compounds which are beneficial for the human body. Yet, many Sri Lankans refuse seaweed-based products due to their unfamiliar taste. Thus, this product was developed, appealing to the Sri Lankan taste, utilizing Sri Lankan seaweeds to popularize seaweed consumption in Sri Lanka.

**Development of Gluten-free Muffins from traditional yams**

Category: Food Technology
Field: University and Tertiary Education Institutes
Award: Bronze medal at Sahasak Nimavum – 2019
Team: Dr. I. Wijesekara
Prof. I. Wickramasinghe
Ms. D.L.S. Kalhari



Traditional yams are rich with fibre, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and other bioactive compounds with anti-cancer and anti-diabetic properties. Yet, people often seek nutritious and healthy food products over unhealthy wheat flour-based products. Hence, muffins were developed with traditional yams to popularize under-utilized traditional yam consumption in Sri Lanka.

# Dr. Praneeth Abhayasundere awarded "Shasana Sanathana Shathakaabhimana (ශාසන සනාථන ශතකාභිමාන) Honorary Award"

At the 100 years anniversary celebration ceremony held on 21st December 2019 at the BMICH, Dr.Praneeth Abhayasundere, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and former Chairman of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress of Sri Lanka was awarded "Shasana Sanathana Shathakaabhimana (ශාසන සනාථන ශතකාභිමාන) (Special Honorary Award for his contribution to the betterment of the Buddha Sasana.




The anniversary celebration ceremony was graced by the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Higher Education, and Innovations, Bandula Gunawardena, the Minister of Foreign Relations, Dinesh Gunawardena and a large number of distinguished guests representing the world Buddhist community.

# Presidential research awards for scientific publications 2017

The following academic members of the Faculty of Medical Sciences were awarded the Presidential Research Awards for Scientific Publications 2017.


Prof. Renu Wickremasinghe


Prof. Neelika Malavige


Dr. TSP Samaranayake


Dr. Nilanka Perera


Dr. AMB Priyadarshani

# USJ won Postgraduate Research Awards at the 75th Annual Scientific Sessions of SLAAS: Dr. (Mrs.) M.A. Dulani Somendrika and Dr. N.D Withanage

The Postgraduate Research Awards of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) have been instituted to recognize and promote high quality research carried out by postgraduate students registered in Sri Lankan universities or research institutes. Dr. (Mrs.) M.A. Dulani Somendrika was awarded the SLAAS Postgraduate Research Award 2019 of Section-B. Her Ph.D. project was carried out on "Application of life cycle analysis for quality improvement of cassava-based products, using cleaner production technologies" at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The supervisors of the research project were Prof. Indira Wickramasinghe (Principal supervisor), Prof. M.A.J. Wansapala of Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Eng. Mr. Sena Peiris Former Director, National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka. The Ph.D. Project was financially supported by the university grant of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura awarded to Prof. Indira Wickramasinghe in 2015. The outcomes of the research include mitigation techniques to retard HCN production of cassava roots in product development stages, two cassava-based products, namely cassava frozen fries, and cassava hash browns (side dish), two green micro scale production lines for cassava flour and tapioca starch production and three green micro scale machineries (cassava peeler, mini cassava rasping machine and cassava starch extractor). The publications of the research include eight (08) full papers in indexed journals and ten (10) abstracts in local and international conferences.



Dr. N.D. Withanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, USJ was awarded the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) Postgraduate Research Award 2019 in Section D for her PhD project titled "Factors associated with herniation of the lumbar intervertebral discs in patients undergoing lumbar discectomy in a selected neurosurgical unit in Sri Lanka".

This project was supervised by Prof. L.V. Athiththan. Prof. Hemantha Peiris from the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ, and Dr. Sunil Perera (Consultant Neurosurgeon). Prof. Bimalka Seneviratne (Consultant Histopathologist, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ) and Dr. Sujatha Pathirage (Consultant Microbiologist, Medical Research Institute) were co-investigators of the research project. The award ceremony was held on 2nd December 2020 at the BMICH, Colombo.

# Emerald Literati Awards 2019

Senior Professor R. Lalitha S. Fernando attached to the Department of Public Administration was awarded the Emerald Literati Award 2019 for an Outstanding Paper titled, "Critical factors affecting students' satisfaction with higher education in Sri Lanka" published in Quality Assurance in Education (authored by I.M.S. Weerasinghe and R. Lalitha S. Fernando).




# Research Awards 2018

Senior Professor (Mrs.) R. Lalitha S. Fernando, a senior academic member of the Department of Public Administration, was awarded for the following achievements at the Research Awards 2018 Ceremony of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura held on 13th of November 2019:




- Highest h-index in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce
- Highest citations in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce
- Publishing a full paper in University Journal, *Vidyodaya Journal of Management*- "An assessment of the social science research environment of the Sri Lankan state university system"
- Publishing a full paper in Journals indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded/Social Sciences Citation Index/ Art and Humanities Citation Index/ Elsevier SCOPUS/Emerald Insight/ Cabell's International Emerald Insight:
  *Quality Assurance in Education* - "Critical factors affecting students' satisfaction with higher education in Sri Lanka" (Elsevier Journal)
  *Waste Management- International Journal of Integrated Waste Management, Science and Technology*- "Solid Waste Management of Local Governments in the Western Province of Sri Lanka- Implementation Analysis"
- Obtaining external research grants for the year 2018 to carry out research on Provincial Council Power and Planning Financials Rewards

# Dr. Ranga Dissanayake wins NSF Research Awards 2017

Dr. Ranga Dissanayake (Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences) was awarded the NSF Research Awards 2017, for Scientific Excellence in the field of 'Environment and Biodiversity,' under the NSF Competitive Research Grants Scheme. Dr. Dissanayake was awarded for his contribution to the project 'Isolation of antimicrobial compounds from endophytic fungi of endemic flora of Sri Lanka' on 18th December 2019 at BMICH, Colombo.







# Prof. Meththika Vithanage won TWAS-Fayzah M. Al- Kharafi Award



Prof. Meththika Vithanage - Director, Ecosphere Resilience Research Center, Faculty of Applied Sciences - was selected as the awardee of the prestigious TWAS-Fayzah M. Al- Kharafi Award from the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

The TWAS-Fayzah M. Al- Kharafi Award is presented to a female scientist recognizing her contribution to the fields of Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Engineering Sciences in the Scientifically and Technologically Lagging (STL) countries. The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) under the leadership of Abdus Salam was established to represent scientists in the developing world, by serving more than 100 countries. TWAS prizes and awards are given to individual scientists annually for their work in the developing world. TWAS identifies 66 countries where the capacity to perform advanced scientific research facilities are limited (Sri Lanka, 54th on the list). A pre-screening of the candidates is performed by the jury to select the best qualifying candidates, specialized in the particular field. The final evaluation was performed by Prof. Fayzah Al-Kharafi herself.

Prof. Meththika Vithanage was awarded the TWAS-Fayzah M. Al- Kharafi Award in 2020. Her contribution to research, as visible in the Science Citation Indexed Journal articles, along with science dissemination through writing to national newspapers on the importance of science were main factors for the achievement of the award.

# Dr. Imalka Munaweera awarded TWAS: The World Academy of Science Research Grant



Dr. Imalka Munaweera, from Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, was awarded the TWAS: the World Academy of Science Research Grant, on 10th July 2020 for the project titled "Development of low-cost nanotechnology-based water filter using bio-based material to remove the heavy metals (Cd, Pb, and As) in contaminated water and to effectively remove hardness in domestic drinking water". This grant would facilitate her research work for 24 months with the sum of USD 14,200.00

# Ms. T.L. Navaratne wins two awards for her outstanding performance




Ms. T.L. Navaratne, a Lecturer of the Department of Business Economics, wins two outstanding awards from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. Ms. Navaratne completed an M.Sc. in Regional and Rural Development Planning at the Department of Development and Sustainability (DSD), School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), Asian Institute of Technology in May 2020. During the two-year Master's programme, she has secured a GPA of 4 out of 4 for the course-work and the Excellent Grade for her thesis, which was titled: 'Farmers' perceptions of the nexus between climate change and food security: Evidence from the Northern and North Western provinces of Sri Lanka'.

She was awarded the James A.Linen III Memorial Prize in recognition of the most outstanding academic performance, and the Yoh Kurosawa Prize in recognition of the most outstanding academic performance among female graduates in the field of Regional and Rural Development Planning.

# National level awards for new innovations




A mobile semi-automated chest physiotherapy machine (OSShCa KVD 20) and a mobile sample collection chamber won medals for their innovations. They were invented by a team headed by Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe of the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Physiotherapy plays a major role in managing respiratory tract complications of COVID 19 infection. A physiotherapist who gives chest physiotherapy needs to get closer to the patient hence, is at risk of being exposed to COVID 19 infection. The personal protective equipment reduces the working efficacy of the health care provider to some extent.

To overcome these issues, a team led by Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, developed a mobile semi-automated chest physiotherapy machine (OSShCa KVD 20) which can be operated remotely. The members of the team were Osanda Somaratna, Didula Hapuarachige and Kaveen Samarasinghe from Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Shashika Liyanwalage and Viraj Niroshan from Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Dr. Madura Jayewardena and Chamara Mathangaweera, from Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.





This invention won the Gold medal at the Medical Doctor category at Health Innovation Award 2020 organized by Sri Lanka Medical Association and the Silver medal under open category, medicine and pharmacy technical field at "Sahasak Nimavum" National Invention and Innovation Competition organized by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC).

Another product invented by the team, named "Mobile sample collection chamber," which can be operated by a single person for COVID-19 won the Gold medal at "Sahasak Nimavum" National Invention and Innovation competition organized by the SLIC under the open category. These chambers were donated to National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Kuliyapitiya Teaching Hospital and Elpitiya Base Hospital.

# Dr. Janaka Fernando honored by the Leo Club

Dr. Janaka Fernando, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Business Economics received two awards - the Most Outstanding Staff Advisor (2nd runner-up) and the District President's Special Appreciation Award at 'Grandmasters Ascend': the Award Ceremony of A2 CON'20 of Leo District 306A2 for his tremendous contributions made to the Leo Club of the 01st August 2020.




# Dr. Hiruni Harischandra received Early Career Fellowship from OWSD

Dr. Hiruni Harischandra of the Genetics and Molecular Biology Unit has secured an Early Career Fellowship from the Organization for Women Scientists for Developing Countries (OWSD), Trieste, Italy. She is one of the 23 fellows of 2020, selected from a pool of 191 applicants worldwide. This prestigious award funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is presented to promising women scientists in their early career to carry out a research project with applicability to their home country and to help build a laboratory of international standards to attract international collaborators. Dr. Harischandra was awarded USD 50,000 for two years to investigate the usability of Brugia malayi exosomes to diagnose Lymphatic Filariasis.

# Dr. Dulani Somendrika of the Dept. of Food Science wins Gold Medal at the SLAYS Open Forum 2019

Dr. (Mrs.) M.A Dulani Somendrika (Senior Lecturer on contract, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) won a gold medal at the "3-minute research presentation competition-3MT" of the 3rd SLAYS open forum organized by Sri Lanka Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS). She became one of the 10 finalists from more than 100 participants from various scientific disciplines. Dr. Somendrika was awarded the Gold Medal for her performances at the SLAYS International Conference 2019, held at Hotel Taj Samudra on the 16th of October 2019.

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a professional and highly engaging international research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland (UQ).

# PUBLICATIONS

## Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted the first Faculty Publication Day



The Publication Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted the first 'Faculty Publication Day'on 30th September 2020. Under the vision and guidance of the Dean of the Faculty Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, excellent creative skills of academic staff, non-academic staff and undergraduates of the Faculty were appreciated in the event. Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage (Vice- Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Veteran writer Mr. Chulananda Samaranayake attended the event as distinguished chief guests. The main objective of the 'Faculty Publication Day' was to appraise the writing skills of the faculty members.

In this unprecedented event of the existing crisis of the pandemic, two significant books were released as faculty publications. 'Disi Vidasi' – a collection of poems written by the undergraduates of the faculty to alleviate their stress while being quarantined at home during the COVID – 19 pandemic. The other book published is 'Ranrasu Nirmana Sangrahaya' – a collection of award-winning short stories and poems at the 'Ranrasu Prathibha' Arts Festival held in 2019.



In addition to these two faculty publications, over 25 books published by lecturers of the faculty were also prized at the event. Furthermore, books comprising scholarly articles edited by the academic staff of the faculty, articles and books written by the undergraduates were also appraised at this occasion.

Marking a significant milestone in the history of Sri Lankan universities, it was also announced that the 'Vidudaya Vinivida Kathana Grantha' project, launched by the faculty had published more than 250 audiobooks for students with special needs. This audiobook project is a unique community outreach program conducted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

# Students of Faculty of Medical Sciences launches "Veda Vidu" magazine




The Faculty of Medical Sciences Students Union launched "Veda Vidu", a bi-annual publication born through the initiative of the media sub-committee. The magazine showcases both creative and academic work of the students and staff members of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS): it also includes achievements, social services and religious festivities organized by the FMS. The magazine provides a platform for the students to unleash their creative talents through poems, essays and short stories, drawings and photography. The first and second editions of this magazine were published as electronic media in 2020. Interviews with renowned professionals, are a highlight of the magazine, to motivate and update the medical students on the current developments.

# සංඛ්‍යාන සරණිය ("Sankyana Saraniya")

The Department of Social Statistics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences launched their new bi-annual – both printed (ISSN 2756-9004) and online (ISSN 2756-9012) – magazine Volume 01, Issue 01: "Sankyana Saraniya" covers the timely valuable theme of "Statistical Aspect on Covid-19 Outbreak". The magazine was published by the Students' Association of Department of Social Statistics (SADSS). It comprised 30 pages, including five main criteria that allow students to explore the knowledge in a wide range of statistical aspects, improving their creativity.




It includes deeply discussed statistical aspects of the Covid 19 outbreak, in the form of poems, free verse, arts, short stories, and cartoons. Further, the magazine has made a great effort to update general knowledge based on statistics and logical thinking. The magazine was initiated with the contribution of Senior Lecturer, Dr. (Mrs.) D. P. K. Manel and Lecturer, Mrs. S. D. Ilangasekara as the advisor and the Senior Magazine Editor, respectively.

# CLASSIC: Educational Magazine-2020 Launched accompanied by the Short Movie Competition




The Student Association of Public Administration successfully launched "CLASSIC: Educational Magazine-2020" on a timely theme of "Youth Empowerment". The event was graced by Dr. W. A. Wijewardena, Former Deputy Governor of the Central bank of Sri Lanka as the Chief Guest, and Prof. Saman Chandra Ranasinghe from the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies. A short movie competition was organized by the Association of Public Administration and the Grand Finale of the competition was also screened in parallel with the magazine launch.

# Launch of Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics (Vol. 9, No. I & II)

The Department of Business Economics launched the Issue I and II of the Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics (SLJBE) (Vol. 9) in May and November 2020, respectively.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SRI LANKAN JOURNAL OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS [SLJBE]

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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA
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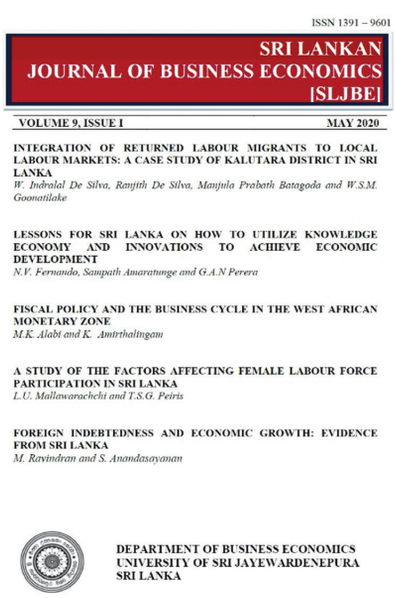
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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA
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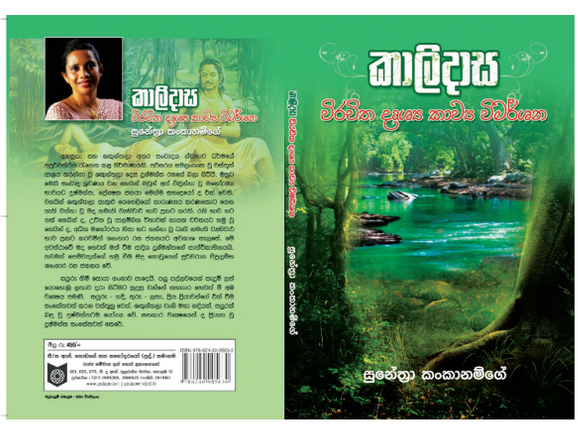
# Journal of Health Sciences and Innovative Research – Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

The inaugural issue of the Journal of Health Sciences and Innovative Research was launched on the 31st of December 2020. This is a peer-reviewed journal published annually by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

The journal aims to promote and share innovative health related research findings, which would be beneficial for health professionals in all disciplines of the healthcare system and the public. The editorial board led by Dr.Dilanthi Herath includes both local and international experts in various fields of health sciences and applies a fair but strict policy when selecting articles.




# කාලිදාස විරචිත දෘශ්‍ය කාව්‍ය විමර්ශන - සුනේත්‍රා කංකානම්ගේ



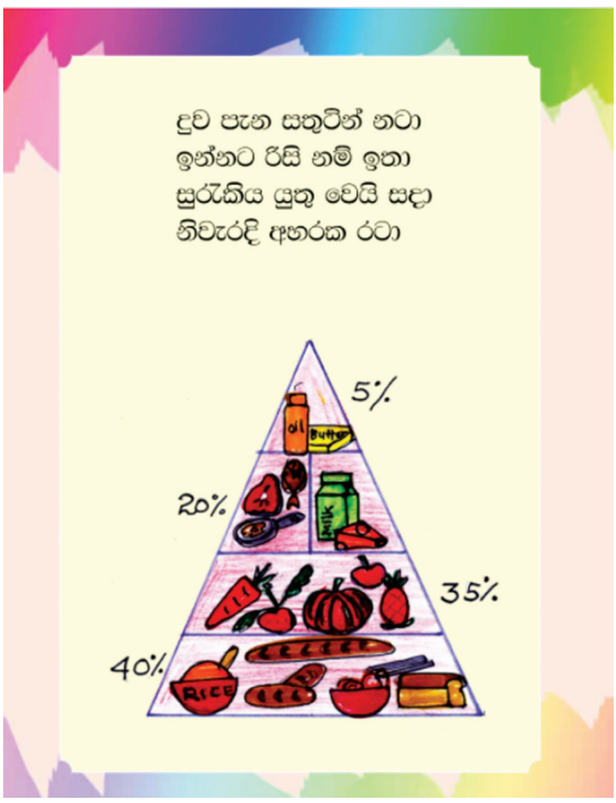

'සංස්කෘත සාහිත්‍යයේ චූඩාමණී' නාමයෙන් පිදුම් ලැබූ මහා කවි කාලිදාසගේ නිර්මාණ කෘති අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම විද්‍යාර්ථීන්ගේ දැනුම පුළුල් කිරීමටත් නිර්මාණ ශක්තිය වර්ධනය කර ගැනීමටත් ඉවහල් වේ. කාලිදාස සතු වාග්චාතුර්යයත්, වර්ණනා ශක්තියත් ඔහුගේ නිර්මාණ විශිෂ්ටත්වයට පත් වීමට හේතු විය. ස්වභාව ධර්මයේ සෘතූන් නිසා ඇති වන විවිධත්වයන් ප්‍රේමය හා මුසු කරමින් කාලිදාස නිර්මාණ කරණයේ යෙදුණේය. සෘතුසම්හාරය සහ මේඝ දූතය මෙයට ඇති විශිෂ්ටතම උදාහරණයි. කෝමල හදවතක් ඇති තැනැත්තා වී නිර්මාණකරුවා මවන නොයෙක් අවස්ථා හා චක් වෙමින් රසයක් විඳ ගන්නේය. එබැවින් මහාකවි කාලිදාස සිය නිර්මාණ කාර්යය සඳහා භරතමුනි විසින් රචිත නාට්‍යශාස්ත්‍රයේ රස සිද්ධාන්තයම ගුරුකොට ගත්තේය.

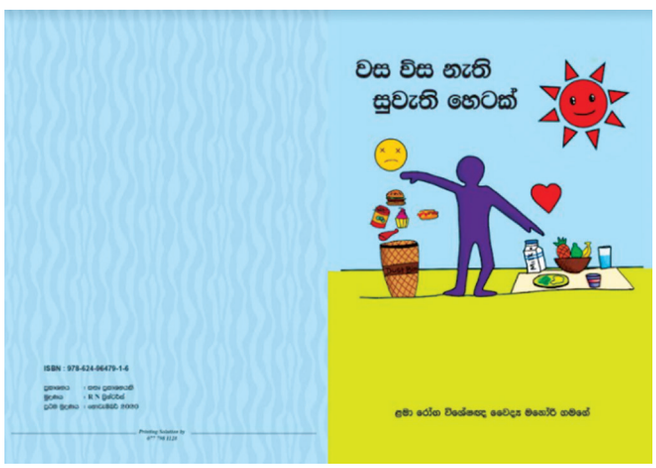
යම් කාව්‍ය නිර්මාණයක රස භාව විවරණය කරන්නේ කෙසේ ද? එහි රසය ආස්වාදය කිරීමට තමා උපතින්ම රැගෙන ආ රසිකත්වය කෙසේ අවදි කර ගන්නේ ද යන කාරණා මනාව පසක් කර ලීමට මහාකවි කාලිදාසගේ නිර්මාණ තරම් විශිෂ්ට ගණයේ සාහිත්‍යයක් සංස්කෘත සාහිත්‍යයේ හමු නොවන තරම්ය.

එබැවින් 'කාලිදිස විරචිත දෘශ්‍ය කාව්‍ය විමර්ශන' නමින් පළ වන මේ කෘතිය සඳහා සංස්කෘත භාෂාවෙන් රචිත භරතමුනිගේ නාට්‍යශාස්ත්‍රයත් කාලිදාසගේ මාලවිකාග්නිමිත්‍ර, වික්‍රමෝර්වශිය සහ අභිඥාන ශාකුන්තලය නමැති නාට්‍ය ත්‍රිත්වයත් මූල කෘති වශයෙන් ගැනිණී ඒවා සිංහලයට පරිවර්තනය වීමේ දී දක්නට ලැබෙන විශේෂතා කෙබඳු ද, කාලිදාසගේ නාට්‍යවලින් ජනනය කිරීමට අපේක්ෂිත රස භාව වේදිකාවක් මත දී ප්‍රේක්ෂකයන්ට ප්‍රක්ෂේපණය කරන්නේ කෙසේ ද?, පෙළ කියවන රසික සිත් චමත්කාරයෙන් පිනා යන්නේ කෙසේ ද යනාදී කාරණා පිළිබඳව ගවේෂණාත්මකව හා විචාරාත්මකව කළ විවරණ මේ කෘතියේ අන්තර්ගතයි.

# Launching poetry books for Children

Dr. Manori Gamage, Consultant Paediatrician and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medical Sciences, published two poetry booklets on 'World children's day' on the 20th of November 2020. One is on healthy eating habits for children and the other is about accident prevention among children.






# ELA of Department of English and Linguistics sparks SPARK




The latest version of 'SPARK: a student-led creative collective' was printed online despite the health pandemic in August 2020. "SPARK" is a bi-annual publication of the English Literary Association (ELA) of the Department of English and Linguistics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, initiated in 2019 as a printed magazine.

The ELA of the Department was found in 1998 with the objective of bringing the student body of the English Department together. It stands for three pillars, namely: Free Speech, Open Discussion and Creative Expression, intending to create confident undergraduates who are well-aware of the contemporary society while being conscientious citizens. SPARK creates a platform which is expanded to all the undergraduates in every university countrywide, to showcase their innovative works through the English Language in the form of poems, short stories, prose and much more. The art of creative expression is the main objective which is fulfilled through the Spark Magazine. The right guidance and mentoring is given by the Head of the English Department and Senior Lecturer, Dr. (Mrs.) Chitra Jayathilake who is the advisor of the magazine and the patron of the ELA.

# "Vulvo-vaginal Discharge: A guide for Public Health Midwives"

A book on "Vulvo-vaginal Discharge: A guide for Public Health Midwives" authored by Dr. Prasanthi Ilankoon, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Prof. Sampatha Goonewardena, Consultant Community Physician, Professor in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), Dr. Rukshan Fernandopulle, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Senior Lecturer, FMS and Prof. Rasika Perera, Professor in Clinical Biochemistry, FMS, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was published in English, Sinhala and Tamil languages in 2020. The book was edited by Dr. L.A.W. Sirisena, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

The book was a part of the educational intervention carried out for the PhD degree of Dr. Prasanthi Ilankoon, funded through the research grant (ASP//06/ RE/MED/2016/53) received by Prof. Sampatha Goonewardena. The book covers important areas on abnormal vaginal discharge to enhance the knowledge and skills of the Public Health Midwives (PHMs), to counsel women with an abnormal vaginal discharge, decide on appropriate action and health education. The book is useful for the PHMs, Primary Health Care Workers, Nursing Officers and even the public. The book was already distributed among PHMs in the Colombo Municipal Council.

# AWARD CEREMONIES & CONVOCATIONS

## 45th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura



45th Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 10th and 11th September 2019 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo.

The most Ven. Dr. Ittapana Dhammalankara Maha Nayake Thero, Chancellor of the university and Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Deans of faculties, the Registrar of the University, Deputy Registrars, Heads of Departments, and a large number of academic members graced the event.



At this prime event of the University, Special Degrees, General Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees of the Faculties of Humanities and Social Science, Medical Sciences, Applied Sciences, Management Studies and Commerce, and Graduate Studies were offered. More than three thousand Degrees were conferred in eight sessions in this two-day graduation ceremony.

In this year's convocation, 32 Doctoral Degrees and more than 300 Master's Degrees were offered for postgraduate students representing various fields of studies. About 100 Postgraduate Diplomas in Monitoring & Evaluation, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Marketing Management, Industrial Analytical Chemistry, Real Estate Management & Valuation, Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management, Physics Education, Computer Science, Polymer Science & Technology, Geographic Information Systems & Remote Sensing, Applied Finance, Entrepreneurial Business Management and in Science & Technology of Herbal Products were offered.

**Number of Graduates – 45th Convocation**
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – 836
Faculty of Applied Sciences- 612
Faculty of Medical Studies – 240
Faculty of Graduate Studies – 413
Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce – 1205
Total Number of Graduates – 3306
The media coverage was by "Japura media"- the Official Media Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.







# USJ Researchers Honored at the Research Awards 2018



Research Awards Ceremony – 2018 of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized by the Research Council, USJ was held at the Golden Rose hotel on 13th November 2019 with the participation of Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Vice-Chancellor of USJ), Deans of Faculties, Members of the Research Council and academic members.

At this prestigious annual event, a large number of academic members were honored for their contribution to publishing research at national/international conferences, peer-reviewed/indexed journals and for conducting high-quality research.

This research awarding was conducted through 16 categories where eligible candidates were given monetary awards, certificates, and souvenirs. The researcher with the highest h-index was awarded a special prize at the faculty level: the Early Career Researcher Award was bestowed upon the Best Researcher under 40 years old and the Vice-Chancellor's Award was awarded to the Best Researcher of the university following a stringent selection process.

# Vidyodaya Literary Awards 2019

Vidyodaya Literary Awards Ceremony 2019 which was organized by the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in parallel to the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on 3rd of September 2019 at Sumangala reading hall. This is the first and exclusive literary awards ceremony conducted by a Sri Lankan university.




This award ceremony was graced by the Emeritus Prof. Sunil Ariyarathne (the guest speaker of the ceremony and pioneer of this award ceremony). In addition, Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge (Vice-Chancellor, USJ), Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, scholars, academic members and the non-academic members participated in this event. The following authors under 5 literary categories were awarded.

**Best poetry collection**
"Pembariyagen wen wunu Lulek harei alakata" – Timran Keerthi

**Best lyrics collection**
"Sarasa Wasanthaya" – Mr. Nilar N. Kassim

**Best short story collection**
"Swarnakaya" – Prof.Prabhath Jayasinghe

**Best novel**
"Makaranandaya" – Wirajini Tennakoon

**Best Newspaper article collection**
"Manige Theeruwa 3" – Sundara Nihathamani De Mel

Three lyrics collections out of 8, 5 poetry collections out of 50, 5 short story collections out of 62, 5 novels out of 138, 5 newspaper articles out of 15 were selected as final round nominees for this year's Vidyodaya Literary Awards. Dr. Sunethra Kankanamge; Senior Lecturer, Hansamala Ritigahapola; Senior Lecturer, Rev. Dr. Nawalapitiye Anuradha Sudhammika; Senior Lecturer, Dr. Kusumalatha Lankamulla; Senior Lecturer, Mr. Senani Harischandra; Senior Lecturer and Head of the respective Department were among the judging panel of the Awards Ceremony.

This evening was brightened by the songs of Mr. Dayan Witharana, Mrs. Indika Upamali and Mr. Iman Perera.

# විද්‍යෝදය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානය 2020



සිංහල හා ජනසන්නිවේදන අධ්‍යයනාංශය මගින් දොළොස් වැනි වරටත් සංවිධානය කරනු ලැබූ 'විද්‍යෝදය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානය 2020' පසුගිය සැප්තැම්බර් දෙවැනිදා විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයීය සුමංගල මන්දිරයේදී අති සාර්ථක අයුරින් නිමාවට පත් විය.

මෙම අවස්ථාව සඳහා විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ප්‍රතිපාදන කොමිෂන් සභාවේ වත්මන් සභාපති ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය සම්පත් අමරතුංග මහාත්මා, විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයීය උපකුලපති ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය සුදන්ත ලියනගේ මහාත්මා සහ මානවශාස්ත්‍ර හා සමාජීයවිද්‍යා පීඨාධිපති මහාචාර්ය ශිරාන්ත හීන්කෙන්ද මහාත්මාද සහභාගී වූහ.

සිංහල හා ජනසන්නිවේදන අධ්‍යනාංශ ප්‍රධාන ආචාර්ය කුසුමලතා ලංකාමුල්ල මහාත්මියගේ මග පෙන්වීම මත මෙවර විද්‍යෝදය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානයෙහි ප්‍රධාන සංවිධායක ධුරය ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ කථිකාචාර්ය හංසමාලා රටිගහපොළ මහාත්මිය විසින් දරනු ලැබුවාය.

රටේ පැවති අයහපත් වාතාවරණය හේතු කොට ගෙන මෙවර සම්මාන සඳහා කෘති තේරීම අදියර දෙකක් ඔස්සේ ක්‍රියාත්මක වූ අතර නවකතා 150කට අධික ප්‍රමාණයක්, කෙටිකතා සංග්‍රහ 87ක්, කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහ 100 ක් සහ තීරු ලිපි සංග්‍රහ 28 ක් පමණ විනිශ්චය සඳහා සලකා බැලිණ. වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත ගේය පද සංග්‍රහය සඳහා වන සම්මානය මෙවර සම්මාන උළෙලේදී ප්‍රදානය නොකිරීමට සංවිධායක කමිටුව තීරණය කර තිබුණි.





ඒ අනුව වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත නවකතාව, වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත කෙටිකතා සංග්‍රහය, වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත පද්‍ය සංග්‍රහය සහ වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත තීරු ලිපි සංග්‍රහය යන තරග ඉසව් හතර උදෙසා සම්මාන ප්‍රදානය කෙරුණු අතර මෙවර වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත නවකතාව සහ වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත කෙටිකතා සංග්‍රහය සඳහා වන සම්මාන ද්විත්වයම හිමි කර ගනු ලැබුවේ චිරික් ඉලයප්ආරච්චි විසිනි. ඒ 'පේත' නවකතාව සහ 'විශ්‍රාමික පෙම්වතිය' නමැති කෙටිකතා සංග්‍රහය සඳහාය. වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහය ලෙස අජිත් තිලකසේන විසින් රචනා කරන ලද 'මොන තරමේ අවුලක්ද?' කෘතිය සම්මාන ලැබූ අතර තීරු ලිපි සංග්‍රහය සඳහා සම සම්මාන පිරිනැමිණ. ඒ අනුරසිරි හෙට්ටිගේ විසින් රචනා කරන ලද ' කොළඹ කතා' සහ යසවර්ධන රුද්‍රිගු විසින් රචනා කරන ලද 'යසයාගේ වාක්කිය' නමැති කෘති සඳහාය.



උත්සව අවස්ථාවේදී මෙම තරග ඉසව්වල අවසාන විනිශ්චය ලබාදුන් ආචාර්යවරුන් විසින් සමස්ත විනිශ්චය කටයුතු පිළිබඳ දේශන පවත්වනු ලැබූ අතර ඒ අනුව වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත කෙටිකතා විනිශ්චය පිළිබඳ ආචාර්ය ප්‍රණීත් අභයසුන්දර මහාත්මා, වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත නවකතා විනිශ්චය පිළිබඳ ආචාර්ය ජයලතා මැදවත්ත මහාත්මිය, වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත තීරු ලිපි සංග්‍රහ විනිශ්චය පිළිබඳ ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ කථිකාචාර්ය සේනානි හරිස්චන්ද්‍ර මහාත්මා සහ වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත පද්‍ය කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහ විනිශ්චය පිළිබඳ ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ කථිකාචාර්ය හංසමාලා රටිගහපොළ මහාත්මිය විසින් දේශන ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලදි.

විද්‍යෝදය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානයේදී ප්‍රථම වරට මෙම වසරේදී ජයග්‍රාහක කතුවරුන් සඳහා මූල්‍යමය ත්‍යාග පිරිනැමුණි. ඒ අනුව වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත නවකතාව, වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත කෙටිකතාව, වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත පද්‍ය කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහය යන තරග ඉසව් සඳහා මූල්‍යමය ත්‍යාග පිරිනමන ලද්දේ මෙවර සම්මාන උළෙලෙහි අනුග්‍රාහක දායකත්වය සැපයූ දිවයින ඉරිදා පුවත්පත් සංග්‍රහය විසිනි. එසේම වසරේ ප්‍රශස්ත තීරුලිපි සංග්‍රහ ද්විත්වය සඳහා මූල්‍යමය අනුග්‍රහය ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයෙහි මානවශාස්ත්‍ර හා සමාජීයවිද්‍යා පීඨය විසින් දක්වන ලදි.

විද්‍යෝද්‍ය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානය 2020 සඳහා ආචාර්ය දයාරත්න රණතුංග, විශාරද ජානක වික්‍රමසිංහ, විශාරද ප්‍රදීපා ධර්මදාස සහ ප්‍රදීප් මුතුකුඩආරච්චි යන ගායක ගායිකාවෝ සිය ගීතමය දායකත්වය සැපයූහ.

# FHSS Business Idea Competition Awarding Ceremony 2019




Business Idea Competition organized by the Entre Club of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with the objective of building future entrepreneurs and future business leaders reached its goal on 28th January 2020 with awarding and recognizing best business leaders and entrepreneurs of the Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences.

The pioneer of the Entre Club of the faculty was Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: Business Idea Competition was initiated under the vision of the Dean of the Faculty.

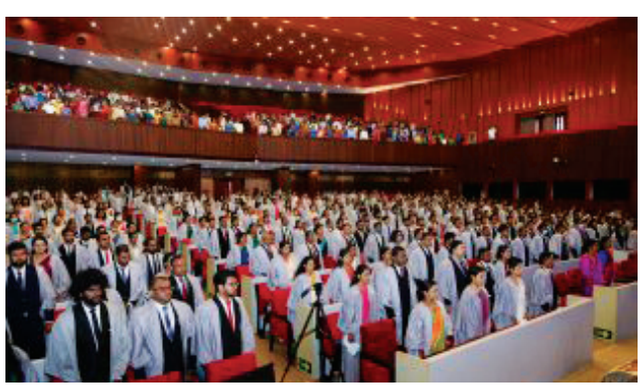
The awarding ceremony was graced by Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, famous singers, Mr. Bathiya Jayakody and Mr. Santhush Weeraman. In addition, staff representatives of the faculty, Heads of Departments, Senior Lecturers, Mr. Sumanajith Kumara and Dr.Himalika Ranaweera participated in the ceremony.

# Diploma Convocation 2020

Diploma Awarding Ceremony of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 4th October 2020 at the BMICH, Colombo with the participation of Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Heads of the Departments, and academic members of the faculty. Diploma candidates who had successfully completed their diploma programs were awarded with diplomas by the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty.

Various departments of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences offer diplomas such as Diploma in Writership and Communication, Diploma in Criminology, Diploma in Sociology, Diploma in Development Policy Analysis, Diploma in English, Diploma in Rural Development, Diploma in GIS and Remote Sensing, Diploma in Buddhist Studies and Diploma in Pali and so on.





# SPORTS

## USJ becomes Champions in SLUG - Sri Lanka University Games 2019






The University of Sri Jayewardenepura became overall champions of Sri Lanka University Games 2019, which concluded at University of Ruhuna. Fourteen Universities participated in this event in 22 sports.

Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) is a sporting event held with the participation of sportsmen and sportswomen of state universities in Sri Lanka. It is named as "Mini Olympics" and considered as the most prestigious and the most awaited tournament of Sri Lankan university sports.

This victory is a result of dedication and commitment of sportsmen and sportswomen of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura together with the leadership by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amarathunge.

This event is held in every three years, last time it was held in 2016 and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura became winners of that competition, hence this is the second consecutive SLUG won by USJ.











## Sri Lanka University Virtual Poomsae Competition 2020

Ms.M.S.R.S.Costa (AR 93416, AF/17/13858) wonthe third place in the Blue Belt Category of the first Sri Lanka University Virtual Poomsae Competition 2020 organized by Ceylon Taekwondo. She is a member of the TAEKWONDO university team.




## Taekwondo National Championship in Sri Lanka 2020

Ms. M. S. R. S. Costa (AR 93416, AF/17/13858) won the second place in the Blue Belt Category of the first Virtual Taekwondo National Championship in Sri Lanka 2020 organized by Sri Lanka Taekwondo Federation.



# Performance at the 13th South Asian Games 2019

Hasini Probodha
South Asian Games
Triple Jump gold medal



Thilini Hendahewa
South Asian Games
Badminton Women's' Double
Gold Medal
Mixed Double Silver Medal
Team Event Silver Medal




Kavindi Sirimanna
South Asian Games
Badminton Women's Double
Gold Medal
Team Event Silver Medal



Hasara Wijayarathna
South Asian Games
Badminton Team Event Silver
Medal



Erandi Warusawithana
South Asian Games
Table Tennis Women's Team
Silver Medal Women's Single
Bronze Medal



Chameera Ginige
South Asian Games
Table Tennis Men's Team Event
Bronze Medal
Men's Doubles Bronze Medal



Sumedha Ranasinghe
South Asian Games
Javelin Throw Bronze Medal




Charith Perera
South Asian Games
Basketball Silver Medal



Jude Sumen
South Asian Games
football participation



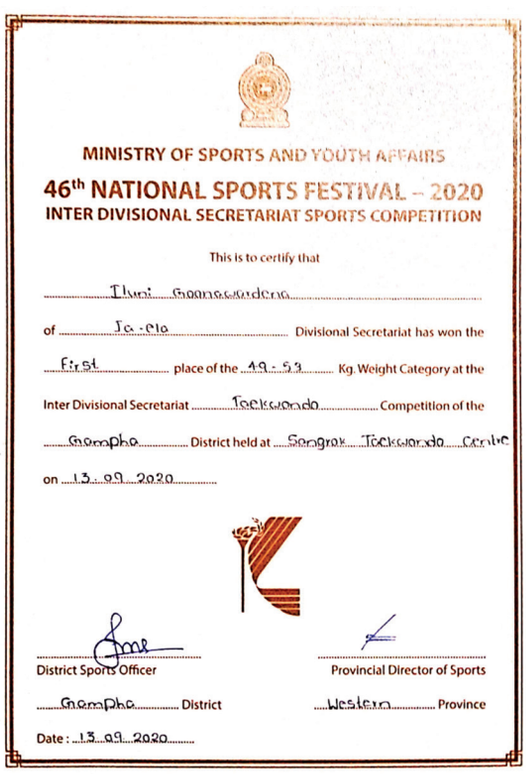

# Taekwondo Korean Ambassador's Cup 2020

Ms. M. S. R. S. Costa won the third place in the University division Blue Belt Category - 1st Virtual Taekwondo Korean Ambassador's Cup 2020 organized by Korean Embassy and Sri Lanka Taekwondo Federation.



# 46th National Sports Festival 2020: Inter-Divisional Secretariat Sports Competition (Taekwondo)

Ms. Iluni Goonawardena (AR 89850/AF 12996) won the first place for the 49-53 weight category in an inter-divisional secretariat sports competition at Gampaha district. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs organized the event.



MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

46th NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL – 2020

INTER DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT SPORTS COMPETITION

This is to certify that

Iluni Goonawardena

of Ja-ela Divisional Secretariat has won the

First place of the 49 - 53 Kg. Weight Category at the

Inter Divisional Secretariat Taekwondo Competition of the

Gampha District held at Sangrax Taekwando Centre

on 13.09.2020

District Sports Officer

Gampha District

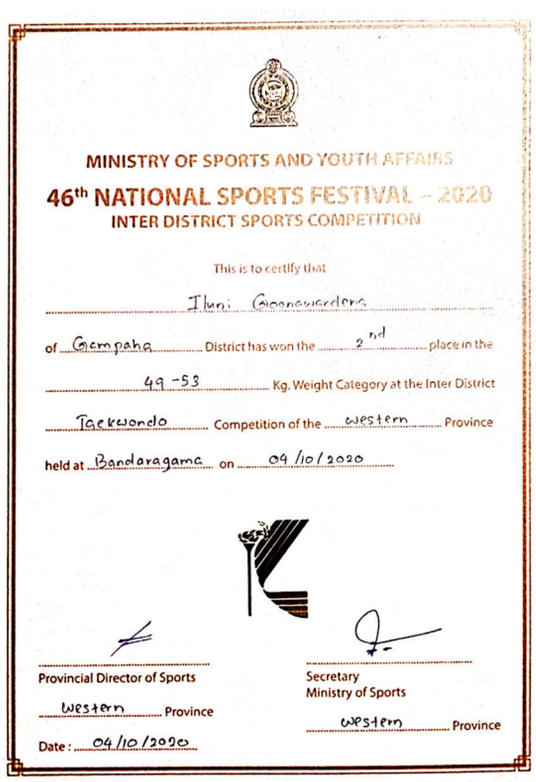
Provincial Director of Sports

Western Province

Date : 13.09.2020

# 46th National Sports Festival 2020: Inter-District Sports Competition (Taekwondo)

The inter-district sports competition was organized as an important competition in the 46th national sports festival 2020. Ms. Iluni Goonawardena (AR 89850/AF 12996) won the second place for the 49-53 weight category in the Western province.



MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

46th NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL – 2020

INTER DISTRICT SPORTS COMPETITION

This is to certify that

Iluni Goonawardena

of Gampaha District has won the 2nd place in the

49 -53 Kg. Weight Category at the Inter District

Taekwondo Competition of the western Province

held at Bandaragama on 04/10/2020

Provincial Director of Sports

western Province

Date : 04/10/2020

Secretary

Ministry of Sports

western Province

# Annual Sports Fiesta 2020: Battle between Faculty of Medical Sciences and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences




The annual "Sports Fiesta" organized by the Sports Club of Faculty of Medical Sciences, commenced on the 4th of February 2020, after a gap of 3 years. The event comprised of two very intense weeks of 12 different sports events where the students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences competed against each other displaying their athletic potential and skills.

The sports events organized included badminton, football, rugby, chess, basketball, athletics, swimming, volleyball, carom, netball, cricket and road racing, giving an opportunity for the students of both faculties to unleash their talents and energy pitting against each other.

At this event, the students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences secured champions in several events. The overall championship was won by the 26th batch of medical students who emerged as champions in both men and women's volleyball, chess, men's carom, women's basketball and rugby. The 28th batches emerged as the 1st runner-up of the sports fiesta and was crowned as champions in athletics, men's basketball, men's cricket, football and were placed first in road racing as well. The 25th batch were placed as second runners up and emerged as champions in women's cricket and badminton events. The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences emerged as champions in netball. The closing ceremony of the sports fiesta was held on 16th February at the university grounds attended by the students of both faculties and staff members.





# COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

## Medical Camp and Social Service Project at Trincomalee District by the Faculty of Medical Sciences



A free medical camp and a social service project were conducted at Trincomalee District by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (FMS, USJ) in collaboration with Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA), as a response to the kind request by Civil Affairs officer, Sri Lanka Army, Trincomalee Brigade, and Colonel Sarath Gunasekara.

On 14th December 2019, the health camp was conducted at Somadevi Vidyalaya for the residents of Sirimangalapura, Kallar, Somapura, Dehiwattha, Neelapola, and Kwanthissapura. On 15th December 2019, the medical camp was held at Jayanthipura Vidyalaya, Kanthalein for the residents of Van Ala, Jayanthipura, Kalladi, Alle and Sooriyapura. Dr. Anula Wijesundara, President SLMA, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, FMS, USJ, pre-interns from 23rd batch of FMA, USJ, namely R. Dissanayake, M. P. Munasinghe, G.A.G. Geethaswari, V. G. N. C. Vidanagamage, K. P. S. R. Y Perera, S. M. D. Samarasinghe, L. A. Ruhunage, K.P. Gajasinghe, U.K.D. Piyumini, P.E.C. paramedical, R.A.P.M.M. Bandara, J.A.S.P. Jayakody, S.K.A. Kulathilaka, C.P. Walpola, A.G.J.I. Sugathapala and K.S. Ranawaka and a group of paramedical personnel participated in the health camp. Dr. Ms. Lishanthi Wijewardene, Senior Lecturer, Business Communication Unit, University of Sri Jayewardenepura coordinated the printed media coverage of the event.

During the health camps, Dr. Anula Wijesundara conducted a health education session on bad consequences of smoking, alcoholism, and betel chewing. She also explained childhood injuries: SLMA posters on childhood injury preventions were also distributed among the participants. Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe conducted a thought-provoking session on how to dispose plastics properly and the effects of "micro plastics" to human health.

Additionally, the staff and pre-intern doctors of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura conducted a mini environmental cleaning project at Mavila Aru Dam in the morning hours on 15th December 2019. During the cleaning, nearly 10KGs of polythene and plastic were removed from the Mavila Aru Dam area.

# "Nana Saviya 2019" at Sri Rathanasara Maha Vidyalaya, Waga



The project "Nana Saviya 2019" was launched at the WP/ WP/HO Sri Rathanasara Maha Vidyalaya, Waga from June 2019 to November 2019. The main objective of this massive project was to enhance the needy facilities in the school. Two sub-projects were carried out under the "Nana Saviya 2019".

An Audio-Visual Room was developed with all the required equipment such as a projector, a screen, networking facilities, chairs and tables while renovating and furnishing the building. The total cost of the project was around 0.65 million.

The IT Lab was furnished with required facilities while providing new computers to the lab. The total cost of the project was around 0.55 million.

The official handover of the project took place on 14th November 2019.





# "Little Me" Nursery Development Project

The objective of this project was to provide the "Little Me" Nursery with required physical equipment which would enhance the smooth teaching and learning process of kids. The initial phase of the project was completed in 2018 and this was the second stage of the project. The project was handed over to the beneficiaries on 14th November 2019. Under the second phase of the project, stationery items were donated to all the students along with a CD player to the nursery. The playground was also renovated and provided with playground instruments. The project team also contributed to the teacher's salary.





# Outdoor benches, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, USJ

This project was implemented with the objective of providing enough space for undergraduates to carry out their studies at the university premises. The project team provided outdoor benches to the premises of Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The faculty was provided with 10 cement benches and 4 tables. The facilities were handed over to the faculty on 22nd November 2019.

This project was conducted by a third year student group from the Department of Business Administration with the guidance of lecturers of the Department of Business Economics under the Project Management course.

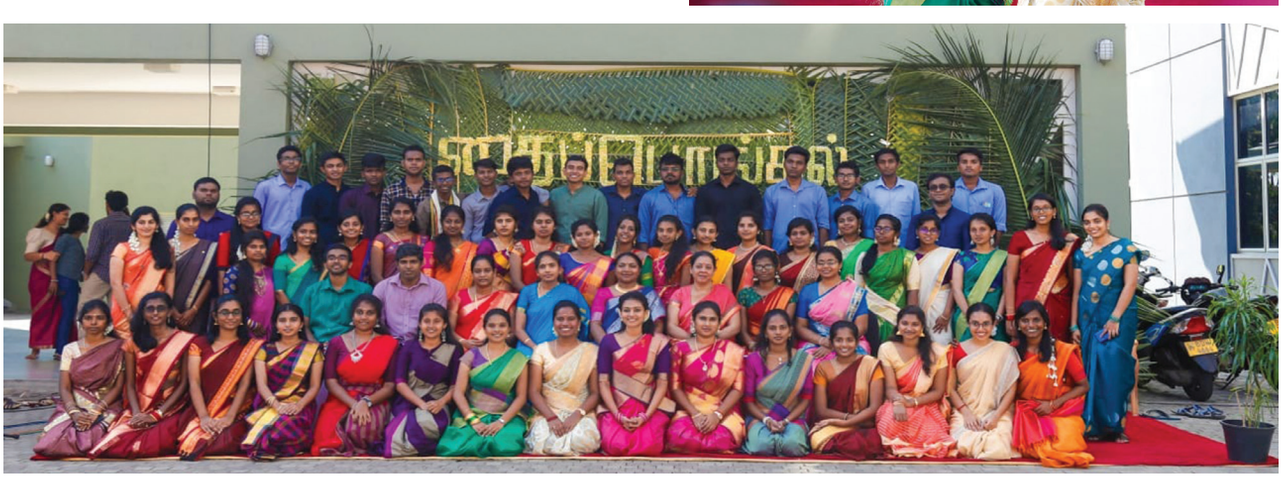




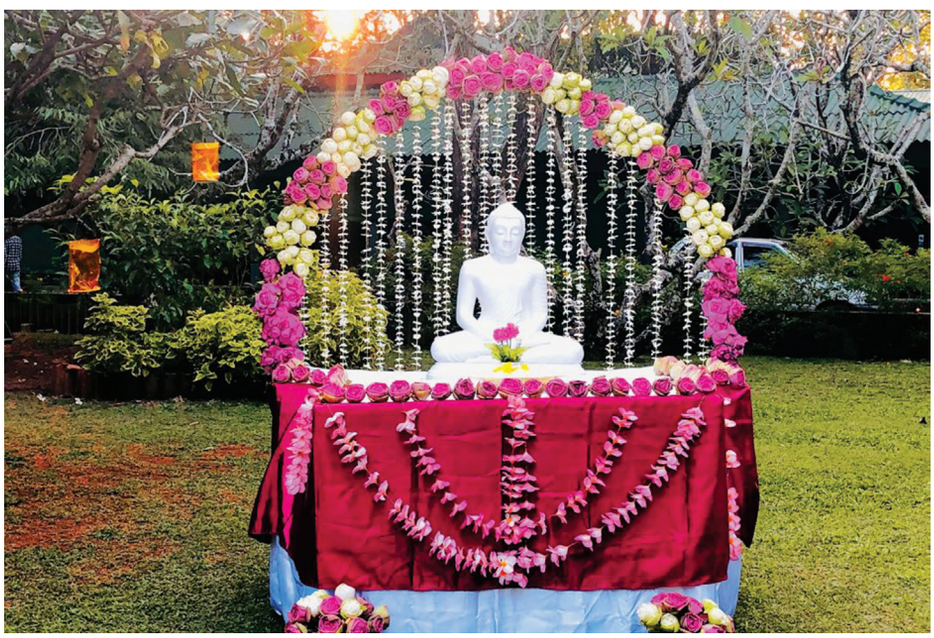
# Annual Thaipongal Festival of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

The Annual Thaipongal Festival was held on the 19th of January 2020, in the faculty premises organized by the Hindu Society. The event was held with the participation of students from 25th to 29th batches as well as students from other faculties of different religions who came together to celebrate this event.



# "Sith Ahasa Yata" – Dharma Deshanawa



The Department of Finance, marked the dawn of 2020 with the "Sith Ahasa Yata – Dharma Deshanawa" held on the 17th of January 2020, with the idea of obtaining the blessings of the triple gem to all the academic staff, non-academic staff and the undergraduates of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

This tranquilized event held at the university was organized with the collaboration of the Students' Association of Finance and the Supipena Piyum Buddhist Society, with the guidance of the lecturer panel of the Department of Finance, headed by the Department Head, Dr. P. A. N. S Anuradha.



# 'අත්වැල' ශිෂ්‍ය සත්කාරක ව්‍යාපෘතිය



අවසන් වසර සිංහල විශේෂවේදී සිසුන් හා තෙවන වසර සිංහල විශේෂවේදී /සාමාන්‍යවේදී සිසුන් ඒකාබද්ධව ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන්නට යෙදුණු 'අත්වැල' ශිෂ්‍ය සත්කාරක ව්‍යාපෘතිය මගින් අතිශයින් දුෂ්කර හා ඌන අධ්‍යාපනික පහසුකම් සහිත පාසල් සඳහා අධ්‍යාපන උපකරණ ලබාදීමේ වැඩසටහනක් ආරම්භ කරන ලදි.

ඒ අනුව 2020.01.19 දින හම්/ කාවන්තිස්සපුර මහා විද්‍යාලය සඳහා පරිගණක යන්ත්‍ර 04ක්, 285ක් වූ සියලුම දුවා දරුවන්ට පාසල් උපකරණ, විදුලිබල පද්ධතිය නවීකරණය කිරීමට අවශ්‍ය කළමනා මෙන්ම පුස්තකාලය සඳහා පොත්පත්ද පරිත්‍යාග කෙරිණ.



අධ්‍යයනාංශ ප්‍රධාන ආචාර්ය කුසුමලතා ලංකාමුල්ල මහාත්මියගේ මග පෙන්වීම මත සංවිධානය වූ මෙම වැඩසටහන ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ කථිකාචාර්ය හංසමාලා රටිගහපොළ මහාත්මියගේ සම්භාව්‍ය පද්‍ය සාහිත්‍යය ෂෂ හා ජ්‍යේෂ්ඨ කථිකාචාර්ය නේරංජ බණ්ඩාර මහාත්මාගේ සයිබර් සංස්කෘතිය හා නිර්මාණාත්මක කර්මාන්ත අධ්‍යයනය යන විෂය සමගාමීව ක්‍රියාත්මක වූවකි. එහිදී පාසල් සිසුන් කෙරෙහි සම්භාව්‍ය පද්‍ය සාහිත්‍යය අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමෙහිලා පෙළඹවීම ඇති කිරීමත්, පරිගණක භාවිතය මගින් නව තාක්ෂණික උපාංග ඔස්සේ අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු සාර්ථක කර ගැනීමට පිටුබලයක් වීමත් මෙම 'අත්වැල' ශිෂ්‍ය සත්කාරක වැඩසටහනෙහි අපේක්ෂිත අරමුණු විය.





# Bodhi Pooja Pinkama

The Department of English Language Teaching in collaboration with 'Supipena Pium' Buddhist organization of the University held a Bodhi Pooja Pinkama on 20th January 2020 to bless the University students for their upcoming examinations and commemorate the third death anniversary of Senior Instructor, Mr. Karunasena Lokumudali of the DELT.





# Econ-Insight 2020

'Econ-Insight 2020' is a seminar series on Economics organised by the Business Economics Students' Association (BIZCON) with the objective of enhancing the subject knowledge of the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) candidates. The first seminar of the series was held on 7th February 2020 at the Auditorium of the National Youth Services Council, Maharagama with the participation of more than





1100 students from Colombo district while the second seminar was held on 10th February 2020 at Richmond College, Galle. Dr. Ananda Rathnayake (Senior Lecturer), Dr. Janaka Fernando (Senior Lecturer) and Mr. Dilan Rajapakshe (Lecturer) of the Department of Business Economics conducted the seminars.

# Senehase Nawathena

'Senehase Nawathena', a community development project implemented by the final year undergraduates of the Department of Entrepreneurship under the guidance of the lecturers of the Department of Business Economics, was successfully completed on 22nd February 2020 at Mo/ Yashodhara Balika Vidyalaya, Bibile. Under this project, students offered 18-month scholarship for selected 11 students who will sit for the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examination in 2021 under financial difficulties.





# Tree planting and environmental cleaning project

"Heta husmak wenuwen ada api /හෙට හුස්මක් වෙනුවෙන් අපි", the plantation and environmental cleaning project, (organised by Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with Sri Lanka Air Force stations at Mullaitivu and Kokkulai areas), was carried out on 21st to 23rd February 2020. The students of 23rd batch participated in this resident tree planting and environmental cleaning program. Mee (*Madhuca longifolia*), Kumbuk (*Terminalia arjuna*) and Kohomba (*Azadirachta indica*) trees were planted in bare lands in Vattrappalai, Mullaitivu district.

The environmental clean-up project was carried out near Daguru-Oya tank area and in the Kokkulai coastal areas. The collected garbage was handed over to the relevant authorities for recycling. Computers, laptops, reading material, stationery and green boards collected from well-wishers and donors were also donated to the Mullathivu, Kokkulai Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya to uplift the teaching and learning activities of the school children.





# Saarawath Kethak - Haritha Deranak



*'Saarawath Kethak - Haritha Deranak'*, a community development project implemented by the final year undergraduates of the Department of Entrepreneurship, under the guidance of the lecturers of the Department of Business Economics was successfully completed on 24th February 2020. Under this project, students planted 60 'Mee' plants around the paddy fields at Mawanella situated in Mawanella DS Division. The project aimed to promote sustainable agriculture practices among the farmers in the village.





# Ration Donation by Alumni Association of Public Administration

A timely valuable CSR project (Dry Ration Donation) was organized by the Alumni Association of the Department of Public Administration (Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce)on April 2020 to support the needy families in Panadura area during the Covid-19 pandemic period.The generous alumni members of the association contributed to this project.



# The Unveiling of the 'Prof. Senaka Bibile Laboratory Building' under 'Diriya Aruna 21'



"Diriya Aruna" is an annual social services project conducted by each successive batch of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Building upon this proud legacy, the 27th batch carried out the 21st edition of 'Diriya Aruna', by constructing the "Prof. Senaka Bibile Laboratory Building" for Mabodala Maha Vidyalaya, Veyangoda. The opening ceremony was held on 9th of September 2020.

The 'Prof Senaka Bibile Laboratory Building' is a fully-fledged laboratory equipped with all the facilities and equipment required up to the GCE O/L phase, along with a multimedia computer system and television.

# Arts Circle of the Faculty of Medical Sciences celebrates 25 years



The members of the Arts Circle of the Faculty of Medical Sciences donated five Omron Automatic Blood Pressure Apparatus to the Colombo South Teaching Hospital on 9th September 2020. The money raised by students for the 'Talents 2020' which was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, was utilized for this donation. The year 2020 was a milestone marking the 25th anniversary of the Arts circle for it organised several events to mark this special year.

The Arts Circle created a digital platform where students could express their talents while staying safely at home during the COVID19 pandemic. In collaboration with the Buddhist Society online, a Bhakthi Geetha Ceremony, "Bodhu Bathi Gee Saraniya 2020" was held. Furthermore, the first online Carols ceremony of the faculty, "Online Christmas Carols" was conducted on the 26th of December 2020 via Zoom and Facebook.

# Nenasara E-Learning

Nenasara E- Learning was initiated as a solution for the inconveniences faced by the students of the GCE Advanced Level examination, due to the prevailing pandemic situation in the country. It was very useful for them as they were unable to attend schools and classes. The Marketing Management Association (MMA) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura created an effective and interactive online teaching and learning platform to boost their knowledge in Advanced Level Accounting, Economics and Business Studies for the year 2020 and 2021. Basically, online sessions were conducted via zoom and the recorded lessons were uploaded to Japura Marketers YouTube channel.

**"Nenasara Wibhaga Jayamaga"** is one of the webinars which was conducted under Nenasara project on 7th of December 2020 to motivate students to face the examination successfully. It was conducted by Mr. Sanath Gamage, Human Skills Specialist Trainer.

**"Sarasaviyata Piyasatahan"** is also another successful campaign. Motivational stories of our undergraduates were published in Nenasara USJ Facebook page

**"Nenasarin Senehasin"** is another program which was carried out under Nenasara to assist less privileged individuals and groups in the society with the collaboration of students.

# Naththalata Senehasin

The Phase 02 of the Naththalata Senehasin program was held on the 31st December 2020 by the students of the Department of Marketing Management in 2019.

A team of marketers and other well-wishers and contributors visited Apeksha Hospital and the Municipal Council of Maharagama and showered them with goodies and gifts and heart-full of love. An entertainment session was also conducted.

86 children of Apeksha Hospital were given a new ray of hope. A team of 15 janitors were given with a bagfull of goodies wrapped with lots of love. Also,






15 other complementary gift packs were distributed to less privileged individuals around Maharagama.

# CONCERTS & CULTURAL EVENTS

## "Ranrasu" by the FHSS





Ranrasu, the annual arts festival organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on the 16th, 23rd and 30th January 2020 at the Bandaranayaka hall of the university. This splendorous festival was graced by Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Acting Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Shitrantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Former Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Pathmalal Manage; Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Heads of departments and academic and non-academic members. This year's Ranrasu festival was coordinated by Dr. Nimal Wasantha Mendis, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies with the assistance of the secretary Dr. Neranji Wijewardhane; Senior Lecturer of the Department of Criminology. The eminent judge panel included Prof.Mudiyanse Dissanayake, Mrs. Marina Shiranthi, Mr. Layanal Gunarathna, Ms. Samanalee Fonseka, Mr. Roshan Raveendra and Mr. Jananath Warakagoda.



Ranrasu is the largest festival of arts conducted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, aiming to open a platform to display undergraduates' talents in various fields such as dancing, singing, announcing, playing, acting, painting, lyrics writing, short story writing, short film making, documentary writing and producing, etc. All the undergraduates in the faculty, academic members as well as non-academic staff members can participate in these competitions to show their talents and skills, and finally to secure their victory. The most competitive event of this whole festival is the inter-department competition.

This year, "Award for the Best Department" was secured by the Department of English Language Teaching for their excellent performance.

# English Day 2020

The DELT Concert 2020 organized by the English Language Society of the Department of English Language Teaching was glamorously held on the 22nd of January 2020 at the Bandaranayke Hall, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. DELT Concert 2020, as usual created a platform for over a thousand first year students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to perform on stage while communicating in English.






# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Department of Computer Science bags a silver medal and two merit awards at NBSQA 2019

National ICT Awards (NBQSA) 2019 organised by The Chartered Institute for IT, British Computer Society (BCS) Sri Lanka section, was held on 11th October 2019 at Hotel Galadari. University of Sri Jayewardenepura was able to bag a Silver Award and two merit awards this year and one student was nominated for Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2019 which will be held in Vietnam, making it the second consecutive time for an undergraduate from Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura to represent the University and Sri Lanka at APICTA.




It was Ms. Madhushi D. Welikala who won the Silver Award at NBQSA 2019 awards ceremony under the Tertiary Technology category to represent Sri Lanka at APICTA 2019 to be held in Vietnam. Her project titled "DiabMate" was supervised by Mr. M. D. R. Perera, a Senior Lecturer at the Department.

Ms. Malshi Senevirathne and Mr. Mahesh Samarasinghe won a merit award at NBQSA 2019 awards ceremony under the Tertiary Technology category. Their project titled "BirdGuide" was supervised by Dr. P. Ravindra S. De Silva, a Senior Lecturer at the Department. "BirdGuide" is a mobile application to recognize and identify different kinds of bird species in Sri Lanka using the images which are captured by the user.



Ms. WMKS Ilmini won a merit award at NBQSA 2019 awards ceremony under the Tertiary Postgraduate category. Her project titled "Personality Detector" was supervised by Dr. TGI Fernando, a Senior Lecturer at the Department. "Personality Detector" is a web-based application which is capable to assess personality from the outer appearance of a person. Personality is defined using "Big-Five" personality schema, with five factors namely OCEAN (Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism).
To assess one's personality, the application used a convolutional neural network-based model with transfer learning. APICTA 2019 is scheduled to be held in Vietnam from 18th to 23rd November 2019.

# Department of Computer Science bags the gold medal at APICTA Awards 2019



Ms. Madushi D. Welikala of the Department of Computer Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura brought glory to the country, university and to the Department of Computer Science by winning the Gold Medal of the Tertiary Category at the recently concluded APICTA (Asia Pacific ICT Alliance) Awards, 2019 event held in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam on 19th November 2019. Her project titled "DiabMate" was supervised by Mr. M. D. R. Perera, a Senior Lecturer at the Department.

"DiabMate" is a portable wearable device that observes and collects continuous variations in electrical characteristics of the skin, using sweat through Galvanic Skin Response (GSR) readings from the user's fingers: it calculates wearer's real-time Blood Glucose Level using Machine Learning model trained with a set of carefully chosen meta data. This non-invasive method of blood glucose monitoring eliminates the need for extraction of blood by pricking the finger and is also a cost-effective alternative. DiabMate Mobile Application facilitates wireless communication with the wearable. It also provides a user-friendly and intuitive to help users stay ahead in the battle with diabetics.

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APICTA is an alliance of national ICT organizations which maintains cooperative network to promote ICT across the Asia Pacific region. 16 member economies of APICTA which include China, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Hong Kong compete at the annual APICTA Awards ceremony, which is also often referred to as the "Oscars" in Information Technology within the region.



This is the second consecutive year that the Department of Computer Science secured the gold medal of the Tertiary Category at APICTA.

Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura along with the Innovation, Invention and Venture Creation Council (IIVCC) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura is acknowledged for providing financial assistance to Ms. Madushi Welikala to participate in this event.

# Business Economics Students emerged as National Champions at RB Global Challenge 2019




Ms. Chathuni Perera, Ms. Ashwini Ratnayake and Ms. Sandumini Caldera, 2nd year undergraduates, represented the Department of Business Economics of University of Sri Jayewardenepura as "Team Nova" and turned up as the National Champions of the RB Global Challenge 2019, a business challenge and invention competition organized by the Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC. The National Final Round was held on 18th October 2019 at the Jaic Hilton. RB Global Challenge is considered as one of the largest business challenge competitions organized for the undergraduates and Team Nova successfully emerged as the champions out of 209 registrations. They were to face the Global Finale in London on the 4th and 5th December.

# Debaters of Faculty of Medical Sciences bag victory

The young debaters of Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the championship of 'Japura Voice Debates'. The winning team was represented by Minindu Ekanayake, Dulanji Beneragama, Dinul Domuweera and Krishan Dammeatarachchi. The debating team also participated in the Hulftsdorp Debates 2019, held in September where they bagged the bronze medal. The FMS debating team emerged as finalists at the National Trilingual Debates organized by University of Colombo.





# HackStat 2019




Team Bug-BYTE, representing University of Sri Jayewardenepura, emerged as the 1st runners up at Hackstat 2.0, which was organised by the Stat Circle of University of Colombo in partnership with John Keells IT, Microsoft Sri Lanka, and Octave, under the theme of retail. The final round of the competition took place at Finlays Colombo Limited on the 26th of October 2019. The winning team members were J.C. Wanniarachchi, D.G.S. Chandradasa, H.K.J. Arachchi, H. Kushan and T.S.N. Peiris.

# SLIIT CODEFEST 2019




University of Sri Jayewardenepura secured the second place in the datathon of SLIIT CODEFEST 2019 held on 01st November 2019. The competition consisted of tackling a big data problem sponsored by Zone24x7 Technologies (Pvt) Ltd. The winning team members were J.C. Wanniarachchi, U. S. Samarasinghe, A.S. Fernando, H.A. Mendis.

# Business Economics student won the Best Paper Award at South Asian Economics Students' Meet 2020

Mr. Pasan Wijayawardhana, fourth year undergraduate of the Department of Business Economics won the Best Paper Award for the research paper titled 'Can compensating wage differentials economically empower women in South Asia?' presented under the theme of 'Mainstreaming Gender for Development' at the 16th South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM) 2020.




The SAESM 2020 was held from 21st to 26th January 2020 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This was organised by the Central Department of Economies, Tribhuvan University in collaboration with the Nepal Economic Association and the World Bank. The SAESM is considered as the largest students' Economics conference in the South Asian region.

# ESTADISTICA Challenge Trophy

University of Sri Jayewardenepura emerged as champions at the ESTADISTICA challenge trophy, the inter-university quiz organized by the Statistics Society of University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The competition took place at the university premises, in par with the annual statistics convention ESTADISTICA 2019, which was held on the 21st of November. The winning team members were W.D.M Fernando, F.H.S.D Silva, R.T Dananjana, V.C.R. de Mel.

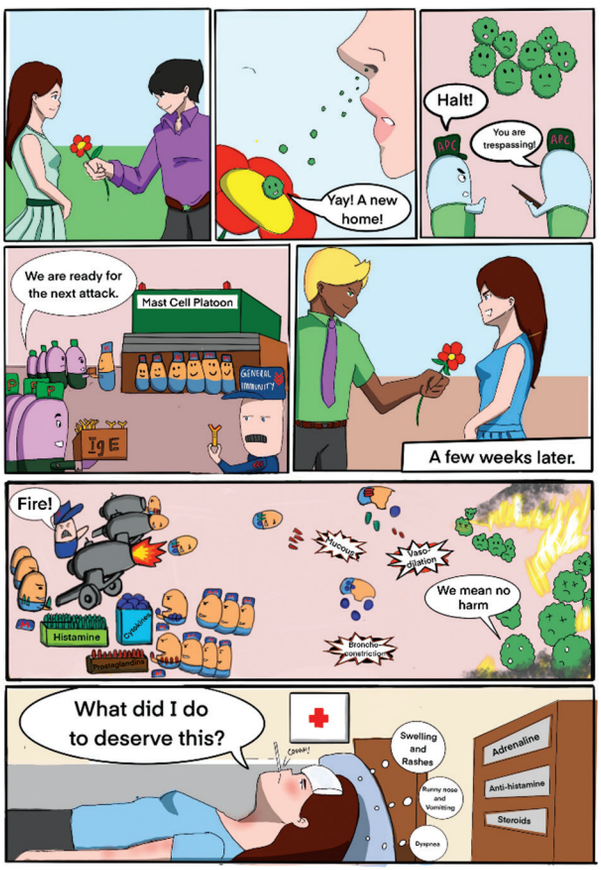


# B.Sc Nursing students placed firstat the 'Narrative Competition for Students of Health care Professionals'

The 'Narrative Competition for Students of Healthcare Professionals' was organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association on 25th October 2019 at the SLMA Auditorium, Wijerama Mawatha. Among 32 competitors from around 10 Allied Health schools/ institutions around Sri Lanka, Ms. M. Thilini Kumari Mapatuna (Batch 12, Department of Nursing and Midwifery) was awarded the first place in the English medium stream.



# The Faculty of Medical Sciences wins the special merit award in the Physiology Comic Challenge 2020




The 2015/2016 undergraduates (27th Batch) of the Faculty of Medical Sciences won the special merit award in the recently concluded Physiology Comic Challenge 2020, jointly organized by the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine of University of Malaya and the Society for Physiology, Malaysia.

This year the students were given a new opportunity and an interesting challenge to design a comic strip to exhibit not only their knowledge in Physiology, but also their creativity and ingenuity. Ninetyeight (98) comics had been submitted from 22 medical schools from around the world, displaying the knowledge, creativity as well as the innovative spirit of the medical undergraduates.

The topic of their comic was "The perils of Amour-phylaxis", which explains the Type-1 Hypersensitivity reaction in human body. The team was guided by the Department of Physiology of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and comprised of a group of 3rd year undergraduates from the 27th batch, namely, Dinul Doluweera, Samuditha Munasinghe, Minidu Perera, Hasithi Galhena, Shivani Perera, Thilini Konara and Pivituru Suriyaarachchi.

# IOBSL Inter-University Biology Challenge – 2020, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won 2nd runner up



IOBSL Inter-university Biology Challenge was organized by the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka – a team-based competition for undergraduates to present whitepapers on "Sustainable Solutions to Face the Challenges of the COVID-19 Crisis and beyond". The group Darwin was capable of protecting the 2nd runner up: Ms. Lasni Nishshanka (Department of Zoology), Ms. Hasara Siriwardene (Department of Botany), Ms. Sachindri Upulika (Department of Botany) and Ms. Lakshanee Dahanayaka (Department of Botany).

Winners were awarded with the cash prize of Rs. 10,000 by the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka, in their Annual General Meeting. The Institute of Biology, Head of the Department of Botany, Professor P. N. Dasanayake and Senior Lecturer, Dr. Rinukshi Wimalasekara of University of Sri Jayewardenepura were acknowledged for their guidance and support.

# Business Economics students emerge as runners-up at 'The Economic Outlook 2020'

A team of second year undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics became the runners-up at 'The Economic Outlook 2020' organised by the Department of Business Economics of the University of Colombo on 29th January 2020. Team members included Ms. Bhagya Ranasinghe, Mr. Abdul Malik, Ms. Nisali Samarakkody and Ms. Isuri Fernando.




# Championship in Inaugural Inter-University Advertising Competition – Adcon 2019



Undergraduates of the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the championship in the inaugural inter-university advertising competition – Adcon 2019 – organized by the University of Ruhuna in collaboration with Unilever Sri Lanka. The final competition was held on 6th February 2020 at the University of Ruhuna with the participation of 64 teams from a range of universities. The team "Sankalana" from the Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura became victorious by defeating all other 63 teams to win the first ever ADCON title. The Department warmly congratulates the team Sankalana – Mr. Kalana Yasarathne, Mr. Thisaru Menake, Ms. Pubudini Karunathilaka, Mr.Kanishka Asela, and Ms. Nipini Imbulana – for keeping the "J'Pura Marketing Flag" up.

# University of Sri Jayewardenepura wins CFA Sri Lanka Research Challenge 2019/20




The CFA Institute Research Challenge is a global competition that tests the equity research and valuation, investment report writing, and presentation skills of university students.

For the 13th consecutive year, CFA Sri Lanka Society organized the Sri Lanka Research Challenge partnering with the Colombo Stock Exchange, Acuity Partners (PVT) Ltd., Capital Alliances PLC, LYNEAR Wealth Management, and Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel. Ten teams from six state universities took part in the preliminary round of this competition since September 2019 which primarily emphasized in-depth analysis and valuation of Ceylon Cold Stores PLC, the publicly traded company on Colombo Stock Exchange assigned for the challenge this year, and investment report writing. The top four teams of the preliminary round presented their research to a panel of experts from top financial institutions of Sri Lanka, followed by a Q&A session at the Local Finals of this challenge held on 6th February 2020 at Hilton Colombo Residences.

The team of five final-year undergraduates of Department of Finance representing University of Sri Jayewardenepura who also secured the first place in the preliminary round, became the Champions at the Local Finals. The team members are Ruwangi Mahanamahewa (Team Leader), Didula Silva, Kovida Gunawardana, Jeyaraman Yashwin Kumar, and Thiran Ranasinghe. The team was guided by the Industry Liaison – CFA Charterholder – Ms. Ananya Udeshi of Capital Alliances PLC and the Academic Liaison – Ms. Piumi Abeyrathne, Senior Lecturer of Department of Finance throughout the challenge. The team representing University of Colombo became the runners-up at the Local Finals. Mr. Renuke Wijayawardhane, Chief Regulatory Officer at Colombo Stock Exchange, Mr. Zaffar Jeevunjee, President CFA Sri Lanka Society, many other investment professionals, senior management of Ceylon Cold Stores PLC, and academic staff members of state universities graced the occasion. Local Champions won a cash award of Rs. 200,000 and were selected to represent Sri Lanka at the Asia-Pacific Regional Finals in Seoul, South Korea on 18th-19th March 2020.

# Chemistry Debaters of USJ take over the reign of victory at the Inter-University Chemistry Debate Competition 2020



Chemistry Debaters of USJ became runners-up at the Inter-University Chemistry Debete competition held on the 2nd of March 2020. Under the guidance of Dr. Theshini Perera and Dr. Thilini Gunasekera, the preparations began with the division of members into 5 teams to face the battles against College of Chemical Sciences, universities of Jaffna, Colombo, Kelaniya and Ruhuna. The captains for the five battles were Buddhi Lekamwasam, Lasni Nishanke, Bishenka Mahaulpatha and Manesha Fernando, respectively. The entire team that represented USJ comprised of 8 members. The rest of the members were Thilini Amarasinghe, Piumi Peiris, Sandali Wijerathna, and Modith Wickramasinghe. It was indeed a proud moment for all the USJ debaters. Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda, Head of the Department of Chemistry and Dr. Theshini Perera were present at the competition to celebrate that moment of victory with the USJ debaters.

# Undergraduate from the Department of Botany of USJ received the best presenter award at 75th Annual Sessions, SLAAS, 2019



The abstract 'Isolation of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria from random regions of Sri Lanka' presented by Avanthi Weerawardena from the Department of Botany of Faculty of Applied Sciences won the best presenter award at 75th annual sessions SLAAS, 2019 on 8th – 13th December. Her project was co-supervised by Dr. D.S. Manamgoda, Department of Botany and Mrs. C. Ranasinghe, at the Plant Virus Index Center, Homagama

# Young chemists of USJ sparkle at the Inter-University Quiz and Poster Competition organized by the SLAAS in 2020



The Inter-University Quiz and Poster Competition for Chemical Sciences organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science-Section E2 was held on the 19th of September 2020.

The virtual poster competition that comprised three themes: 'Value Addition to Natural Resources in Sri Lanka', 'Green Energy' and 'Bioweapons' allowed a maximum of three teams per university, one per each theme. Under the guidance of Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Chemistry, the poster for 'Bioweapons' secured the first place while the poster for 'Value Addition to Natural Resources' was placed 'Third'. The team for the Inter-University Quiz Competition, was placed 'Third' at the competition.

- Poster theme of value addition to natural resources in Sri Lanka
  F.R. Azees, R.L.I.A. Ranathunga, W.A.H.T. Abeyrathna, K.T.B. De Silva
- Poster theme of Green energy
  W.M.G.S. Mahamithawa. W.M.S. Nimanka, M.A.S.I Kularathne, K.S. Maleesha, P.M.A.S Pathiraja and N.D.S.M Fernando

- Poster theme of bioweapons
  G.M.S.T. Gajasinghe, D.C.Janaki, K.A.T.N. Kaluarachchi, R.M.K Kavindika and S.D Ranasinghe.

- Inter university Quiz team
  D.M Pannala, S.H.L.D.D Lekamge, R.M.K. Kavindika, M.A.S.I. Kularathne and the reserves were K.D.D.N Lakrandi and S.D.Ranasinghe.

# University of Sri Jayewardenepura students won medals at Sahasak Nimawum 2020

Sahasak Nimawum 2020 was recently held by Sri Lanka Inventors Commission SLIC. Mrs. Indika Silva, a PhD Candidate of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, won the Gold Medal of the University Category (Agriculture). Her project was supervised by Prof. Indira Wickramasinghe (Principal Supervisor) and Dr. Isuru Wijesekara (Co-Supervisor). The final year research of Ms. Jayani Samarathunge at the Department of Food Science and Technology was awarded the Bronze Medal of University Category (Food Technology). Her project was supervised by Dr. Madhura Jayasinghe and co-supervised by Dr. Isuru Wijesekara.

# Agriculture and Environment Technology students of Faculty of Technology

Agriculture and Environment Technology students of Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, organized several programs to transmit an encouraging message on environmental protection and afforestation to the society.

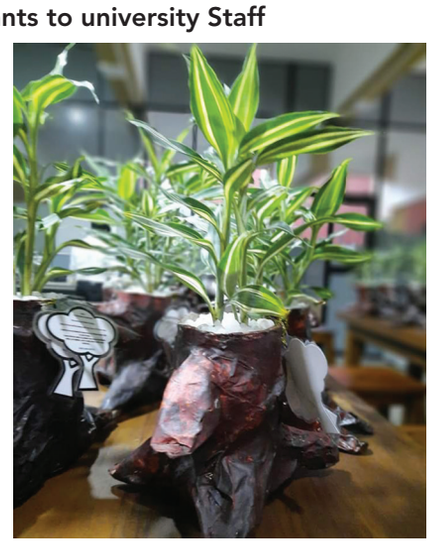
**Tree planting campaign in the Faculty premises, Pitipana, Homagama**





**Gifting indoor potted plants to university Staff**



"Let's make the planet Green" organized by AIESEC in University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 12th June 2020



# Business Economics student wins National Youth Award 2019 for the Best Speaker



Mr. Pasan Wijayawardhana, a student of the Department of Business Economics, won the "National Youth Award for the Best Speaker of the Year 2019" for the second consecutive time. He won this award at the 41st National Youth Awarding Ceremony organized by the National Youth Services Council in Sri Lanka which was held on 5th November 2019 at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre, Colombo.

At the preliminary round, around 1000 candidates were contesting this award from all 9 provinces. Mr. Wijayawardhana was able to win the championship by passing three rounds at district, provincial and national levels.

# General Research Committee Postgraduate Research Merit Award of Section E2 - SLAAS



SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
THE GENERAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE
This is to certify that
Ms. D. S. Ramanayaka
was awarded
for the Project Title on
"Nanoclay and biochar for the removal of emerging contaminants in aqueous media"
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH MERIT AWARD - 2020
Section E2 (Chemical Sciences)
in recognition of
her contribution towards research
carried out in Sri Lanka
at the
Seventy Sixth Annual Session of SLAAS
held on 13th December 2020
Cinema Lounge
BMICH

Sammani Ramanayaka, a research assistant attached to the Ecosphere Resilience Research Center, was selected as a merit awardee of the General Research Committee Postgraduate Research Merit Award of Section E2 (chemical sciences) presented by Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in its 76th Annual Sessions, December 2020. This award was based on her master's degree research on the application of nanoclay and nanobiochar for the removal of emerging contaminants.

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Ms. B. A. Kavindya Pramudini Bamunuarachchi (AR/84427) and the team representing the Department of Social Statistics from the second, third and final year of students won the second place in "රන්රසු සමූහ නිර්මාණාත්මක නර්තන අංශය (Samuha Nirmanathmaka Narthana Anshaya)" in රන්රසු ප්‍රතිභා අභිනන්දන කලා මංගල්‍යය 2020.



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# Business Economics student emerges as the Best University Orator 2020

Mr. Pasan Wijayawardhana, a final year undergraduate of the Department of Business Economics emerged as the 'Best University Orator of the Year 2020' at 'Subashaka', the inter-university oratory competition organised by the Media Unit of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo.

This contest can be recognized as the largest national-level online oratory competition held at the university level in Sri Lanka. Initially, over 150 contestants participated in this competition and 22 of them were selected for the final round which was held on 28th May 2020. Mr. Wijayawardhana secured the first place at the final round for his oration on 'Role of the University Undergraduates in Post COVID-19 Sri Lanka'







# A book on economic reforms for post COVID-19 era



Mr. Pasan Wijayawardhana, a final year undergraduate of the Department of Business Economics, has written a book titled 'Revive Sri Lanka', which presents economic reforms for the post COVID-19 period in Sri Lanka. This book is structured to present the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on all the five sectors in the economy, namely; real sector, external sector, fiscal sector, monetary sector and financial sector. The book presents proposed strategies to rebuild each of the above-mentioned sectors during the post COVID-19 era in a timely approach. This book will be useful for policy makers and everyone with an interest of driving the Sri Lankan economy to a massive development in the post COVID-19 era.




The first copy of the book was presented to Prof. W.D. Lakshman (Governor, *Central Bank of Sri Lanka*) on 23rd June 2020 at the premises of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

# Business Idea Competition 2020

Ms. P. D. S. M. Alwis (AR/84409), a student of the Department of Social Statistics, received the first place in the Business Idea Competition 2020.

Ms. R. R. Disni Tharushika Ranasinghe (AR/89569, AF/12715), a student of the Department of Social Statistics, received the third-place in Business Idea Competition 2020.







# MPAcc Graduation Ball

The second and third batches of the Master of Professional Accounting (MPAcc) Degree Programme held their graduation ball on 10th November 2019, at the Grand Monarch. This joyful night was well received and enjoyed by the students as well as the lecturers who participated in this event.



# Ms. Hemavaruni Fernando, MPhil Student of USJ wins the 3MT® People's Choice award



The highly anticipated grand finale of the "3 Minute Research Thesis (3MT®)" Presentation Competition was held on 16th of October 2019 at Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo during the SLAYS (Sri Lanka Academy of Young Scientists) conference 2019.

This competition was conducted under the guidance of the University of Queensland, Australia which developed 3MT®. A number of MPhil/PhD postgraduates from local universities contested the title this year as well. From them, top10 young scientists were selected as finalists. Miss. Hemavaruni Nisansala Fernando, a final year Master of Philosophy student as well as a research assistant in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura presented her research work on "Antimicrobial The activity of Garcinol Mediated Metal Nanoparticles and Metal Complexes" at the competition in front of an audience of 150 persons from various walks of life.



The People's Choice award (most popular research presentation), sponsored by Hayleys Aventura and presented by Mr. Wasaba Jayasekera (Managing Director, Hayleys Aventura) was secured by the finalist Miss. Fernando. She carries out her research work under the guidance of Dr. Suneth Rajapaksha (Principal supervisor), Prof. Pradeep Jayaweera and Dr. Upul Kumarasinghe from Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Neluka Fernando and Dr. Chinthika Gunasekara from Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Prof. Preethi Soysa from the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

# "The innovative researcher of the year in Biotechnology" (2019)




In 2019, Ms. M.D.M. Fernando's (a postdoc of Senior Prof. Nissanka De Silva, Department of Zoology) research article on "In Silico Pharmacological analysis of a potent anti-hepatoma compound of mushroom origin and emerging role as an adjuvant drug lead" was published in the indexed journal ''Food and Nutrition Sciences" and the US patent on ''method to isolate inoscavin a from Fulviformes fastuosus and medicinal preparation thereof to treat rhabdomyosarcoma cancer conditions" was also published in December 2019. They were esteemed by the RULA international awards in India in affiliation with World Research Council and United Medical Council for the title of "The Innovative researcher of the year in Biotechnology" and awarded in January 26, 2020 at Grandeur Hall, Breeze Residency, Trichy, TN, India.

# "Reminiscence 2019": Graduation ball and alumni get-together of Department of Business Economics



"Reminiscence 2019", the Annual Graduation Ball and Alumni Get-together of the Department of Business Economics was successfully held on the 2nd November 2019 at Solis Hotel, Pita Kotte with the participation of alumni members representing 13 batches of graduates of the department. Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunga, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Dinesha Siriwardhane, Head of the Department along with other lecturers graced this glamorous event.



# VERVE 2020

In celebration of 40 years of supremacy and legacy of the Department of Business Administration, the Association of Business Administration (ABA) of the Department of Business Administration organized VERVE 2020, the Inter-School Debating Competition and Talent Show of Business Undergraduates. The event was held on 19th of February 2020 at the National Youth Centre, Maharagama.




The Inter-School Debating Competition concluded after a combative and heated debates, with the Royal College, Colombo emerging as the Champions of VERVE 2020, the Inter-School Debating Competition, while Kingswood College Kandy securing their position as Runner-Up. The Ibbagamuwa Central College was able to bag the title of the 'Most Popular Team'of VERVE 2020 for acquiring the highest number of votes in the online campaign. The Talent Show comprised 14 different performances where Business undergraduates unveiled their talents in tiers of Singing, Dancing and Acting. Each one of these items was performed by business undergraduates while the singers were backed by none other than the talented instrumentalists from the department itself. The Vice-Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. To further spellbind the dignified arena of VERVE 2020 amidst the loud cheer of the excited audience, the stage was opened to 'INFINITY' who took the entire audience to an enthralling journey of music captivating the true essence of a vitalizing experience.



# Crafterina' 20




Crafterina 20, a handcraft competition, was organized by the Student Association of the Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) with the purpose of giving value to the time spent leisurely by the university undergraduates during this pandemic situation. This competition was open for undergraduates in all state universities. The registration was open from 1st of May to 5th of May 2020 and 116 applications were received, of which 106 of the applicants participated in the competition. The evaluation panel consisted of five lecturers of the Department of HRM and the winners were selected under a few categories: the best craft, 1st runner-up, 2nd runner-up, the most popular craft (Facebook competition- the craft which secured the maximum number of likes was selected as the most popular craft), the most ecofriendly, the most creative, the most commercial exposure, the most cost-effective and the neatest. Mobile reloads and E-certificates were given to all the winners.







# Cyber Wave 1.0 online competition

"Cyber Wave 1.0" online competition was organized by the second-year students of the Department of Marketing Management for the first-year students of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

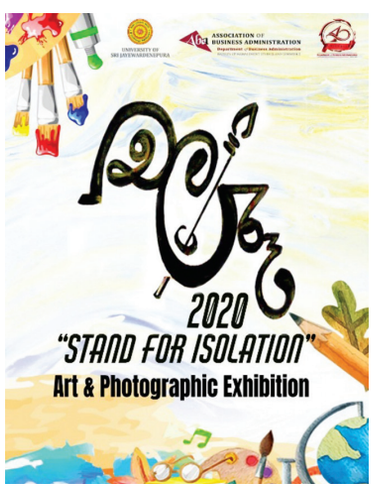
The entire competition was carried out under 4 main rounds. The preliminary round of the competition was a "Brain teaser" which was an online quiz competition. The 1st round was conducted on 21st of October 2020. The teams who successfully qualified from the first round were tested for their creativity by giving a common topic on which they had to upload a video by 29th October 2020 for the second round "Rising from the Ashes". Two teams were selected based on the marks obtained in the 2nd round and two teams were selected by a wild card round.

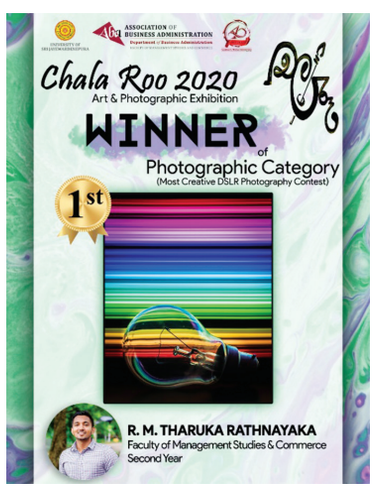


"Winning Ladder", the 3rd round was conducted on 15th of October 2020 which assessed the aesthetic skills of the students. Following the entertainment program organized for the 3rd round participants, the grand finale, "Pitch your Future" was held on the 10th of December 2020 with the participation of over 500 live audiences on Zoom and Facebook. The grand finale Facebook live was watched by an audience over 2300. The "Team S6" was the Winner of the Cyber wave 1.0.

## ChalaRoo 2020 "Stand for Isolation" - Art and Photography exhibition

The Students' Association of Business Administration (ABA) of the Department of Business Administration successfully organised one of their annual events, "Chala Roo", Art and Photographic Exhibition under the theme of "Stand for Isolation". The event was held from 2nd of November 2020 to 26th of November 2020 using the online social media platforms (through Facebook and Youtube). The entries for the exhibition were called from the categories in Art (pencil drawing, watercolor, pastel, and digital arts) and Photography (mobile camera and DSLR camera). More than three hundred (300) entries were submitted by the students of different faculties of the university. All the received entries were uploaded to the ABA Facebook page. The most creative submissions in both categories were selected by a qualified panel of judges while the most popular ones were selected based on Facebook responses. All the winners and participants were awarded with digital certificates.









# NEWSLETTER

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**Dr. Chandima Jeewandara and Prof. Neelika Malavige at the front line in the National COVID response**

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