

# NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Volume 07 | Issue 03 | September-December 2021

## 46<sup>th</sup> Convocation



University of  
Sri Jayewardenepura

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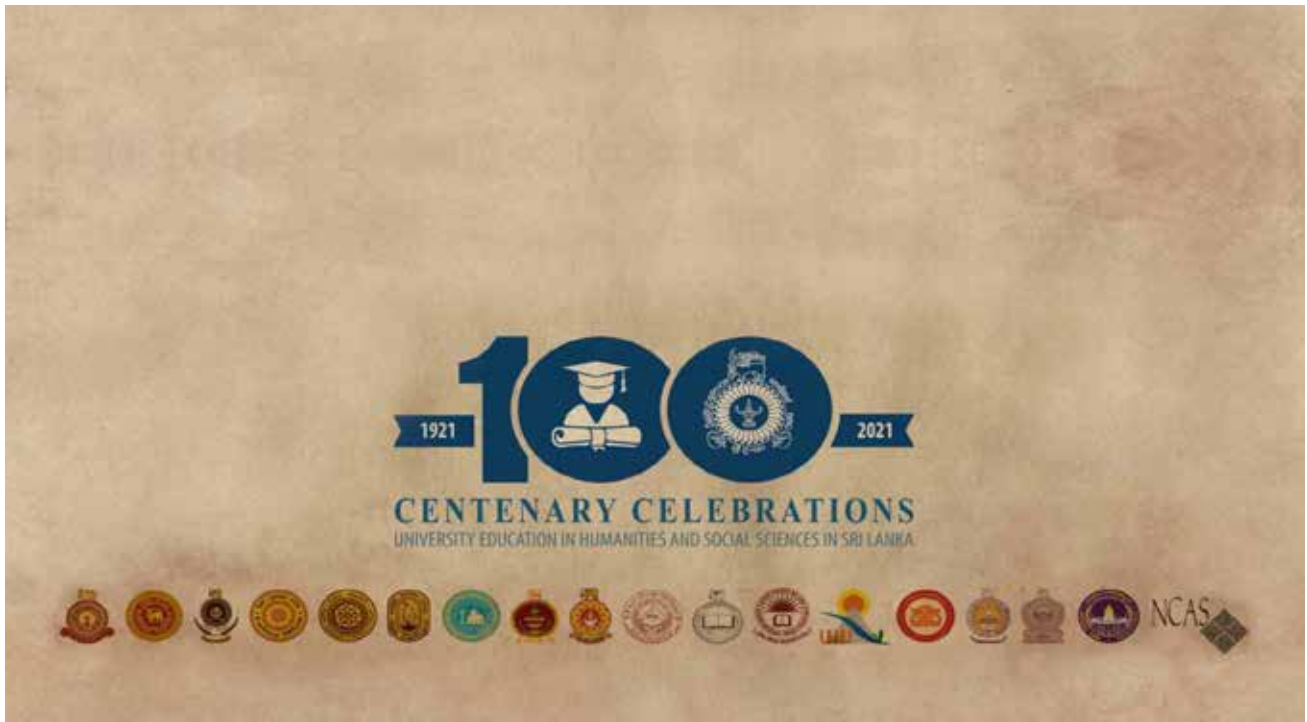
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The newsletter of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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

## NEWS

### Celebrating 100 years of Humanities and Social Sciences Education in Sri Lanka



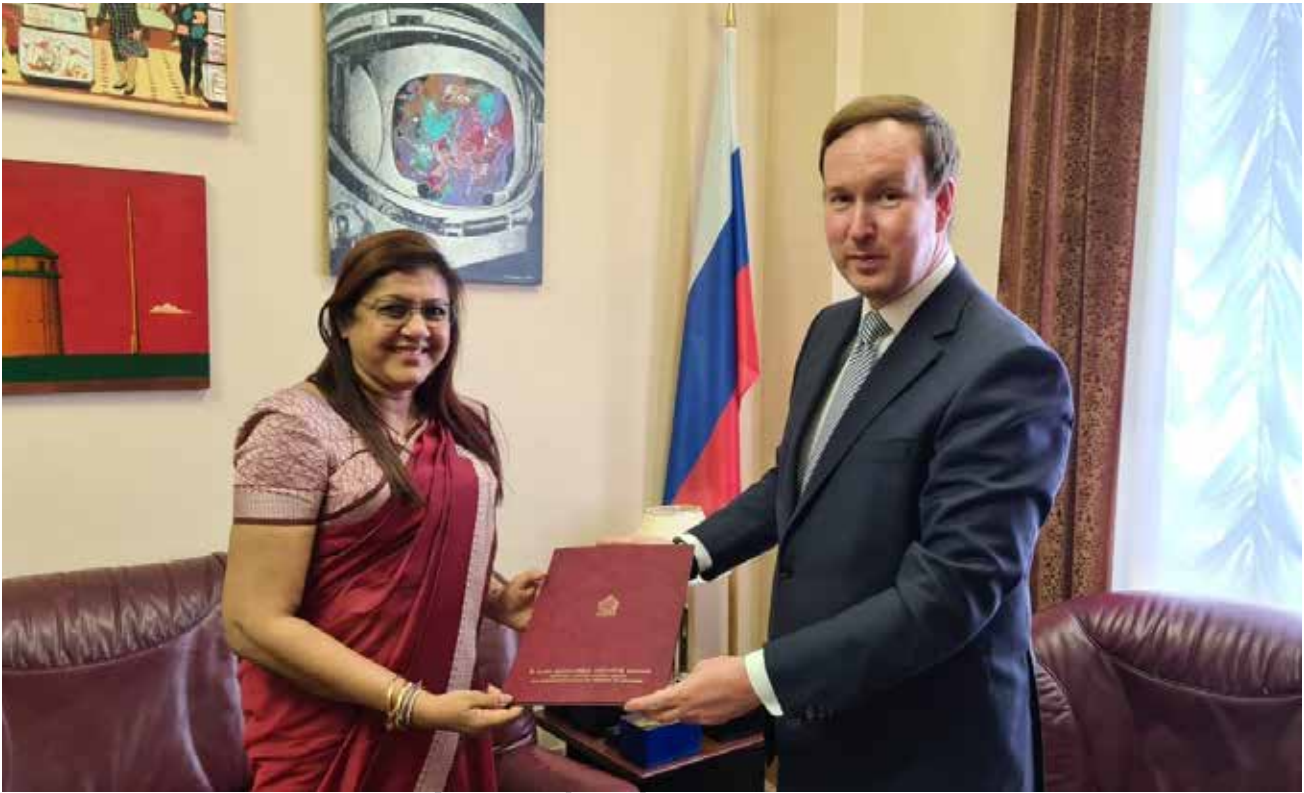
University education in humanities and social sciences in Sri Lanka reaches the 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2021. University education in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Sri Lanka began in 1921 with the establishment of the Ceylon University College in January that same year.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences organized a program celebrating the centenary year of Humanities and Social Sciences education in Sri Lanka, to discuss Humanities and Social Sciences education in the Sri Lankan universities.

The Centenary Year Celebration Program was held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The inauguration of the Program was held at the Lotus Hall of the BMICH followed by a conference on the second day which took place at the UGC-Board Room. The technical sessions of the conference were conducted virtually.



## Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage, an alumnus of USJ, assumes duties as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia



Prof. Janitha Abeywickrema Liyanage, an alumnus of USJ, was appointed as the Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Russia. She assumed duties at a simple ceremony held at the Embassy. After having been warmly welcomed by the staff of the Embassy, Ambassador-designate assumed her duties in line with the religious and tractional activities. Ven. Sooriyawewa Gnadassi Thero, who is undergoing postgraduate studies at the Rudn University in Russia, chanted piriith and invoked blessings on the new Ambassador.

Addressing the staff of the Embassy, Prof. Liyanage highlighted the importance of working as one team with commitment and dedication to realize the vision set out by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the policy framework 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' to achieve economic prosperity and to further elevate the friendly relations between Sri Lanka and Russia to greater heights.

On 05<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Ambassador-designate met the Director of the State Protocol Department of the Russian Federation Igor Bogdashev and presented open copies of the letters of credence formalizing her appointment as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia. During the ensuing conversation, Ambassador Liyanage referred to the longstanding friendly relations between Sri Lanka and Russia and conveyed plans to further advance the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries in all areas of mutual interest. Director Bogdashev in response wished Ambassador Liyanage a successful tenure in Russia and assured his fullest support in discharging her duties.

Ambassador Prof. Janitha Abeywickrema Liyanage is a veteran academic and has served as the Vice Chancellor of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine prior to her departure to Russia.

Source: [www.news.lk](http://www.news.lk)



## Student Loan Scheme launched by the People's Bank - for the medical undergraduates of the state universities

Marking an important day in the history of FMS, USJ, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, we launched the first ever student loan system in the faculty in collaboration with the People's Bank of Sri Lanka. While attracting a lot of students on merit basis, Faculty of Medical Sciences, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (FMS, USJ) also has a substantial proportion of students coming from economically disadvantaged families. Financial security is very important for such students to engage in their academic work effectively and uninterruptedly.

Identifying those needs of the students, and on a suggestion of the Dean, FMS, the student loan system was initiated by the Student Welfare Committee (SWC). Following negotiations with several state and private sector banks, the Peoples Bank pioneered in offering our students a convenient facility to obtain loans.

In this scheme any student can obtain a loan up to Rs.500,000 at an interest rate of 1.75 per annum. Students have to pay only the interest of the loan until they are graduated and the capital thereafter in instalment. The launching ceremony was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The Chairman, Peoples Bank, Mr Sujeewa Rajapaksa, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Mr. R. Kodituwakku, the Vice Chancellor USJ, Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage and the Dean, FMS, Senior Professor Aloka Pathirana graced the occasion. Members of the SWC and students representing different academic years also participated. The agreement on Student Loan Scheme was officially handed over to the Vice Chancellor and the Dean/FMS.



## Accolades of Success - Leo Club of District 306 C2 University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The Leo Club of District 306 C2 University of Sri Jayewardenepura has earned praise from the Leo and Lions District 306 C2 of Sri Lanka. J'pura C2 Leos were awarded as the Most Outstanding New Leo Club of the District at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference of Leo District 306 C2. Moving forward with the legacy established and heads held high, the Leo Club of District 306 C2 University of Sri Jayewardenepura was honoured with numerous awards this year, including the 1<sup>st</sup>



Runner Up – Most Outstanding Leo Club of the Leo District 306 C2 at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference of the Leo District 306 C2 on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, at Water's Edge, Battaramulla from 3.00 p.m. onwards. Representatives from the club's Former and Current Executive Committees and Directors presented the awards to Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

These awards recognize the hard work that J'pura C2 Leos have put in during the Leoistic year 20/21 led by the executive committee including Leo Uvin Sathsara, Leo Poornima Dilruskhi, Leo Kantharupan Thumakandan and Leo Vindya Liyanage. With the new leadership and guidance of President Leo Randunu Rupasinghe J'pura C2 Leos are striving for even greater success in order to shine the name of University of Sri Jayewardenepura in the Leo Movement.

## Completion of CTHE

The Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organizes staff development programmes regularly for academic, executive, and non-academic staff members of the University. It is a mandatory requirement for all the newly recruited academic staff of universities to obtain the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE).

The 2021 batch of CTHE course completed their studies on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Out of the 95 participants who have registered for the course, 41 candidates were from USJ, while 54 participants were from other universities. All the lectures were conducted using Zoom Technology. 68 candidates successfully completed the course.

CTHE – 2022 programme is scheduled to be commenced in January, 2022. Eighty-four candidates have registered for the course. Out of that, 44 persons are from USJ while 40 persons are from other universities.

## Broadening Language and Communication Skills of the FHSS Students



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Diploma in Applied Tamil Language

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<http://lms.cdepd.fhss.sjp.ac.lk/>



**Diploma in English**

Weekend English Diploma Course for Second Year Students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

This course will touch upon

- Revision of basic language structures
- Advanced reading and writing
- Critical reading
- Business English and communication skills
- English proficiency through literature

Admission requirements

- 80% attendance in the first year compulsory English course
- B pass in the final examination

Time held: Saturday 8 – 12 and 1 – 4

Starting date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

DELT in collaboration with CDEPD, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

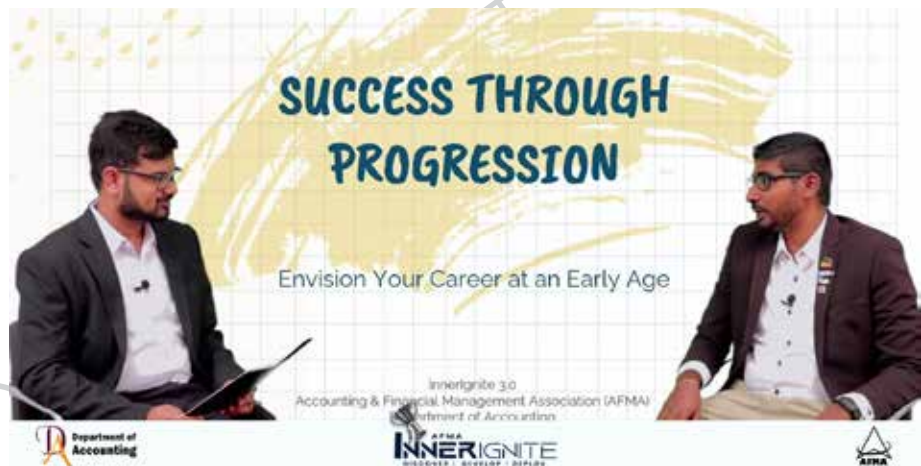
Diploma in English organized by the Centre for Digital Education and Professional Development in collaboration with the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences commenced from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 onwards. Intending to further enhance language competencies, the Centre also took the initiative to introduce a Diploma in Applied Tamil Language of which the lectures commenced from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021 onwards. These enhanced learning opportunities aim at providing the students a platform to use the language skills effectively while improving the communication skills that are deemed to be essential in the contemporary world.



## InnerIgnite

InnerIgnite is a series of programmes organized by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA) of the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) to revolutionize the personal and professional development of undergraduates of the University.

Phase 2.0 of InnerIgnite, a session on "Enrich Your Academic Journey" was successfully conducted to provide guidance to undergraduates to find their true potential while managing stress. The session was delivered via Zoom and FB Live, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 by Mr. Shahan Silva, a final year undergraduate attached to the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He currently works as an Accountant at Balmond Design (Pvt) Ltd.



Phase 3.0 of InnerIgnite, a session on "Success Through

Progression" was successfully conducted to provide guidance to undergraduates to envision their career path at an early age. The session was delivered via Zoom and FB Live, on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by Mr. Chamath Siriwardana, the Senior Manager of Financial Reporting and Planning at Citizens Development Business Finance PLC. He is a proud alumnus of the Department of Accounting, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Phase 4.0 of InnerIgnite, a session on "Looking Through the Mirror of Aesthetics" was successfully conducted to provide guidance to undergraduates to refine their lives with the bliss of poetry. The session was delivered via Zoom and FB Live, on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 by the eminent Literature Reviewer, Dr. Asela Wijesundara.

## Expansion of the Basha Buddy project

The Basha Buddy project which began on July 14, 2021, keeps expanding, since the number of people to obtain assistance with their use of English has increased. This had been restricted to texting so far, on WhatsApp and Facebook messenger. As the next step, the buddies are broadening out this program to include a speaking practice component, which will be enormously helpful during the pandemic when interpersonal connections are limited – and even otherwise, as many may not have a chance to communicate in English within their own social contexts. The session times are given not only to make it easy for the Basha Buddies who are volunteering their services free of charge, but also to see if those who are truly committed to improve their skills are willing to put in their maximum effort it entails. With such commitment, the Basha Buddies might be able to make at least a little difference in the ability to use English, by providing a safe, non-judgmental practice space to improve communication skills of English language.



## MOVES'21

Moves'21, the first ever Inter-university Duet Dancing Competition, organized by the Association of Business Administration of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, which aimed at breaking through the monotonous virtual lifestyles while providing the students with a platform to showcase their aesthetic skills, was concluded successfully on 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

Hundreds of passionate individuals from state universities all across the island applied for the competition. Out of them the 10 most talented duets were selected by our respective panel of judges as the Top 10 finalists of Moves'21. Mr. Baskar Prakash, Miss Aseka Wijewardene and Mr. Gayan Srimal consisted of the respective panel of judges who carried out all the evaluations throughout the competition.







With respect to the health restrictions prevailed in the country, the grand finale of Moves'21 was held on a virtual platform on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The occasion was officially hosted in the presence of Dr. Kalyani Karyapperuma, the Head of the Department of Business Administration along with hundreds of participants joining the event via Zoom and Facebook Live broadcast.

Mayumi Ishara from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Umesha Sankini from the University of the Visual and Performing Arts secured the title the Champions of Moves'21. Suwidinee Maheshika and Vimukthi Roshan from the University of the Visual and Performing Arts who were awarded as the runners up were also the Most Popular Duet of Moves'21 which was selected based on the votes received for the respective dancing videos on the official YouTube Channel.



## CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH

### The first International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2021

The first International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2021 (ICIET 2021) took place on 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 virtually. The inauguration ceremony which took place in the Faculty premises was held in a modest manner adhering to the COVID-19 prevention regulations required by the Government.

Sr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge,  
Chairman, University Grants

Commission, Sr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Nilmini Liyanage, Dean Faculty of Technology University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the Deans of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and other senior administrative staff members along with the General Co-chairs of the conference Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga and Dr. Akila Wijethunge, and the members of the organising committee and staff were present at the occasion.



The conference received over 200 papers. Several workshops were also conducted covering a wide range of industry-focused Technology. The two-day conference program included three keynotes from prominent academic and industrial leaders, Dr. Mahesha Ranasoma, CEO, Global Rubber Industries, Professor Keitaro Naruse, Robot Engineering Laboratory, the School of Computer Science and Engineering, the University of Aizu, and Mr. Thomas Muller, Senior Vice President [Technical], Nestle Lanka PLC.

## 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Business Management 2021

The International Conference on Business Management (ICBM) 2021 was hosted by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. Marking a number of milestones and encompassing the participation of an extensive audience through the hybrid mode, the ICBM 2021 epitomized the rich academic tradition of the FMSC.



The ICBM 2021 was held under a pertinent theme, "Managing in Crisis: Brace for Challenges Ahead to Ensure Growth", addressing the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and revisiting the strategies adopted by the business organizations to surmount them. The main conference was graced by Assistant Professor in Public Administration Evangelia Petridou, affiliated to the Risk and Crisis Research Center at Mid Sweden



University, as the keynote speaker. Further, the ICBM 2021 partnered with distinguished academic publisher 'Emerald Publishing' for local/foreign presenters to publish their work in reputed indexed journals. Prof. Jayantha N. Dewasiri, Brand Ambassador-South Asia and Ms. Sangeeta Menon, Publishing Relationship Manager representing Emerald steered an interactive and engaging discussion with the audience.

The ICBM featured three events in addition to the main conference; the PhD Colloquium, the Business Forum and the SAARC Leaders Forum, ensuring the involvement of different stakeholders in the community. Professor N. S. Cooray, from the International University of Japan attended the event as the keynote speaker on 'Does Social Market Economy Suit Sri Lanka? The Role of Institutions' at the PhD Colloquium. At the Business Forum, Cargills (Ceylon) PLC, Dialog Axiata PLC, English Tea Shop Organic (UK) Ltd, Finagle Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, MAS Holdings, and PayHere (Pvt) Ltd. presented their unique corporate journeys through the pandemic. The SAARC Leaders Forum was organized in affiliation with the University Grants Commission. Hon. Mr. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Hon. Mr. Tareq Md Ariful Islam, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka and Hon. Mr. Omar Abdul Razzak, the High Commissioner of Maldives to Sri Lanka joined as the panelists of the session, which was moderated by the Senior Professor HHDNP Opatha, of the Department of Human Resources Management FMSC.



## The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Real Estate Management and Valuation (ICREMV 2021)

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Real Estate Management and Valuation (ICREMV 2021) organized by the Center for Real Estate Studies (CRES), the research arm of the Department of Estate Management and Valuation, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 via Zoom as a virtual conference, under the theme of "SMART



Real Estate: Towards Unmet Socio-Economic Needs". The conference was chaired by Dr. Prathap Kaluthanthri, and the co-secretaries were Prof. (Rtd). Janakie Edirisinghe and Dr. Chameera Udawattha. Professor Neil Crosby, Professor of Real Estate, University of Reading, United Kingdom, attended as the keynote speaker of the inauguration session. Dr. Shanaka Herath, University of Technology Sydney, Australia and Dr. Kanjane Budthimedhee, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand participated as keynote speakers of the technical sessions.

Mr. PW Senarathne Former Chief Valuer, Government Valuation Department, Mr. D Prathapasinge, Secretary of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – Sri Lanka, Ms. Bhagya Mahavithanage, Deputy Director – Investor Relations, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Mr. Kushan Pathiraja, Director – Finance, Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort joined as the panelists of the Industry Dialogue session. The session was moderated by Ch. QS. Shihaan Burah, Chairman of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – Sri Lanka.

Arch. Russel Dandeniya, President, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Mr Namal Peiris, Chief Executive Officer, International Construction Consortium (Pvt) Ltd., Ms. Yamuna Jayaratna, Director – Sales & Marketing, Port City Colombo, Plnr. EAC Piyashantha, Deputy Director General, Urban Development Authority and Dr. (Mrs.) Nishani Wickramaarachchi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Estate Management and Valuation joined as the panelists of the Real Estate Talk session. The session was moderated by Dr. Upuli Perera, Head Department of Estate Management and Valuation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



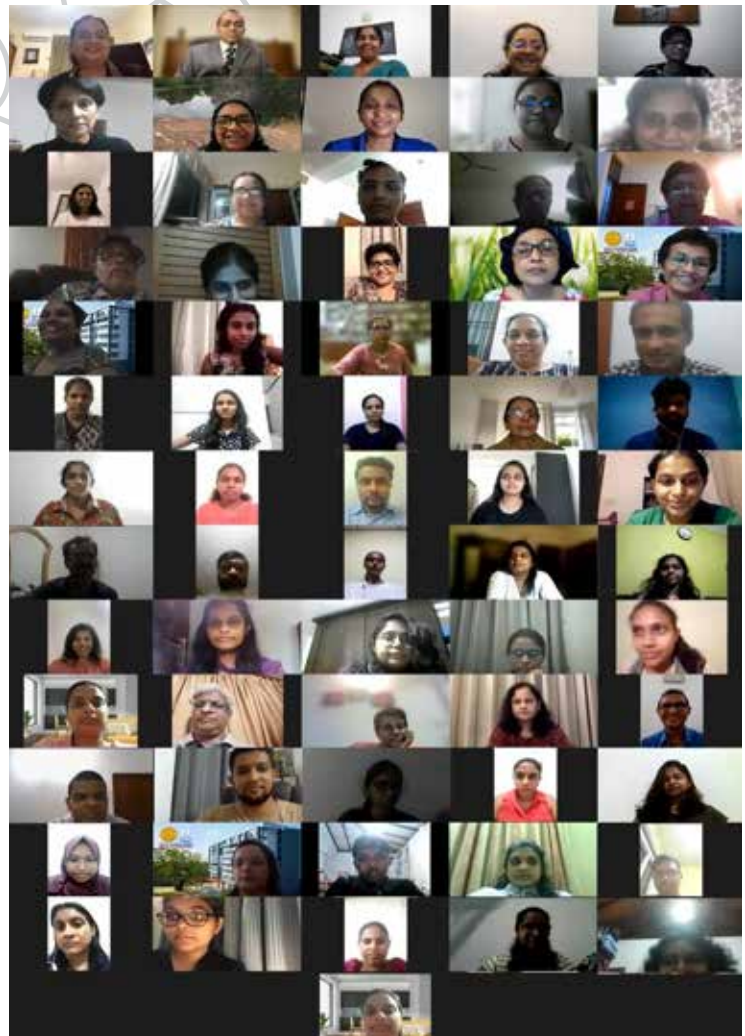


## The International Conference on Health Sciences 2021



The International Conference on Health Sciences (ICH 2021) under the theme of 'Exploring Challenges to Make a Difference' organized by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 on a virtual platform.

The ICH 2021 received an overwhelming number of abstracts despite the uproars during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Faculty of Medical Sciences Oration 2021 was delivered by Senior Professor Kamani Wanigasuriya, Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, on 'Unraveling chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology in Sri Lanka: Reminiscence of my research'. The event being a promising 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, along with a group of professors and doctors from the Research Committee, under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage and the Dean of the Faculty, Senior Professor Aloka Pathirana.



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage



The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage organized by the Department of Anthropology was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

The inauguration of the Conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 was graced by the Chief Guest; Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Guest of Honor; Dr. Punchinilame Meegaswaththa, Secretary-General, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, Keynote Speaker; Prof. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Vidyasagar University, India and Prof. Shiranthra Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. More than 300 research papers were presented in three languages; Sinhala, English, and Tamil throughout the two days of the conference in more than 5 parallel sessions.

This year's conference was chaired by Prof. Sepala Samarasekara with the assistance of the secretariat Dr. Ravindra Kumara.



## NARCHE 2021 - Yet another milestone of the FHSS

NARCHE 2021 organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura marks an important chapter of exploring the best practices in the teaching and learning process in higher education in Sri Lanka. The National Action Research Conference of Higher Education (NARCHE) 2021– the first ever conference of its kind in Sri Lanka was successfully held virtually on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The conference is a result of identifying the need to create a wider forum to discuss action research findings in the country that would open a new avenue for practitioners to engage in critical debate of research and innovation in teaching, learning and assessment practices in the higher education sector in Sri Lanka.

*'Discover and Disseminate: Best Practices in Higher Education'* is the theme of NARCH 2021. It is apt and timely, particularly at a time when the world is confronted with new challenges in teaching, learning and assessment due to Covid 19 global pandemic. It is necessary to discover equally effective alternatives and protocols for distance learning, online or otherwise, and share such best practices with the academic community in higher education. Teachers, students, parents, and all stakeholders are expected to respond proactively to the needs of the time by transforming changes and challenges into opportunities that will provide quality education during this uncertain period.



## Benz Bionic car and Biomimetic Designs for Automobile Engineering



Biomimetics is a creative form of technology that mimics nature in various developments that improve the quality of people's lives. Biomimetics is not a novel concept but has been used since the beginning of human inventions. An extensive engagement of biomimetics has been noticed in the development of products and behaviors in the fields of "Science", "Commerce", and "Arts". Now, the automobile research community seeks to develop systematic methodologies to practice biomimetic concepts in automobile engineering.

Biomimetic design approaches, which have been used in automobile design, were explored and reviewed by Eng. Isira Wijegunawardana and Eng. WR de Mel of the Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology, Faculty of Technology University of Sri Jayewardenepura in September 2021. Taking this concept into account, the Mercedes-Benz company has introduced a vehicle named the bionics car, which has a shape inspired by a boxfish. This is one of the most popular biomimetic research projects in recent times. Furthermore, taking a step forward, biomimicry has also been used in underhood components and surface microstructures in automobiles.

Eng. Wijegunawardana and Eng. WR de Mel presented the findings as a publication in International Journal of Automotive and Mechanical Engineering (IJAME) in September 2021.

## FOT receives a Norwegian grant

Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills allocates approximately NOK 178 million to 26 projects, including NOK 23 million for 67 full degree master scholarships. It is a pleasure to inform that one of the project proposals from Department of Civil and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Technology, has been accepted for NORPART-2021 in November 2021.



## IEEE International Conference Tutorial on Blockchain by FoE academic

Dr. Chamitha de Alwis and Ms. Charithri Yapa from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering conducted a tutorial on Blockchain technology for Smart Grid applications at the IEEE International Smart Cities Conference 2021 together with Prof. Madhusanka Liyanage from University College Dublin, Ireland. The tutorial titled "Blockchain for Smart Grid 2.0: Use Cases, Opportunities and Challenges" was conducted online on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Smart grids are placed in a conspicuous position of future, decentralized electricity distribution systems, possessing automated capabilities and fault recovery through self-resilience. Such architecture enables maximization of consumer participation in electricity trading and optimized utilization of distributed generation, which mainly comprises Renewable Energy Sources (RES). Blockchain facilitates the realization of the envisaged grid topology, through transparent, distributed, and immutable transaction storage. Practical implementation of blockchain-based grid operation scenarios presents several challenges. This tutorial discussed the use cases of blockchain-enabled smart grid 2.0 architecture, opportunities arising, and challenges to be addressed.

The screenshot shows the IEEE International Smart Cities Conference 2021 website. The header includes the IEEE logo and the conference title. The navigation bar lists various sections: Home, News, Announcements, Keynote Speakers, Committee, Program, Calls for Content, and Registration. The main content area features the title of the tutorial, an abstract, and a list of speakers with their respective photos and affiliations.

**IEEE International Smart Cities Conference 2021**

Home | News | Announcements | Keynote Speakers | Committee | **Program** | Calls for Content | Registration

Series

### Blockchain for Smart Grid 2.0: Use Cases, Opportunities and Challenges

— Abstract

Smart grids are placed in a conspicuous position of future, decentralized electricity distribution systems, possessing automated capabilities and fault recovery through self-resilience. Such architecture enables maximization of consumer participation in electricity trading and optimized utilization of distributed generation, which mainly comprises Renewable Energy Sources (RES). Blockchain facilitates the realization of the envisaged grid topology, through transparent, distributed, and immutable transaction storage. Practical implementation of blockchain-based grid operation scenarios presents several challenges. This tutorial discusses the use cases of blockchain-enabled smart grid 2.0 architecture, opportunities arising, and challenges to be addressed.

**Speakers:**

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             |                                         |                                           |
| <b>Madhusanka Liyanage</b><br>School of Computer Science, University College, Dublin, Ireland, Centre for Wireless Communications, University of Oulu, Finland | <b>Charithri Yapa</b><br>Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka | <b>Chamitha de Alwis</b><br>Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka |

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**IEEE**

## The Completion of the Research: Mapping Project in Coastal Sri Lanka



As defined by the Coast Conservation Act No 57 of 1981, the beach of Sri Lanka is public property and anyone has right of free access. The Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department (CC & CRMD) has been assigned to ensure this right. Accordingly, Beach Access Projects were advertised by the CC & CRMD in the Gampaha and Puttalam districts in 2019/20 and in the Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Colombo districts in 2021. These projects which aimed to prepare a beach access inventory and to

develop a GIS based Base Map (showing details of existing/proposed beach access, including attributes, associated roads/features) were conducted by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with Prof. RMK Ratnayake (Department of Geography) as the team Leader and a Consultant of GIS, Cartography and Environment. Eight reports of the projects were submitted to the CC & CRMD on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The overall project was supervised by Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Mr. WNS Rajatahne, the Acting Director/ CC & CRMD under the patronage of Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Ranawaka (Director General/CC & CRMD). The symbolic presentation of the report took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 at the office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

## ICMS Study on Student Satisfaction in Online Learning appears in Sustainability

A cross-sectional survey study conducted by the International Center for Multidisciplinary Studies (ICMS), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura reveals that rich student-student and lecturer-student interactions alleviate the feeling of isolation in online learning. The study was conducted with 1376 undergraduates enrolled in various courses in humanities and social sciences at three state-owned universities in the country during the pandemic from August to September in 2021.

The study, in particular, investigated how perceived learner motivation, perceived challenges of e-learning, and interactions determine student satisfaction in online learning. Among the three variables, learner motivation was found to exert the strongest effect on students' satisfaction, implying the crucial role of self-regulated learning—characterized by motivation-in online learning environments. The study was conducted by Dr. Sujeewa Hettiarachchi, Prof. BWR Damayanthi, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda and Prof. Lalith Ananda from the ICMS, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with Dr. DMSLB Dissanayake and Dr. Manjula Ranagalage from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

## Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day 2021



Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day 2021 organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at the faculty premises.

The advisor of Undergraduate Research Day 2021 was Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Under his guidance, this year's conference was chaired by Prof. Wasantha Mendis of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies with the support of the Secretariat Dr. Sanjeevani Maythirathne of the Department of History and Archeology.

Rev. Snr. Prof. M Dhammajothi, Director Post Graduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the University of Kelaniya participated in the event as the Keynote Speaker. Also, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice-Chancellor of the USJ, and Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the FHSS graced the event. Throughout the three days of the event, more than 400 final-year undergraduates of the FHSS presented their dissertation findings in scientific sessions.

## FAHS' joint efforts with SLAAS to uplift the quality of research communications

The Research Committee of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, USJ in collaboration with the General Research Committee, Section A and Committee for Popularization of Science of SLAAS hosted a virtual talk resourced by Emeritus Professor Lakshman Samaranayake, University of Hong Kong on 'Enhancing the impact of a journal article: Role of authors and reviewers' on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The talk was for academics and journal editors on improving the quality of a journal article. Prof. Samaranayake spoke of his vast experience as a journal editor and author of many high impact publications.





## FAHS' contribution to Sri Lanka's first National Pharmacy Helpline (NPH)

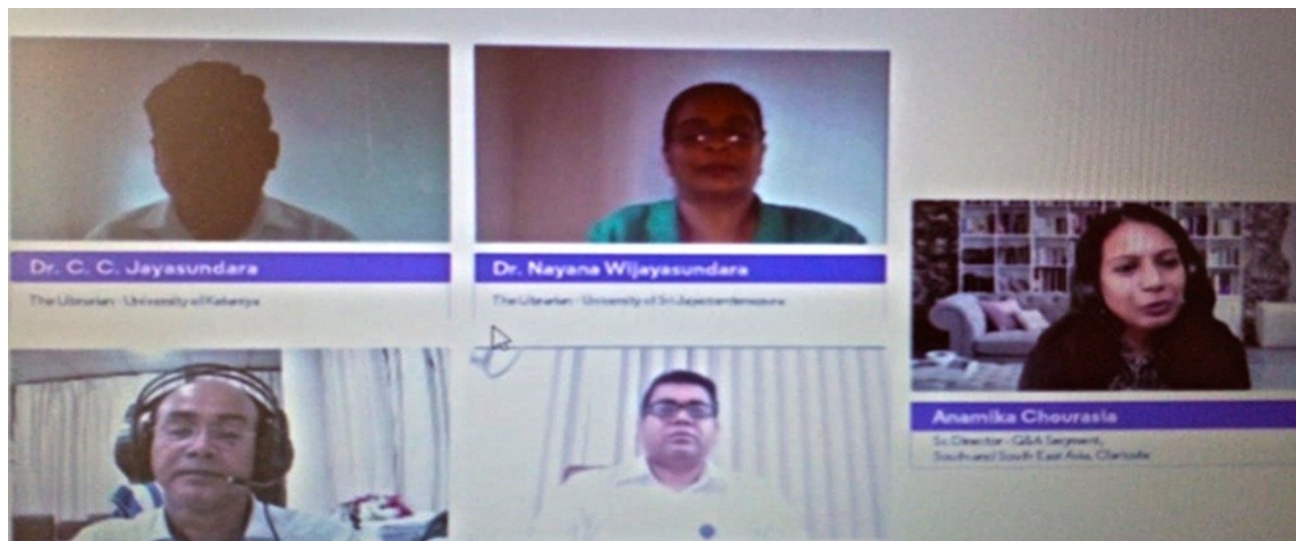


Sri Lanka's first pharmacy helpline was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 at the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. This was initiated by the Society of Government Pharmacists (SGP) with the backing of the Ministry of Health Sri Lanka, and as a joint effort with by SLT-Mobitel. Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, FAHS, USJ was invited to deliver the keynote speech at the launching ceremony. Her keynote was on 'Pharmacy: Always Trusted for Your Health' which was also the theme for the World Pharmacists Day 2021 initiated by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

The National Pharmacy Helpline is an islandwide service with over 120 dedicated government pharmacists trained by SLT-Mobitel to facilitate calls and to provide medication related advice to patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, patients receive their medicines through the post from state hospitals, and may have various issues related to their medication therapy. This joint endeavor will enable Sri Lankans to obtain optimal healthcare services by simply dialing the NPH hotline 0716222555 from the safety of their homes.



## Clarivate South Asia's Librarian Forum 2021



Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara, the Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura took part as a panelist of the Clarivate South Asia's Librarian Forum 2021 held on 09<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Clarivate is a global leader in providing trusted insights and analytics to accelerate the pace of innovation. Their vision is to improve the way the world creates, protects and advances innovation. Web of Science is a product of Clarivate.

The forum was organized on the theme "Role of the librarians in promoting research integrity and overall institutional profile". This forum was a part of Clarivate's ongoing efforts to engage with the library community, one of the key stakeholders in the research lifecycle of institutions across the country.

Four invited panelists from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh discussed the following areas related to the theme of the forum;

- Responsible use of metrics and data for research performance evaluation, special emphasis on Journal Impact Factor
- Best practices in promoting genuine OA journals
- Approaches to sensitize researchers on predatory journals
- Librarian outreach to students – How can librarians educate students on good citation behaviour?



## WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

During the period between September-December 2021, the university has organized a series of webinars and workshops either for the university students, staff or for the general public.

1. A Workshop on "Find Your Energy Source" was conducted by the Department of Commerce, FMSC, USJ
2. A Workshop on "Financial Modeling" was conducted by the Department of Commerce, FMSC, USJ



3. A half-day workshop was conducted by the SDC on "Academic Accountability, Responsibility and Rights"
4. A two-hour workshop was conducted by the SDC on "How to edit a recorded lecture"
5. A two-hour workshop was conducted by the SDC on "Ethics in Human Research"
6. Three half-day workshops were conducted by the SDC on "Curriculum Design and Development"
7. Two two-hour workshops were conducted by the SDC on "Referencing using Mendeley Session I"
8. Three half-day workshops were conducted by the SDC on "Troubleshooting"
9. Webinar on "Early detection of breast cancer" was organized by the Sri Lanka cancer society in collaboration with the cancer research center, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura





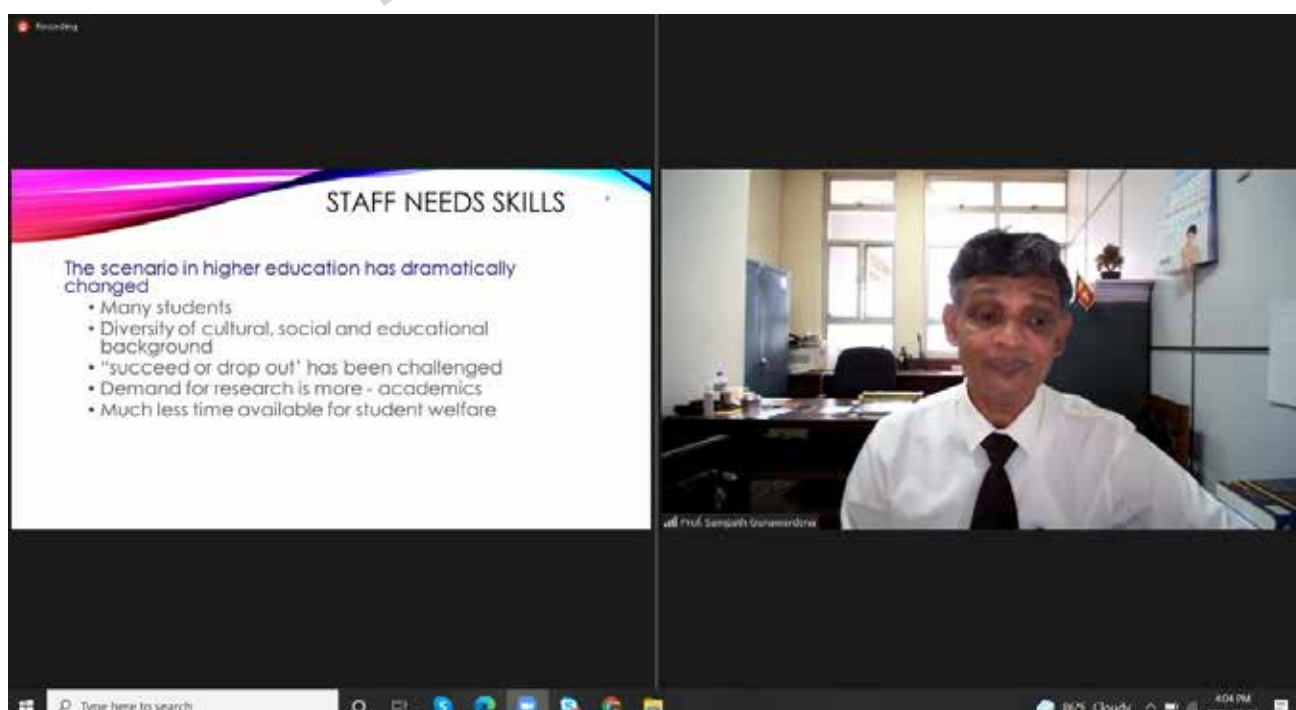
10. Online webinar series on "EnPro Path 1.0" was organized by NextGen Lab together with members of E2 Club and RaIS lab, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, FoE, USJ



Our collaborations with Industry Partners



11. A workshop on "Role of a personal tutor – Continuing efforts to provide quality education" was conducted by the Staff Development Committee, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, USJ



## Awareness talk series on the scope of the Pharmacy profession in Sri Lanka

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences of Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized an awareness talk series for the Pharmacy graduates and undergraduates to discuss the scope of the Pharmacy profession in Sri Lanka from 08<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2021. The following eminent resource persons of Pharmacy alumni were invited as guest speakers to share their knowledge and experiences.



Mr. Gopi Krishantha De Silva who is a Senior Regulatory Pharmacist at the National Medicines Regulatory Authority talked on overview of regulating medicines in Sri Lanka



Ms. Hemamali Tibbotumunuwa who works as the Senior Manager - Regulatory Affairs at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd spoke on Regulation of medicines and devices from the perspective of a medicines importer/manufacturer'



Mr. Shantha Katipearachchi, a Lead Consultant in Sales and Marketing talked on how to "Walk the Talk" when a graduate gets into the real world.



Mr. Kelum Jayasuriya, Group Manager of Pharmacy Operations at Asiri Health spoke on the positive attitude of a hospital pharmacist and how a pharmacy graduate can save lives in the new era.



Mr. Nalin Kannangara, the Managing Director of Emergen Life Sciences (Pvt) Ltd talked on role of a pharmacy graduate in the field of pharmaceutical manufacturing.



Ms. Chamari Wickramathilake, the Head of Exports and Regulatory Affairs of Link Natural Products (Pvt) Ltd talked on the prospects in a career in herbal medicine manufacturing.

## CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### New chairman appointed to National Child Protection Authority



Mr. Udayakumara Amarasinghe, a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) with effect from 22nd November 2021. Mr. Amarasinghe is a long-serving member of the Board of Directors of the NCPA. He

also serves as a member of the Board of Management of the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (NAPVCW). The previous Chairman of the NCPA Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana had resigned from his position last month.

Source: [www.adaderana.lk](http://www.adaderana.lk)

### An agreement between the State Ministry of Rattan, Brass, Clay, Furniture, and Rural Industry Promotion and the Department of Marketing Management

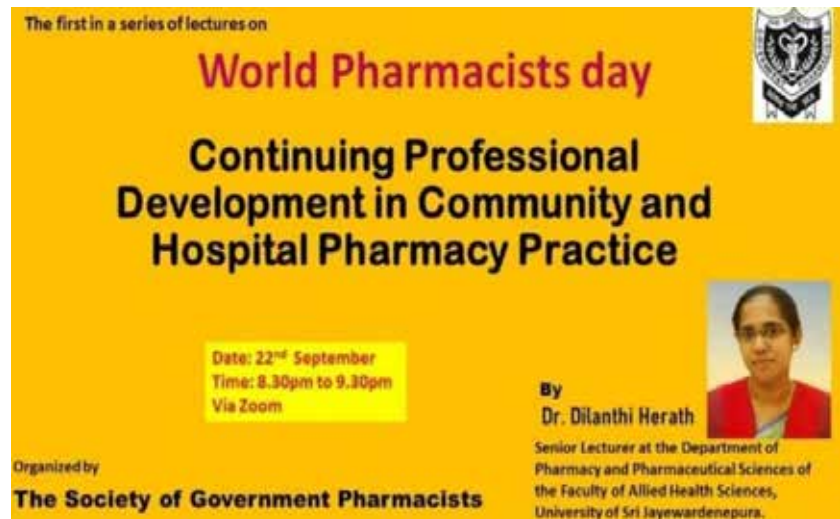


An agreement was signed between the State Ministry of Rattan, Brass, Clay, Furniture, and Rural Industry Promotion and the Department of Marketing Management on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the State Minister's Office, with the purpose of promoting rural entrepreneurs in the fields of pottery, rattan, bamboo, brass, wood carvings, rush and reed, laksha and masks in local and international markets.



## FAHS academics contribute to continuous professional development of pharmacists in Sri Lanka

Dr. HMDR Herath, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, FAHS, USJ was invited to share her expertise in pharmacy education among government pharmacists in Sri Lanka, where she spoke on "Continuing Professional Development in Community and Hospital Pharmacy Practice". This was the inaugural lecture of a one-week lecture series organized by the Society for Government Pharmacists, Sri Lanka,



to mark the World Pharmacists day 2021, and was conducted virtually on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. In her speech, Dr. Herath highlighted the importance of continuous professional development for pharmacists, opportunities available (nationally and internationally) for professional development activities in pharmacy practice, and how to engage in such activities.

## FAHS' contribution to the Sri Lankan community during the COVID-19 struggle

Dr. MKDL Meegoda (a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department of Nursing and Midwifery, of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences), shared her expertise as a resource person in the webinar on "Nursing considerations in looking after COVID positive patients who are allowed to stay at home", conducted by the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee of the Organization of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA-SL) on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This webinar was for the general public and home caregivers. A national and international participation of approximately 200 was observed on this day where Dr. Meegoda educated the public on psychological aspect of care.

Further, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 she contributed as a panel member to an online discussion conducted by the Director of Nursing Public Health, Ministry of Health on "Home-based care and post care for COVID-19 patients". This was done for the Public Health Nursing officers and Public Health Midwives in Sri Lanka.



## FAHS' support to strengthen opportunities in quality education

Dr. MKDL Meegoda (Senior Lecturer of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Science), who is actively involved in increasing opportunities in quality nursing education in Sri Lanka through the Organization of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA-SL) met Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawarathne, the Director General, National Institute of Education (NIE) to discuss how online education can be conducted effectively to school children during the COVID-19 pandemic and how education reforms can be initiated to achieve job market expectations. The meeting was conducted by the Career Guidance and Skills Development (CG&SD) Committee of the OPA on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



## AWARDS

### Japan confers 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon' to Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge

'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon' award was conferred on Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Professor Chair of Business Economics and the Chairman of University Grants Commission) by His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan for his dedication to promote friendly relations between Japan and Sri Lanka. 'The Order of the Rising Sun' is the highest honour bestowed by the Japanese government in the name of His Majesty the Emperor on individuals who have achieved notable accomplishments in fields such as foreign relations, and the development of Japanese culture. On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the ceremony was held at the official residence of the Ambassador for Japan Mr. Sugiyama Akira.



### The Felicitation Ceremony of Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge for being awarded 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon'

The Department of Business Economics organized a ceremony on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021, to felicitate Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Professor Chair of Department of Business Economics and Chairman of University Grants Commission, in honour of being awarded 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with



Neck Ribbon' by the Emperor of Japan. The formal ceremony was held at the Senate Boardroom of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The ceremony was followed by a felicitation dinner at the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo.



## Fellowship of the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka (FCFPSL) awarded to Dr. Sanjaya Hulathduwa

Dr. Sanjaya Ravindra Hulathduwa, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura had been awarded the Fellowship of the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka (FCFPSL) on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at the 18<sup>th</sup> Induction Ceremony of the President of the College.



## Academic staff awards on excellence in student mentoring and teaching 2021

Faculty of Medical Sciences conducted a survey among the students attending the Phase I MBBS curriculum for "academic staff awards on excellence in student mentoring and teaching 2021". The following academic members were nominated by students for the academic staff awards on excellence in student mentoring and teaching.

Dr. Sithara Dissanayake from Department of Anatomy, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe from Department of Anatomy and Dr. Chandana Hewage from Department of Physiology were nominated by students for the Excellence in student mentoring while Dr. Sithara Dissanayake from Department of Anatomy, Prof. Rasika Perera from Department of Biochemistry and Dr. Chandimani Undugodage from Department of Physiology were selected as Teachers of Excellence. Faculty of Medical Sciences congratulate the staff members on their achievements.



## සාහිත්‍යසූරී සම්මානිත මහාචාර්ය සුනිල් ආරියරත්නගේ "සාහිත්‍යරත්න" අභිධානයෙන් 2021 රාජ්‍ය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානෝත්සවයේ දී පිදුම් ලබයි

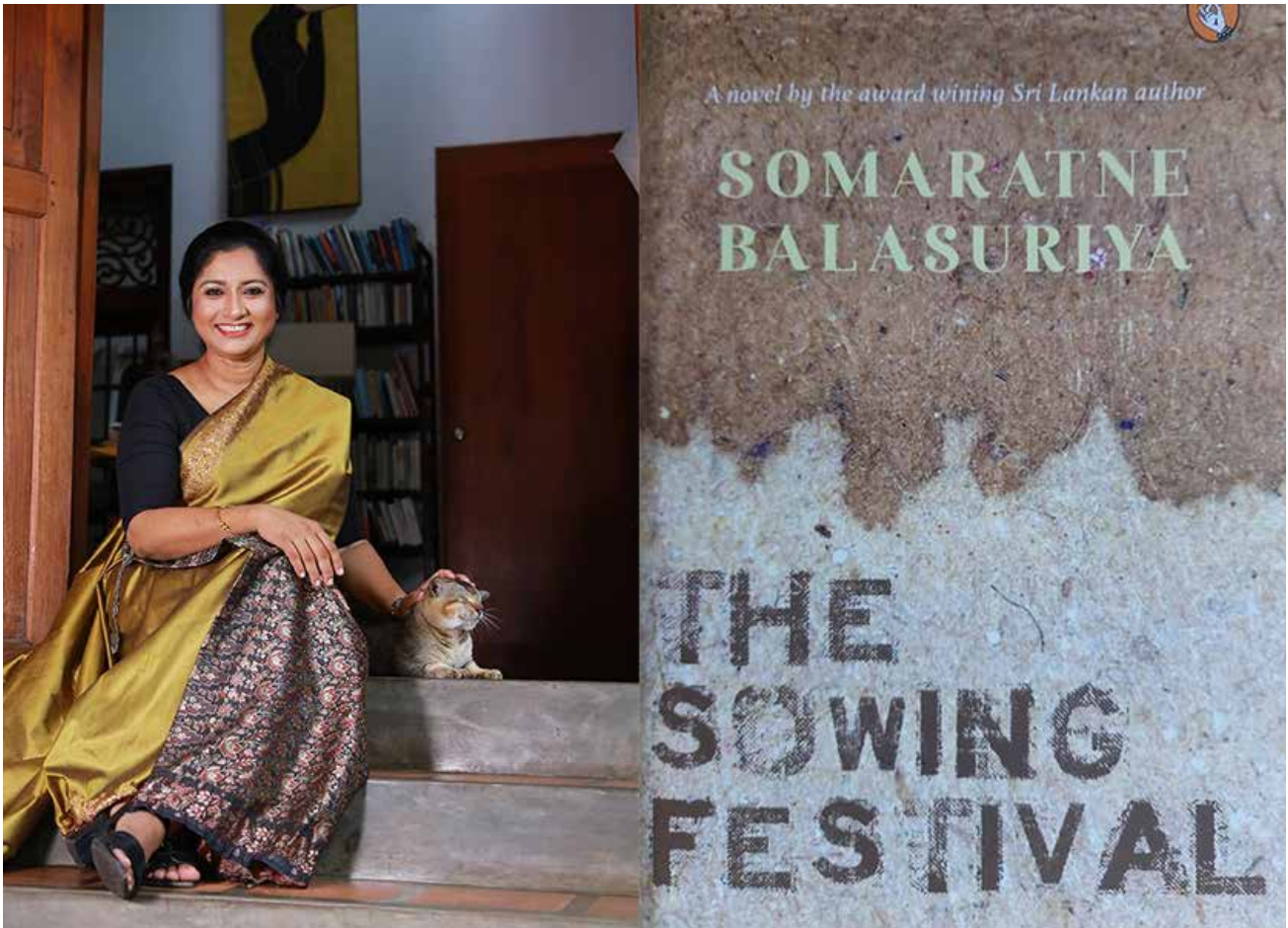


විශ්ව ප්‍රසාදිතී, විද්‍යෝදය චිත්‍රාලය, සාහිත්‍ය කලා ශිෂ්‍යාලය, තම්පල්මණි, තම්පල්මාමණි ගෞරව නාමයන්ගෙන් පිදුම් ලද සාහිත්‍යසූරී සම්මානිත මහාචාර්ය සුනිල් ආරියරත්නගේ සිංහල සාහිත්‍යයට කළ අනනිතවතීය මෙහෙවර උදෙසා සාහිත්‍යරත්න අභිධානයෙන් මෙවර රාජ්‍ය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ප්‍රදානෝත්සවයේ දී පිදුම් ලැබුවේ ය. චතුර්මා 1971 දී ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයෙන් ප්‍රථම පන්ති සාමාර්ථයක් සහිතව ශාස්ත්‍රවේදී ගෞරව උපාධිය ද 1982 දී දර්ශනසූරී උපාධිය ද හිමිකර ගත්තේ ය. 1985 දී ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට කථිකාචාර්යවරයකු ලෙස සේවයට එක්වන ඔහු 2015 දී විශ්‍රාම ලබනුයේ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨතම මහාචාර්යවරයා ලෙස ය. 1961 දී “අභිසංකයෝ” නමින් කෙටිකතා එකතුවක් පළ කරමින් සාහිත්‍ය ක්ෂේත්‍රයට අවතීර්ණ වන මහාචාර්ය ආරියරත්න සියයකට ආසන්න කෘති ප්‍රමාණයක් මේ වන විට රචනා කර ඇත. එම කෘති ශාස්ත්‍රීය, නිර්මාණ, පර්යේෂණ, සංස්කරණ හා පරිවර්තන ආදී විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රවලට අයත් වේ. ඒ අතුරින් “බයිලා කපිරිඳුඳු විමර්ශනයකි, “ගුරුමොගේ යුගය”, “යෙර්මා (මහාචාර්ය චිදිරිචිරි සරච්චන්ද්‍ර සමග) “මකරන්දි,” විසිතුරු රූ අහස “මානවසිංහ ගීත හිමන්ධ”, කෘති වෙනුවෙන් රාජ්‍ය සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ද “විරුද්ධ සහ විරුද්ධ,” සුළු කළුකුඩුවන නම් වූ ප්‍රථම සිංහල ගද්‍ය කාව්‍යයයි, “ඇති පිල්ලමක් අතර” යන කෘති වෙනුවෙන් බෞද්ධ සාහිත්‍ය සම්මාන ද හිමි විය. තවද සංගීත ක්ෂේත්‍රයට කරන ලද සේවය වෙනුවෙන් 1999 දී රාජ්‍ය සංගීත සම්මානය ද දෙමළ සංස්කෘතිය වෙනුවෙන් කළ මෙහෙය උදෙසා වාර්ෂික ව එක් සිංහල ජාතිකයෙකුට පමණක් ශ්‍රී ලාංකේය දෙමළ විද්වතුන් වෙතින් පිදෙන “කම්බන” සම්මානය 2012 දී ද පිරිනමන ලද්දේ මහාචාර්ය ආරියරත්නගේ ය. චිත්‍රපට 25ක් අධ්‍යක්ෂණය කර ඇති චතුර්මා අධ්‍යක්ෂණය, තිර රචනය, ගීත රචනය හා නිෂ්පාදනය වෙනුවෙන් ජනාධිපති, සරසවි, ස්වර්ණ ශ්‍රී සම්මානවලට ද පාත්‍ර වූයේ ය.

මෙසේ ගෞරවයට සම්මානයට පාත්‍ර වූ මහාචාර්ය සුනිල් ආරියරත්නගේ අනිතවයෙන් පිදුම් ලද “සාහිත්‍යරත්න” අභිධාන ප්‍රදානය වෙනුවෙන් චතුර්මාට උපකුලපතිතුමා ප්‍රමුඛ ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ශාඛාධිපති පළ කරමු.



## State Literary Award for Translation of Sinhala Novel into English 2020



Madhubhashini Disanayaka Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer of the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, won the State Literary Award 2020 for the Best Translation of a Sinhala novel into English for *The Sowing Festival*, a translation of Somaratne Balasuriya's novel *Vap Magula*. The award festival was held in November 2021. She had previously won a State Literary Award in 1991 as well, for the Best Collection of Short Stories in English, for her work *Driftwood*. The other national literary award received by her is the Gratiaen Prize in 2011 for her novel *There is Something I Have to Tell You*. She was awarded the title of Kala Keerthi at the Presidential Awards in 2017.



## Achievements of Department of Accounting at JESA 2021

The Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won 3 awards at the J'pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA) 2021 as the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up in the Best CSR Award category, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up in the "Best Innovator" category, and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up in the "Best Young Entrepreneur" category. JESA is organized by the Career Skills Development Society (CSDS) in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and the awarding ceremony was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 at the Hotel Golden Rose, Boralesgamuwa.

"විවරණ" which was organized by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA) and was conducted by the lecturers of the Department of



the entire University. He competed for the "Best Innovator" category by introducing a herbal tea using Heenbovitiya (හීන්බෝවිටියා) plant to prevent fat deposition on the human liver. He competed for the "Best Young Entrepreneur" category by kick-starting a new business called "Your Choice Green Products" based on local natural herbal plants like Moringa, Heenbovitiya, Curry leaf, Tomato, Thebu, Jackfruit, and Cinnamon.



Accounting was awarded as the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up for the Best CSR Award at the JESA 2021. "විවරණ" was able to accomplish the place of the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up out of 19 CSR projects which were organized by clubs and associations of different Faculties of the entire University. AFMA had to submit a comprehensive report with evidence and went through two presentations with interview rounds to achieve this victory.

Sandun Amarasiri, a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year undergraduate attached to the Department of Accounting received two awards at JESA 2021 as the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up in the "Best Innovator" category and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up in the "Best Young Entrepreneur" category after competing with many contestants from different Faculties of



## AWARD CEREMONIES

### 46<sup>th</sup> Convocation of University of Sri Jayewardenepura 2020

The 46<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura 2020 was held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo.



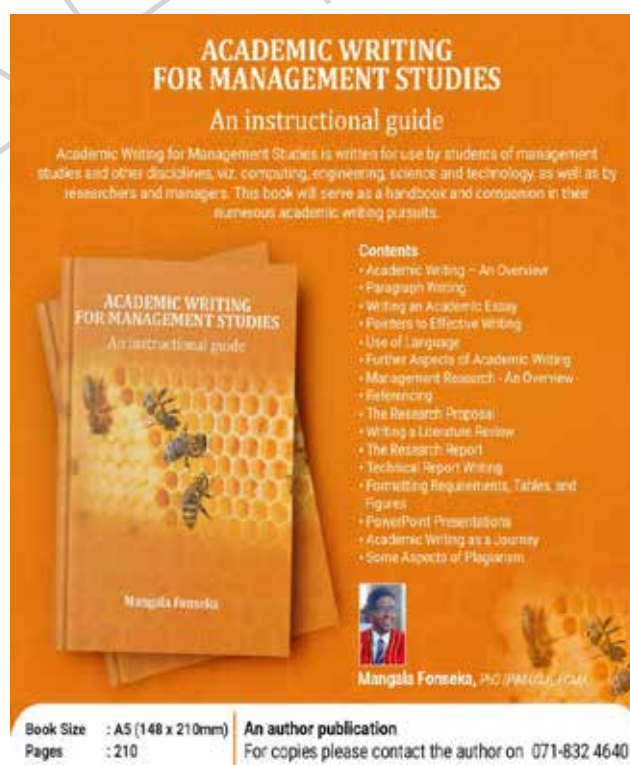
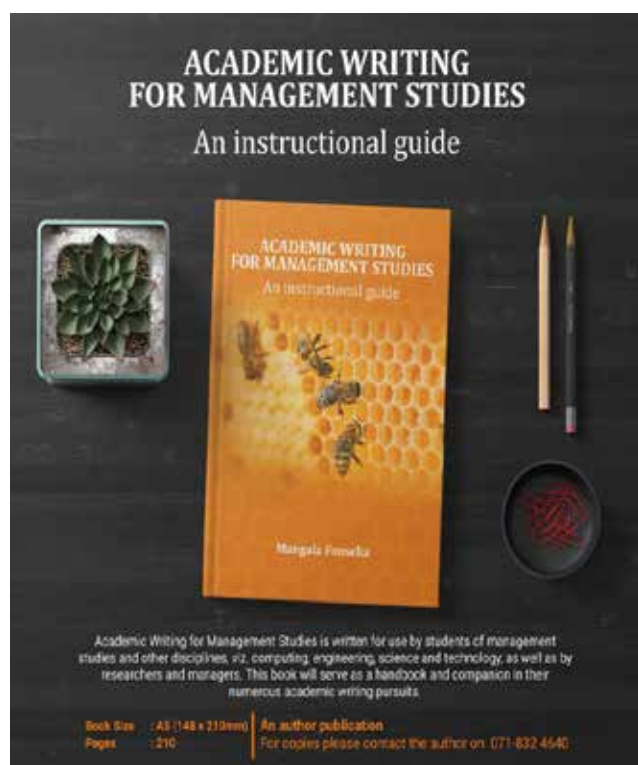


## PUBLICATIONS

### Publication of Volume 04 of the Journal of Accounting Panorama

The Department of Accounting, University of Sri Jayewardenepura published Volume 04 of the Journal of Accounting Panorama on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021. The focus of this volume is in the areas of Corporate Governance, Sustainability, and Accounting Education. Accordingly, four research articles are published in this volume - two research articles on Corporate Governance, one on Sustainability, and one article on Accounting Education. These four research studies are based on the Sri Lankan context and carried out based on both the positivistic and post-positivistic approaches to research.

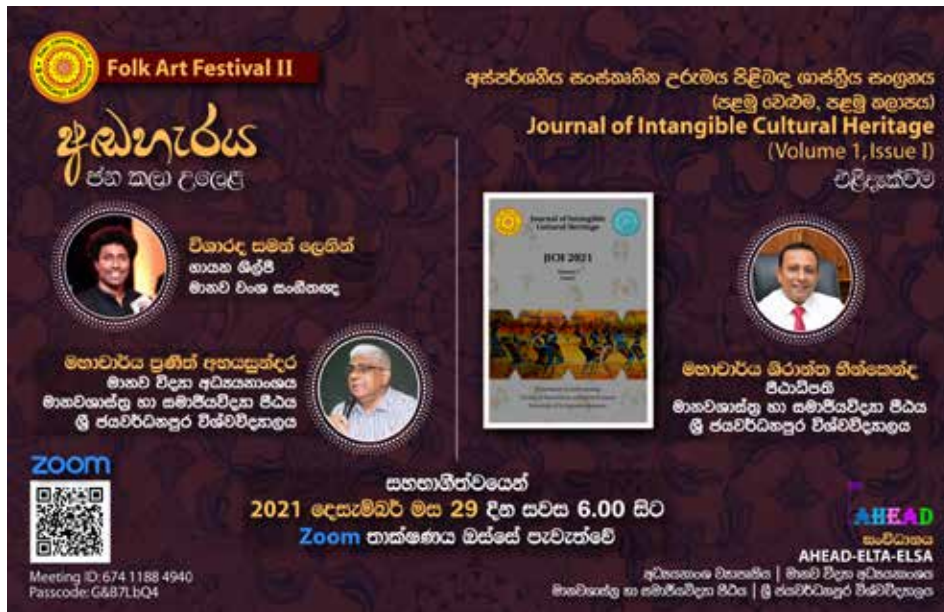
### An instructional guide on “Academic Writing for Management Studies”



Dr. Mangala Fonseka who was a Senior Professor and KPMG Endowed Professor in the Department of Accounting, University of Sri Jayewardenepura has written an instructional guide on “Academic Writing for Management Studies”. Dr. Managala Fonseka belongs to the first generation of academics of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) of which he became the Director. He counts over 30 years of undergraduate and postgraduate level teaching in Management Accounting, Quantitative Methods, Research Methods and Academic Writing. “Academic writing for Management Studies” is written for use by students of management studies and other disciplines, viz. computing, engineering, science, and technology, as well as by researchers and managers. It was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.



## Folk Art Festival on “අඛණ්‍ය” and Journal of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Vol. 1, Issue 1)



The launch of the Journal of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Vol. 1, Issue 1) published biannually by the Department of Anthropology was held on a virtual platform on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021 with the participation of Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, USJ.

In addition, 2<sup>nd</sup> Folk Art Festival under the theme of “අඛණ්‍ය” took place with the

participation of Wisharad Saman Lenin; Musician, Ethnomusicologists and Prof. Praneeth Abheyasundara; Head of the Department of Anthropology on the same day from 6.15 pm onwards. This event was organized by the Department of Anthropology, in collaboration with the AHEAD program.

## The Launching of “මානව විද්‍යා” Magazine and Folk-Art Festival

The launching of the 5<sup>th</sup> Issue of the “මානව විද්‍යා” Magazine, an annual publication of the Department of Anthropology was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 thorough Zoom.

On the same day a Folk Art Festival on “සොබාදහම, පරිසරය සහ දේශීය දැනුම : ජන ගායනයෙන් හැඩවුණු සොළුරු හෝරාව” was



conducted with the participation of Dr. Iranga Samindhani Weerakkodi, Senior Lecturer of the University of Visual and Performing Arts and the Director of C. De S Kulathilatha Research Institute and Prof. Praneeth Abhayasundara, Head of the Department of Anthropology.

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

### Christmas Carols 2021 of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

"En conentes Angeli" - Christmas Carols organized by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held for the first time at the Faculty premises. The event was organized by the Christian Medical Students' Society in collaboration with the Arts Circle of the Faculty. The Buddhist Brotherhood, Hindu Society and Muslim Majlis contributed to it by singing and helping with the organization while keeping the true spirit of Christmas alive. It was a beautiful and magical experience, lovingly dubbed "Bo gaha yata carols" by the students. The orchestra and the singers displayed exceptional talents. The academic staff joined it by singing two carols and the highlight was a beautiful rendition of silent night by Harith Wijeratne, the winner of the Voice Sri Lanka Competition.



### AFMA අපේ නත්තල්

AFMA අපේ නත්තල්, a virtual Christmas Programme which was conducted to commemorate the Birth of Jesus Christ, was organized by the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA), the student body of the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It was successfully held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via online.

### "Jingles 21"

The Commerce Society of the Department of Commerce organized "Jingles 21" on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, a



virtual event to celebrate Christmas. "Jingles 21" enabled the students to showcase their talents, skills, and abilities through dramas, songs and games. The main purpose of this cultural event was to get first-year students involved in the department activities and to enhance collaborations among them. In addition, all the students of commerce department contributed to the success of this event in numerous ways.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### සිහිනයට අත්වැලක් The Seminar Series for the Advanced Level Candidates

With the hope of lending a helping hand and motivating the students taking the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in the coming years, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences organized and conducted the seminar series called සිහිනයට අත්වැලක් in September 2021 in which more than 5000 students participated. The series availed an opportunity for the A/L students to revise their knowledge of the curriculum so that they would be better-prepared to face the examination. It was a collective effort of several faculty members under the supervision of the Dean to make this seminar series successful. The recorded videos of the seminar series are available on the YouTube page of the CDEPD-FHSS.

### Donations from FAHS for Covid-19 patients



cylinders, blood pressure apparatuses, and pulse oximeters for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Academics of FAHS, and their family and friends contributed to this generous cause.

The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences handed over a donation of Rs.351,100 on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to the Colombo South Teaching Hospital which is the main clinical partner of the faculty. The donation was for purchasing oxygen





## STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

### Winner of The Voice Sri Lanka 2021



Harith Wijeratne, a fourth-year medical student of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura has been crowned "The Voice Sri Lanka 2021" conducted by Sirasa TV. Harith dazzled 'The Voice' stage with mind boggling singing performances throughout the span of an year all the while balancing both the academic work and his singing practices. His dedication and amazing performances were well received by the general public and assisted in his victory which has brought glory and fame to the university. The faculty of medical sciences wishes Harith Wijeratne, a bright career both as a future doctor and a musician who has won the hearts of Sri Lankans.

### Best Oral Presentation (Undergraduate) for Mr. Kasun from Department of EEE at ICIET 2021

Mr. Kasun Thushara, a third-year student from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, won the "Best Oral Presentation-Undergraduate" award at the International Conference on Innovation and Emerging



Technologies (ICIET) 2021 (Track – Agricultural technologies for sustainability), which was organized by the Faculty of Technology, USJ on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The presented work was conducted by a team comprised of MADK Thushara, FR Noordeen, and KN Ranasinghe, supervised by Dr. Nishan Dharmaweera, Dr. Bathiya Pilanawithana and Dr. Chamitha de Alwis.

## Faculty of Engineering students shine at SLIoT Challenge

A team of students from the Faculty of Engineering, USJ, won the first runner-up at the SLIoT Challenge 2020. The team (Team 'Kaspers') comprised of students from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering: Kasun Thushara, Udara Kumarasena, Sajana Wickramasingha, and from the Department of Mechanical Engineering: Kasun Chanuka Sooriyapperuma. The competition was organized by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) in collaboration with the



Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The theme for 2020's challenge was "Overcoming COVID-19 with IoT". The awarding ceremony was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## Mechanical Engineering Students Excel at ICIET-2021

Mr. Naveen Sanjula, a recent graduate from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has won the 2<sup>nd</sup> place under the category of "Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation" in the International Conference



Mr. Naveen Sanjula



Mr. Nishan Auranga

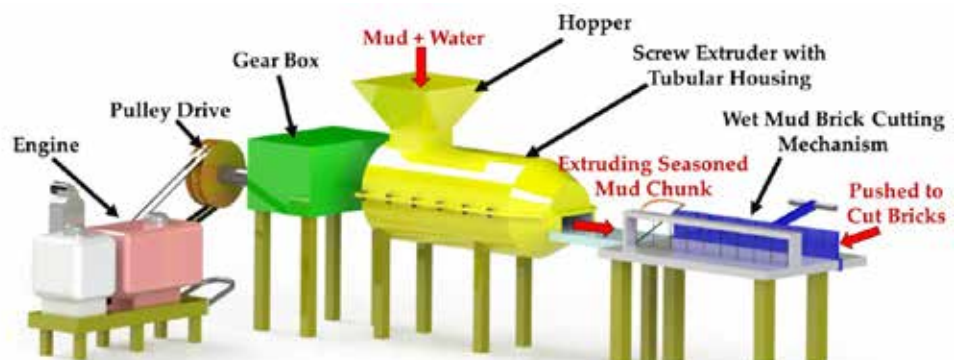


Mr. Sudesh Wickramasingha

on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (ICIET 2021) organized by the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura from 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

Mr. Naveen Sanjula and his colleagues (Mr. Nishan Auranga & Mr. Sudesh Wickramasingha) had conducted research on the Sri Lankan mud brick industry and had identified the lack of properly engineered machinery in the field. Therefore, the team was determined to design a machine which is suitable to the Sri Lankan mud brick industry, as part of their third year design project.

The team was able to design the power transmission system of the machine, select the required components and to identify the research goals that need to be achieved to check the feasibility of the machine.



## Best Young Entrepreneur award - J'Pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA) 2021 for a Mechanical Engineering student

Mr. Chirantha Ranasinghe, a third-year student who is concurrently engaged in his own entrepreneurial endeavors recently won the Best Young Entrepreneur award at the J'Pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA) 2021 ceremony which was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. He was also a semifinalist for the BESA award (Best Employability Skills Achiever).

Ranasinghe's work is centered around creating CNC aided wooden crafts. Initially beginning with wooden souvenirs using CNC laser machines, he was able to upgrade them to produce many types of CNC aided wooden crafts. He is now expanding onto making clocks and 3D carvings.

## First place at the SLAYS 3 minute thesis competition 2022



The SLAYS 3 minute thesis competition (3MT) is a professional and highly engaging international research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland (UQ), and enlisted the Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists.

SLAYS has been listed as one of the participating institutions for the conduction of this event. The fourth 3MT competition was held in 2021 December at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with the aim of empowering postgraduate researchers in Sri Lanka.

Among the 15 finalists at the SLAYS 3MT competition, Dr. Thilini Nisansala (post graduate student, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) secured the first place at the SLAYS Open Forum 2021 by presenting her research on Leptospirosis. Her post graduate study was supervised by Dr. TDCP Gunasekara, Dr. MM Weerasekara, Prof. SSN Fernando

(Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Dr. MGCP Marasinghe (Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Prof. CD Gamage (Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya).





## Best Employability Skills Achiever & Best Team Player: J'pura Employability Skills Awards

The J'pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA) 2021, organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, is a platform designed to award exceptional students at the university for their academic and extracurricular prowess. This year's edition was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December with the participation of staff and students representing the entire university.

The award for "Best Employability Skills Achiever - Faculty of Medical Sciences", the category recognizing the best all-rounders of the faculty, was received by Dinul Doluweera (27<sup>th</sup> Batch), with Dulanji Beneragama (26<sup>th</sup> Batch) and Anagi Kottahachchi (27<sup>th</sup> Batch) emerging as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner ups, respectively.

Dinul Doluweera also managed to clinch the highly sought after "Best Leader" award while Bhanu Wijethilake (26<sup>th</sup> Batch) became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up under the "Best Team Player" Category, competing against the most talented undergraduates of the entire university.



Ganesh Thilanka, a final year undergraduate of the Department of Marketing Management, won the 'Best Team Player' title on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, at the Japura Employability Skills Awards ceremony, organized by the Career Skills Development Society of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



## InnoServe International Innovative Services Awards 2021

"Sanifly", an innovative project carried out by a team of Final year undergraduates following the Business Information Systems (Special) Degree offered by the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the second runners up position at the InnoServe International Innovative Services Awards 2021.

InnoServe Awards is organized in Taiwan by the Industrial Development Bureau of Ministry of Economic Affairs, Computer Center of Ministry of Education, Chinese Society for Information Management, and Taipei Computer Association. This year the competition was held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of their achievement, the team is due to be awarded NTD 30,000 (Approx. USD 1100).

The talented project team consisted of Mr. Pramuk Hewawasam, Ms. Ishara Thennakoon, Mr. Dinuka Wiesundara and Ms. Nipuni Fernando. The project was supervised by Dr. Lasith Gunawardena, Senior Lecturer, Department of IT.

Project Sanifly received LKR 50,000 funding through this scheme as a finalist of the Innovation and Invention Competition and Exhibition (IICE 2020/21) conducted by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The project was originally conceived by students during the Department-organized D-Hack 2020 competition, where it won the first place. The project which involves Mobile, IoT, and Machine Learning Technologies to uplift the life of the general public has also won the runners-up award as well as western province winners at SLASSCOM Ingenuity Awards 2021.



## Gold Medal for Inter-University Thesis Competition in Chemistry and Biochemistry -2021

Miss. Rizana Azees, fourth year undergraduate student of the Department of Chemistry won the Gold medal for the thesis presentation titled "Microwave-assisted one-pot multicomponent synthesis of indole derived fluorometric probe for detection of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions" in the annual Inter-University thesis competition for chemistry and biochemistry organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science (SLAAS). The competition was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 on a virtual platform. From the initial round, thirteen candidates from state universities and higher education institutes were selected to participate in the final round.



## DELT Speech Star 2021

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the "DELT Speech Star 2021" organized by the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor of the University, Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Shirantha Heenkenda and the Head of the DELT, Mr. Sarath Ananda on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The academic staff members of the DELT also graced the occasion.

DELT Speech Star 2021 is an oratorical competition organized by the DELT aiming at developing public speaking skills (English) of the first - year students of the FHSS. This competition had three rounds: Round one - Class Level Competition; at this level, the students of all 18 classes were given an opportunity to participate in the competition and the best three speakers from each class were selected for the round two. In addition to these winners, the students of the Department of English and Linguistics competed separately and the best three speakers from this category were also selected.



## Cyber wave 2.0

The first, second and third rounds of the cyber wave 2.0, an online competition for undergraduates to showcase their analytical and aesthetic skills organized by the Marketing Management Association of the Department of Marketing Management were successfully held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 via Zoom with the participation of lecturers and marketing undergraduates.





## DHack – Ultimate Virtual Design-a-thon Challenge

DHack, the Ultimate Virtual Design-a-thon Challenge, was organized by the Students' Association of Information Technology, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive time in 2021. DHack intends to create a platform for our undergraduates to generate new business ideas and to present innovative mobile applications as solutions for prevailing social problems. DHack 2021 was officially commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 with a series of workshops which was conducted via zoom.

Upon successful completion of the workshop series, the competition was started with the participation of 30+ teams. Three rounds were included in the competition. First the teams were requested to submit a project proposal explaining their innovative mobile application. Then the teams were requested to submit the XD file and a video (consisting of their presentation and mobile app demo). The final round of DHack 2021 was held on 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 via zoom with the participation of the panel of judges, academic staff and students of the Department of IT. Ten teams were competing in the final round. The winners were selected by the panel of judges consisting of Dr. Shanta R Yapa, Ms. Chalani Karunanayake, Mr. Dulani Dias and Mr. Nilendra Sarathchandra. The winners of DHack 2021 are as follows.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Cyberpunks (Gayan, Gangulel, Sandupama)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Lonewolves (Nikita, Yasiru, Dharani)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Introfuture (Induwara, Lakmi, Nethuli)

With the completion of the final round, DHack 2021 was successfully concluded on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021.



## Imminent Marketer

The opening ceremony of the Imminent Marketer, a competition designed to test the undergraduates' both practical and theoretical knowledge with regard to real-world scenarios, was held successfully on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021, via Zoom with the participation of all competitors, lecturers and marketing undergraduates.

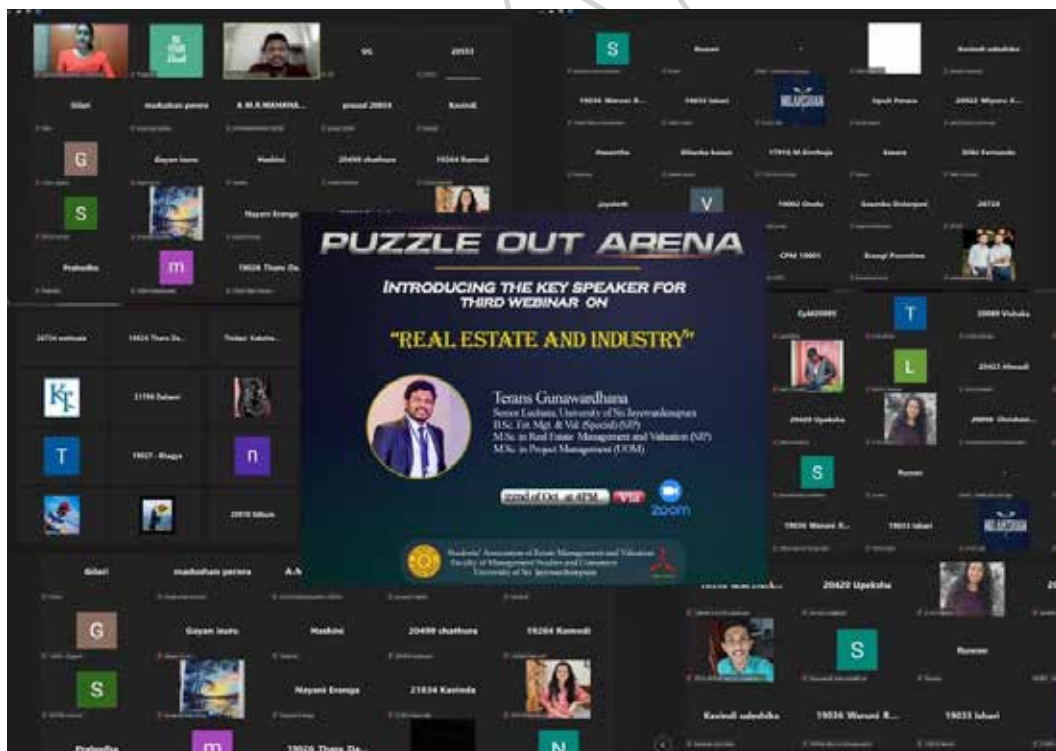


## Marketing Architect

The second and third sessions of the marketing architect organized by the Marketing Management Association of the Department of Marketing Management were successfully held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, via Zoom. The second session was conducted by Mr. Udara Darmasena, VP Client Success, Facebook at Roar Digital and Mr. Sithira Panagoda, Digital Media specialist DAC Group Canada on "Industry experience on digital marketing". The third session was conducted by Dr. Thusitha Abesekara, senior lecturer in business law, Legal Studies Unit-Department of Commerce University of Sri Jayewardenepura, on 'Navigating the legal conduct in marketing'.



## 'Puzzle out Arena' - Session 03



The third of the webinar series "Puzzle out Arena" organised by the Students' Association of Estate Management and Valuation was successfully held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021 from 04.00 pm onwards via Zoom. The topic of the discussion was "Real Estate and Industry". Mr Terans Gunawardhana, Senior Lecturer, Estate Management and Valuation attended as the resource person. Ms. Ruchini Wijesooriya, a third year undergraduate moderated the programme. Puzzle out Arena series aimed to improve the knowledge of students on the opportunities available for them to develop their valuation career successfully.

## FAHS supports AIESEC-USJ for 'Healthy Nation'

The AIESEC of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized 'Healthy Nation' aligned with sustainable goal 3 of UNESCO, "Health and Wellbeing", which was a series of programs directed at a youth audience. Among the series of programs, there were three school sessions of which the first school session was resourced by academics

of FAHS, USJ. Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake and Dr. Ranga Dissanayake, both senior lecturers of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences were invited by AIESEC to resource this school session conducted virtually on 'Medication safety' on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The audience included school children from Grade 8 to 13 from invited schools. Dr. Ranga Dissanayake addressed the young public on how medicines are developed and Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake on safe practices of using medicines at home. AIESEC is a global platform for young people and is a non-political, independent, and not-for-profit organization run by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education.



## Workshop Sessions for the Dean's Award for Community Leader of the Year 2021

The Dean's Award for the Community Leader intends to recognize the leadership qualities of the undergraduates in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as the competition consists of a community development project spearheaded by the undergraduates. This event is organized in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit of the University.



Identifying the need to raise the students' awareness of organizing a community development project, a workshop was conducted under the theme of planning a community development project on the 04<sup>th</sup> and 05<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Through the workshop the students who wish to take the lead in initiating a project that is considered to be a gesture of goodwill for the wider community, were able to have a clear understanding of the initial stages of planning the project.



## “Vidumini” Skills Development Endeavour



The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences together with the External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit (EDECU) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has opened a platform in October 2021 for the Faculty's external BA undergraduates to refine much-needed skills when stepping into the world of work “Vidumini” Skills Development Endeavour is the main component of the Skills and Employability Enhancing Programme for the External Graduates of the FHSS (SEEPEG) that opens avenues for the external undergraduates to identify their hidden talents while encouraging them to improve on creative skills, employability and entrepreneurial skills. All events of the program are conducted in both Sinhala and English.

The program consists of four main pillars each containing several individual events. The first Pillar aims at improving creativity among the external undergraduates. The second Pillar is designed for knowledge enhancement while the third and the fourth pillars are intended for assessing students' contribution to sustainable/green development and employability and entrepreneurial skills respectively.

## 'හෙට හිරු පායන තුරු' Talent Show

The Equal Opportunity Cell of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a talent show for the students with special needs in the Faculty of Humanities of Social Sciences on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 to mark the International



Day of People with Disabilities. With a view to providing an inclusive platform that promotes the notion of equality and equity, the Equal Opportunity Cell has already launched several projects to reach out to the differently abled students to address their needs. The talent show that was organized under the guidance of the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, is an example of broadening the participation and engagement of the entire student population in the faculty.

## Bharathanatyam Salanga Pooja and Kathak Gunguru Pooja

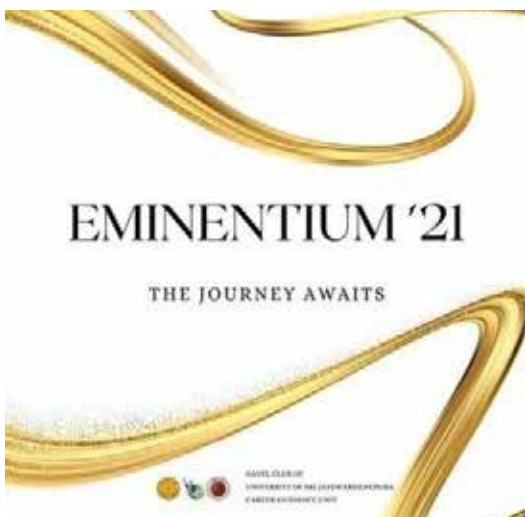


Bharathanatyam Salanga Pooja and Kathak Gunguru Pooja of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Honors Degree undergraduates in Dance of the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 09<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Dehiwala Nadimala Sri Venkateshwara Maha Vishnu Moorthy Kovil premises. This is one of the special ceremonies held for the students who learn Kathak Dance and Bharata Natyam where they receive their first pair of Ghungroos/Salangas (little brass bells) from their teacher.

## Eminentium '21 – 10<sup>th</sup> Installation Ceremony

Eminentium 21 of the J'Pura University Toastmasters club was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September at 5pm via zoom. Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara, the President of the J'Pura University Toastmasters club installed the incoming board of 2020/2021 while the Toastmaster Eranga Dihan introduced it.

The event was embraced by the presence of our honorable guests, Distinguished Toastmaster Punsirimewan Kamburawela, Distinguished Toastmaster Chandrasiri Wanasinghe, Professor Sudath Manjula Amarasena, Director of the Career Guidance Unit and the Head of the Department of Decision Sciences in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce and Mr. Sameera Jayawardena, the Club Advisor and the Senior Treasurer of the Gavel Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura along with participation of present and past gaveliers. This event marked the growth of the Gavel Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura within the span of 10 remarkable years and a new chapter in the Gavel Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.





## Infinitum- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

A celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gavel Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021, via Zoom. The event was embraced by the presence of our honorable guests Distinguished Toastmaster Punsirimewan Kamburawela, Distinguished Toastmaster Chandrasiri Wanasinghe, Professor Sudath Manjula Amarasena, Director of the Career Guidance Unit and the Head of the Department of Decision Sciences in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Mr. Sameera Jayawardena, the Club Advisor and the Senior Treasurer of the Gavel Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura and our very first President of the gavel club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gavelier Ajanee Ranasinghe along with other gaveliers. This event marked a huge step and great excellence for the Gavel Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



## Nenasara

The final Nenasara seminar series (a series of online educational sessions for Advanced Level Commerce students) for the year 2021, organized by the Marketing Management Association of the Department of Marketing Management was successfully held on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December, via Zoom with the participation of marketing undergraduates and A/L students.





## INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

### MoU between Hirdaramani and Department of Commerce

The Department of Commerce and Hirdaramani Group of Companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the 09<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

The MoU was signed by

the Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. PD Nimal, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Ayoma Sumanasiri, Head of the Department of Commerce and Ms. Amali Ferdinandes, Senior Manager Human Resources and Administration at Hirdaramani Knit, at the University Administration Building. This MoU will establish a strong bond between the two parties contributing towards the betterment of the future of the country.



### MoU with Department of Commerce and Acuity Knowledge Partners

The Department of Commerce and Acuity Knowledge Partners jointly announced the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize the collaborations between both the parties on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. On behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Ayoma Sumanasiri, Head of the Department of Commerce signed the MoU while Nuwan Jayawardana, Director, Investment Research signed on behalf of the Acuity Knowledge Partners. The signed agreement will enrich the knowledge especially in regard to the field of finance through various workshops and best practices which will groom undergraduates to be absorbed to the national and international markets.



## MoU with Department of Commerce and DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd

The Department of Commerce and DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The MoU was ratified by Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor - USJ, Prof. PD Nimal, Dean – Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Ayoma Sumanasiri, Head of the Department of Commerce for University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Ahamed-ur-Rahman, COO/ Head of Marketing and Sales, Mrs. Yishani Abeysutiya, Chief Finance Officer, Mr. Lahiru Perera, Senior Manager International Business, Mr. SM Chandrasiri, Manager for DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. This MoU focuses mainly on sharing the knowledge between both the parties, in crafting a better future for them while creating a strong industry research collaboration.



## MoU between the Faculty of Technology and Rivoga Pvt Ltd

The Faculty of Technology at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Rivoga (Pvt), Limited, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on joint research projects. These projects, inter alia, include value addition to byproducts generated during their main production of pyrolysis oil and carbon black with the removal of discarded and oppressive rubber waste materials from the environment.

The MoU was signed at the Vice-Chancellor's Office on December 15, 2021, under the patronage of Senior Professor Sudantha Liyanage, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Lahiru Chamara de Silva, MD, Rivoga (Pvt) Limited. Prof. Renuka Nilmini (Dean, Faculty of Technology), Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga (Head, Department of Biosystems Technology), Dr. Rohan Dassanayake (Department of Biosystems Technology), Dr. Pradeep Gajanayake (Department of Biosystems Technology), Dr. Danushika Manatunga (Department of Biosystems Technology), Dr. Vikum Premalal (Department of Civil and Environmental Technology), Dr. Randika Jayasinge (Department of Civil and Environmental Technology), Dr. Gayan Priyadarshana (Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology) and Mr. Ranga Balasooriya (Executive Director, Rivoga Pvt Ltd) also graced the occasion.





## MoU with Viromedi Pvt Ltd

University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Viromedi Private Limited, a leading surgical masks manufacturer in Sri Lanka, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 to promote collaborative research on investigating the suitability of disposed face masks as a material for construction applications.

Senior Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura signed the MoU on behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, while Mr. Chandana Puncihewa, Managing Director, Viromedi Pvt Ltd signed the MoU on behalf of the Viromedi Private Limited. Dr. Chaminda Konthesingha, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. GN Samarasekara, Head, Department of Civil Engineering and other senior academic members of the department attended the occasion representing the university while the CEO, Group Head of Finance and Supply Chain Manager of Viromedi Pvt Ltd also attended the occasion.



## 'Property Talks' - Session 04

The fourth session of the "Property Talks" webinar series organised by the Estate Management and Valuation Alumni Association was successfully held on 11th September 2021 from 05.00pm to 8.00pm via Zoom. The topic of the discussion was 'Planning and Development Regulations 2021: A Discussion on Implications, Practice and Insights to Real Estate Sector in Sri Lanka'. Plnr. MP Ranatunga, Deputy Director General-Planning, Urban Development Authority,

Plnr. Lalith Wijayarathne, Director-Colombo Metro Region, Urban Development Authority and Plnr. EAC Priyashantha Act. Deputy Director General, Real Estate and Land Management Division, Urban Development Authority participated as the Guest Speakers. Plnr. EMRUB Dorakumbura (MRICS), EMV Alumnus, Chartered Town Planner, Chartered Surveyor moderated the session.

**Planning and Development Regulations 2021**  
A Discussion on Practice and Implications to Real Estate Sector in Sri Lanka

@ 5.00 pm SL Time  
11th Sept 2021

**Panelists**

- Plnr. M.P. Ranatunga**  
Deputy Director General, Planning  
Urban Development Authority
- Plnr. Lalith Wijayarathne**  
Director, Colombo Metro Region  
Urban Development Authority
- Plnr. E.A.C. Priyashantha**  
Acting Deputy Director General  
Real Estate and Land Management  
Urban Development Authority

**Moderated by**  
**Plnr. E.M.R.U.B. Dorakumbura**  
Chartered Planning and Development Surveyor  
EMV Alumnus

**SIGN UP IS FREE**  
<https://mgc.sjp.ac.lk/emv/>  
for registration

Estate Management and Valuation Alumni  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura  
email: head.emv@sjp.ac.lk  
Tel: 0094112302004



## ORCAM Donation to Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Intending to uplift the welfare of the undergraduates with visual impairments, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences received a donation from Orel IT (Pvt) Ltd. on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021. This state-of-the-art wearable assistive device that was introduced to the market by Orel IT years ago is for empowering the visually impaired through its array of features such as face recognition, smart reading etc.



## Promoting the Japanese Language at the FHSS; A Discussion with the JICA

In keeping with the goal of promoting foreign languages, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences had a discussion with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at the Office of the Dean. Japanese Language Education to which the JICA volunteers contribute is identified as useful to promote Sustainable Development Goals. The volunteers under the program assist to improve the Japanese language skills of those who aspire to learn the language.

The discussion was held with the participation of Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, the Dean of the Faculty of



Humanities and Social Sciences and three representatives of the JICA Office in Sri Lanka. This initiative to promote the Japanese Language is also perceived as an attempt to foster bilateral relations between Japan and Sri Lanka which mark its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022.



# LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT FACILITIES AT USJ

## Beautification initiative of USJ

Following images are related to the activities carried out (during september - December 2021) by the Landscape Management Division of USJ, under the landscaping and beautification initiative.









## Renovation of the 'Cultural Centre'





## Renovation of the 'Soratha Dharmapala' hostel





## Re-establishment of the 'Lanka Pokuna'





## Renovation of the 'Sumangala Building'





## Expanding the seating capacity of the 'Open Arts Theater'





## Renovation of the 'Ahala Wala'

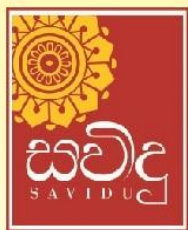




## Renovation of 'Library Wala' (Open Reading Room)







# NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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