



NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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'Japura Flames' is acknowledged for some photographs.

Cover pages

Front Cover : Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Back Cover : An image of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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The newsletter of the**University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

Savidu is brought out as a tri-annual newsletter carrying

the vibrant academic, cultural and communal life of

the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH

1st Mini Symposium on Sociology (MSS 2019)



Prof. Mayura Samarakoon (Head of the Department of Sociology, Advisor and Keynote Speaker of MSS-2019), Prof. Wijekoon Subasinghe, Dr. Nelum Kanthilatha, Mrs. Niluka Priyadarshani, and Dr. Tharaka Ananda (course unit lecturer), undergraduate students, and non-academic staff members of the department participated in the event.

A total of 47 research abstracts, written by 3rd year undergraduate students covering various fields of Sociology, were presented: some studies were based on Criminological, Anthropological, Archaeological and Political approaches.

The 1st Mini-Symposium on Sociology (MSS 2019) under the theme of "SOCIOLOGY AS A KEY FOR A BETTER FUTURE" organized by the Department of Sociology was held on 29th July 2019 at the Department of Sociology. This was one of the very first symposiums conducted by a department focusing on creating a platform for its undergraduates (3rd Year-Under the Sociological Research Method Course Unit) to disseminate their research findings among peers as well as academics.



AWARDS

Emeritus Prof. Sunil Ariyaratne's "Bimba Devi Alias Yashodhara" awarded 'Highest Grossing Film of the Year 2018'

"Bimba Devi Alias Yashodhara" directed by Alumni of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Emeritus Prof. Sunil Ariyaratne was awarded the Highest Grossing Film of the Year 2018 in Sri Lanka at the Seventh Derana Lux Film Awards 2019.

The Awards Ceremony was held at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre on the 28th of June 2019. An array of awards were presented to artistes and creators alike who have created outstanding works of art in the film industry in 2018.



Prof. Opatha Receives 'The Best Professor in Human Resource Studies' Award

On 17th July 2019 at Taj Samudra, Colombo the Sri Lanka Education Leadership Awards were presented by World Education Congress (WEC), CMO Asia with CMO Council as its Strategic Partner and Stars of the Industry Group as a research partner. The awards of the highest stature were presented to individuals and institutions who have surpassed several levels of excellence and set an example of being role models and in exemplary leadership.



Senior Professor H. H. D. N. P. Opatha, Department of HRM, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was honored with the Award for Best Professor in Human Resource Management Studies.

The Jury Members:

- Dr. Arun Arora, Ex-President and CEO, The Economic Times; Chairman, Edvance Pre-schools Pvt. Ltd. & Emeritus Chairman, World HRD Congress.
- Dr. Harish Mehta, Chairman & MD - Onward Technologies Ltd.; Emeritus Chairman - World HRD Congress & Founder Member - NASSCOM.
- Professor Indira Parikh, President, Antardisha & India's Iconic HR Leader & Ex-Dean, IIM Ahmedabad
- Nina E. Woodard, President & Chief "N" Sights Officer, Nina E. Woodard & Associates, a division of NDPendence, Inc.
- Dr. Saugata Mitra, Chief People Officer & Group Head HR, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd.
- Dr. R. L. Bhatia, Founder, World CSR Day and World CSR Congress.
- Andrew Kelly, Chief Patron, CMO Asia.
- Edward Smith, Chairman - Awards & Academic Committee, World Education Congress.

AWARDS

Japura Nano-Scientist Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda Receives Iron Citizen Award



Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda received the "Yakada Miniha" Iron Citizen Award for silent contributions to the development of the country at a prestigious ceremony held at Waters Edge on 2nd July 2019.

The ceremony was the launch of a bid to recognize individuals who have contributed to the development of Sri Lanka in numerous ways. The Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development had initiated a massive multipart Programme "Pannaraya" and after careful consideration identified ten individuals to be called as iron-souls or branded as "yakada minissu". Prof. Kottegoda was recognized for the economic impact of her breakthrough slow releasing fertilizer.

Mrs. Sriyani Ranasinghe receives Best Paper Award at AASE Conference held in Japan



Mrs. Sriyani Ranasinghe, a Lecturer of the Department of Entrepreneurship participated at the 25th International Conference on Business, Education, Social Science, and Management organized by the Applied and Advanced Science Exchange (AASE) held on May, 28th and 29th 2019 in Osaka, Japan. Mrs. Sriyani Ranasinghe won the AASE Best Paper Award for the paper titled "A study on the impact of entrepreneurial orientation on business performance among graduate entrepreneurs of University of Sri Jayewardenepura of Sri Lanka".

The Department of Entrepreneurship takes immense pleasure in extending its heartiest congratulations on her achievement.

Dr. Banukie Jayasuriya awarded IUBMB-FAOBMB Young Scientist Program Fellowship

Dr. W. J. A. Banukie Jayasuriya, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences was awarded the IUBMB-FAOBMB Young Scientist Program Fellowship 2019. Dr. Jayasuriya participated in the Young Scientist Program (YSP) 2019 which was held in conjunction with the 27th FAOBMB conference, 44th MSBMB conference and IUBMB Special Symposia in Malaysia. The Young Scientist Program was held at the Taylor's University Lakeside Campus, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 15 – 18 August 2019.

President's Awards for Scientific Research



Dr. A. M. B. Priyadarshani, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences was awarded President's Awards for Scientific Research – 2017 at the Award ceremony held on August 26, 2019 at Taj Samudra, Colombo.

AWARDS

President's Awards for Scientific Research-2019

Dr. M. H. A. Sisira Kumara, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Public Administration won the President's Award for his publication at the President's Awards Ceremony for Scientific Research-2019 organized by the National Research Council of Sri Lanka on 26th August 2019 at Taj Samudra, Colombo. The paper was titled, "Impact of ill-health on household consumption in Sri Lanka: Evidence from household survey data", co-authored with Ramanie Samaratunga, which was published in 2017 in the Journal of Social Science & Medicine.



President's Awards for Scientific Research-2019



Prof. B.M.P. Singhakumara, Chair /Senior Professor of Forestry & Environmental Science, received the President's Award for Scientific Research on 26th August 2019 for a research paper published in Forest Ecology and Management in 2017, Vol. 389, pp 331-340. The title of the paper is "Effects on Soil Chemistry of tropical deforestation for agriculture and subsequent reforestation with special reference to changes in carbon and nitrogen". This is his fifteenth President's Research Award received for research work.

Dr. Asha Fernando Wins 'Women Super Achiever' & 'Innovative Leader' Awards at Asia's Education Excellence Award Ceremony

Dr. R. Asha Nimali Fernando, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Philosophy and Psychology, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has been awarded the 'Women Super Achievers Award' and the 'Innovative Leader Award' on 16th August 2019- (Singapore) at the Asia's Education Excellence Awards which was presented by the World Education Congress, CMO Asia with CMO council as its Strategic Partner and Stars of the Industry Group as a research partner. The awards are presented to individuals and institutions who have surpassed several levels of its excellence and have set an example of being a role model and exemplary leadership, individuals behind the institution who are building their institutions through leadership, innovation, academic and industry interface .

The 10th Asia's Education Excellence Awards has recognized the institutions and individuals who believe excellence is infinite and can lead to shaping the destinies of the future of the world.



Dr. Fernando was awarded the 'Women Super Achievers' due to the service that she has rendered to society as a scholar who is engaged in research in the fields of Philosophy and Psychology.

The Innovative Leader Award was awarded to Dr. Fernando for her project titled "Ceylon Smart Village (Introducing a digital and ethical framework for development)" which was first introduced at the Invention and Innovation Exhibition organized by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on the 60th anniversary of the university. The objective of the 'Ceylon Smart Village' is to bring technology to the village and to evaluate problems at village level, and to achieve the development as a collective effort within the state.

AWARDS

World Class University Project (WCUP) and Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience (ICIBN) - Full Fellowships & Travel Awards

- Dr. A. I. Kuruppu, postdoctoral fellow received a fellowship to attend the International Conference on Medicinal Chemistry Gordon Research Seminar/Conference from 3rd – 9th August 2019 at the Gordon Research Medicinal Chemistry Conference – USA.
- Mr. Nalaka Wijekoon and Mr. Lakmal Gonawala, PhD students of ICIBN-USJ received full fellowships for the training of exome sequencing on August 2019 at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka, India.
- Mr. Yoonus Imran, research student received a full fellowship award to present his research findings at the IBRO-APRC Associate School of Neuroscience on Neurological Disorders: Advances in Research Techniques & Management, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University on 5th -11th Aug 2019 in Rajasthan – India.

NEWS

Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge Elected as the ACU Representative for Universities in South East Asia

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was elected as the member representing constituency II comprising of Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, from South East Asian Universities in the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

The Vice-Chancellor who was nominated as the Chairman, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors earlier this year will also act as a representative for all Sri Lankan Universities and other universities in the region who are members of the ACU.

The ACU can be considered as the world's oldest International University Network which was established in 1913. It has over 500 member universities from over 53 countries.

The association brings together universities in Commonwealth countries so as to create links that will help to advance the knowledge base of the world.



President of the Sri Lanka Library Association



Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara was inducted as the President of the Sri Lanka Library Association for the year 2019/2020. Dr. Wijayasundara is the Librarian, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) is the professional body of the Library and Information Science professionals. SLLA celebrates its 60th Anniversary in the year 2020.

NEWS

Japura University becomes 4th in Webometrics Top Google Citation Rankings

Webometrics has released its July 2019 Transparent (Openness) indicator as a part of their University Ranking. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura becomes 4th in Sri Lanka in 2019 July Webometrics Top Google Profile rankings.



1793	Lafayette College	United States of America	37579
1794	Durban University of Technology	South Africa	37561
1795	Université d'Arignon / Université d'Arignon et des Pays de Vauluse	France	37507
1796	Pomona College	United States of America	37418
1797	Kagoshima University / 鹿児島大学	Japan	37312
1798	Saratov State University / Саратовский государственный университет	Russian Federation	37297
1799	Staffordshire University	United Kingdom	37258
1800	University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Sri Lanka	37234
1801	Tokyo Women's Medical University / 東京女子医科大学	Japan	37114
1802	National Institute of Technology Durgapur (Regional Engineering College)	India	37099
1803	Université de Lyon II / Université Lumière Lyon II (comUE Université de Lyon)	France	37008
1804	Tahak University	Saudi Arabia	36996
1805	Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso	Brazil	36908
1806	University of Sunderland	United Kingdom	36832
1807	Vivekananda National Institute of Technology	India	36827
1808	North South University Bangladesh	Bangladesh	36712
1809	Université de Technologie de Belfort Montbéliard (comUE Université Bourgogne Franche Comté)	France	36707
1810	(I) PSG College of Technology	India	36677
1811	Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique ENSAE ParisTech (comUE Université Paris Saclay)	France	36653
1812	Kwansei Gakuin University / 関西学院大学	Japan	36567

USJ Recognized as a Top University in 'QS Asia University Ranking'



Rankings > Discover > Events > Prepare > Apply > Careers >

University search: Study Level Subject of interest Study destination GO OR

# RANK	UNIVERSITY	LOCATION	COMPARE	STARS
2019	University search	Sri Lanka		Rated only
174	University of Peradeniya	Sri Lanka		
~188	University of Colombo	Sri Lanka		
351-400	University of Moratuwa	Sri Lanka		
401-450	University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Sri Lanka		

Ranking 4 of 4 (499 items) Results per page: 25

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is among the top four Sri Lankan Universities recorded under the QS Asia University Ranking. QS has recorded ten universities in Sri Lanka of which only four have managed to emerge within the Asia University ranking.

QS Ranking system names the top universities in the world to study over 48 different subjects. It is the only International ranking system that has obtained the approval of the International Ranking Expert Group.

The new QS ranking for 2020 is due to be published in November 2019.

Opening of the New Office Premises for the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality

A ceremony to mark the opening of the office premises of the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality (CGEE) was held on 5th August 2019 from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the Administration Building, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The occasion was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof Sampath Amaratunge, Dr. (Mrs) Hemamalie Gunatilake; Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. In addition, heads of departments, academic and non-academic staff members and students participated in the event.



A guest speech on "Why gender matters?" was delivered by Senior Prof. Kumudu Wijewardene, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

NEWS

CEFENI Grand Opening

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION (CEFENI) officially marked its grand opening on 1st of August 2019 at the location of No. 1/1/454, High Level Road, Pannipitiya. Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University opened the center ceremonially and started operations of the Center by handing over the agreement to a student's start-up business. The Vice Chancellor launched the official website of the Center with the URL www.cefeni.lk which will be the networking platform and information and resource hub for entrepreneurs island-wide, which will provide several benefits to entrepreneurs. The event was a very colorful one with the participation of the Deans of the Faculties, the Heads of the Departments, Board of Directors of CEFENI, academic members of the university, eminent entrepreneurs and young student entrepreneurs.

Chairman of CEFENI, Mr. R.N. Weerasinghe welcomed the gathering and explained the main purposes, functions and future plans of CEFENI while expressing gratitude to all who contributed in different ways to this establishment. Mr. Shyaman Udayanga, Head of the Department of Entrepreneurship who developed the initial concept of CEFENI addressed the audience emphasizing the creativity and innovation to establish the entrepreneurial culture in the country.

The chief guest addressed the gathering highlighting the importance of such university linked incubators and interfaces to connect the university with the industry and the community. He explained the entrepreneurial role played by the university to make impactful contribution to the economy and the society.

The event concluded at around 11.00 a.m. marking a big milestone in the university's journey with the expectation of becoming the national body to serve all the interested parties and inculcate entrepreneurial characteristics among all with the blessing of every party.



Dr. K. M. C. Konthesingha Appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering



Dr. K. M. C. Konthesingha was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering with effect from 15th July 2019, at the Board Meeting held on 1st July 2019 chaired by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The ceremonial induction of the new Dean was held on 18th July 2019 with the participation of Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. Dr. Konthesingha assumed duties following a Pirith Chanting by the Honorable Mahasangha. The Deans of other Faculties, heads of departments, academic, non-academic and administrative staff members participated in the induction ceremony.



NEWS

Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda Appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The ceremonial induction of Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda was held on 1st July 2019 with the participation of Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Prof. Heenkenda assumed duties at an auspicious time amidst Pirith Chanting by the Honorable Mahasangha. Deans of Faculties, heads of departments, academic, non-academic and administrative staff members participated in the induction ceremony.

The Former Head of the Department of Economics and, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda obtained his BA Degree from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Master's Degree in Public Policy from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo and Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Development at Nagoya University in Japan.

He has worked as a consultant and committee member in many projects initiated by the Sri Lankan government including, Ministry of Medium & Small Scales Plantation Industries and Rural Human Resources Development (2005-2006), Ministry of Estate Infrastructure & Livestock Development (2006. -2007), and Ministry of Livestock Development (2007-2008). He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB) of Sri Lanka.



Introducing Social Robotics Platform Center for Robotics & Intelligent Systems Featured by Rupavahini



The Innovation Centre of Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS) was featured on Rupavahini in the Tuesday Knowledge 1st Program, on the 6th of August 2019. Dr. Ravindra De Silva, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Computer Science was invited to share his knowledge and expertise in the field of Social Robotics. Two interesting research works conducted by the undergraduates of the Department of Computer Science were also featured during the program.

AuDimo is a music companion robot that can enhance the engagement of the audience by selecting the perfect song to the current situation based on the behavior of the audience. Kushan Hansika and Lakindu Nanayakkara are the creators of this outstanding work which is based on Social Robotics and Human Robotic Interaction. The robot Vidujaya, which is a result of the teamwork of Nipuna Vimukthi and Didula Egodage is employed to capture natural photographs of children, by interacting with them. This robot is capable of making long connections between children by changing the interactive pattern by considering the child's activities, reaction, and behaviors in real-time.

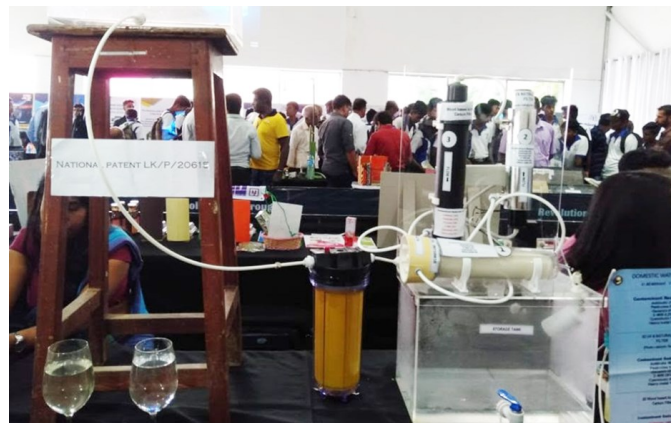
NEWS

Japura Innovators at Shilpa Sena 2019



Shilpa Sena is an exposition that is conceptualized and organized by the Ministry of Science Technology and Research. Innovators of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura showcased their innovations at Hall E of the BMICH premises from 18th -21st July 2019

SHILPA SENA – The Technology Revolution as an exposition is to be held in each district in the country, and consists of 5 clusters; Cluster 1 – Tech Zones: Thematic Technologies for Society which was described above; Cluster 2 – Innovation: The Business to Public (B2P); Cluster 3 – Jobs Career Fair and Entrepreneurship: One-to-One Meetings; Cluster 4 – Blue – Green Economy and the final Cluster being Edutainment.



Shilpa Sena – Neurotechnology Stall by ICIBN



“Shilpa Sena – Sri Lanka Technological Revolution” organized by the Ministry of Science Technology and Research to which Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience (ICIBN), University of Sri Jayewardenepura has become an affiliated partner in organizing a tech zone in the field of Neurotechnology – was held from 18th to 21st of July 2019 at the BMICH. The intention of this exposition was taking the new knowledge in science, technology, and innovation to the general public. The Initiative of the Center, under the guidance of Prof. Ranil de Silva, the Director of the Center & Dept. of Anatomy, for the exposition was to introduce:

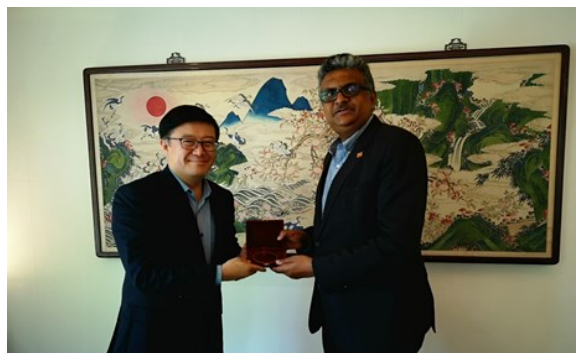
- **“Healthy Brain Aging – The Challenge of the 21st Century”** – focused on Educating people on Stroke, Dementia, Parkinson's along with the positive effects of natural product consumption and relaxation therapies on the aging brain. The public was presented with results proven by collaborative research done by the Centre, associated with brain aging and a healthy lifestyle, where the center hopes, will enable our community to approach a healthy lifestyle with knowledge and confidence.
- The Centre also provided the general public with the opportunity of:
 - Undergoing a free memory test.
 - Free genetic testing for neuro/neuromuscular genetic diseases and future clinical trials in Gene Therapy.



NEWS

Delegation from FOE USJ visits top Universities in South Korea and Japan

A delegation from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura lead by the Vice Chancellor visited several universities in Japan and South Korea from 1st May to 11th May 2019. The delegation consisted of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge (Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Dr. Akila Subasinghe (Dean of the Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Chamitha de Alwis (Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering) and Dr. Randima Dinalankara (Head of the Department of Computer Engineering). In South Korea, the delegation visited Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) University and Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU). The University of Tokyo and University of Saga were observed during their visit to Japan.



The main purpose of the visit was to observe highly reputed universities in South Korea and Japan in order to learn the best practices used by those universities in collaborating with the industry. In addition, the layouts of the universities, laboratories and research facilities were observed. These observations and insights would be of value in the development of a state-of-the-art faculty complex for the new Faculty of Engineering in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Furthermore, future collaborations between universities were also investigated during the visit.



Representing Sri Lanka at the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists



The 19th Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) was held at Excel, London, United Kingdom from 9-11 August 2019. The President (2017-2018) of Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka, Prof. S.G. Yasawardene, Secretary (2017-2018) Dr. S. Dissanayake, Committee Members, Dr. V. Tennakoon and Dr. E.A.S.T. Edirisinghe participated in the congress representing the Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka and the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The Annual General Meeting of IFAA was held on 9th August and the Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka was given full registration as a Fellow Association in the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists. Further, the conference programme had an array of symposia including virtual anatomy using modern technologies. In addition, multiple research papers were presented by the team from the Department of Anatomy.

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Industry Forum on Food Science and Technology



The University Business Linkage Cell of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura took initiative in organizing the first-ever Industry Forum on Food Science and Technology with the objective of introducing innovative research products and technologies of the university to the food industry. The forum was held on the 24th of May at Water's Edge, Battaramulla with the presence of representatives from many distinguished companies, lecturers, researchers, and undergraduates. The occasion was graced by the Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Laleen Karunanayke and the Director of the UBL Cell, Dr. Priyan Perera. Extensive discussions held on product development and the current interests of the industry proved to be an invaluable platform for future collaborations between the university and the industry.

Private Public Partnership between Kerala and Sri Lanka

Professor Ranil de Silva delivered an invited talk under the topic of "Natural Products and lifestyle factors in healthy brain aging" at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum, Kerala, India 22nd April – 6th May 2019.

During the conference he had the opportunity to discuss about epigenetic, calcium channels, metabolomics, and neuroscience with Dr. Moinak Banerjee, Dr. RV Omkumar and Dr. Abdul Jaleel K, reputed scientists from Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology.



He had a fruitful discussion session with Honorable Minister of Health and Social Justice, Government of Kerala, Smt. K. K. Shailaja Teacher regarding the possibility of collaborating in the fields of Science, Medicine, and Health. Furthermore, he had a successful discussion with the Ayurveda Medical Association of India and other health tourism partners to establish Private Public Partnership among Kerala and Sri Lanka towards the development of novel products to enter into the global wellness market and promote health.

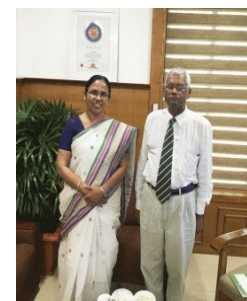


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Invited Talks – Prof. Ranil De Silva

1. De Silva R. Natural Products and lifestyle factors in healthy brain aging: a Sri Lanka experience. International Brain Research Organization School, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Kerala, India 22nd April – 6th May 2019.

(<https://www.sjp.ac.lk/news/private-public-partnership-kerala-sri-lanka/>)



2. De Silva R. Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, (MAHE) Karnataka, India from 27th to 31st August 2019.

(<https://www.sjp.ac.lk/wcup/paving-way-mous-institutes-india-rd/>)

A Meeting on the Initiation of Entrepreneurship Development and Business Incubator Program for USJ

A meeting organized by the World Class University Project under the guidance of Prof. Ranil de Silva, regarding the initiation of Entrepreneurship development and business incubator program for the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held at the University Board Room, with the delegates of the Ministry of Primary Industries and COSTI, Ministry of Science and Technology. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, the Vice-Chancellor of USJ.

The main aim of the discussion was to develop a practical model to create Business incubators linked to universities with a support system where selected entrepreneurial students and graduates will be given an opportunity for incubation.

In this regard, the Ministry of Social welfare and Primary Industries will extend financial and technical assistance for the establishment of startup companies in Incubator systems.

The pronouncements taken at the meeting are as follows:

1. Establishment of Business Incubators at the USJ
2. Formulating a Cabinet paper regarding the establishment of Business Incubators at the University



The meeting was attended by, Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Prof. Ranil de Silva, Dr. Nilmini Liyanage and Mr. R.N Weerasinghe from USJ, Mr. Presanna Ekanayake and Ms. Surani Dias, Prof. K.D.N Weerasinghe from Ministry of Primary Industries and Prof. R.U Halwatura from the Inventor Commission.

NEWS

Professor Eugene F. Fregetto visits Department of Entrepreneurship



A leading academic, researcher, Clinical Associate Professor of Marketing (Retired), Professor Eugene F. Fregetto, visited the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 21st May 2019 at the invitation of the Department of Entrepreneurship. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dean of the Faculty, Head of the Department and other

lecturers of the Department as well as the other departments warmly welcomed him to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Professor Fregetto of the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, boasts a wealth of knowledge and experience in Procurement Policy, Small Business, Privatization, Distributive Politics, Architectural, and Structural Engineering and Journalism.

Professor Fregetto shared his valuable knowledge and experience with the faculty members during his visit. He conducted a highly informative session on 'Publishing research papers in American Journals' for the academics of the university. Professor Fregetto assisted the research activities of the staff members and undergraduates and postgraduate students of the Department of Entrepreneurship by providing insights and guidance. Further, a special discussion on 'how to re-ignite the economy of Sri Lanka' was held and the role of the department, government, and international organizations were widely discussed and initiatives of the department at the national level were also revisited at the discussion. The Professor engaged in curricular revision discussion held at the Department of Entrepreneurship. Finally, he conducted an effective session of "Publishing Research Papers in American Journals" for the benefit of Ph.D. candidates of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.

The Department organized a farewell event for the professor



on the final day of his visit to appreciate the service rendered by him in visiting Sri Lanka at this crucial moment. The University extended its warm wishes for his future endeavors and agreed to work together for the benefit of the Sri Lankan academic and entrepreneurial community in the future.

Shadows of Success Phase – 5th Guest Speech by Mr. Muttiah Muralitharan



5th phase of the Shadow of Success workshop series organized by the Career Skills Development Society in collaboration with Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 29th July 2019 at the Science Auditorium of Faculty of Applied Sciences.

Sri Lankan beloved Cricket Legend, ICC Hall of Fame Mr. Muttiah Muralitharan participated in the workshop as the guest speaker of the 5th phase of Shadow of Success.

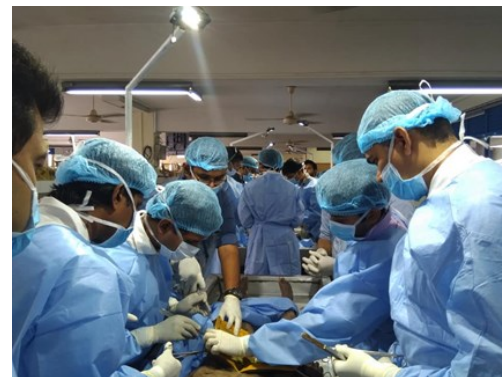
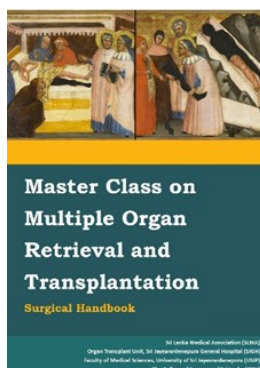
Prof. Sampath Amaratunge; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. Sudath Manjula; Director Career Guidance Unit, Mrs. Chathuranagani Thennakoon; Career Advisor and many academic and non-academic members of the university participated in the workshop.

CGU initiated this workshop series back in 2017 with an iconic personality in Performing Arts – Mr. Jackson Anthony followed by cricketer Mr. Lasith Malinga, Auto Racing Champion Mr. Dilantha Malagamuwa and world-renowned Chef Mr. Publis Silva.

NEWS

The 2nd Master Class on Multi-Organ Retrieval & Transplantation

The post congress workshop of Sri Lanka Medical Association 132nd International Annual Academic Sessions 'The 2nd Master Class on Multi-Organ Retrieval & Transplantation' was successfully held on 28th July 2019 at Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the participation of post-graduate surgical trainees, senior doctors and consultant surgeons. This workshop was organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association in collaboration with the Organ Transplant Unit, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and The College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka.



The early half of the workshop was dedicated for hands-on skills training on Lung, Heart, Liver and Kidney retrieval and perfusion procedures performed on cadavers. The evening session addressed the hands-on skills on transplantation procedures of the retrieved organs. Prof. Surangi Yasawardene, Prof. Rohan Siriwardene, Dr. Ruwan Dissanayake, Dr. Rajitha Silva, Dr. Rohan Sirisena, Dr. Sumana Handagala, Dr. P.H. Dissanayake, Dr. Niroshan Seneviratne, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Dr. N. Gunawansa, Dr. N. Athulugama, Dr. R. Wickramarachchi, Dr. S. Ilangamge, and Dr. D. Rasnayake participated as resource personnel for the workshop.

A hand book of the important steps of the multi organ transplantation was also launched during the workshop.

Webinar Workshop on "Pitching Research"

The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) organized the webinar workshop on Pitching Research on 22nd August 2019 for upcoming researchers of the FMSC.



The main purpose of this research webinar was to enhance the research skills of the novice researchers of the faculty. The main participants for this research webinar were upcoming researchers of the faculty, PhD and M.Sc. students of the faculty and special academic invitees from other universities.

This research webinar workshop was done by Prof. (Dr.) Robert Faff who is a world class researcher at the Queensland Business School, University of Queensland (UQ), Australia. This webinar workshop was coordinated by Dr. Wasantha Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Finance and assisted by Mr. Shantha Puhuwella, Coordinator, ITRC and Mr. Isuru Wanasinghe, Technical Officer, FMSC.

Press Conference on Vidyodaya Literary Awards 2019

The Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura held a press conference on 26th August 2019 on the Vidyodaya Literary Awards Ceremony 2019 which was to be held on 3rd September 2019 at the Sumangala Reading Hall of the University.

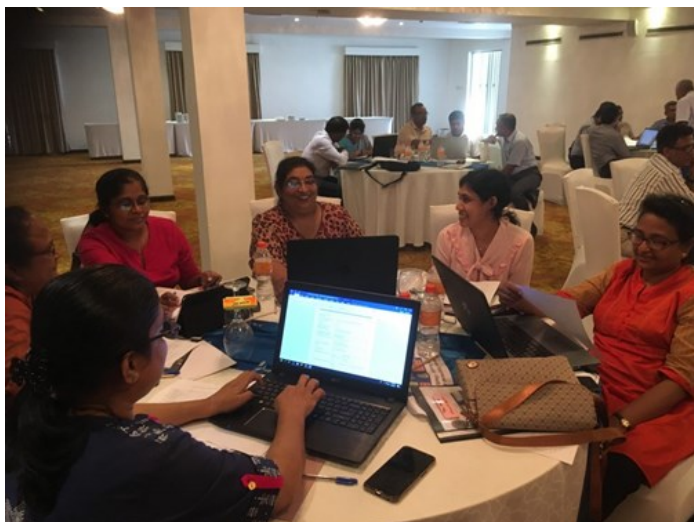
Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mr. Senani Harischandra; Head of the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication and academic members of the respective department participated in this press conference held at the Government Information Department.



NEWS

Residential Workshop on Curriculum Development for CRDC members of FMSC

The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) organized a residential workshop for the members of the Curriculum Review and Development Committee (CRDC) at Citrus Hotel in Waskaduwa from 4th to 5th July 2019 under the AHEAD project grant. The members of the CRDC were the Chairman (Dr. Wasantha Perera), Dean of FMSC (Dr. U. Anura Kumara), all heads and representatives of the departments, former chairmen of the CRDC and special invitees.



The main objective of this residential workshop was to provide awareness to the CRDC members on the Outcome Based Education (OBE) Model in order to revise the existing curriculum of the FMSC according to the OBE Model in line with the requirements of the Sri Lankan Qualification Framework (SLQF), respective Subject Benchmarks Statements (SBS) and other requirements. In order to reach this objective, the following themes were discussed at the workshop as the major activities of the workshop agenda.

- Main Characteristics of the Sri Lankan Qualification Framework (SLQF) by Prof. Wipula Yapa, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo.
- Development of Curriculum on Outcome Based Education (OBE) Framework by Prof. Prasad Sethunga, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya.
- Constructive Alignment with the Teaching Learning Activities (TLAs) and Assessment Tasks (ATs) in the context of OBE by Prof. Prasad Sethunga, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya.
- Attributes, Graduate Profiles, Subject Benchmark Statements (SBS) and Learning Outcomes (LOs) by Prof. Kalyani Perera, University of Peradeniya.
- "Planned Curriculum" to "Taught Curriculum" through Student-Centered Outcome-Based Course/Lesson Planning by Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.

This residential workshop came to an end by achieving the expected outcomes successfully and the next workshop for CRDC members was planned to be organized in August 2019.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Program Design and Development by the Dept. of Economics-FHSS



The Department of Economics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted a stakeholder consultation workshop in 2018 to discuss and validate main strategies to update its existing curriculum as part of the major curriculum review of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS). One of the main suggestions of the stakeholder workshop was to introduce Financial Economics as a new field of specialization in economics in line with current trends in the global economy. As an initial phase, the Department conducted a second consultation workshop with subject experts on program design and development with regards to the proposed degree program: B.Sc. in Financial Economics on 22nd May 2019 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The main objectives of this workshop were to identify and prioritize key subject areas to be included in the curriculum of the new degree program and to identify potential constraining and enabling factors in the proposed degree program.

NEWS

Inception 2019

On 31st May 2019, the Department of Marketing Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully conducted the annual job fair under "The Inception 2019", which provided a platform for the fourth year Marketing undergraduates to join the workforce, strengthening the bond between the corporate sector and academia. The event was open from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and during the day the participants had the opportunity to choose from among various corporate giants as per their best interests. Two career guidance workshops were also conducted on the 29th and 30th prior to the event.

The job fair concretely focused on opening the career path of job-seeking Marketing undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce by providing them with the outstanding opportunity to connect with corporate pillars whereby the knowledge and skills of the undergraduates were improved.



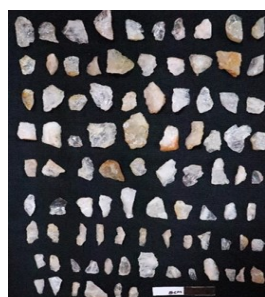
The 'Dialog career day' which was the 2nd phase of The Inception 2019 in collaboration with Dialog Axiata, and held at the premises of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 25th of May, was another boost for The Inception 2019.

The first session was conducted by Mr. Dilshan Perera, the Head of Etailing with the help of Ms. Chanuka Gunawardhana, the Assistant Manager in Talent and Acquisition. The undergraduates benefited and obtained a vast knowledge on the 'Marketing Opportunities' at Dialog PLC.

The second session of the day was an interview session, and it was conducted by the interviewers Mr. Reshan Warnakulasuriya, Mr. Yashan Gamage, and Ms. Imasha Gunarathna from Dialog PLC. The Dialog career day was another successful event of the agenda of The Inception 2019.

Rajagala prehistoric cave excavation – 2019

An international level excavation was commenced in 2016 and 2018 at Rajagala Archaeological site, which is a collaborative project of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka, having the objective of studying the prehistoric period of the area. Rajagala is located in the Uhana Divisional Secretariat area, in the District of Ampara. The third phase of the said excavation was carried out from 23rd of July to 09th of August 2019 at the 'Mahalena' cave premises of the Rajagala site. The academic staff of the Department of History and Archaeology of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, some veteran prehistoric archaeologists in Sri Lanka and a group of foreign experts, from the Deccan College of Pune, India, comprised the research team. This team was able to unravel a number of significant findings about the Mesolithic period of Sri Lanka from this Mahalena prehistoric cave premises. The fourth phase of the excavation is expected to be carried out in 2020.



NEWS

University Investment Day 2019



The Annual University Investment Day 2019 was organized on 17th June 2019 for the 4th consecutive year with the main objective of formulating an investment community not restricted to university boundaries. The occasion was graced by Mr. Vajira Wijegunawardane – Director General of Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka as the Guest of Honour. Mr. Tushara Jayaratne – Director, External Relations and Surveillance, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Sri Lanka, Mr. Nishantha Hewavithana – Head of Research and New Products, Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), Mr. Sumith Perera – Head of Portfolio Management, Ceylon Guardian Investment Trust PLC, Mr. Amal Sanderatne – Representative of CFA society Sri Lanka and Mr. Yasas Wijethunga – Research Manager, CT CLSA Securities (Pvt.) Ltd were the keynote speakers for the five sessions of the event.

As a pre-event presentation, the undergraduates of the Department of Finance presented a debate on capital market under the theme – “Capital Market provides equal opportunities and fair platform for all the investors”.

Following the presentations, the speakers were invited to a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Nichula Witharana, Alumni Member of Department of Finance. During the interactive session, the panel of financial experts shared their knowledge along with the discussion on the current trends and developments of the economy of Sri Lanka.

The CDS accounting opening session by CT CLSA Securities (Pvt.) marked the conclusion of the “University Investment Day 2019”.



Guest Lectures on Economic Ideas of Adam Smith and Karl Marx



The Department of Business Economics successfully organized two guest lectures for the third-year undergraduates of the Department on economic ideas of Adam Smith and Karl Marx. The session on “Economic Ideas of Adam Smith” was conducted by Senior Professor Tikiri Nimal Herath, Department of Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 26th June 2019 whereas “Economic Ideas of Karl Marx” session was conducted by Dr. M. Ganeshamoorthy, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Colombo on 17th July 2019.



NEWS

Workshop on “Role of Central Bank in Sri Lanka”

The Department of Business Economics together with the Centre for Banking Studies of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka organized a two-day workshop on the theme of “Role of Central Bank in Sri Lanka” for the final year undergraduates of the department. This was held at the Centre for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya on the 11th and 12th of July 2019.

The sessions were conducted by Mr. J.P.R. Karunaratne (Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Mr. A.A.M. Thassim (Director-Bank Supervision Department), Mrs. K. Ambagahawita (Senior Assistant Director-Payments & Settlements Department), Dr. R.A. Anil Perera (Acting Additional Director-Domestic Operations Department), Mr. Sunanda Obeysekera (Deputy Director-International Operations Department), Mrs. S.T. Abeysirigunawardana (Senior Assistant Director-Department of Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions), Mr. A.M. Gunathilake (Additional Superintendent-Currency Department), Mr. Janaka Edirisingha (Head-Money and Banking Division, Economic Research Department) and Mrs. E.H. Mohotty (Acting Additional Director-Financial Intelligence Unit).



Interactive Session with Disaster Management Centre

The 3rd year undergraduates of the Department of Public Administration who are following the module PUB 3349 Disaster Management participated in an organizational visit to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) under the Ministry of Disaster Management on 21st August 2019.

Several interactive sessions were conducted by Mr. R.P. Samarakkody, Additional Director General of DMC and Mrs. Saranga Vithanage, Assistant Director (Education & Public Awareness). Further, Mr. J.M.A.R. Jayarathna and Mr. K.A.D.P.K. Kodippili, Assistant Directors of the Emergency Operations Centre provided practical exposure related to Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Operations and Early Warning.



Curriculum Development Workshop



The Department of Finance conducted a full day workshop on 10th May 2019 at Kithul Kanda Mountain Resort, Meepe with the participation of all the academic staff members to plan for any changes required for the curriculum revision in the year 2020 by evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the current curriculum structure and the graduate profile. Discussions were also carried out on common subjects, finance related subjects and the complementary professional qualifications required by a finance graduate. Curricula of local and foreign universities, industry recommendations, comments from alumni members and insights of academic staff members enriched the discussion.

NEWS

Guest Lecture on "Japanese Development Model"



A guest lecture on "Japanese Development Model" was conducted by Senior Professor H. D. Karunaratne, Department of Business Economics, University of Colombo on

23rd July 2019 for the third-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics who are specializing in the development studies stream.

Guest Lecture on "National Thalassaemia Prevention"

A guest lecture on "National Thalassaemia Prevention" was conducted by Mr. Sudarshana

Keerthirathna with the collaboration of the National Thalassaemia Committee, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka on 31st

July 2019 under the course BEC 2045: Career Development Training. Mr. Sudarshana Keerthirathna is a visiting lecturer attached to the Western Province Institute of Sport Science. The lecture was aimed at increasing awareness among the students on National Thalassaemia Prevention.



Guest Lecture on "Preparation of the National Budget and Approval Process"

The Department of Business Economics organized a guest lecture on "Preparation of the National Budget and Approval Process" for the second-year undergraduates of the department on 19th August 2019 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am at Webber Hall of the faculty. Ms. Ajitha Batagoda, Director, Department of National Budget, Ministry of Finance conducted the session covering the legal foundation of the national budget, components of the budget, formulation process, approval process, trends in government expenditure and revenue and challenges related to the national budget.



Guest Lecture on "Starting an E- Business"

A guest lecture on "Starting an E- Business" was conducted by Mr. Nishan De Silva on 26th July 2019 under the course BEC 2045: Career Development Training. Mr. Nishan De Silva is the founder of Jump.lk, an online

content platform which helps Sri Lankans to create a better life. The lecture was aimed at training the students on how to start an E-Business and to provide required IT knowledge. BEC 2045: Career Development Training is offered by the Department of Business Economics for the second-year students of the department with the aim of developing soft skills within the students that need to be acquired by a professional.



Motivational Session "Dream it, Be it"

The Department of Business Economics organized a motivational session for the second year undergraduates of the department on the theme "Dream it, Be it" on 28th June 2019. This session was conducted by Mrs. Ashcharya Peiris, founder of Christiana Glory.

Mrs. Ashcharya Peiris is Sri Lanka's one and only visually impaired fashion designer who is among the recipients of "Sri Lanka's 10 Most Remarkable Women" awards presented by the Independent Television Network (ITN), on International Women's Day 2017 for her contribution towards the nation.



Mrs. Ashcharya is an experienced speaker who has conducted motivational sessions for a number of established business firms in Sri Lanka and still continues to expand her vision to the widest possible audience.

During the session she spoke about how to embrace the challenges and reach the life goals by sharing her own experiences and life stories of role models around the world.

NEWS

Mahapola Scholarship Awarding Ceremony-2019

Mahapola Scholarships Awarding Ceremony for the Undergraduates of the 2017-2018 academic year was held on 23rd May 2019 at the Board Room of the Administration Building with the participation of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. In addition, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences; Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce; Dr. U. Anura Kumara, academic and administrative staff members participated in the ceremony.



Scholarships for Undergraduates from Japura Australia Alumni Association

The Japura Alumni Australia Inc. awarded 43 Scholarships for students in need at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on the 4th of July 2019. The Japura Alumni Australia Inc. established



in 2008 is committed to ensuring the betterment of students in the University who will one day be worthy members of the society.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. Laleen Karunanayake; Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Ranjith Ihalanayake, President of the Japura Alumni Australia Inc., Alumni members, and academic members participated in the awarding ceremony.

USJ Signs MoU with Forestpin Analytics

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Forestpin, in which undergraduate and postgraduate students will have opportunities to enhanced learning experiences in data analytics. Forestpin Analytics is used by some of the largest and most respected conglomerates in Sri Lanka.



As part of the MoU, students of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura would have access to Forestpin Analytics software during their tenure at the University. Last year, around one hundred and fifty students from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura who followed Forensic Accounting related programs gained experience by using Forestpin Analytics.

This software will provide an experiential learning opportunity for the students, and they will better understand the basic operations of analytics while being able to possess knowledge in using industry-compatible tools and software to apply their skills in the relevant field. In addition, under the MoU, Forestpin will explore further areas of collaboration, including research and internships in analytics.

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Ransith Fernando, Managing Director - Forestpin Analytics signed the agreement on behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Forestpin Analytics respectively. The event was attended by Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. P.D.K. Amitha Kumara, Head, Department of Information Technology, Dr. Lasith Gunawardena, Senior Lecturer, Department of IT, Mr. Ranil Peiris, Senior Lecturer, Department of IT, and Mr. Dilanke Hettiaratchi, Director, Forestpin Analytics.

NEWS

Faculty of Engineering Signs MoU with Mobitel



Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd and University of Sri Jayewardenepura signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-create and co-innovate in the area of telecommunication, IoT, AI etc,

where Mobitel and Faculty of Engineering (Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering - USJ) will bring together their areas of expertise and knowledge for collaborative research and development.

Mr. Kumarasinghe Sirisena - Group Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom, Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge - Vice Chancellor University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mr. Prabhath Gamage - General Manager Enterprise Business, Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd., Dr. Chaminda Konthesingha - Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Akila Mike Subasinghe - Former Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Chamitha de Alwis - Head, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Dr. Uditha Lakmal Wijewardhana, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, Ms. Umayya Bhashini Balagalla and Ms. Chamali Gamage, Lecturers, Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Ms Tharushi Wickramasinghe - Engineer Product Service innovation, Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd, Ms. Nadeeka Hettige - Account Manager, Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd were present at this occasion.

MoU between, ICT Industry Skills Council and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura



The MoU signals the formalization of a long-lasting relationship between the ICT Industry Skills Council and the university, which will result in a number of interdisciplinary projects over the coming years. This will unveil opportunities to the Marketing Management undergraduates of USJ in grabbing exclusive internship programs provided by the institution along with a series of ICT development programs for the undergrads which will be conducted by the ICT Industry Skills Council, Sri Lanka. The agreement was drafted with the intent to strengthen the links between the worlds of academia and industry; transferring knowledge and skills across parties; and also to empower the fresh blood in their career development and 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, Dr. (Mrs.) Amila Jayarathne, Head Department of Marketing Management, the honored guests from the industry and the lecturers of the Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services and the Department of Accounting

Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services and the Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 6th of June 2019 at the Vice Chancellor's Office. Vice Chancellor; Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunga, Head of the Department of Accounting; Dr. Harendra Kariyawasam, Overall Internship Coordinator; Senior Professor Samanthi Senaratne, academic members of the Department and representatives from the Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services participated in this event.

This MoU will provide internship opportunities for the third and fourth year students of the Department of Accounting. Further, Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services has focused on conducting introductory sessions annually for second year students prior to the commencement of the internship, and workshops to develop the soft skills of students.



NEWS

Meeting with CFA Institute



The academic staff of the Department of Finance held a meeting with Ms. Florence Wong, Director, University Relations, Asia Pacific, CFA Institute and two other representatives of CFA Sri Lanka on 28th August 2019 to discuss different aspects of the University affiliation program and possibility of collaboration. (CFA MoU)

Professor S. B. Gunatilake Appointed as Professor Emeritus Department of Medicine



Professor S. B. Gunatilake of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences was conferred the title "Professor Emeritus" by the Council of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in recognition of his invaluable contributions in academics, research and his services and achievements within and outside the University.

Felicitation

The Department of Accounting felicitated retired Senior Professor Mangala Fonseka on 20th July 2019. This occasion was held at Waters Edge, with the participation of the staff members and their families. It was a pleasant evening flavoured with smiles and chatter of the well-wishers. Head of the Department, Dr. Dayananda Ambalangodage, Dr. Ajward and Dr. Athula Manawaduge shared the honour of appreciating the remarkable service rendered to the Department of Accounting by Prof. Mangala Fonseka.



PUBLICATIONS

Launch of SPARK Magazine by the Dept. of English and Linguistics – FHSS

The launch of the maiden publication of "SPARK"; a student-led creative collective was successfully held on the 31st of June 2019, at the newly renovated Department of English and Linguistics premises of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.



It was an initiative of the English Literary Association (ELA). The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Former heads of the department, academic, non-academic staff members and students. The first copy of the magazine was presented to Senior Professor Sampath Amarathunga, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura by Dr. Chitra Jayathilake, the Head of the Department of English and Linguistics.

The launch attracted positive reactions from all parties present. Suggestions were given to expand the magazine beyond the Department of English and Linguistics and to cater to the creativity of the students of the entire university.

The English Literary Association hopes to continue the magazine on a continuous basis.



Launching 'A Guide to Academic Writing and Research Reports

A Guide to Academic Writing and Research Reports co-authored by Dr. Mangala Fonseka and Dr. Athula Manawaduge was presented to Senior Professor Sampath Amarathunga, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on the 27th of May 2019 at the Vice Chancellor's Office. The Head of the Department of Accounting, Dr. Harendra Kariyawasam was also present. Dr. Mangala Fonseka (now retired) and Dr. Athula Manawaduge are respected and longstanding academics from the Department of Accounting, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Vithanage Published Highest Cited Review Article in 2017/18



The article titled as "Biochar based removal of antibiotic sulfonamides and tetracyclines in aquatic environments: A critical review" of which Dr. Meththika Vithanage, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Applied Science is the corresponding author has been listed as one of the highest cited review articles published in 2017/18 by Elsevier Inc.

The article, "Biochar based removal of antibiotic sulfonamides and tetracyclines in aquatic environments: A critical review" was published in the Bioresources Technology Journal in 2018.

The Bioresources Technology Journal is a Q1 journal with an Impact Factor of 5.807 and ranked at 1st place among 14 journals in Agricultural Engineering.

Furthermore, this journal is considered as a journal in the top 10% in the Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics). This review article has now reached 40 citations.

Dr. Vithanage co-edits 4 books with Elsevier Inc

In addition, Dr. Meththika Vithanage has recently co-edited and published the following 4 books with Elsevier Inc. in the field of Environmental Science and Chemistry:

1. Electronic Waste Management and Treatment Technology

Editors: MNV Prasad, Meththika Vithanage

2. Industrial and Municipal Sludge; Emerging concerns and scope for resource recovery

Editors: MNV Prasad, PJ de Campos Favas, Meththika Vithanage, SV Mohan

3. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products; Waste management and treatment technology

Editors: MNV Prasad, Meththika Vithanage, Atya Kapley

4. Handbook of Electronic Waste Management Best Practices

Editors: MNV Prasad, Meththika Vithanage, Anwesha Borthakur

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AWARD CEREMONIES & CONVOCATIONS

University Research Grants Awarding Ceremony and Awareness Program

University Research Grants Awarding Ceremony and an awareness program for the awardees was held on 17th June 2019 at the Board room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies with the participation of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Pathmalal Manage; Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Co-chairperson of the University Research Council, Prof. Pradeepa Jayawardene; Co-chairperson; University Research Council and academic members representing various research fields participated in the ceremony.



J'pura Employability Skills Awards

Japura Employability Skills Awards 2019 organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 20th August 2019 at the Golden Rose Hotel Boralesgamuwa.



Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Anura U Kumara; Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Sudath Manjula; Director of the Career Guidance Unit, academic members and guests graced the event.

This platform was designed to award exceptional students of the university, recognizing their skills and achievements throughout the years, under various award categories such as Best Leader Award, Best Team Player Award, Best Creative Designer Award, Best Innovator Award, Best Communicator, Best Employability Skills Achiever Award (BESA), Best Entrepreneur Award etc.

Innovate Sri Lanka Award Ceremony 2019



The Innovation Invention and Venture Creation Council (IIVCC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Sri Lanka) awarded more than 260 participants at Innovate SL Awards Ceremony at Waters Edge, Colombo.

The Invention and Innovation Competition began in 2018 with the aim of providing an interdisciplinary platform for renowned intellectual key profiles, emerging innovators and industry professionals to work on research project that yield industry related innovation. The Innovate Sri Lanka Exhibition was held at the BMICH in April 2nd and 3rd 2019 and it was a remarkable step in the history of the USJ.

AWARD CEREMONIES & CONVOCATIONS

Certificate Awarding Ceremony- Sandeshawali Kavinaluwa 2019



Certificate Awarding Ceremony for the participants and contributors of Sandeshawali Kavinaluwa; a theatrical performance produced by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 26th July 2019 with the participation of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

In addition, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda; Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Co-Chairperson; The Innovation, Invention and Venture Creation Council (IIVCC)-USJ, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage; Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Dr. Nilmini Liyanage; Co-Chairperson; The Innovation, Invention and Venture Creation Council (IIVCC)-USJ participated in the awarding ceremony.

W. A. Wijewardena Public Management Merit Scholarship

W. A. Wijewardena Merit Scholarship is annually awarded to four Public Management students who recorded the highest academic excellence in each part of the degree program. This scholarship was first offered in 2014 and is sponsored by Dr. W A Wijewardena, a distinguished alumni member of the Department of Public Administration.

For the year 2019, the scholarship awarding ceremony was held on 19th June at the Faculty premises with the participation of Dr. W A Wijewardena, academic members of the department and the scholarship holders. This year, the scholarship recipients were J.M.G.T.P. Jayathilaka (first year), W.A.S. Peiris (second year), H.A.S. Vindula (third year) and M.G.H. Madhusa (final year). The department extended its sincere wishes to the students for their future endeavors.



Students Excellence Awarding Ceremony



"Students Excellence Awarding Ceremony" organized by Department of Marketing Management in collaboration with Hemas Manufacturing (Pvt.) Ltd was held on 10th June 2019 at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The purpose of the ceremony was to present awards to outstanding students of the department representing each batch. All awards were sponsored by Hemas Manufacturing (Pvt.) Ltd under the MoU between the Department of Marketing Management and Hemas. Three students were awarded at the ceremony for their outstanding performance during the 2018 academic year. Thilinka Miyurangi Dahanayake won the award for the best student (second year) while the award for the best student (third year) was won by Bewan Sanura Fernando. Gashi Akalanki Hemamali received the gold medal for the best dissertation. In addition to awards, students were appreciated with cash rewards sponsored by Hemas.

Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce who graced the occasion as the chief guest was accompanied by the Head and the academic staff of the department. Further, the event was graced by representatives from Hemas headed by Mr. Mifaz Ahamed, Senior Manager (HR).

SPORTS

J'Pura brings the SLUG Championship home for the second



Sri Lanka University Games commonly known as SLUG is the premier sports festival which is held among the undergraduates of the state universities in Sri Lanka. SLUG provides a magnificent platform for the undergraduates to display their true sporting spirit to the world. It is considered as the "Mini Olympics" amongst the university community and the gala event is considered as the most prestigious and the most awaited championship of Sri Lanka University Sports.

The concept of SLUG was developed by the former Director of Physical Education of the University of Peradeniya, Mr. Lesley Handunge back in 1980. sport categories in 2019.



This year the 13th Sri Lanka University Games was hosted by the University of Ruhuna, where around 7000 undergraduates from the 14 state universities across the island participated in this glamorous event. The sports festival was held from the 20th of August till the 7th of September which included Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Carom, Chess, Cricket, Elle, Football, Hockey, Karate, Netball, Road Race, Rowing, Rugby, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Weightlifting and Wrestling.

Marking the end of this fabulous sports tournament in the grandest style possible, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was able to become the Overall Champions of the 13th Sri Lanka University Games 2019 for the second consecutive time by winning the Men's Overall Championship and Securing the runner up position in the Women's Overall Championship Category.

USJ athletes became champions in Badminton (Men & Women), Baseball (Men), Basketball (Men & Women), Cricket (Men), Elle (Men), Swimming (Women) and Wrestling (Men) sporting events while Hockey (Women), Road Race (Women), Swimming (Men), Table Tennis (Women), Taekwondo (Men), Tennis (Men) and Track & Field (Women) secured the runner up positions at SLUG 2019. Out of the 35 sports events USJ athletes recorded nine Championships, seven runner-up awards and five second runner up awards yet again proving the sporting prowess in the University sporting arena.

This victory is a result of the dedication and commitment of the sportsmen and women of the University, along with the untiring efforts of the University administration and the members of the Department of Physical Education and the non-academic staff under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge.

The university has produced many national players who have represented Sri Lanka at the Olympics and in other world renowned championships all over the globe. These athletes have gone well beyond their comfort zones to bring glory and they are highly motivated to repeat the same feat at the next edition of the championship.



SPORTS



SPORTS

Faculty of Medical Sciences Emerges Runners-up at the Inter-Medical Faculty Sports Encounter

The first Inter-medical faculty sports encounter was organized by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, with the participation of all state medical faculties around the island. The event spanned from April to August 2019 and hosted a number of sport events.



The team also secured the runner-up position for Women's Badminton, Chess and Men's Track and Field events. Further, the faculty won the second runner-up position for Football, Women's Carom and Men's Swimming. Congratulations to these talented sportsmen and women for their participation and achievements at this event!

Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ Beat Colombo Medical Faculty at the Annual Cricket Encounter 2019



The annual cricket encounter between Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ and Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo was held on 12th August 2019 at the Sooriyawewa International Cricket Stadium. USJ team won by 77 runs scoring 210/9 while Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo scored 133/10. Heshan Hasanka of the winning team won the award for 'man of the match' and 'best bowler'.

Team – Pramod Harshana(C), Uvindu Rajapaksha, Gayan Nadeesha, Tharindu Chamara, Ishara Lakmal, Shanitha Niroshan, Umayanga Dehigama, Yesha Shanuka, Diluka Pathirana, Dinul Rabel, Nipun de Silva, Heshan Hasanka.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Vesak Bathi Gee and Dansala 2019



A 'Bhakti gee' program organized by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in celebration of 'Vesak' was held on the 23rd of May 2019 from 4.00 p.m. onwards. The program was conducted to strengthen the unity of the diverse community within the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura can be considered as the largest university in Sri Lanka in terms of the student population. Therefore, it also hosts a large number of students and staff from different communities. The program was conducted at a crucial time when Sri Lanka has faced a great tragedy targeting a particular sect of people. The aftermath of such tragic occurrences is often chaotic thereby this program aided in bridging the rift between communities and strengthening unity.

The program was graced by The Chief Prelate (Mahanayake) of Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagri Dharma Maha Sangha Sabha of Siyam Maha Nikaya, Ven. Dr. Ittapana Dhammalankara Maha Nayake Maha Thero, the Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, respected Mawlawis of the Islamic religion and a Hindu priest. Thereby the program paid respect to all religions in the country.

The program highlighted the universal message observed and spread by all religions which is peace and love. The bringing together of all communities gave the program added significance. The 'Bhakti gee' program was followed by a 'Dansala' which catered to everyone.



Dansala By Student Welfare Division 2019

Coriander Dansala annually organized by the Student Welfare Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in celebration of 'Vesak' was held on 23rd May 2019 in front of the Cultural Center of the University.

Religious Leaders, Vice Chancellor of the University; Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, academic members, non-academic staff members, alumni members, and students participated in the program.

This program was organized by the staff members of the Welfare Division including Director of the Student Welfare Division, Deputy Registrar, wardens and sub-wardens.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

56th Commemoration of Ven. Weliwitiye Sri Soratha Maha Thero



56th Commemoration of Reverend Weliwitiye Sri Soratha Maha Thero: the trailblazer of contemporary Piriven University system and the pioneer of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 25th July 2019 at the Buddhist Shrine of the University.

Honorable Mahasangha, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. Chaminda Konthesingha; Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Heads of Departments, academic, administrative and non-academic staff members participated in the commemoration ceremony.

Bakthi Gee organized by The Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

The Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura held the 'Poson Bathi Gee' event extending throughout two evenings. On the first day the students along with the student orchestra visited four hospitals namely the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Homagama Base Hospital, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and the Maharagama Apeksha Cancer Hospital.



A stage performance of 'Poson Bathi Gee' was held at the faculty premises where students of all religions contributed to singing, music and decorations. The event was organized by a team of students led by Aparna Hettiarachchi, President of The Buddhist Society under the guidance of Dean, Senior Professor Surangi Yasawardene, Adviser Dr. Indira Wijesiriwardene, and Senior Treasurer Dr. Hasini Banneheke.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Buddhabhivandana 2019

The students' body of the Department of Accounting (AFMA – Accounting & Financial Management Association) organized Buddhabhivandana 2019; a religious programme that included a 'Bodhipooja' and a 'Dhamma sermon,' in collaboration with Supipena Piyum Budhhist Society of the University. This programme was held on 20th June 2019 at the Sumangala Reading Hall, with the participation of the Head of the department, lecturers and university undergraduates.

Commemorating Poson poya and passing merits to all the Sri Lankans and to the innocent people who died in the Easter Sunday attack were the main purposes of Buddhabhivandana 2019. This programme was followed by a Belimal dansala.



Biology sessions for GCE O/L students

Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences in collaboration with Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation conducted an audiovisual session on gastrointestinal system biology for GCE O/L students. Under the guidance of Dean, Snr. Prof. S.G. Yasewardene and Head, Department of Anatomy, Dr. P.H. Dissanayake, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe and Dr. M.H.P. Dissanayake conducted the session. Detailed anatomy and function of the gastrointestinal system were explained in the Sinhala language for better understanding by GCE O/L students. The session was divided into several sections and each section was explained with the help of different models. The recording was telecasted under the program of "Rupavahini Jathika Pasala - රූපවාහිනී ජාතික පාසල" on 5th of June 2019. The entire program is now available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIN8gO4joIY&t=551s>) for the general public.

The Department of Anatomy has already made arrangements to conduct multiple sessions under the biology stream for different systems of the human body with the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.



Green & Clean Mannar



A CSR Project was completed by the Alumni Association of Public Administration, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 25th August 2019 in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Navy in the Mannar district.

To protect and preserve the Mannar coastal belt, more than 1250 mangrove saplings were planted in Naruvilikulum lagoon and a beach clean-up project was carried out in Talvupadu coastal area. A large number of alumni members of the Department of Public Administration and naval officers participated for this worthy endeavor. The main sponsor of this Project was the CSR Trust of Commercial Bank PLC.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Snehadara – 2019



2nd year undergraduates of the Department of Finance extended their helping hand to underprivileged students of Ra/Handagiriya Vidyalaya, Balangoda, with the assistance of 3rd and 4th year students of the department. This CSR project titled "Snehadhara" was completed for the sixth consecutive time with the participation of academic staff members of the Department of Finance along with the members of the teaching staff, students of Handagiriya Vidyalaya and their parents on 23rd August 2019.

The organizing committee of this project installed a new water line in the school premises to ensure access to clean water and this project consisted of a series of donations including the gifting of a "Computer Lab" that consisted of seven computers. Moreover, each student was given a complete package of stationery that consisted of a school bag, water bottle, compass box/ geometry set and exercise books sufficient for a year. Donations were also made to the school library with books written on various subject areas along with past paper sets for exam preparations.

The end of the CSR project was marked with a camp fire which was held at Handagiriya Vidyalaya.

Financial Literacy Survey 2019



The undergraduates of the Department of Finance conducted the annual financial literacy survey in line with the Snehadhara project in Handagiriya, Balangoda.

The students collected data from nearly 300 people based on a questionnaire provided by the department under the supervision of academic staff members. The villagers showed their enthusiasm in engaging in the survey through their active participation. The students got a good knowledge about various financial management practices of the villagers which is beyond classroom education. This program is a good eye-opener for the students on the contribution they should make as university students to increase the financial literacy among the public.

CONCERTS & CULTURAL EVENTS

TALENTS – annual concert of Faculty of Medical Sciences



TALENTS 2019, the annual concert, which is a non-profit venture, organized by the Medical Faculty Arts Circle was held on 18th August, 2019. It was held at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre for the first time in the TALENTS history. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sampath Amarathunga, Senior Professor Sunil Ariyaratna and the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Surangi Yasawardena graced the event as special guests.

It was illuminated by an orchestra playing Eastern, Western, North and South Indian music by more than 50 students. Dancing items were also of a vast variety such as Eastern, Ballroom, Contemporary, Indian, Tamil, Folk dance and HipHop. Drama was given a new face in a "Waada Baila" style.



චතුර්මාන 2019

'Chaturmaana,' the first-ever inter-university competition was held for the second consecutive time on 31st July 2019 at the National Youth Services Council, Maharagama. This event was organized by the second year students of the Accounting and Financial Management Association (AFMA) of the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Head and the staff of the Department of Accounting, academic and non-academic staff members of the university, Alumni of the Department, undergraduates of the university and undergraduates from different universities of Sri Lanka participated at this fabulous event.

Manu and Poony of the University of Kelaniya were crowned the champions of Chaturmaana 2019 while the first runner-up and second runner-up titles were won by the University of the Visual and Performing Arts and University of Moratuwa respectively. The University of Colombo was the winner of the popular category.

The attraction for the day was equally grabbed by the enticing performances brought forth by Wayo and Bathiya & Santhush (B&S).



CONCERTS & CULTURAL EVENTS

Mini Vibes 2019

Mini Vibes of Marketing, organized by the Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held successfully on the 4th of July 2019 at the Bandaranayake Hall, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It was organized for the 7th consecutive time creating a great opportunity for the first year undergraduates to build up their different skills as a university student.

The respective judges of the event were Mr. Chandana Wickramasinghe, Mrs. Tharuka Wanniarachchi, Mr. Rasika Kothalawala, Mr. Baskar Prakash and Ms. Shashikala Harshanie. The first year groups A1, A2 and B2 became the champions, first runner-up and second runner-up respectively. Group B3 succeeded in achieving the crown for the most popular dancing group.



Nada – 2019

The Students' Association of Finance (SAF) staged "Nada" 2019 for the 10th consecutive year at the Bandaranayake Hall on 8th August 2019. The event was honored with the presence of distinguished artist Senior. Prof. Sunil Ariyaratne.

Nada provides a platform for multi-talented undergraduates of the university by combining six faculties on one stage. More than 120 performers showcased their talent in singing, dancing and acting in Nada 2019, delivering a mesmerizing experience to an audience of around 1500 university and non - university crowd.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Social Robotics Lab of Dept of Computer Science Featured by Rupavahini

The Innovation Centre of Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS) is the hub of creativity and innovation at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. With the main focus on social robotics, the undergraduates of the Department of Computer Science are constantly encouraged to carry out research on a wide variety of modern trending technologies under the guidance of Dr. Ravindra De Silva, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Computer Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Human-Robot Interaction is a field of study dedicated to understanding, designing and evaluating robotics systems for use by or with humans. It includes the topics of gesture, natural language communication, perceiving emotions and expressing their own artificial emotions, establishing social relationships, an exhibition of different personalities and characters and recognition of interaction. Some exclusive research works carried out at the Robotics and Intelligent Systems Lab were shared with the public at the Knowledge 1st TV program broadcast on Rupavahini, on the 30th of July 2019, along with the Harry Potter Sorting Hat.



Out of the numerous projects carried out at the Robotics and Intelligent Systems Lab, the Harry Potter Sorting Hat is one of the most unique ideas brought to life by a team of undergraduates of the Department of Computer Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Adhisha Gammanpila, Tehani Wanniarachchi, and Asela Wijesingha inspired from the book Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling, developed the concept of Sorting Hat as a brain wave interface to detect brain wave patterns of small children. The natural emotion extraction using brain waves could yield data with a higher rate of accuracy and thus can be utilized for various other research concerning mental health medication of children.

Creativity and innovation are both equally challenging and cannot be achieved overnight. It is more than clear that the Innovation Centre for Robotics and Intelligent Systems at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is well serving its purpose producing young innovators and scientists who are capable of reaching greater heights, expanding humanity to novel experiences that it has not encountered yet.

The Prof. Carlo Fonseka Challenge Trophy



The 5-member team from the 26th batch of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ emerged 2nd runners-up at the 6th Annual Inter Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz Competition 2019, conducted by the Physiological Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL), which was held on 20th July 2019 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. The team members included Manuli de Silva, Lakindu Grero, Thisuri Fernando, Najeela Nazar and Asel Wijesinghe, who were coached by Dr. Chandana Hewage, Prof. Priyadarshani Hettiarachchi and Prof. Sharaine Fernando of the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJ.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Two Solutions Built Using Motion Capture Technology by Centre of Robotics and Intelligent Systems



The Innovation Centre of Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS) was featured on Rupavahini yet another time in the Tuesday Knowledge 1st Program, on the 20th of August 2019. Asela Wijesinghe and Sajini Senaratna who are final year students from Department of Computer Science attended the program. Two research works based on Motion Capture Technology, conducted by the undergraduates of the Department of Computer Science were featured during the program.

Dancing coach is a companion for potential dancers, providing dancing lessons from professionals and it measures the accuracy of the dance with the help of motion capture technology. Asela Wijesinghe, Eranga Kulasinghe and Vimukthi Deshan are creators of this amazing work. Gym Coach is another project by Asela Wijesinghe which uses more advanced technology compared to the previous project Dancing Coach. Gym Coach helps the user to measure and track the exercises and improve the quality by detecting the mistakes and providing real time feedback. This project was built using concepts such as reinforcement learning, pose estimation and cloud technologies.

Indunil won the "Best undergraduate oral presentation" award at the above meeting among the competitive undergraduate participants, primarily from US universities and representatives from other continents across the globe. She was highly appreciated for her excellent presentation delivered at the MSA meeting on "Morphology and molecular phylogeny of foliar fungal pathogens isolated from cultivated rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) trees in Sri Lanka" by many renowned Mycologists who participated at the meeting. In addition, Indunil was awarded with Everett S. Luttrell mentor-student travel award by the Mycological Society of America for her achievement and progress in her research, which partially funded her travel. Indunil completed her Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, with a First Class Honors in September 2019 from the Department of Botany and the above award-winning research project was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Dimuthu S. Manamgoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany, Faculty of Applied Sciences and co-supervised by Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology.

SJP undergraduate recognized at the Annual Meeting of Mycological Society of America - 2019

Indunil Subodhini Herath, a final year student of the Department of Botany, USJ presented her undergraduate research project at the Annual Meeting of Mycological Society of America (MSA) which was held at Graduate Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA from August 10th - 14th 2019.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

CERN Summer Internship Winner-2019

I was one of the four students who represented Sri Lanka in the Summer Student Programme 2019 at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) Geneva, Switzerland. It was an 8 week programme which consisted of a short term project in the ATLAS experiment alongside top professionals in the field, a lecture series organized by top physicists from all over the world which covered complicated and interesting topics ranging from particle physics to string theory and many more workshops. This summer changed me as a student as I gained more knowledge on both experimental and theoretical physics and changed me as an individual with the help of many new people that I met together with the opportunity to travel across Europe. I came back to Sri Lanka with the intention and motivation of going back to CERN one day to do my PhD. This opportunity was a dream come true and I strongly believe that "All Dreams Are Crazy, Until You Make Them Come True".



Channa Hatharasinghe

4th Year Physics Special student

Department of Physics

The Higgs Boson Reconstruction Technique in $t\bar{t}H(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ Based On Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)

Channa Hatharasinghe
University of Sri Jayawardenepura , Sri Lanka

Supervisor : Georges Aad
Supervisor : Jelena Jovicevic

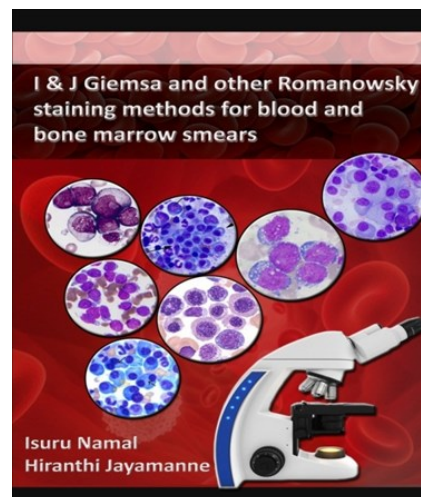
Abstract

According to the Standard model, all quarks, charged leptons and W and Z bosons obtain their respective masses through their interaction with the Higgs field which gives rise to the Higgs boson. One of the important tests of the Standard Model is the measurement of the Yukawa coupling of the Higgs boson with the top quark. This coupling can be directly measured via the associated production process of $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}H$.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

"I & J Giemsa Stain" - An innovation from Medical Laboratory Science Undergraduates - USJ

A new haematological staining method which proved to be a solution to poor staining of hypercellular bone marrow smears was invented by two final year undergraduates following the B.Sc Medical Laboratory Sciences Degree Programme, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences under the supervision of Dr. D. Gunawardena, Consultant Haematologist, Department of Pathology Faculty of Medical Sciences and Dr. S. Suresh,



The new staining method was named as "I & J Giemsa staining method" and the inventors have applied for patenting for this invention.

The researchers, Mr. Isuru Namal Priyankara and Ms. Hiranthi Jayamanne also launched a laboratory handbook describing their new discovery, titled, "I & J Giemsa and other Romanowsky stains for blood and bone marrow smears" which is a source of Romanowsky staining methods and their preparation methods on 20th November 2017 at the Annual Academic Sessions-2017 of the College of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Sri Lanka.



Team Nova of the Department of Business Economics emerged as 2nd Runners-up at Maestro 2019

Ms. Chathuni Perera, Ms. Ashwini Ratnayake and Ms. Sandumini Caldera, 2nd year undergraduates represented the Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura as "Team Nova" and became 2nd runners-up at Maestro 2019, a business challenge competition organized by the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa. The Grand Finale of Maestro 2019 was successfully held on the 30th September 2019 at the DHPL Auditorium, Colombo. Maestro is considered as the largest business challenge competition organized for the undergraduates and Team Nova managed to emerge as the 2nd runners-up out of 76 registrations at Maestro 2019.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Business Economics Students awarded at TRIBUTE 2019

Third-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Economics who are holding leadership positions in AIESEC of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura have won Local Committee awards at "TRIBUTE 2019", the Annual Awarding Ceremony of AIESEC, USJ for their best leadership performances shown during the 2018/19 term.

This awarding ceremony was held on the 26th May 2019 at the auditorium of the Kothalawala Defense University with the participation of around 500 delegates. Mr. Chevaan Daniel, Sri Lankan Eisenhower Global Fellow and Group Director of the Capital Maharaja Organization graced the event as the Chief Guest.

Award-winning Business Economics undergraduates at TRIBUTE 2019 were as follows.



Most Outstanding Organizing Committee Award
Members from the Department of Business Economics;
Organizing Committee President: Mr. Pasan Wijayawardhana
Organizing Committee Vice President (Logistics): Mr. Lochana Mahendrawansa
Organizing Committee Vice President (Events): Miss Binashi Perera



Best Young Leader Award:
Miss Binashi Perera



Most Outstanding IGV Summer Project Award:
Pasan Wijayawardhana



Best IX Pier Award:
Tharusha Hewawasam

Inauguration of Sri Lanka Forum of Junior Business Economists

The inaugural General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Forum of Junior Business Economists (SLFJBE) was held on 12th July 2019 from 3.00 pm onwards at Prof. K.A. Munasinghe Hall of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



SLFJBE was established by the Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Department of Business Economics, University of Colombo with the objectives of disseminating knowledge of the Business Economics discipline, promoting integrity among the members, providing opportunities to interact with experts in the Business Economics field, facilitating a research culture among the members, encouraging objective analysis of contemporary economic problems, enhancing professional skills of the members and cultivating social responsibility among the members.

Senior Professor H. D. Karunaratne (Department of Business Economics, University of Colombo) Dr. (Mrs.) Dinesha Siriwardhane (Head, Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura), other lecturers of the two departments along with students participated in the meeting.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1st SLFJBE Economic Summit 2019

The 1st SLFJBE Economic Summit 2019 themed "Strengthening the External Sector to achieve a 7% Economic Growth" was held on 15th August 2019 at the Center for Banking Studies (Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Rajagiriya. The summit was hosted by the Department of Business Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) on behalf of the Sri Lanka Forum of Junior Business Economists (SLFJBE).

The Inauguration Ceremony of the summit was held with the participation of an eminent gathering consisting of Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, USJ as the Chief Guest, Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as the Keynote Speaker, Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, USJ as the Guest of Honor, Dr. Dinesha Siriwardhane, Advisory Board Member and Head, Department of Business Economics, USJ, Senior Professor H. D. Karunarathne, Advisory Board Member of SLFJBE, Mr. Ramesh Rajasuriya, Head, Department of Business Economics, University of Colombo (UOC), several other Deans and Heads of USJ, lecturers from USJ, UOC and all other invited universities along with over 140 delegates.



The keynote speech of the inaugural ceremony was delivered by Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy under the theme of "Economic Outlook of Sri Lanka: Opportunities and Challenges". Moreover, the first volume of the magazine of SLFJBE, "BIZCONTIER" was launched by the Department of Business Economics, UOC during the inaugural ceremony.

Inter-university competitions were started after the inauguration ceremony with the participation of delegates representing 14 teams from 10 local universities and 2 delegates representing foreign universities. The competitions included an Economic Debate, a Panel Discussion, a Critical Writing Competition, a Quiz Competition and the Budding Economist Competition.



The third phase of the summit was dedicated for the Industry Forum themed "Strategic Partnerships: A Way Forward to win Global Markets". The forum was enlightened with the participation of Sri Lanka's leading businessmen namely, Mr. Dian Gomes, former Chairman of Hela Clothing, Dr. Harsha Subasinghe, President and CEO of CodeGen International, Dr. Ravi Liyanage, Chairman and CEO of Kingdom of Raigam along with Dr. P. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Senior Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Mr. M. K. S. K. Maldeni, Acting Additional Director General and Director-Export Services of the Export Development Board of Sri Lanka representing the policymaking bodies. The forum was moderated by Dr. Janak Kumarasinghe, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Business Economics, USJ. The discussion flowed with the participating industry leaders presenting their experience on building up strategic partnerships, sharing their journey up to date and policymakers representing the measures taken by the government on the aforementioned fact.

The awarding ceremony was held as the closing phase of the 1st SLFJBE Economic Summit 2019 where the overall championship was won by the team representing the Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa. Winners and 1st runner-up holders were awarded with a scholarship worth Rs. 100,000 by the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA).



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Motivational Workshop on Youth Empowerment



The Student Association of Public Administration of the Department of Public Administration successfully organized a "Motivational Workshop on Youth Empowerment" on 8th July 2019 at the Faculty premises. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Samadanie Kiriwandeniya, the chairperson of Sanasa Development Bank and Mr. Sajitha Anthony, a well-known young actor, dancer and singer. Mrs. Samadhani Kiriwandeniya addressed the gathering on the meaning of 'Empowerment' and empowering of young women. Mr. Sajitha Anthony shared his own experience on how Arts empowered his personal and professional life and he did an interactive session with the students leading the audience to a different dimension.



Chala-roo 2019



The Association of Business Administration (ABA) of the Department of Business Administration, FMSC annually organises 'Chala-roo,' the art and photography exhibition, to enhance the aesthetic skills among the undergraduates of the FMSC. Chala-roo 2019 was held on 9th and 10th August 2019 from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. around the New Reading Hall of FMSC, under the sub theme of '**INSIDE OUT**'. Ms. Chamari Thapaswarage, Lecturer at the National Institute of Education, participated as the chief guest of the event.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

J'pura Premier League (JPL) – 2019



J'pura Premier League is the annual six-a-side cricket tournament organised by the Association of Business Administration (ABA) of the Department of Business Administration, FMSC. The tournament is open for all the Faculties of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and other Universities in Sri Lanka as well.

The 7th edition of 'J'pura Premier League' was held on the 6th and 7th of August 2019 at the University grounds with the participation of more than 40 teams, where HND Galle Team became the Champion of the tournament while J'pura Sixes secured the Second Place.

Illuminate 2019

The second year students of the Department of Human Resource Management organized sessions on the preparation of Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Public Speaking on 6th June, 2019. The CV writing session was conducted by Ms. Keshavi Puswewala, HR Business Partner for Corporate Functions Employer Brand Lead, Unilever Sri Lanka. Mr. Dulinda Perera, CEO and Founder of IKON conducted the session on Public Speaking.



Visualizing Personnel Excellence" Program



The Student Association of HRM organized the "Visualizing Personnel Excellence" workshop, which was held at the old faculty board room on 8th July 2019 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. This workshop was conducted by one of the products of the HRM Department, Mrs. Andrea Jayatilleka, Coach Masters Academy Sri Lanka, Assistant Director Training and Director Smart Quest Executive Coach. This workshop supported to create an awareness of what really matters to students and how they can bring out their best in meeting with the challenges that they will face in the corporate world. Second and third year students of the Department of Human Resource Management participated at this workshop.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

EGO-2019

The Department of Human Resource Management and the Student Association of Human Resource Management proudly presented 'EGO-2019' which included a series of events such as CV Clinic, Mock Interview, and Business Forum.



Sankranthiya 2019

The annual get-together of the Public Management students, "Sankranthiya" was organized by the second year students together with the Student Association of Public Administration on 8th June 2019 at the University playground. It was a full day event consisting of several activities such as a cricket match, team building games, fun games and a musical evening to build solidarity among the students through entertainment. The students representing all the parts of the degree program, the academic and non-academic members of the Department of Public Administration participated at the event.



Neophytes 2019: Welcome and Going-down Function of the Department of Business Economics



"Neophytes 2019", the Annual Welcome and Going-down function of the Department of Business Economics was held on 9th August 2019 from 6.00 pm onwards at Paradise Inn, Piliyandala.

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Dinesha Siriwardhane, Head of the Department and other lecturers of the department graced this event along with the undergraduates from the three batches and the immediately passed-out graduates of the department. The purpose of this function was to welcome the second year students to the department and to celebrate the successful completion of the degree of the graduates who passed out from the department in 2019.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Ms. Dharani Abeysinghe Receives Prof. M.U.S. Sultanbawa Award for Research in Chemistry

Ms. Dharani Abeysinghe, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura is the recipient of the Prof. M. U. S. Sultanbawa Award for Research in Chemistry 2019, awarded by the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon. This award was for the paper titled "A novel immunoanalytical method for obesity biomarker detection using antibody functionalized silver nanoparticles" presented at the annual sessions 2019.

Her work was supervised by Dr. N.M.S. Sirimuthu of the Department of Chemistry and Prof. P.P.R. Perera of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

With prevalence of obesity alarmingly high, many populations seek its early detection in order to prevent the progression of the disease. However, the issue of early and accurate detection of obesity being much costly, this novel method addresses much of the drawbacks in current clinical settings.

This prestigious award is granted to the best research paper presented at the annual sessions of Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon for work carried out and completed in Sri Lanka. The award is being made from the Professor M. U. S. Sultanbawa Felicitation Fund, which was established in recognition of the unique, distinguished and significant contribution made to the cause of Science, Chemistry, Education and Research in Sri Lanka by Vidya Jyothi Prof. Mohamed Uvais Sidddeek Sultanbawa.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Business Economics Undergraduate wins the Most Famous Mobile Photography Award at SAVISKARA



Mr. Niluka Pamesh, a second year undergraduate of the Department of Business Economics won the Most Famous Mobile Photography Award at the inter-university photography competition organized under "Saviskara", the talent and technological show of the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Outstanding Student Achievement at JESA 2019

Mr. Asel Devjith Hettiarachchi, a final year undergraduate of the Department of Business Economics was the 2nd runner-up for the Best Team Player Award at the J'pura Employability Skills Awards (JESA) 2019. This awards ceremony organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University was held on the 20th August, 2019 at the Hotel Golden Rose, Boralesgamuwa. JESA was designed as a platform to recognize students of the University who were able to excel in various other avenues and values sought after by the corporate sector while pursuing their academic studies.



Ms. Naduni Gunawadane won two awards at J'pura Employability Skills Awards – JESA 2019

Naduni Gunawadane of the Department of Entrepreneurship won the Best Team Player Award and the BESA - FMSC Award (BEST EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AWARD – Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce) at the J'pura Employability Skills Awards – JESA 2019 awarding ceremony held on the 20th of August 2019 at Golden Rose Hotel organized by the Career Skills Development Society (CSDS) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Mr. Y. Imran Research Student, Dept. of Anatomy, ICIBN- USJ was awarded 1st Prize for Best Research Poster Presentation at IBRO-APRC 2019- India

Mr. Yoonus Imran, Research Student, Department of Anatomy, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience, has secured the best research poster presentation award and a first prize shield at the International Brain Research Organization- Asia Pacific Regional Committee (IBRO-APRC) Associate School of Neuroscience on Neurological Disorders at Mohan Lal Sukhadia University-India (<https://ibro.org/events/2019-08-06/>) by competing with 40 candidates from IBRO-APRC region.

The title of the poster presentation is: *"Cognitive Impairment Difference in Parkinsonism, Huntington's disease and Spinocerebellar Ataxia: Sri Lankan Study"*



Prof. Noel Buckley, Professor of Neurobiology, University of Oxford giving the award to Yoonus Imran, student of ICIBN-USJ

Research Scholars under the supervision of Prof. Ranil de Silva, The Director, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neuroscience (ICIBN- USJ) have received international awards for their research poster presentations since 2016,

1. Best poster presentation award from National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan in 2016. AIST Japan ranked as the 5th in the top innovators globally by Thomson Reuters. (<https://www.reuters.com/innovation/most-innovative-institutions-2017/compare#>)
2. Two awards for best poster presentation from The Asia Pacific Societies for Neurochemistry (APSN) in 2016. (<https://www.sjp.ac.lk/news/best-poster-presentation-awards-for-the-two-postgraduate-students/>)
3. Best poster presentation award and a gold medal from National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan in 2017. (<https://www.sjp.ac.lk/news/mr-nalaka-wijekoon-won-the-best-poster-presentation-award-and-a-gold-medal-at-japan/>)
4. Best poster presentation award International Brain Research Organization- Asia Pacific Regional Committee (IBRO-APRC) in 2017.



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