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SAVIDU

Newsletter
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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The quarterly newsletter carrying the vibrant academic, cultural and communal life of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

1 Conferences and Research

01. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (IRCHSS) 2015





The International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) 2015 was held successfully at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, on 3rd of December 2015 at the university premises.

The theme for IRCHSS - 2015 was "Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Reality: Success through Synergy." In a new move, the 4th International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) conference took two divisions as parallel symposia, 'Reconciliation and Intellectual Spectrum' and 'The legacy of Pali: Perceptions and Insights'.

High national and international participation was seen at the conference. The chief guest of the event was the Most Venerable Professor Bellanwila Wimalaratana Nayake Thero, Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Guest of Honour was eminent Professor Vini Vitharana. Taking the contemporary social issues on reconciliation into consideration, Ven. Bellanwila Wimalarathana Thero in his address, stated that reconciliation should be for people in all walks of life and academics play a major role in taking these ideas among the public.

The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Rowland S. Laura who brought forth interesting facts on human communication and the quality of life in an age where machines have started to dominate society.

Two guest speakers, Prof. Rajiva Wijesinghe and Prof. T. Thanaraj, participated at the symposium on reconciliation. A considerable number of research papers were discussed at the technical sessions during the afternoon, where academics shared knowledge on a variety of subjects relating to the fields of humanities and social sciences.

The conference lasted the entire day and was concluded with an award ceremony and a cultural show.

Pali symposium at IRCHSS 2015

The Pali Symposium was held as a satellite symposium at the Board Room of FHSS. The keynote speech was given by the Most Venerable Prof. Dr. Khammai Dhammasami, faculty member, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, Founder of Shan State Buddhist University (SSBU), Myanmar, Professor of Pali, Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Myanmar.

The chair of the symposium was the Most Venerable Prof. Kotapitiye Rahula thera, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya and Professor in Pali, Dept. of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya.

There were more than 100 participants representing Myanmar, Vietnam, Korea, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Hongkong and China.

Twenty speakers presented their research papers in the Pali language.

02. The 12th International Conference on Business Management (ICBM) 2015



The 12th International Conference on Business Management (ICBM) 2015, an annual research conference organised by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, concluded on a high note, providing a great platform for researchers, educators, learners, academics, practitioners and policymakers both in the local and international arena to share knowledge among each other. This year's conference was based on a contemporary theme, 'Future Sustainability, Governance and Ethics,' which focused on significant managerial concerns pertaining to academia and practitioners in the corporate and public sector organisations. The objectives of the conference were to promote and publish relevant and current ideas on sustainability, governance and ethics, to disseminate knowledge on the theme 'Future Sustainability, Governance and Ethics' to a wider community and to enhance relationships and build a network between academics and practitioners.



The keynote speaker was Prof. Ferdinand A. Gul, Head, Accounting and Finance and Director of Research of the School of Business, Monash University, while Prof. Rohana Kuruppu CEO of Brandix College of Clothing Technology and Professor of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT was the Chief Guest of the ICBM 2015. The key events of ICBM 2015 were the Industry Forum Session, the Academic Research Session and the Higher Degree Research Symposium.

03. Sri Lanka Economics Research Conference 2015



The Sri Lanka Economics Research Conference was held on the 20th and 21st of November 2015 at Hotel Janaki, Colombo 05. A timely theme was set for the conference; "Inclusive Growth towards Economic Transformation". The two day conference began with an Inauguration Ceremony graced by Prof. P. S. M. Gunaratne, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission; Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura who was also the Guest of Honor; Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies as the keynote speaker; Dr. U Anura Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce took up the Secretariat of the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE) for the year 2015.

The Inauguration Ceremony was followed by an Economic Forum which was the limelight of the evening. The Economic Forum featured heads and representatives of the government, international and national organizations. The well-known economist, Dr. Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, represented the government. International representation at the panel was done by a Senior Economist from the World Bank and the Residential Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). At the same time an Assistant Governor represented the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Furthermore, former Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce represented the commercial sector of the country while poverty and rural development issues were covered by a Senior Economist of the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA). This Economic forum was moderated by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. The Forum was followed by a question and answer session where timely and critical questions were posed by the audience to the panelists.

04. 20th International Forestry and Environment Symposium





The 20th International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2015 was held on 16th and 17th October at Club Hotel Dolphin, Wayikkal. This year's theme was 'Sharing knowledge towards a greener future' and many local and foreign researchers presented their work based on the several key areas of research.

The International Forestry and Environment Symposium is one of the prime events organized by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science. This year's symposium was chaired by Dr. Prasanthi Gunawardene and was coordinated by Dr. Daham Jayawardene. Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge graced the inauguration ceremony as the chief guest.

05. First National Symposium on Estate Management and Valuation





The First National Symposium on Estate Management and Valuation organized by the Department of Estate Management and Valuation was held on 05th November 2015 at the departmental premises. The theme of the symposium was "The Contribution of Real Estate Management and Valuation on Socio-Economic Development of the Country".

The Chief Guest of the Symposium was Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University and the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. U. Anura Kumara participated as the Guest of Honor. Emeritus Professor Chithra Weddikkara was the Keynote Speaker while Mrs. N. C. Wickramaarachchi (Senior Lecturer) was the Conference Chair.

2 Contribution to National Development



01. Prof. R.L.S. Fernando named Secretary General of NAPSIPAG



Prof. R. L. S. Fernando, Head of the Department of Public Administration, was recently instated as the Secretary General of Network of Asia Pacific Schools and Institutes of Public Administration and Governance (NAPSIPAG). She has had a long term association with the network and has worked dedicatedly through out which resulted in her earning this recognition. Prof. Fernando has previously won the Administrative Reforms Reward for her Outstanding Contribution to NAPSIPAG in 2013 at their 10th anniversary conference.

The Department of Public Administration of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has been a member of NAPSIPAG from 2014. NAPSIPAG is a cooperative body with a vision to improve the quality of governance and public administration in the Asia - Pacific region.

02. LIFETIME AWARD for Emeritus Professor Gita Fernando





Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, Gita Fernando received a "Lifetime Award" from the Sri Lanka Chamber of Pharmaceutical Industry (SLCPI) on 19th October 2015.

This award is in appreciation of her exemplary services rendered towards uplifting the pharmaceutical industry.

3 Awards

01. President's Awards for Scientific Publication for fourteen awardees from Sri Jayewardenepura University



Fourteen researchers from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura were awarded at the recently held President's Awards for Scientific Publication. The event which took place at Water's Edge, Battaramulla on 18th November 2015, was graced by His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, the President of Sri Lanka, and the Hon Susil Premajayantha, Minister for Science, Technology & Research.

The awards ceremony organized by the National Research Council, is the country's most prestigious of its kind in the field of science. Through these awards the council hopes to promote and support scientists in Sri Lanka. Selection is done from a wide range of categories allowing the expected encouragement to be received by all local scientists. Following are the awardees from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura: Prof. S. Yasawardene, Dr. G. N. Malavige, Prof. S. D. Jayaratne, Prof. Antoinette Perera, Prof. S. Ranasinghe, Dr. R. P. K. C. M. Ranasinghe, Dr. S. S. P. Warnakulasooriya, Dr. R. J. Peiris-John, Dr. C. Jeewandara, Mr. K. M. L. Alles, Ms. A. Kamaladasa, Mr. L. Gomes, Mr. K. Suriyakumara.

02. Prof. Opatha receives Award for Best Book in Malaysia



The book titled "Enhancing Your Personal Q" written by Senior Prof. H.H.D.N.P. Opatha of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (as the main author) and Associate Prof. Lim Kong Teong of University Utara, Malaysia was selected as the Best Book under The General/Common Book (Motivational) Category of the National Book Award 2015 awarded by the National Book Development Foundation, Malaysia.

The award ceremony was held on 25 November 2015 at Putra World Trade Centre, KL. The Director of UUM Press represented the authors to receive the award.

The book was designed to provide a systematic and rational understanding of PQ, both conceptual and application-oriented. It focuses on personal character, personal management and personal key success, factors which are the three dimensions of PQ. The book is an essential reference to everyone who wishes to become a good professional in any field.

03. "The Best Research Student Award 2015" at Victoria University, Australia awarded to Dr. Wasantha Perera

Dr. Wasantha Perera has been awarded "The Best Research Student Award 2015" by the Victoria University in Australia. The award was officially announced and presented by the College of Business of the Victoria University in August 2015.



This award was given in recognition of Dr. Perera's outstanding achievements in his PhD research titled "The Evaluation of Market Performance of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and Its Determinants: Evidence from Australian IPOs".

04 "Speech Master 2015" - Medical student Randunu wins third place

The "Speech Master 2015" organized by the Gavel Club based in the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura saw its much anticipated finale on 25th October. The Speech Master contest aimed at bringing out the best in public speech skills and leadership skills of the undergraduates and open to both public and private universities saw 50 contestants competing at the semifinals and 10 at the grand finals held at the Reading Hall of the Sumangala Building.

J'pura can boast of a winner as the 3rd place was won by Randunu Dissanayake of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The first place was bagged by Dahami Keshia Fonseka of Royal Institute while the second place was taken by Samadhi Nisansala Nawalage of the College of Chemical Sciences.





4 News

01. New entrance gate of Jayewardenepura University officially opened



The new entrance to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was ceremoniously opened by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge on the 26th of November 2015. The opening took place at an auspicious time amidst the chanting of pirith. A large gathering of university staff attended the ceremony. The university name board and the logo were simultaneously unveiled, making the new entrance immensely attractive.

The scheme to build a new and decorated entrance is one of the 37 projects included in the Township Project of the University, and is the first to be completed. The entire design and construction took about one year to finish. Designing was done by Dr. Janaka Wijesundara, while the construction was handled by Kemyo (Pvt) Ltd. The Vice Chancellor addressed the gathering and remarked that this moment is significant for the University, and mentioned Prof. Krishan Deheragoda and the Project Director Dr. U. Anura Kumara as the key persons behind its success.









02. SIDCER Recognition for the Faculty of Medical Sciences

The 15th International Conference of the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific (FERCAP) was held at the Sakamoto Campus, University of Nagasaki, Japan from 23rd to 25th November 2015 and the Ethics Review Committee of the Faculty of Medical Science, USJ received its re-recognition certificate at the SIDCER recognition ceremony held on 24th November 2015.

In 2012 ERC FMS underwent an external evaluation by a team of surveyors from the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific (FERCAP) under its Strategic Initiative for Development of Capacity in Ethical Review (SIDCER). SIDCER provides the international community with means to build in-country human participant protection programs and a way to measure and provide accountability regarding the quality and effectiveness of ethical reviews worldwide.

The Ethics Review Committee (ERC) of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) USJ was established in 1995 to provide ethical oversight to research done by staff and students of FMS. The committee consists of affiliated and non-affiliated members from diverse specialties and scientific and non- scientific members with necessary expertise to evaluate the different types of protocols submitted to it.

The award was received by Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge.



USJP academic as Lead surveyor for SIDCER/FERCAP Survey of Yenepoya University, Mangalore, India

Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge was the Lead Surveyor for the initial survey of Yenepoya University Ethics Committee, Managlore, India under the SIDCER programme of FERCAP which was held from 14th to 16th November 2015.

This was preceded by a training programme for the survey trainees for which she was a trainer.



03. Dr. Ramya Pathiraja wins FIGO Award 2015

Dr. Ramya Pathiraja, Head and Senior Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medical Sciences was given the FIGO Award from the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics in Recognition of Women Obstetricians/Gynaecologists at the XXI FIGO World Congress in Vancouver, Canada on Thursday 8th October 2015.





04. Vidyodaya Literary Festival 2015

The Vidyodaya Literary Festival and awarding ceremony organized by the Department of Sinhala and Mass-Communication was held on 22nd September at the Sri Sumangala Hall. The key note address was given by Professor Desmond Mallikaarachchi , University of Peradeniya. The Chair was held by Professor Emeritus Kusuma Karunaratna.

The Vidyodaya awards:

- Novel – "Mahasami" by Sepali Mayadunne
- Short story - "Mallige Maranaya" – Gamini Fernando.
- Poetry: Joint Award – Kandu Mudunaka Samitha B. Atuwabandala / Nidi nathi nirmala asaka aggissaka kandulaka Manjula Wediwardene
- Academic Work – Prof W. Balagalla "Bhashi Sannivedana" (Verbal Communication – Semantrics and Pragmatics)





05. International Neuroscience Workshop

For the first time in Sri Lanka, a rare opportunity for those engaged in neuroscience related fields came in the form of the seven day neuroscience workshop, which began on the 14th of December at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura featuring academics from a number of foreign universities as well as foreign students. Several symposia were held to discuss natural products that enhance brain health, movement disorders and innovative therapeutics for the brain. Discussion was also held on double doctoral opportunities for postgraduate students in neuroscience.

The main focus of the workshop is on Sri Lankan natural products that can protect the brain from a line of diseases. Research has showed that natural products can do a great deal more than any medicine that has been used so far. Products such as tea, cinnamon and pepper are known for their impact on the improvement on the brain. As Sri Lanka is rich in many of these products, the workshop has brought academics and industrialists under one roof to talk about the possibilities to take them into global markets as medically effective natural products.





06. Fangshan Stone Inscription and Mahayana Tripitaka donated to the university library

The Life Care Education Society & Buddhist Association of China/Taiwan/Malaysia presented the Mahayana Tripitaka to three significant institutions, namely, the Sri Jayawardenepura University, the Pali & Buddhist University and the Bellanwila Temple , on 6th November. The presentation took place at the Bellanwila Temple of which the chief guest was the Minister of Justice & Buddha Sasana Hon. Wijeydasa Rajapakse. Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana Thero, Deputy Incumbent of Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya and Chancellor, USJP, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, USJP, Ven. Prof. Gallelle Sumanasiri Thero, Vice Chancellor, Pali & Buddhist University, Ven. Guo Jiang Thero, Director, Fangshan Buddhist Stone Promotion Committee, Ven. Chang Chi Thero, Religious Advisor, Life Care Education Society and other distinguished guests also witnessed the occasion.

The Fangshan Stone Inscription and the Mahayana Tripitaka, are national treasures of China and the move to present them to Sri Lanka will strengthen the relations between China and Sri Lanka. Although currently there are not many Chinese scholars in Sri Lanka, it is expected that the developing liaison between the two countries and the soaring popularity in learning the Chinese language will lead to the frequent use of these volumes.

The donation was coordinated by Ven. Guo Jiang, Ven. Chang Chi and Mr. Prasanna Hennayake.



07. Jayawardenepura Undergraduates receive schoarships from the Canada Alumni Association

The annual awarding of scholarships by the Jayawardenepura – Canada Alumni Association was held on 3rd November 2015 at the University premises.

The ceremony was attended by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Registrar Mr. K. Gnanasiri Britto, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Dr. Anura Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management & Commerce, Mrs. Thushari Malkanthi, Senior Assistant Registrar, Mr. Udeni Alawattage, Representative of the J'pura – Canada Alumni Association and staff of the Welfare Division. A group of selected students were offered scholarships based on merit.





08. MoU Between USJ and University of Western Ontario (Canada)

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) and the University of Western Ontario (UWO) of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 26th of October 27, 2015. The objective of the MOU is to establish long-term research collaboration in fields which are compatible with the orientation of both universities. This will especially allow graduate students from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to travel to Canada for a pre-determined period of time and continue their postgraduate studies which will lead into the awarding of a dual-PhD upon completion. This MOU will also facilitate researchers to travel between the two universities in order to improve exposure and sharing of knowledge and information. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Ranil De Silva, Director of the World Class Project and Dr. Akila Subasinghe, a Senior Lecturer from the proposed Faculty of Engineering represented USJP on the signed MOU.



09. MoU signed to make the 'Vidyodaya Journal of Science' the journal partner for BioTech 2016

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the University and the International Institute of Knowledge Management (Pvt) Ltd. (TIIKM), on 29th October 2015 in view of the BioTech 2016 conference to be held on 12 – 14 January 2016. BioTech 2016 is the first international conference on Bio-science and Biotechnology. With the MOU, the 'Vidyodaya Journal of Science' will be the journal partner for this international conference. USJP will contribute a special edition of the journal for BioTech 2016.
The MOU was signed by the Vice Chancellor Prof.Sampath Amaratunge on behalf of the university while Prof. Sudantha Liyanage signed for the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The Chairman of TIIKM, Oshadee Withanawasam signed on the institution's behalf.



10. USJ signs two MOUs with Mount Royal University (Canada) and Kyoto University (Japan)

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) and Mount Royal University (MRU) of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will promote international educational and research collaboration between the two institutions. Prof. Sampath Ameratunge, Vice Chancellor University of USJP and former Head/Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Prof. M.W. Jayesundara signed on behalf of USJP and Dr. David Docherty, President, Mount Royal University and Dr. Kathy Shailer Provost and Vice President, Academic, signed on behalf of MRU.

Under this agreement fifteen anthropology undergraduate students from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, MRU will visit USJP in 2016 for field work and they will be hosted by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, USJP. The local co-ordinator of this programme is Dr. Charmalie Nahallage and for MRU, Prof. Samanti Kulatilake.

Another Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Primate Research Institute (PRI), Kyoto University, Japan. The MoU is for Scientific Cooperation between the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Primate Research Institute. Prof. Sampath Ameratunge, Vice Chancellor University of USJP signed on behalf of USJP and Prof. Hirohisa Hirai, Director, Primate Research Institute signed on behalf of (PRI). Dr. Charmalie Nahallage will once again be the local coordinator and Prof. Michael Huffman, Department of Social Systems Evolution, Primate Research Institute, will be the Japanese counterpart . The initial MOU was signed in 2005 and was effective for ten years and this time again it was extended for another 10 years.



11. Center for Sustainability, USJP joins hands with the University of Western Australia for waste recycling educational program

The University of Western Australia, together with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Moratuwa and the University of Jaffna in collaboration with the organization 'Waste for Life', aim to develop a unique capacity building educational program that supports the development of novel community-based composite waste recycling and manufacturing businesses, positively contributing to local economies and environmental health, specifically clean air, water and sanitation.

The project Manager Prof. Caroline Baillie discussed with Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Vice Chancellor of the University about future plans that will protract this collaboration. The Center for Sustainability (CFS) is incorporated in this project representing the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.





12. Geography Department academic exchange programme with Parwathibai Chowgule College, India

The Department Geography of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized an academic exchange programme, in connection with the MoU previously signed between the university and the Parwathibai Chowgule College of Art & Science, India. A delegation of students and officials from the Parwathibai Chowgule College participated at the event.

The Indian delegation were welcomed by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. The Registrar, Mr. G. Britto, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mr. Lasantha Nawarathna, Head, Department of Geography, Prof. Sunethra Tennakoon and other staff members of the department were also present. Prof. Anaga Dicholkar lead the Indian students who took part in a conference where 10 research papers were presented.



13. Dept of Computer Science gets eMC Open Source Medical Record System from ICTA

The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka launched e-Medical Center (eMC) at the International Conference, eHealth Asia held on 13th and 14th October 2015, Cinnamon Grand, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

e-Medical Center (HHIMS LITE) is a free and open source health information system descended from HHIMS (Hospital Health Information Management System) especially designed for use in private practice. This includes an Electronic Medical Record System, Patient Registration and a Pharmacy Management System. The system has been developed by the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka in partnership with the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Kegalle. The system was adapted from a WHO-designed database. The latest release of eMC was received by Dr. Shyamalee Samaranayake and Dr. Prasad M. Jayaweera of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura at eHealth Asia 2015.





14. Pradeep Ratnayake performs at the Jeonju International Sori Festival, Korea

Pradeep Ratnayake, Head, Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts and Masahiko Satoh, distinguished Jazz pianist from Japan, performed at the 2015 Jeonju Int'l Sori Festival held in Korea on Saturday the 10th of October.

The 2012 Jeonju Int'l Sori Festival has been chosen as one of '25 of the Best World Music Festivals' by Songlines, the professional British world music magazine.

The duo also gave a concert for the EBS (Education Broadcast System) in Korea, showcasing the unique coming together of the sitar and the piano. Pradeep Ratnayake also held a workshop on the sitar and his work with Sri Lankan folk music at the festival.









15. "Better Networking" Staff Development Workshop by the SDC

A staff development workshop, organized by the Staff Development Center, was held at Hotel Berjaya, Mt.Lavinia, on 29th September 2015. The workshop duly titled "Better Networking" was intended for the heads of departments, with the aim of discussing administration problems and strategies. The workshop was addressed by three principal speakers, Prof. D. A. Tantrigoda, the Registrar and the Bursar of the university.

16. Workshop to Produce High Quality Human Resource by the Department of Entrepreneurship



The Department of Entrepreneurship invited Senior Advisor, Adjunct Professor Arvo Juhani Nieminen of Lahti University of Applied Sciences, Finland, for an academic visit to the Department from 11th of November to 16th of November 2015. He was a resource person for the three-day workshop conducted for the students of Masters of Entrepreneurship program titled "Global Business Management and Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship" on November13th to 15th at Hibiscus Beach Hotel. Lecturers of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Dr. Janak Kumarasinghe (Coordinator, MBA Program) also participated in the event.

17. A.C.E. KOCH MEMORIAL ORATION 2015



Prof. Sharaine Fernando, Professor in Physiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura delivered the A.C.E. Koch Memorial Oration 2015 on "Lead and Cadmium as Male Reproductive Toxicants; the Known and Unknown" at the New Building Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo on 28th November 2015 at 4.30 pm.

18. Guest lecture on 'A new class of anti-cancer agents: design, synthesis and biological studies' for B. Pharm students

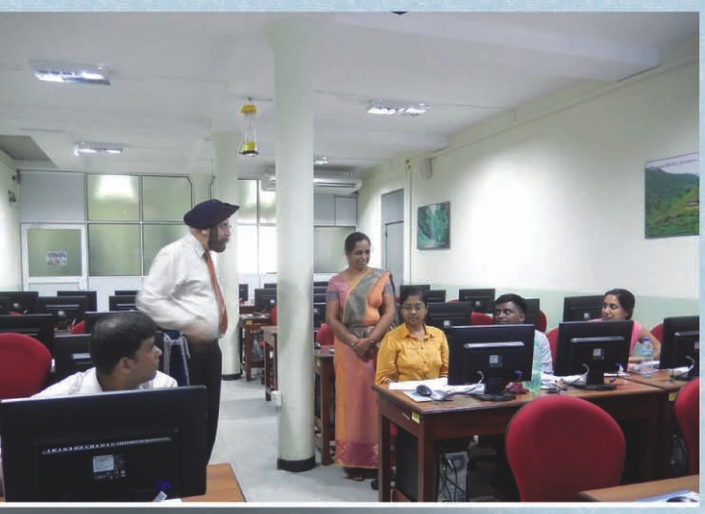




Prof. L. M. V Tillekeratne, Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Toledo, USA delivered a guest lecture on "A new class of anti-cancer agents: design, synthesis and biological studies' for B.Pharm undergraduates on 4th December 2015.

Prof. L. M. V Tillekeratne also shared his expertise on Medicinal Chemistry with the B. Pharm academic staff during the discussion held before the guest lecture.

19. Workshop on Publishing in International Journals



A workshop was organized by the library in collaboration with the Staff Development Center on "Publishing in International Journals – You Can Do It!" on 18th November 2015 and was held at the Accounting Resource Center. The resource person was Dr. Diljit Singh, Retired Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University Malaya, Malaysia. This workshop was aimed at early career researchers and doctoral students who have almost completed their research studies and are planning to submit their work for publication.

20. Council Members of the Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT)



President Elect:
Emeritus Professor
Gita Fernando



Treasurer:
Dr. Nirmala Wijekoon



Editor:
Dr. Chandanie
Wanigatunge



Council member:
Dr. Pradeepa
Jayawardane

The Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT) was established recently. The inauguration and induction of Founder President Professor Laal Jayakody was held on 3rd October 2015 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Members of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura who are Council members of SLACPT are given above.





21. Emeritus Professor M.W. Wickramarachchi Felicitated

The Alumni Association of Accounting (AAA) of the Department of Accounting (DA) held a ceremony to felicitate its founder, Emeritus Professor M. W. Wickramarachchi at Committee Room A of BMICH on 15.10.2015. To coincide with the event, AAA launched 'Professor M.W. Wickramarachchi Student Development Fund' for the benefit of present and future generations of students of the DA. This fund, built through the contributions of alumni members of DA will be utilised for skill development and welfare activities of undergraduates of the department. Further, the AAA website was also officially launched at this ceremony. The keynote speech of the ceremony was delivered by Prof. Narada Warnasooriya, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This event was also attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the Librarian and staff members of DA along with a large gathering of alumni members.

22. Imminent Marketer 2015 – inter-university marketing competition concludes





As a pioneer department of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, by understanding the current ground realities and the expectations of the corporate sector as well as the nation, the Department of Marketing Management of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce created a smooth platform in order to fill up the unfilled gaps of the Sri Lankan higher education system by taking the challenge of giving a shared practical business experience to the university undergraduates of Sri Lanka in the form of an inter university marketing competition on Saturday, the 07th of November, 2015 at Concord Grand Hotel, Dehiwala.

"Imminent Marketer 2015", the 'Voyage for ultimate supremacy' was held accordingly with the participation of 10 island-wide state and private universities, which included a series of marketing tasks, followed by an awarding ceremony, where the winning teams and the participants were awarded with trophies and certificates respectively.

The Vice Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Head of Department of Marketing Management, Dr.(Mrs) Asoka Malkanthie, the Country Manager of Godrej Sri Lanka, Mr.Anuragh Jein and several other guests attended this event making the day valuable to all the participants as well as to the organizers of the event.



23. Borrowing Laptops from the University Library

The library started lending laptops to Jayewardenepura University students for use in the library. The beginning of this service was marked on 9 November by the lending of a laptop to a student by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce and the Librarian Dr. Nayana Wijayasundara were present at the occassion at the Main Library. An IT Help Desk is arranged to provide all the instructions on the operation of the laptops.

24. Dr. Roshan Ajward appointed member ACCA



Dr. Roshan Ajward has been nominated and appointed as a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' (ACCA) Global Forum for Ethics. The Global Forum has been created to contribute to ACCA's technical and research work on issues facing business and the accountancy profession. This Forum has initiated important and interesting discussions surrounding the world of ethics, and also provided valuable expert opinion to ACCA regarding consultation responses.

25. Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake appointed General Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka



Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake, Senior Lecturer, B. Pharm Degree Program, Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was appointed as the General Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka for the year 2015/2016 at the Annual General Meeting of the society held on 2nd August 2015.

26. POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

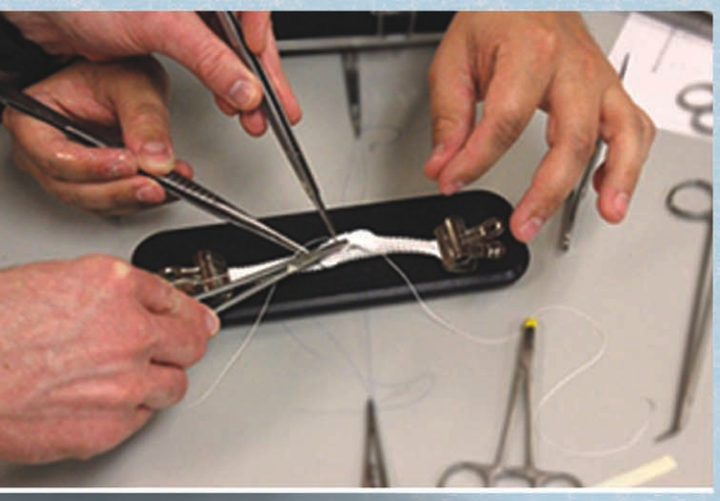


A three day intensive course was conducted by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura covering exam techniques and practice, practical skills and drills, communication skills and career guidance from 25th – 27th November 2015.
The course was jointly done by an invited faculty from the United Kingdom and local faculty.

27. MOU between Jayawardenepura University and the Xcendant software company



A new software developed by Xcendant (pvt) Ltd. was introduced to the Sri Jayawardenepura University on the 29th of September, 2015. Xcendant, a software development company for both local and foreign markets, have chosen the university to try out their brand new product. The company and the university are to work closely together to further develop the software while it is being used in daily tasks. The trial time stands till the 29th February, 2016.
In view of the agreements between the parties mentioned for the use of the software, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and Mr. Joson Chokatte, Director, Xcendant (pvt) Ltd. It was witnessed by Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences for the university and Mr. Indika Kularatne, on the part of Xcendant . Prof. Ananda Edirisuriya and Ms. Radhi de Silva, Secretary of Xcendant (pvt) Ltd. were also present at the occasion.



28. Surgical Skills Training Course, Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons

A Surgical Clinical Skills Training Programme for surgical postgraduates organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons (SLAUS) was held on 6th November 2015 from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Clinical Skills Laboratory, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This programme was conducted as a joint scientific activity between the SLAUS and the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.





Breast cancer research no longer just a dream for Dal AC master's student

Emma Goldhart

29. Wasundara on news in Canada

Wasundara Fernando, a lecturer (probationary) in the B. Pharm Degree Program, Faculty of Medical Sciences and pursuing her Ph.D. studies (Cancer Biology) at the Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada under the supervision of Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe and Dr. David Hoskin was recently featured in TV programs, newspapers and electronic media in Canada for her research findings. Her research explores the efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of a novel flavonoid fatty acid derivative (PZ-DHA) to treat metastatic breast cancer. Wasundara was also awarded a cancer research traineeship award from Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute in Halifax, Nova Scotia inrecognition of her research findings.

30. ඉතිහාසය හා පුරා විද්‍යා අංශය
රජගලතැන්නෙන් ඉතිහාස සාක්කි මතු කර ගනී

අම්පාර ඓතිහාසික රජගලතැන්න පුරාවිද්‍යා භූමියේ කැණීම් වලදී ඉපැරණි මුද්‍රාවක්, දේවරූපයක් සහ ඇතකුගේ රූපයක් හමු වී ඇති බව ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ඉතිහාස සහ පුරා විද්‍යා අංශයේ මහාචාර්ය කරුණාසේන හෙට්ටිආරච්චි මහතා පැවසීය.

ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ඉතිහාස සහ පුරාවිද්‍යා අංශය සහ පුරාවිද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව එක්ව 2012 වසරේ ආරම්භ කරන ලද රජගලතැන්න පුදබිමේ කැනීම් වලට මේ වන විට වසර 03 ක් ගතව තිබේ. මෙම කැනීම් වලදී වැදගත් ස්ථාන මෙන්ම වැදගත් ඓතිහාසික කරුණු බොහොමයක් ඉස්මතු කර ගැනීමට හැකිවූ බවද මහාචාර්ය කරුණාසේන හෙට්ටිආරච්චි මහතා කීය.

අවසන් වරට හමුවූ මුද්‍රාව සහ දේවරූපය දාන ශාලා ගොඩනැගිල්ල යැයි සැකකරන කැනීම් කරන ස්ථානයේදී හමුව තිබේ. මෙම ප්‍රතිමාවක්‍රිස්තු වර්ෂ 8,9 සියවසේ වීමට හැකි බවද ඔහු පැවසීය. අඩි එක හමාරක් පමණ ඇති මෙම රූපයේ හිසේ සිට දණහිස දක්වා කොටස පමණක් හමු වී ඇත.

දිව්‍යමය ස්වභාවයක් ගන්නා මෙම රූපයේ හිස ඉතාමත් අලංකාරව පිහිටා තිබේ. අත්වල බාහු කැඩී ගොස් ඇති අතර අත්දෙක ඉතිරිව තිබේ. එම අත්දෙක මැද මල් පොකුරක් තිබෙන අතර රූපයේ යට කොටසේ දුහුල් දෝනියක් හැඳ තිබෙනවා. මෙහි සමස්ථ ලක්ෂණ සහ ලංකාවේ වෙනත් හමුවූ රූප සහ සැසඳීමේදී කිසියම් දිව්‍යමය රූපයක් මෙයින් ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇති බවද මහාචාර්ය කරුණාසේන හෙට්ටිආරච්චි මහතා සඳහන් කළේය.

බුදුන්වහන්සේට හෝ බුදුන්වහන්සේගේ ධාතූන් වහන්සේලා වන්දනා මාන කිරීමට පැමිණෙන ප්‍රධාන දෙවි කෙනෙක් ආකාරයට මෙම නිර්මාණය කර තිබෙනවා. ලංකාවේ හමුවන මැටියෙන් කරන ලද ප්‍රතිමා අතර අතිශය වැදගත් අවධානය යොමු කළ හැකි පිළිමයක් බවට මෙම පිළිමය හඳුන්වා දියහැකි බවද ඒ මහතා පැවසීය.

මෙයට අමතරව ඉතා දුර්ලභ මුද්‍රාවක් ද මෙහි කරන ලද කැනීම් වලදී හමුව ඇති අතර ඇතුළු නුවර, අභයගිරිය, රුහුණේ සහ යාපනය අර්ධද්වීපයේ කරන කැනීම් වලදී මෙවැනි මුද්‍රා හමුව තිබේ.









5 Announcements

01. Annual Scientific Sessions 2016 Faculty of Medical Sciences



The Annual Scientific Sessions - 2016 of the Faculty of Medical Sciences will be held on 7th and 8th April 2016. The inauguration ceremony will be held on 7th April 2016 followed by sessions on 8th April 2016. This time the sessions will be organized in collaboration with the Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital. The research committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences are now calling for orations and abstracts for which the deadlines will be 15th December and 1st February 2016 respectively.

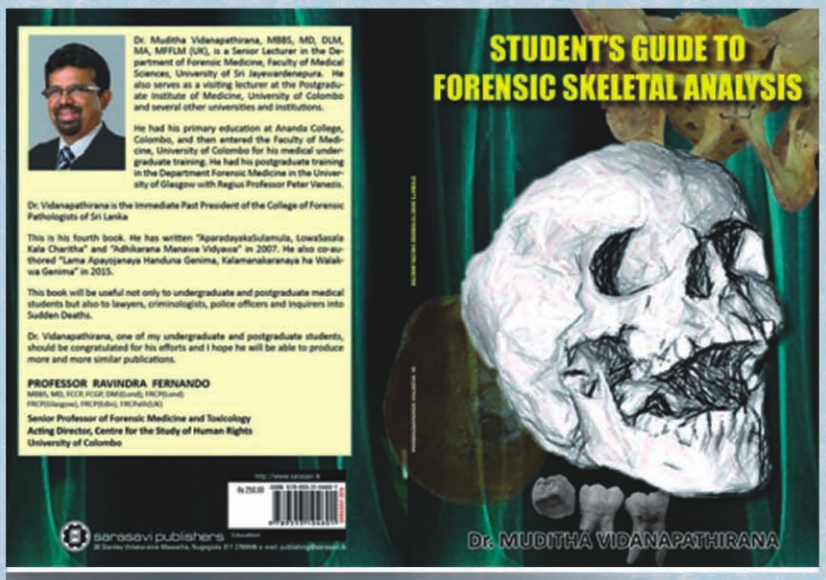
6 Publications



01. Organizational Behaviour by Prof Opatha

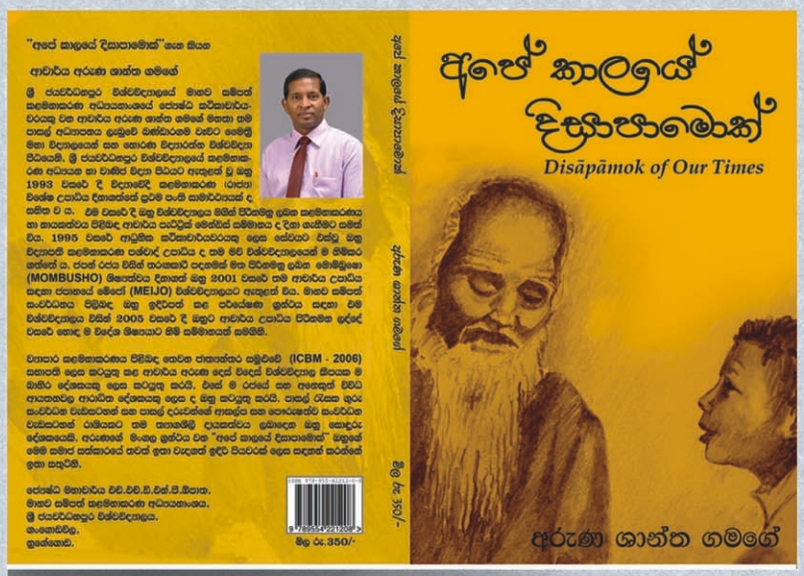
Prof. Opatha presenting the book to
Vice Chancellor Prof.Sampath Amaratunge.

Senior Professor H. H. D. N. P Opatha has written and published a new book titled Organizational Behaviour: the human side of work. A mammoth and herculean work, it is the first Sri Lankan English Medium textbook on Organizational Behaviour (OB) published in 2015, its 14 chapters providing a systematic and rational understanding of OB, both conceptual understanding and application-oriented understanding to the reader. There wasn't a single textbook on OB in the English Medium relating to the Sri Lankan context which could be used by the Sri Lankan student, university teacher and the manager. This book fills this gap to a significant extent.



02. "Students' Guide to Forensic Skeletal Analysis" by Dr. Muditha Vidanapathirana

The latest publication by Dr. Muditha Vidanapathirana, "Students' Guide to Forensic Analysis" was released recently. Dr. Vidanapathirana, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Forensic Medicine, has published several books previously. This book contains a good guideline for forensic skeletal analysis, and will be useful in various fields where forensic analysis is involved.



03. Ape Kale Disapamok by Dr. Aruna Shantha Gamage



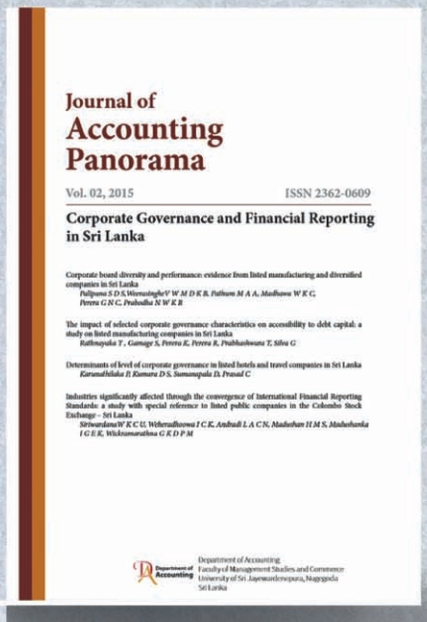
04. "Classic" Educational Magazine, Association of Public Administration

The IV th volume of "Classic" Educational Magazine was launched on 06th November, 2015 by the Association of Public Administration (APA). This time, the magazine published research papers and other subject-related and general articles in Sinhala, English and Tamil. The APA plans to distribute the copies of the magazine to selected public sector organizations, public libraries and selected libraries of public schools for the purpose of disseminating knowledge.



05. e-waste Management in Sri Lanka

The Publication Committee of AFMA (Accounting and Financial Management Association) - 2014 published a book on "e-waste Management in Sri Lanka". This book has an overview of the e-waste (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) issue, its current status, regulatory aspects, e-waste management in Sri Lanka, challenges and the way forward. This book was edited by Mr. A. D Nuwan Gunarathne.



06. The Volume 2 of the 'Journal of Accounting Panorama'

The Volume 2 of the 'Journal of Accounting Panorama', the research journal published by the Department of Accounting, co-edited by Dr. Roshan Ajward and Ms. TCMGMSS Cooray of the Department of Accounting was published on 15th October 2015.

In order to provide access to a wider readership, the journal is published as an e-journal and can be accessed via http://mgt.sjp.ac.lk/acc/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Panorama-2015-v1.01_e-book.pdf

7 Award Ceremonies and Convocations

01. Research Awards Ceremony 2014

The Research Awards Ceremony 2014 of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 18 November 2015 at 6.30 pm at Hotel Golden Rose, Boralesgamuwa, in view of promoting and strengthening research activities of the University.







Dr. Neelika Malavige of the Faculty of Medical Sciences won the Best Researcher award with 114 staff members selected for this year's ceremony, 45 from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, 38 from the Faculty of Applied Sciences, 18 from the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce and 8 from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. 5 researchers from the Library were also included. 58 research awards were presented for papers published in Indexed Journals during 2014 and 90 research awards were presented for papers published in Non-Indexed Journals.

The Vice Chancellor and the Research Council of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura proposed a Research Award system to recognize and appreciate the contribution of academics who have conducted and published/presented their research at national and international conferences, peer reviewed and indexed journals, for acknowledging such distinguished individuals through a fair rewarding mechanism would not only encourage them to pursue further research of higher standards, but would also surely entice the fellow academics to follow in their footsteps.

The Winner

Dr. Malavige is a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Microbiology and an avid researcher. She graduated with first class honors from the Faculty of Medcine, University of Colombo, with several distinctions and gold medals. She was awarded the commonwealth scholarship in year 2004 and obtained her doctorate in immunology from the University of Oxford.

She has also successfully completed the MRCP (UK) examination in year 2005 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London and a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, UK in 2015.

During the last 14 years she has done extensive research related to dengue in Sri Lanka, particularly focusing on factors that cause severe dengue, mediators of vascular leak in dengue and immune correlates in dengue infection. Her research findings have led to an international patent and she has 51 peer reviewed publications of which 41 are in indexed international journals. Neelika has been awarded several awards for her research including the CVCD excellence award for the Best Young Researcher in Medicine in 2008, Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award for Medical Research in year 2011, Third World Academy of Science for the Best Young Researcher in the field of Biology in 2012, Zonta Women of Achievement award in the field of medicine in 2014 and many presidential research awards.

Dr. Malavige is also the Director of the Centre for Dengue Research at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura. She has also been a visiting academic of the MRC Human Immunology Unit, University of Oxford since year 2008. Apart from her academic achievements, she has amply demonstrated her capabilities in the field of sports and has won several medals in athletic events both in school and at provincial level. She continued playing netball while at the university and also played for Green College while in Oxford .











02. IRCHSS Awards

The International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences concluded with an award ceremony on the 14th of December 2015 at the Sumangala Reading Hall. Awards were given for conference performance as well as overall faculty performance for the year 2015. The Best Abstract at the conference was won by Mr. B.A.S. C Kumara of the Department of Geography and the Best Presenter by Dr. Mrs. M. A. N. I. R. M. Perera of the Department of Sociology and Anthrolopogy.

The Department of History and Archeology won the Best Department of the Faculty. The Best Publication Award was won by Madhubhashini Disanayaka – Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer of the ELTU and the Best Academic Achievement was won by Pradeep Ratnayake, Head, Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts.

03. J'pura Employability Awards 2015

The Career Skills Development Society of the Career Guidance Unit held J'pura Employability Awards 2015 on 23th September 2015 at the Management Faculty main hall and hopes to make it an annual event to identify the best skilled undergraduates of all four faculties who have actively participated to enhance their soft skills which will make them capable people to work in the corporate sector.



Best Leader
Ruchira Ushan Sanjeewa
Applied Sciences



Best Team Player
Madusanka Sandaruwan
Management Studies
and Commerce



Best Innovator
U.M.W Dahanayake
(Representing Food Science Team)
Applied Sciences



Best Creative Person
R.A.S.K Gunasena
Applied Sciences



Best Presenter/Communicator
Saroj Somarathna
Management Studies
and Commerce

8 Sports



01. A Record breaking throw takes Sumedha to Olympics

For the first time in Sri Lankan sports history an athlete has qualified for the Olympics in Javelin Throw. Sumedha Ranasinghe, an undergraduate in Sports Management, Faculty of Applied Sciences at the Sri Jayewardenepura University, performed an amazing throw of 83.04 m to qualify for the games. His throw shattered the previous national record, and surpassed the attempt by the Asian Championship Gold Medalist which was 79.74 m.

24 year old Ranasinghe hails from a sports loving family in Kegalle and has studied at Kegalle MV. He is presently coached by renowned javelin throw coach Pradeep Nishantha, who praises Sumedha's remarkable efficiency in managing studies and practices. Sumedha now becomes the country's third track and field athlete to qualify for the Olympics.



02. Sports Fiesta – 2015

The Student Association of the Department of Accounting AFMA organized 'Sports Fiesta – 2015' which was held on 9, 16 and 17th November 2015 at the University Grounds. More than 40 sports events were included in this sports fiesta and the students from all departments of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce participated. Business Administration students won the Champions Trophy and the Common Program B team won the Runners Up trophy.



9 Community Celebrations

01. Navarathiri Celebration at Jayewardenepura University





Navarathiri Celebration - 2015 was held on 23rd of October 2015 at the Sumangala Reading Hall. This was organizedby the Thiruvalluvar Student's Association and The Art Assembly and Cultural Centre.





02. Shramadana by staff and students to prevent the spread of dengue

In another collective attempt to eradicate dengue, a sharamadana was organized to clean the university premises on 23rd November. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Registrar Mr. K. Gnanasiri Britto, administrative staff, academic and non-academic staff as well as the students took part in this event.

In the recent past, the dengue threat had been spreading among the university community in a considerable manner. The university officials have held several discussions with health and other related officials to bring solutions to the matter. The shramadana added to this continuous effort. Probable mosquito breeding places were identified and duly cleaned up, making the university grounds a secure area health-wise.

10 Student Activities







01. English Day 2015 by the students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The first year students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences studying English at the English Language Teaching Unit held their English Day on December 14, 2015 at the Bandaranaike Auditorium, with the Dean of the faculty, Mr. Lasantha Navaratne as the Chief Guest. Organized by the English Language Society of the same year, the English Day showcased English songs, drama and speeches by students. Awards were given for creative writing and the designing of the ELS logo.

02. English Day 2015, organized by the Business Communication Unit

English Day 2015, organized by the Business Communication Unit, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held at the Prof. Munasinghe Hall on 23rd November 2015 from 3.00 p.m. onwards. It was organised with the objective of bringing out the hidden talents of the students and creating awareness among them of the importance of English as a life skill.

English Day 2015 was graced by the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura as the Chief Guest. Certificates were distributed for the students who won places in the English day competitions.





03. "Sip Sayura 2015"donates a computer lab to Giriulla Madalpola Maha Vidyalaya





On the 28th of September 2015, the Students' Union of the Faculty of Applied Sciences of University of Sri Jayewardenepura donated 15 computers to Giriulla Madalpola Maha VIdyalala in Kirimatiyawa. The refurbished laboratory was officially handed over to the students by Prof. Sandun Senarath, Head of the Department of Botany, in the presence of the Regional Educational Director of Kurunegala and other invitees and well wishers. The school previously had only 3 computers for around 1000 students The funds for this project were raised by the undergraduates through their annual cultural extravaganza held on a grand scale. Further as part of their community service they conducted a series of educational seminars for underprivileged students.

Realizing the importance of making the next generation of our youth tech-savvy, the Students' Union of the Faculty of Applied Sciences took the initiative to contribute in their capacity to a worthy cause some years back and through their annual charity project 'Sip sayura', they take up the mammoth task of donating a fully-equipped computer laboratory to a rural school.

04. Snehadara 2015 by the Department of Finance





"Snehadara" was launched at Ihalagalagama Vidyalaya, Ihalagalagama, Balangoda on 24th September 2015 where the students of the Department of Finance helped the school by renovating the main hall of the school including the roof and fixing a podium to be used in assemblies, designating a specific area for the school library and furnishing it with carpets and two cupboards, donating books and other stationery for the school library as well as to all the classes for future use and providing a Buddha statue and an oil lamp for each classroom.

This was part of the annual field study tour to Ihalagalagama, Belihuloya, Balangoda on 24th and 25th September 2015.

The project was executed by the 2nd year students of the Department of Finance with the assistance of the 3rd and 4th year students of the Department. The Head of the Department of Finance, Professor Hareendra Dissabandara and other staff members distributed school equipment such as exercise books, school bags, and mathematical instrument boxes etc. among each student from Grade 1 to 11.



05. The Kapruka Poojawa, organized by the Final year students of the Department of Accounting

The Kapruka Poojawa, organized by the Final year students of the Department of Accounting was held on 27th September 2015 at Ruwanwalisaya, Anuradhapura.

06. Chala Roo Art Exhibition by the Association of Business Administration



The "චලරූ" Art Exhibition of the 2nd, 3rd year and 4th year students of the Department of Business Administration, organized by the Association of Business Administration (ABA) was held on the 15th & 16th of September 2015 at Sumangala Premises. This was done to encourage students to improve their drawing skills and creativity and to help develop their personality, self-confidence and free thinking ability by letting them to deviate from their day today educational activities.
The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Commerce, Dr. U. Anura Kumara and several staff members attended the occasion.

07. International Coastal Clean-up Day 2015 : Clean and Green is our Dream



This year's Ocean Day and International Coastal Clean-up Day was marked with another special project by students of J'pura who joined hands with the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) to participate in a beach clean-up at Mt.Lavinia on the 19th September from 7.00 am– 11.00 am. Students representing the faculties of Medical Sciences, Applied Sciences, Management Studies and Humanities and Social Sciences were included in the university's 150 member team. During the time allocated, they managed to clean a stretch of 1 ½ km of the Mt.Lavinia beach to restore its natural splendor.

11 Concerts and Cultural Activities

01. 'Wedikawen Mahapolowata' – 2015



'Wedikawen Mahapolowata' 2015 commenced with a colourful procession by students on the 29th of September. There were dance items representing different cultures and different occupations of the world. It was a perfect comeback attraction since the program was held this time after a lapse of three years. 'Wedikawen Mahapolowata' ran for a number of days with a series of artistic events lined up for the time allocated.



The title itself explains the purpose of the program: to give something worthwhile to society from the stage. The principal aim is to give a social value to art instead of it being marketed around. Presently art and artists are constricted by financial concerns and the organizers plan to ease that effect even in the least way they can. It also hopes to build a platform for budding artists and make them come forward with confidence. Students today are rather distant from art and literature and 'wedikawen mahapolowata' attempts to create an interest for it in them, as well as to unite university students with the aid of art.

Another special programme in the 'wedikawen mahapolowata' was the art festival, exhibition and book fair, at the university premises. Several publishers collaborated with the organizers to display varieties of books available under their label. Other stalls comprised of exhibitions by different departments and societies of the university.

• "Ketapath Pawura" – a platform for student creativity:



The mirror wall or 'ketapath pawura' was created in the university as a showcase for creativity of the Sri Jayawardenepura students. It took in poems, verses, quotes, drawings and even pieces of songs. Students stopped by to put down their thoughts on it or simply to read and admire what others have done.



• 'These are not dew drops of Jaffna' - an exhibition of photography

'These are not dew drops of Jaffna' a photographic exhibition by Nayanahari Abeynayake was displayed at the Sumangala Hall from 19th to 23rd October. It was another event lined up for the 'Wedikawen Mahapolowata' art festival.

Nayanahari's pictures are about social equality and her approach is subtle and heart-rending. Her eye has captured striking angles, vibrant colours and conversant scenes. Together they carry a message to the masses about humanity. It is the very reason why the exhibition was included in 'Wedikawen Mahapolowata', as it reflects the festival's theme.



02. Nada



"Nada 2015" organized by the Students' Association of Finance (SAF), Department of Finance, was successfully held at the Bandaranayeke Hall of the university on the 29th of October 2015. This is one of the most awaited annual events in the university calendar providing students the invaluable opportunity to display their latent talents. Commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Department, SAF this time staged Nada for the 6th time.



"Nada" is also the first complete talent show focusing on areas such as singing, dancing, drama and instrumentals organized by a single department of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the participation of the entire university community.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, Dr.U.Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of management Studies & Commerce, Prof. Hareendra Dissabandara, Head of the Department of Finance and other lectures of the university were the guests of honor.

03. Talent Show by the Department of Public Administration





A Talent Show of the students of the Department of Public Administration was held on 6th of November 2015 at the university, which showcased various talents and performances of the students including dancing, singing and drama.

04. Chillax 2015 by the Association of Public Administration



A Magic Show "Chillax 2015" conducted by the well known magician Mr. Hashan Fernando was organized by the Association of Public Administration on the 30th of October 2015 at the University premises. This show was extremely well received by the university community.

05. Nethin Ethera



The EMV Students Association organized a Talent Show "Nethin Ethera" - "Beyond Vision" - on 17th November 2015. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, and Dr. U. Anura Kumara participated as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour for the event.

06. Concert by the students of Sports Science and Management



The event "The Beauty of Sports" organized by the students of the Sports Science and Management Degree Programme was held on 08th of October 2015 at Sumangala Reading Hall. The title itself defines the main objective of the event, to introduce the concept of "Aesthetic Appreciation in Sports". The concept of aesthetic appreciation was communicated to the audience by using sports outfits and instruments, techniques, strategies and basic skills. Essential elements of sports such as creativity, motivation, rhythm and coordination, and values of sports, were expressed using various items related to different sports. The event was also aimed at building awareness of the multi-disciplinary nature of Sports Science among the university community.

07. Amizidia Eve 2015 organized by the Department of Accounting and Financial Management



Amizidia Eve 2015 organized by the Department of Accounting and Financial Management (AFMA) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 18th of October 2015 from 4.00pm onwards at Dampe Village, Piliyandala.

Winner of the Research Award Ceremony - 2014

Savidu interviewed Dr. Nileeka after the awards ceremony to find out more about her achievements.



Q. How did you come to research on Dengue?

During my time as an intern, pediatrics – and this coincided with the first dengue outbreaks in Sri Lanka, when not much was known about it. This was around 2001. Many children were affected by it. There were more deaths then, simply because people were so ill informed about it. I was curious about how things were happening. I have done research on Dengue for about ten years now.

Q. Was that your research for PhD?

No. I did work on Viral Immunology on a different virus for my PhD at Oxford University. The Center for Dengue Research was established in the University in 2012, by a cabinet directive and this was really helpful to take our dengue research forward.. Professor Deheregoda was the one mainly responsible for establishing this center, which he did singlehandedly. He is an amazing person - he dreams big and makes them come true.

Q. What has your research lead to? For what was this award given?

Research in medical sciences is never about one person. It's always a team effort. I did some basic clinical research here – we have a state-of-art laboratory at the Department of Microbiology at the Faculty of Medical Sciences here at USJP so many things can be done here. We had found that a mediator called platelet activating factor was important in vascular leak in dengue. But there are some things not available in this country like a confocal microscope, which was needed to do some experiments to prove it. So Dr. Chandima Jeewandara from Department of Family Medicine who got a Commonwealth Fellowship did this part of the work for his PhD at Oxford. He did this work at my supervisors lab – Prof. Graham Ogg's lab - and Prof. Graham Ogg has been supporting me in a big way since I returned to Sri Lanka at the end of 2008. So with combined effort we found the mediator for the fluid leakage and that it possibly can be treated with a drug that is usually given for allergies - 'Rupatadine'. This is a time tested drug and therefore, safe to use. We are clinically testing it now in the infectious diseases hospital.

Q. What are your findings?

It looks promising. The idea of this drug is to reduce the complications of dengue. There has to be a test of 240 patients as we test different parameters. Even if the duration of illness reduces by one day it will be considered important.

Phase 1 was not necessary for this drug as 'Rupatadine' is a time tested drug. We are at Phase 2 now, testing it in one center. We will go into phase 3 when we do it in multi centers. Other countries will come in as well – Taiwan and Singapore are already collaborating with us. After phase 3, the drug can be used.

Q. It seems that you are doing substantial research and contributing enormously to the country with your work. Is there anything you have to say to women – especially mothers – who might think it is difficult to balance careers and family?

I am a mother of two and I believe it is enormously beneficial for children to have mothers who are following their dreams and enjoying it. There are many talented women out there who do not realize their full potential because of family and societal pressure. But I think society benefits so much from women doing what they like best. Those who benefit most are the children. In 2014, my six year old son listened to the whole of an oration I delivered– late at night. Both my children find what I do quite fascinating and always want updates. I am lucky in the sense that my husband is extremely supportive and very interested in what I do. I think because he is a doctor and a leading entrepreneur he sees things differently.

Although other countries talk about the lack of women doing research, it's the other way round in Sri Lanka especially in the medical field. Research takes a lot of time. In this country, where the male is considered the main wage earner, male doctors do a lot of private practice simply to survive. They come home only in the night. Perhaps if the salary scale in Sri Lanka is increased for doctors, and they do not have to depend on private practice, things might change. . In my case, I do my research work - to plan experiments, to read and to think– with my children while they study. So rather than telling children that they should study and pursue their dreams, its far better to show them how its done..

This short story by first year student, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, *Achini Pahalawatte* won the First Prize in the Creative Writing Competition organized by the English Language Society of the English Language Teaching Unit, FHSS, for their English Day 2015.

Reconcile.

Sometimes, I stand in the rain and try to catch its droplets in my hands, only to have them gathering by my feet.
Sometimes, I buy us coffee, and wait until it turns lukewarm then cold, only to find that only mine has drained in the end.
Sometimes I watch movies, the kind that I don't always watch, wait for a moment, only to find myself leaving on my own.
In the end, I realize that I was only trying to reconcile with the wonderful moments we shared, you and I.

To you, whose memories I'm still chasing after

The rain has stopped only now, and I'm finally able to step out and take a deep breath of the crisp spring breeze. It's scented of rain and damp grass, and it fills my lungs like a splash of cold water, truly soothing and refreshing. It can pacify the burning fire of a broken heart. The street isn't as busy as it was the moment I arrived, there are several of the same league as I walking back home, tugged in to their jackets and rain coats as though they are anticipating for the rain to burst again.And so are there several women waiting for vehicles to pass by, and men who discern them with eagle eyes whom I'm bound to evade. As always, it's another one of the forlorn, gloomy, cold nights. I take another deep breath and look up at the sky; the heavy dark clouds of rain are yet to relapse which implies that another cloudburst is about to come by, which I don't mind. I like the rain, I don't know why. I like it, just for the sake of it being the rain.

The cold tarmac on the road makes a murky sound with each step I make as though to tell me how lonely I am tonight, my shadow formed gloomily before me by the light of the street lamps above and behind. Someone passes by in hurried steps; maybe he is late for something important, maybe his family is waiting for him for dinner. I have no reason to hurry of course. I have no one waiting for me back at home, and even if they were waiting for me, I won't haste and dash because I really don't mind to have them waiting, whoever who might.

It doesn't take me long to reach the bus stop which stands empty and lonely as would an abandoned house. Its fluorescent light flickers time to time, its languid beam does nothing to recede the eerie darkness which surrounds it. But for some reason, for me it seems warm and comforting. When I enter it, the feeling of being folded in an earnest hug of a loved one engulfs me. I settle in its grasp, sit on a stool and watch as the droplets sliding down from its plastic roof fall soundlessly into the puddles below. They make tiny waves on the surface, the light from the stand make silvery ripples upon them.

Momentarily I realize that I might be too late to sit and wait for the next bus to arrive because the prospect of the last bus being already gone is much more than it is for another to arrive. There aren't anyone else awaiting it, and of course I, as always, am ritually late.

Maybe I purposefully killed my time to be late tonight; maybe I didn't want to return home tonight, at all; I cannot tell.

It's not long before I feel presence approaching me, and take the stool to my right. His reflection appears on the puddle before him; he shifts in his seat and I feel his eyes fix on my side. I don't look up though, I remain watching the droplets as before. I can sense him searching for words.

"The last bus for tonight is gone already" He words out a while later. His voice reminds me of water, water running ceaselessly down a stream.

I set to respond with an indolent nod.

"Do you wish to stay here any longer?" He questions, his eyes still haven't left my side.

I shake my head in response. No sooner I feel him move, and his hand, his pale fingers with perfectly trimmed nails and a silver ring on the ring finger, reaches out to me as though nothing is as natural and regular as that. I look up, and he smiles. There's a glint in his eyes; dimples form on his cheeks, they have flushed pink the slightest like a touch of rose on a pale white cloud. His eyes form crescent moons, sincerity spread all over his perfection like sunrise on morning dew. "Come, let me drop you home"

Without reluctance, I reach out and tangle his graceful fingers with mine.

It's so strange, how our hands fit in so well as though they are meant to be held, as though they are meant to keep us communed together.

It feels so impeccable, how his fingers tangle in mine, how they tighten when a stranger passes by and how they loosen when the drizzle wet our shoulders, it's so perfect that I dare not to once let go. All throughout this, he keeps smiling, his eyes fixed to look ahead.

At one point we come before a hectic street. There are more women waiting for cars to pass by in glamorous clothing which hardly cover places which shan't be exposed, and men who seem to indulge the sight much more. Several of the women eye him with vigorous smiles painting their overly-dolled-up faces, several of them try to approach him; but all this he casually evades with a generous smile. His hand tightens on mine even more, and I realize that we are closer to each other than before.

He stops walking at one point and turns to me, calling my name. I question him why.

"Are you in a hurry to go home?"

I am never in a hurry; I tell him that.

He smiles. "Alright then"

We settle to see a movie. Very late at night.

It's a movie for adults which people of our age tend to run away from home and watch for the fun of it, which I, on the other hand find extremely uncomfortable. There aren't many people in the hall, only a several men who have their eyes widened and glued to the screen, and a few coupleswhich make things even more uncomfortable for me. Seeing my distress he squeezes my hand and laughs, and tells me to close my eyes if I want to. I ask him, out of curiosity, if he enjoyed it. He smiles in response.

"We are young, we all have that time when we enjoy this"

I don't say anything in retort though; because I don't want this moment to end. His hand is warm in mine, his thumb draws patterns that not even I can decode. Overpowering all the obnoxious sounds in the hall, I can hear his breathing so distinct and clear; slow and nice, its pace so consistent and relaxing.If not for the moment, I would have fallen asleep in his grasp.

Half way through the movie he urges me to stand up. "Let's go, time is flying"

The moment we step outside, I realize it has neared yet another cloudburst.

The sky seems darker, no stars nor the moon are visible, concealed behind the heavy gray clouds; the sky seems nearer yet so far away. As I look up, a cold droplet falls on my cheek. He reaches out, as though on cue and wipes it away with his thumb.

I flinch as his skin touches mine, because it sends a captivating sensation down my spine. I turn to look at him only to see him smile. He smiles so often now. *"It's going to rain"* "I like it" I say in retort. We walk hand in hand in utter silence as though we have all the time in the world. We have reached a calmer area of the town.

Not many people linger around for the many buildings in the area are residents.Except for few others who are returning home after late night work and night-outs, we are the only ones who are taking a leisurely walk. We may seem strange in others' eyes, we may not be in their eyes at all, we may be the biggest interest of all to go and gossip about the next morning; but I don't care, because it's just us. Him and I.

A car passes by us, inside is a sleepy child looking out at the street. He seems horrified, as though he's afraid to lose something so precious to him, something he holds closer to his heart. I remember my past, momentarily. Those sad days when I too, stared out the shutter, wondering what on earth my parents meant by the word 'divorce' and why my mother brought another man and made me call him 'father' while my father was still there. I cried at night when it confused me so much, I remember. I was confused as to why I need to have two fathers while all my friends at school had only one. It wasn't until a little later that I realized what she really meant. It was a little later after then that I began to cut my wrist with blades, later afterwards; I met him, and I stopped doing that ever since.

The drizzle drenches us as we come across the residents and reach the grove where lines of Sakura trees remain still and soundless as though they've gone to sleep for the night. There aren't any blossoms decorating the branches because it rained a while ago.There is a dampened layer of pink petals below our feet; it's so soft that I can hardly even feel our feet hitting the ground. There, on a side of the grove is a coffee shop, closed for the night. Its yellow light is still turned on, on the porch. A line of plants remain still in the dark, the dew on their leaves glitter the slightest under the yellow light. With my little knowledge on plants which I have inherited from my mother, I recognize them as petunias. Petunias are beautiful, they come in so many vivid colors, some are patterned with white.Bynight, however, they go to an eternal sleep. Another flower is born by the morn next day. The life of a flower is sad indeed.

By the time we reach the café, the drizzling becomes a downpour. No sooner does it start raining cats and dogs. He drags me into the porch and pulls up the hood of my jacket as though to stop the rain from hitting my face, but I pull it back, because I like the feel of it.

"I like the rain" I reason out.

for the continuation of the story please visit
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Newsletter

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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