



Biannual Newsletter

UoR Highlights

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA - SRI LANKA

January - May 2015

Volume 4: Issue 01

ISSN 2279-2392

Feature Article

Research Misconduct in Higher Education Institutes
by Senior Professor Sarath Lekamwasam
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Main Story

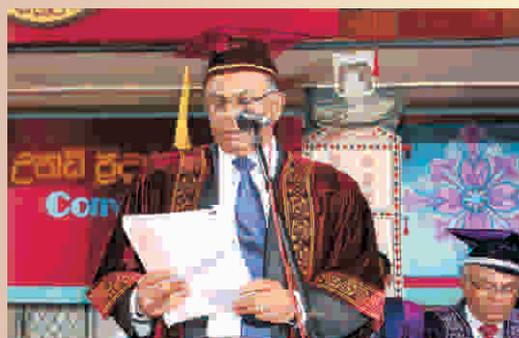


Twenty Second

University of Ruhuna grandiosely conducted its 22nd convocation for the graduate and postgraduate Degree Programmes on the 22nd and 23rd May 2015 at the Gymnasium of the University. On May, 24th the graduates of the external degree programmes were conferred with their degrees.

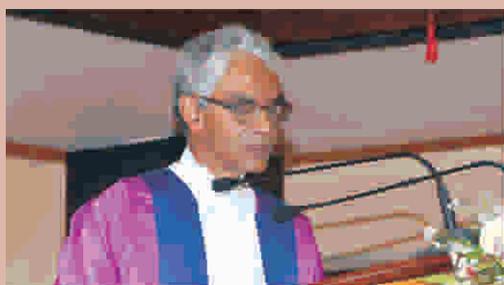


The Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Most Venerable, Chief Sanganayake of Southern Sri Lanka, Agga Maha Panditha, Rajakeeya Panditha, Mahopadya, Grantha Visharada, Saddarma Keerthi Sri, Pallattara Sumanajothi Maha Thero conferred the degrees.



On the invitation by the Vice Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties announced the degree awardees of their respective faculties.

Convocation Address of the first session was delivered by Dr. Terrance Abeysekera, a renowned agriculture economist in the country. Of the total number of 1675 graduates this year, 152 earned Postgraduate (PhD, MPhil, MSc, MA and MBA) degrees. 119 Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture graduates, 188 Bachelor of the Science of Engineering graduates and 29 Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Marine Sciences graduates received their degrees.



At the second session, the convocation address was given by Professor Monte Cassim who is a well recognized scientist. 314 Bachelor of Business Administration graduates, 20 Bachelor of Computer Science graduates and 275 Bachelor of Science (Special & General) graduates were conferred with their degrees.



Convocation of UoR



Convocation Address of the third session was delivered by Professor Kalinga Tudor Silva, a well known sociologist. At this session, 392 Bachelor of Arts graduates, 129 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery graduates, 28 Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science graduates and 29 Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates were awarded degrees.

Convocation speech of first session of the External Degree Programme was delivered by Emeritus Professor Deshamanya J B Dissanayake, one of the leading authorities of Sinhala language and former Sri Lankan Ambassador to Thailand.



The speech of the second session of the External Degree Convocation was delivered by Professor Senevi Epitawatta, former Vice Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardanapura.



This year For the very first time, Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding Students were awarded. A. P. Attanakayke of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, P. C. D. Perera of the Faculty of Agriculture, V. R. S. De Silva from the Faculty of Engineering and H. S. A. Hettiarachchi of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology won the awards.

Research Misconduct in Higher Education Institutes

Senior Professor Sarath Lekamwasam
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Research misconduct is a plague that has gripped the scientific community and especially higher education institutes. Recent studies indicate that it is more prevalent than previously suspected. A study published in the British Medical Journal reported that, of 2782 doctors and academics responded to a questionnaire, 13% had first-hand information on research misconduct (1). These academics or clinicians who either submitted manuscripts to the British Medical Journal or served as peer-reviewers of the same journal admitted the knowledge of scientists “inappropriately adjusting, excluding, altering or fabricating data” for the purpose of publication. In another study Daniel Fanelli reported that 14% of scientists in Edinburgh in the UK had the knowledge of a colleague fabricating, falsifying or altering data. Furthermore, 2% scientists admitted that they themselves were guilty of the same offences (2).

Research misconduct in higher education institutes is not new and numerous journal publications have been withdrawn and punitive actions have been taken against those responsible. However there is a great concern whether higher education institutes possess a satisfactory system in place to notify research misconduct to appropriate authority in a timely manner and also adopt an acceptable mechanism to deal with reported cases within a reasonable time period. Lack of an efficient system would prevent proper notification leading to underreporting. Furthermore, there is a growing concern whether higher education institutes have adequately dealt and punished those found guilty in the past. According to a study published in 2000, in most occasions the action had been informal; discussing with superior or questioning the suspect behavior rather than lodging a formal complaint(3).

Research misconduct can be of many forms. The commonly used definition by the National Science Foundation addresses the three major forms; falsification, fabrication and plagiarism. Falsification refers to making up data or results and recording and reporting them (4). This includes adding faked names and participants' information to the database. Fabrication refers to manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes. Further it includes deliberate changing or omitting data or results in the research record (4). Plagiarism refers to the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit (4). Of the three forms, the plagiarism is the easiest to detect with software tools such as Turnitin and iThenticate and the detection of other two forms is relatively difficult. Detecting fabrication and falsification of data is difficult unless alerted by a whistle blower. New internet based tools such as eTBLAST, déjàvu, etc, however, can be used to detect duplicate or Salami publications. Studies in many scientific fields are generally not reproducible due to the existence of various factors and this allows scientists to fabricate or falsify data but still go undetected. The degree of probability used to detect statistical significance allows one in twenty studies to generate contradictory yet acceptable results. The three major forms of research misconduct; fabrication, falsification and plagiarism, however, are well established and widely known hence all academics in higher education institutes should be aware and strictly adhere to them.

Research misconduct, however, is not restricted to the three areas defined by the National Science Foundation and there are lesser known, yet important, grey areas which are also considered as misconducts in the field of research. As they are not well defined, it is the duty of each higher education institute to address and include them under research misconducts applicable to the particular institution. Failure

to do so may hinder the process of investigating research malpractices. These grey areas include the failure to preserve raw data, maintain databases and permit access to data for the peers. Further, 'Cherry picking' by systematically ignoring or dismissing data to obtain and support desired results while deliberately deviating from the accepted norms should be considered a serious issue. Not adhering to ethical standards in animal and human research, ghostwriting and suppression of data (not publishing results due to external pressure) also need serious attention of authorities. Every higher education institute should have an agreed list of research misconducts especially when it comes to the above grey areas.

There are conducts or behaviors that are unacceptable in scientific research field, yet not classified under misconducts. Honest and unintentional errors, differences in the interpretation of results, authorship disputes, misappropriation of funds, sexual harassment or threatening language are issues of concern, but they do not qualify to be labeled as research misconducts.

Although there are many plausible causes of research misconduct, the career pressure to publish in the “publish or perish culture” is the most likely cause. Science is a career-driven discipline, and good reputation is required to obtain funding and support to continue research. This can easily lead to falsification and fabrication of data and results.

Research misconducts when proven could lead to dire consequences. This can range from severe reprimanding to loss of career. Many top scientists have lost their positions or careers subsequent to questionable conducts and the list is growing. The damage caused to the society by research publications that contain wrong or questionable data is considerable. Most of the publications that have been withdrawn subsequent to proven misconducts did not receive adequate publicity or the attention of readers. Withdrawals are just mentioned in subsequent issues of the same journal but do not get highlighted enough to catch the attention of all readers.

Research misconducts should be eliminated from all higher education institutes. Investigation of a case of research misconduct can be practically difficult especially if it is against a senior member, can be costly and time consuming. Higher education institutes should adopt zero tolerance and address this issue openly and publish institutional guidelines to avoid this menace. The awareness among academics especially those recently joined should be enhanced. Supervisors have a major role to play by monitoring the data collection process and analyses not allowing junior academics to violate institutional rules. Furthermore, whistleblowers should be protected and inquiries should be facilitated.

In conclusion, all higher education institutions must take all possible measures to prevent research misconduct. Increasing awareness, developing institutional guidelines, proper investigations and suitable punishments are the essential measures.

References

1. Tavaré, A. British Medical Journal. 344, e377 (2012).
2. Fanelli, D. PLoS ONE 4, e5738 (2009).
3. Koocher, G. P. & Keith-Spiegel, P. Nature 466, 438–440 (2010).
4. New Research Misconduct Polices, National Science Foundation. <http://www.nsf.gov/oig/session.pdf> (last accessed 05.02.2015)

Academic Sessions and Vice Chancellor's Awards 2014



The 12th Academic Session of the University of Ruhuna was held on 4th March 2015 at the main campus with the participation of the Vice Chancellor who was the chief guest of the ceremony. Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunga, the Librarian of University of Peradeniya delivered the Keynote Speech on “Addressing development challenges through research”. Professor D.A.L. Leelamanie of the Department of Soil Science of the Faculty of Agriculture presented her oration which was selected as the best out of the submissions this year.

The Vice Chancellor's Award for the Young Scientist of 2014 was awarded to Dr. K. Masakorala, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Botany. Professor Dr. K.K.I.U. Arunakumara of the Department of Crop Science won the Most Outstanding Scholar Award of 2014. Dr. (Mrs.)

Lanka Ranawake, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Agricultural Biology received the Highest Grant Recipient Award 2014. Professor Tilak P. D. Gamage of the Department of Limnology was awarded Most Outstanding Convener of the International Conferences and Promoter of International Relations from 2014.

Also, at this occasion best oral presentation awards of the 11th Academic Session were presented to Ven. Unuwathura Bubule Mahinda Thero, Professor Jayantha Amarasinghe, Dr. N. K. Hettiarachchi, D. Champika Dolamulla, K. M. S. Y. Konara, U. G. S. Lakmali, P. W. A. Perera, N. S. Fernando, A. P. Attanayake, E. P. D. N. Thilakarathne, Amila Buddika Sirisena, Professor D. A. L. Leelamanie and Mr. Indrajee De Zoysa.

International Symposium ACEPS-2015

The third International Symposium on Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices for Sustainable Development (ACEPS-2015) was successfully held on 9th March 2015 at the Faculty of Engineering with the participation of more than 200 foreign and local delegates. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake participated as the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony of ACEPS-2015.

ACEPS-2015 was jointly organized by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Saitama University Japan. The symposium was sponsored by Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development Program (SATREPS)-JICA, Holclim Lanka Ltd and the Ceylon Steel Cooperation.



Study Group Meeting on Mathematics and Statistics for Industry (SGMMSI) 2014

The Department of Mathematics in collaboration with the Industrial Training and Research Coordination Centre (ITRCC) of the Faculty of Science hosted SGMMSI-2014 that took place at the Department of Mathematics from December 2nd to 5th, 2014. This event was supported by QIG-Round 1 Window 2 of HETC project, National Science Foundation, University Grants Commission and the Faculty of Science.

The Keynote speaker and one of the scientific advisors was Dr. Jagath K Wijerathna, Head of the Department of Mathematics, University of Colombo. Other scientific

advisors were Dr. Danesh Patel, Director, Centre for Industrial Mathematics, The M S University of Baroda, India and Professor Satyananda Panda, Department of Mathematics, NITC Calicut, India.

In addition, four senior academics, Dr. S S N Perera from University of Colombo, Dr. D K Mallawarachchi and Mr. N. G. A. Karunathilake from University of Kelaniya and Dr. S. Krishnakumar from Open University of Sri Lanka contributed towards the event as resource persons together with five more resource persons from the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna.

Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON) 2015

The second Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON) 2015 organized by the Faculty of Science was held successfully on January 22nd and 23rd with active participation of foreign and local scientists, from almost all universities in Sri Lanka and some institutes to promote their research activities and discuss their latest innovations with the participants.

The theme for RISTCON 2015 was 'Integrated Research for Development'. About 250 participants, both from local and foreign were involved to share their research experiences through this multidisciplinary conference.

Some members of the Faculty of Science have already established collaborative research projects with Professor Dilantha Fernando, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, Canada and Dr. Saman Seneweera, University

of Southern Queensland, Australia, fulfilling objectives of this conference.



The Sri Lanka Economics Research Conference (SLERC) 2014



Sri Lanka Economics Research Conference (SLERC) 2014, organized by the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE) and hosted by the Department of Economics of University of Ruhuna, was successfully held from 19th -20th December 2014 at the Department of Economics for the third time.

The conference in 2014 brought together over 100 professionals from 15 Economics Departments and units across the country to share their experiences, to learn from one another and to debate the future issues in the field of economics.

Undergraduate Research Symposium-2015

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Society (CEES) of Faculty of Engineering organized the Undergraduate Research Symposium on Recent Advances in Civil Engineering-2015. The event was held at the Faculty of Engineering on 26th January 2015 parallel to the Academic Session of the Faculty of Engineering (ARS). Civil Engineering undergraduates of the 2010 batch presented outcomes of their final year research projects. Dr. Chandana Perera, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering participated as the chief guest.



International Workshop on Advances in Sustainable Engineering Systems



International Workshop on Advances in Sustainable Engineering Systems was jointly organized by the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering and the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering in collaboration with the International

Conference on Information and Automation for Sustainability (ICIAfs) 2014 (www.iciafs.org). Eminent researchers from several leading international educational institutes delivered flowing talks on their recent researches at the workshop.

Annual Research Symposium (ARS) 2015 - Research for Achieving Excellence in Engineering



The second Annual Research Symposium was successfully held on 26th January 2015 at Faculty of Engineering. The Vice Chancellor of the University Professor Gamini Senanayake participated as the chief guest while the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. A M N Alagiyawanna, and the Dean of the Faculty Dr. P D C Perera were also attended in the inauguration.

This year, ARS-2015 was organized under the theme of “Research for Achieving Excellence in Engineering” and 27 research articles were presented covering the areas of civil and environmental engineering, electrical and information engineering and mechanical and manufacturing engineering. The Guest of Honour Eng. Parakrama Jayasinghe delivered the keynote address on “Can Sri Lankan Engineers be an Asset to Knowledge Driven Industries”.

Conversational English Program for Undergraduates of Faculty of Engineering

A conversational English training program was conducted by a group of volunteers from Innovative Humanitarian Solutions (IHS- <http://www.innovativehs.net/>) of United States of America with the aim to motivate our students to speak in English.

It helped to raise awareness among the students on benefits of conversation skills and understanding common mistakes of non-native speakers. This program was coordinated by Dr. Nandita Hettiarachchi of Mechanical and Manufacturing

Engineering Department and led by Mr. Don Heath of IHS.

Special thanks were given to HIS-USA, especially Mr. Don Heath - for leading several volunteer groups to conduct this program for our students, Dr. Shobana Gunasekara of University of Huston Victoria, Dr. Bandula Wijay – Consular General of Sri Lanka, Texas, USA for their support in initiating relationship with IHS-USA and the Director, Career Guidance Unit of the University for providing logistics.



International Symposium on Agriculture & Environment (ISAE) 2014

The Faculty of Agriculture conducted ISAE 2014 under the theme of “Ensuring Sustainable Development through Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” on 27th November 2014. The ISAE-2014 included invited keynote speeches, oral presentation sessions and a poster session.

Sri Lanka's Post Colonial Legacy 2015 International Conference

Sri Lanka's Post Colonial Legacy 1815 -2015: International Conference on Postcolonial Societies in Transition (ICPST) organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was successfully concluded on 3rd March 2015. This conference was organized to mark 200th years of British colonial heritage. The conference was for scholars of colonial and post colonial studies throughout the globe to share their research and discoveries on various subjects in a wide spectrum of disciplines.



Opening Ceremony of the Newly Constructed Faculty Building for Faculty of FMST

Fulfilling a long desire, a new Faculty Building constructed for the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) was declared open on the 30th January 2015. At the invitation of the Faculty, Professor Gamini Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor of the University attended the ceremonial opening of the new faculty complex of the Faculty of FMST as the Chief Guest.

Chanting of 'Seth Pirith' coincided with the Chief Guest's ribbon-cutting, the traditional milk-pot boiling ritual got underway as the auspicious entry into the complex took place. The inaugural ceremony was attended by a large gathering of academics, non academics, officers from Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB), students of the Faculty and other invitees.

Professor Senanayake the Vice Chancellor, Dr Nayana Alagiyawanna, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr R. A. Maithreepala, Dean of the Faculty and Professor Tilak P. D. Gamage former Dean of the Faculty during their speeches thanked everyone who contributed in many ways to accomplish this task.

Since its establishment in 2005, the Faculty was operating in the premises of the Faculty

of Science. Construction of this building was commenced and completed during the period of the former Dean who concluded two consecutive terms in December 2014. This three storied building is an investment of Rs. 304.6 million provided by the Ministry of Higher Education, spread over 5000 square meters comprising of lecture theaters, elementary laboratories, two advanced laboratories, office spaces, a board room, a computer laboratory, an auditorium and a museum.



Commencement of Services Provided by Molecular Genetics Laboratory



Molecular Genetics Laboratory of the Department of Anatomy of Faculty of Medicine was founded in 2008 by Professor B. G. Nanayakkara, who continues to serve as the Director of the Laboratory. The laboratory was initiated from the funds provided by WHO biennium 2008/2009, Sri Lanka Dental Association in UK and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Recently, the Molecular Genetics Laboratory was upgraded with the support provided by the project on Transforming University of Ruhuna to International Status (TURIS). The services of the laboratory were officially inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor. Professor B. G. Nanayakkara (Director), Professor I. Ilayperuma (Senior Research Advisor) and Dr. L. B. Lahiru Prabodha (Medical Officer in Charge) are founder academic staff members of the laboratory.

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the New Hostel Building for Faculty of Engineering

Foundation-stone laying ceremony of the proposed hostel building of the Faculty of Engineering was held on 27th October 2014 with the participation of Prof. Gamini Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor of the University as the chief guest. Dr. Nayana Alagiyawanna, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Chandana Perera, the Dean of the Faculty, Assistant Registrar, Heads of the Departments, Academic Staff, Non-academic Staff and Students of the Faculty also participated in this historical moment of the Faculty.



Anti-cancer activity of *Flueggea leucopyrus* (Katupila) revealed

Under the collaborative research carried out by the Department of Chemistry of Faculty of Science and Department of Pharmacology of Faculty of Medicine, anti-cancer properties of 'Katupila' was investigated. It was revealed that Katupila is effective against human ovarian cancers. This research was supported by Transforming of University of Ruhuna into International Status (TURIS) project of the University.



Madhura Yame – Musical Programme of the Gandharwa Sabhawa



Madhura Yame musical programme organized by Gandharwa Sabhawa was held on 10th June 2015 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Vice Chancellor was the chief guest of this event. The aim of establishing Gandharwa Sabahawa was to enhance musical appreciation, vocal skills and social harmony among academic staff, non academic staff and students of the university.

Invention and Innovation Exhibition 2014

The Invention & Innovation Exhibition 2014 was successfully held on 23rd and 24th of October 2014 at the Department of Physics. The exhibition was opened for Ruhuna University undergraduates and for the school children of Matara Educational Zone. The school students and the undergraduates of Faculty of Science presented their exhibits under different categories.

Physics QUIZ Competition for Advanced Level science students, organized by the Department of Physics and the Physics Society of the University was another important event held in conjunction with the exhibition. Fifty five selected students from 11 schools contested the competition. Gift vouchers for the first, second and third place winning groups and certificates for all participants were awarded. This event was supported by the Lions Club. An educational exhibition organized by Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology gave an additional glamour to the Invention and Innovation Exhibition.



Signing of MoU with Kunming Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Sciences

Kunming Institute of Zoology (KIZ) of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and University of Ruhuna (UoR) signed a MoU on academic cooperation, on February 13th, 2015 at the University. The delegates led by Professor Ren Lai, Deputy Director of KIZ and In-charge of International Collaboration together with Dr. Min-Sheng Peng, Principle Instigator of the research project and Dr. Guo-Dong Wang, a member of the research team attended this event from KIZ. Representing both parties, Professor Gamina Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor and Professor Ren Lai signed the memorandum.

The cooperation mainly includes zoological studies, genetic resources and conservation, molecular evolution and



genomic diversity. Also, both parties of the MoU will collaborate with relevant Sri Lankan authorities, such as Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forest Conservation, Department of Animal Production and Health, and Department of Agriculture, Government institutions allied for a cause based on animal diversity of Sri Lanka.

Visit of a Delegation from Guangzhou Botanical Garden

University of Ruhuna welcomed a delegation from South China Botanical Garden (SCBG) of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on May 13th, 2015 at the Vice Chancellor's Office. The aim of the visit was to establish research collaboration in the area of medicinal plants. Chinese delegation learned about the plant research conducted by the University of Ruhuna through the presentations given by academics of the University. The delegates, Professor Huang Hongwen the Director of SCBG, Professor Wei Xiaoyi, Phytochemist, Professor Chen Feng, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Professor Xia Nianhe, Taxonomist highly

praised the research conducted by the University and expressed their willingness to go for a research collaboration.



Progress of Activities Under MoU with Biosphere Foundation Reviewed

A delegation from Biosphere Foundation met the Vice Chancellor on 03rd April 2015 to discuss future activities under the MoU signed in 2012. Future research collaborations on whales and establishment of a Center for Marine Mammal Education and Research (CMMER) at the University of Ruhuna were the main two activities discussed. The collaborative research to understand the distribution of marine mammals and ships along the southern coast of Sri Lanka has shown that the whales are inhabiting the 1,000 and 2,000m drop-off areas to feed. This overlaps precisely with the shipping lane off the island that may need urgent attention. The team was comprised of Ms. Abigail Alling, President of the Biosphere Foundation, Mr. Mark Van Thillo, Captain of Mir, Research Vessel of Biosphere Foundation, Mr. Sameera Randage (Raja), President of the Whale Watching Boat Operators' Association in Mirissa, Dr. Russell Leaper, International Fund for Animal Welfare and Ms. Susannah Calderan, International Fund

for Animal Welfare. This discussion was organized by Professor Tilak P. D. Gamage as the Coordinator of the University of Ruhuna - Biosphere Foundation Link Project.



Visit to Zhi-yan - 1 Research Vessel of South China Sea Institute of Oceanology

Shi-yan-1, research vessel of South China Sea Institute of Oceanology (SCSIO) of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), capable of carrying out large -scale oceanographic surveys arrived in Colombo in April 2015 while on an expedition to Indian Ocean. On 9th April a team from the University of Ruhuna headed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor visited the vessel. The team had a discussion on future collaborations with Senior Professor Dr. Hejun Yin, Vice President of CAS, Professor Dr Yuechao Wang, Director General, Bureau of Major R & D Programmes , Mr. Huasheng Qiu, Deputy Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, Ms. Caixing Li, Director, Bureau of Major R & D Programmes and Mr. Yiqi Jiang, Programme Manager, Bureau of International Cooperation. From the SCSIO, Senior Professor Dr. Dongxiao Wang, Deputy Director, Senior Professor Youshao Wang, Senior Professor Weiqiang Wang, and Senior Professor Dr Xin Wang attended the discussion. At the end of the Discussion, all the members posed for a photograph together with crew members of the vessel.



China Sri Lanka Joint Center for Education and Research (CSL-CER) was Declared Open

By cutting the red ribbon, Professor Dr Yuechao Wang, Director General, Bureau of Major R & D Programmes of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) together with Professor Gamini Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna declared open the China-Sri Lanka Center for Education and Research (CSL-CER) on 10th April 2015.

Delegates from SCSIO led by Professor Dongxiao Wang, who initiated the SCSIO-UoR relationship was also present at the occasion. This center was funded by CAS through SCSIO with the aim of promoting collaborative education programmes and research between China and Sri Lanka.



Commendation of Service to University of Ruhuna

Professor Dongxiao Wang, Deputy Director of South China Sea Institute of Oceanology of Chinese Academy of Sciences was awarded a memento and his appointment letter as an Adjunct Professor to the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology by the Vice Chancellor on 10th April 2015 when he visited the University of Ruhuna.



Padura' - Cultural and Musical Program

'Year 2014 was a colourful year for the Engineering Faculty students with various cultural and musical events. 'Padura' was one such event organized by the Art Society of the faculty in collaboration with the Student Union to promote classical music within the faculty community. The event took place at the well recognized Nuga tree of Engineering



Faculty. Members of academic staff and non-academic staff participated along with the students of the faculty to grace this memorable evening.

"Thambarawila' - Musical Program

The most exquisite musical event "Thambarawila" which showcased the talented undergraduates on various aesthetic skills was organized by the Art Society of the Engineering Faculty in collaboration with the Student Union. This was also an effort to raise fund for Ruhuna Engineering Faculty Scholarship Foundation. Being the large scale event of the year "Thambarawila" provided a solid platform and exposure for students to express their talents to public. A large audience gathered to witness the grand spectacle which was held on 18th October 2014 at the Medical Faculty Auditorium, Karapitiya.



Workshop on "Traditional food, Medicine and Healthy living"

A group of second year students of Faculty of Science conducted a workshop for the Rassandeniya community on 31st December 2014 on the theme of "traditional food, medicine and healthy living" at Sri Pushparamaya Rassandeniya. The event was patronized and graced by the

Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculty of Science and funded by Freelan Industries Pvt. Ltd. This was organized under the guidance of Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Senior Student Counselor of the University.

Christmas Carols Program on "Christ Our Saviour is Born"

"Christ Our Saviour is Born" the annual carol festival of Engineering Faculty was held on 18th December, 2014 at the Faculty premises with the participation of the distinguished guests, Rev. Fr. Damian Arsekularatne (University Chaplain), Rev. Fr. Sampath, Rev. Sisters, Dean of the Faculty Dr. Chandana Perera and academic staff of the faculty. The festival was organized by the Art Society of Faculty of Engineering.



Inter-Cultural Harmony Event 2014

'The Inter Cultural Harmony Event - 2014 organized by the Faculty of Engineering was held on 22nd October 2014, at the Faculty premises. The Dean of the Faculty Dr. Chandana Perera, Founder Dean Dr. Jeevananda Keerthisena and academic staff members with their families attended the function.



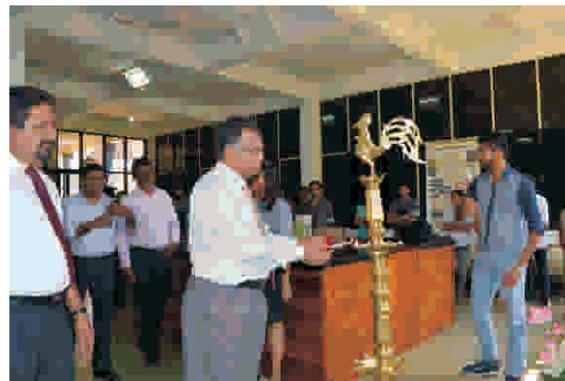
IEEE Day Celebrations



The IEEE Day Celebration was held on 7th October 2014 giving prominence to humanitarian activities. Celebrations were held in the morning at Galle Dutch Fort was for the global title 'IEEE Best Landmark Photo' in which IEEE Ruhuna Students Chapter won the first place.

Seyalochana Exhibition

Inter-faculty photographic exhibition organized by Soft Skills Society of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences was held on 10th June 2015 at the main lobby of the library. This is the second time it was organized due to the growing popularity among the students of the University which was indicated by the submission of a hundred and ten photographs by students. In conjunction with the photographic exhibition launching of Sankalpa Yathra 2015 annual magazine of the Soft Skills Society was also took place at the library auditorium. Both the events were graced with the presence of the Vice Chancellor as the Chief Guest. This event was initiated and continually conducted under the supervision of Dr K. R. Gamage as the Senior Treasure of the Soft Skills Society.



Water Quality Awareness Programme

In conjunction with the World Water Day which falls on 22nd March, students of the Department of Limnology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology together with National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) organized a social awareness programme on water quality of groundwater wells in Egodabedda village of Katuwana.

A Mobile water quality laboratory was set up at the Egodabedda template with equipment provided by the University of Ruhuna and NWSDB. Mr E. A. Edirisinghe, the Chief Chemist of Southern Province and Ms Shamali,

Provincial Chemist and technical staff of NWSDB rendered their generous support towards this activity. Water quality reports generated by tests were given to residents and necessary authorities were informed about the high acidic levels of water.

In this village all needs of water, including drinking are met by groundwater sources, through two community based water supply schemes and individual groundwater wells. However none of the settlers were not aware about quality of water used by them. Independent water quality reports generated by testing were given and necessary authorizes were informed about the high acidic levels of water.



Best Poster Presentation

'A collaborative research conducted by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, entitled "Factors affecting people's preferences on lake function for sustainable management of Kandy Lake, Sri Lanka", won the best poster presentation award at the 11th International Symposium of South East Asian Water Environment, held at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Tushara Chaminda, of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, engaged in this collaborative research with the University of Shiga Prefecture and Kanazawa University in Japan. Under the MoU, signed between Toyama Prefectural University (TPU), Japan and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (DCEE), University of Ruhuna, Ms. Dilini Kodikara, Civil Engineering undergraduate student, took part in the

laboratory training program held at Toyama Prefectural University from the 4th to 10th December 2014. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is engaged in another collaborative research on "Fluoride contamination of ground water in Sri Lanka" with Toyama Prefectural University.



Best Paper Award for "Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle"

The final year undergraduate project, titled "Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle", of the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering (DEIE), has been awarded the "Best Paper" award at the conference on "Present Around the World 2014" organized by the Institution of Engineering Technology-Young Professionals (IET-YP) of Sri Lanka.

This annual conference was held at the University of Peradeniya, with participants from the University of Moratuwa, University of Peradeniya and University of Ruhuna. The Team was comprised of Mr. M.P. Chandimal, Mr. H.P.A. Chandrasiri, Ms. T.P.C. Madusha, Mr. P.G.G.N. Wickramasinghe and Dr. N.D. Jayasundere (supervisor).

Fulbright Scholarship for a Masters Degree



Mrs Erangi Heenkenda, very first recipient of Vice Chancellors Award for the Most Outstanding Student of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology, who is presently attached to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture as a Probationary Lecturer received a Fulbright Scholarship for a Masters Degree at the University of Florida, USA. She commenced her studies in August 2015.

Obtaining Charter from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, UK

Dr. R.M. Anura Pushpakumara, the Head of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering has obtained his Charter from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, UK.



'IESL TECHNO Awards Ceremony -2014

Techno Sri Lanka - 2014, the National Engineering and Technology Exhibition was held on 10th, 11th and 12th October 2014 at the BMICH. It is the only exhibition, which featured a wide range of engineering and technology products and services in Sri Lanka. Ruhuna Engineering Faculty stall was highlighted as one of the most attractive stalls which was comprised of several award winning and innovative final year projects of Ruhuna Engineering students. Ruhuna Faculty of Engineering with its vibrant stall won the prestigious 'Gold Award for Best Stall' among the all Sri Lankan academic institutions. 'Techno Sri Lanka 2014 Awards Ceremony' was held on 2nd November, 2014 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo. The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Chandana Perera, Faculty Coordinator of Techno 2014, Dr. Chithral Ambawatte and all the winners of the competition participated in this event.

Student Achievements

APP Contest 2014

A workshop conducted by Dialog Ideamart team was held on 30th September. A discussion and a demonstration session was conducted on android applications and new trends. Innovative mobile, web, desktop and cloud applications developed by the students for the contest were awarded cash prizes of Rs.15,000, 10,000 and 5,000.



CAD Eager Competition -2014

All three winning places were taken by the students from Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at the CAD Eager competition conducted in parallel with the Techno Exhibition-2014, organized by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) in October 2014. The first place was won by B R. T. M. Buwanayake and W. M. J. Peris; the second place by K. A. M. Alwis and D. T. H. U. K. Perera, and the third place by GHY Sandeepa and W. M. D. D. Kumaradasa respectively.

Winning the Championship of Imminent Marketer-2014



A team of students from the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance, UoR won the Championship of Imminent Marketer-2014 and the best award for the Digital Marketing Campaign at an inter-university competition organized by the Department of Marketing Management, University of Sri Jayawardanapura. The competition was aimed on providing an opportunity for the undergraduates of both state universities and private institutions to reveal and sharpen their capabilities.

XBOTIX 2014

XBOTIX is a robotic competition for both University level and school level competitors organized by IEEE student branch of the University together with IET and EIES. This event was a complete success where more than 40 undergraduate teams and 20 school teams participated for the championship under two categories. Awards, certificates and cash prizes were given to the winners

Concrete Mix Design Competition

Final year undergraduate students of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering won the 3rd place at the Inter University "Concrete Mix Design Competition" organized by Holcim (Lanka) Ltd. The objective of the competition was to impart practical and theoretical knowledge in the specialized area of concrete mix design, providing students with valuable exposure to working with concrete as well as encouraging them to work in teams. The final competition was held on 11th October 2014 at the TECHNO-2014 Exhibition in Colombo.

Spaghetti Bridge Competition 2014

Civil Engineering Undergraduate Students of the Faculty of Engineering won the 3rd place at the "Spaghetti Bridge Competition 2014", held on 12th October 2014 at the BMICH premises with Techno 2014 exhibition which was organized by Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL).



University of Ruhuna Inter Faculty Championship 2015

The Inter Faculty Championship 2014 was opened on 9th May and closed on 13th June at the University gymnasium and University grounds. Dr. Nayana Alagiyawanna, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University was the chief guest for the Opening Ceremony held on 9th May and the Vice Chancellor was the chief guest for the Closing Ceremony which was held on 13th June at the University grounds. This year the Inter Faculty Championship was won by Faculty of Agriculture while Faculty of Science and Faculty of Engineering were second and third respectively. New four records were set on put-shot men, 3000 m women and men 4 x 100 m relay.



Ruhuna Medical Students Became Cricket Champions

Peradeniya Vs Ruhuna Medicos' Cricket Encounter 2015 which was held in Kandy on 8th March 2015. This event was a memorable event for both teachers and students since it was organised for the 8th consecutive year. The teachers' teams were comprised of academics of Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya and Ruhuna with their respective

Faculties. Deans of both faculties participated as distinguished guests giving a glamour to the event. It is noteworthy that Prof. S. Lekamwasam Dean, Ruhuna Medical Faculty who is a Peradeniya graduate supported Ruhuna while Prof. M.D. Lamawansa Dean, Peradeniya Medical Faculty who is a Ruhuna graduate supported Peradeniya.



Appointments and Promotions



Prof. Damminie Premechandra of the Department of Zoology of Faculty of Science has been appointed to the Editorial Board of "International Journal of Tropical Insect Science" (IJT) which is jointly published by CABI, UK and ICEPE, Kenya. Also, she is serving as a member of the editorial board of the "World Journal of Agriculture Research", published by Science and Educational Publishing.



Dr. R.M.A. Pushpakumara has been nominated as the Coordinator of South Asian Region for the Design Competition organized by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, UK. The competition is to be held worldwide among four regions, namely North-East Asian region, South-East Asian region, South Asian region and Oceania region.



Dr. (Mrs.) R.T. Serasinghe, Senior Professor (Chair), Department of Animal Science, has been appointed as a member of the Management Board of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka with effect from March 2015 for a period of 3 years. She has also been appointed as a member of the Steering Committee of Food Security and contact person for Sri Lanka of the Global Research Alliance of Green house gases of livestock sector.



Dr. K.L. Wasantha Kumara, Professor in Agric Biology received the Australian Alumni Excellence Award-2015. The Australian Alumni Excellence Awards is organized by the Austrade to recognize high-achieving alumni who have studied in Australia.

New Appointments of UoR

Dr N. J. Dahanayake has been recruited to a post of Senior Lecturer to the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr Rev. Kattakaduwe Chanadawimala has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer to the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies.

Dr. (Mrs). Champi Thusangi Wannige has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer to the Department of Computer Science.

Dr. (Mrs.) S.R. Amarasinghe has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer to the Department of Soil Science.

Dr. D.M. Samarathunga has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer to the Department of Mathematics.

Dr. Harsh Manawadu has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer to the Department of Chemistry.

Mr, Iranga Muthumala has been recruited as a Programmer Cum System Analyst

Mr. Jayampathi EK has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer

Mr. Kalpage T.A.M. has been recruited as an Assistant Network Manager

Mr. Silva W.T.M. De has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer

Mr. Varuna Priyanka J.G. has been recruited as a Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Mr. Herath H.M.C.M. has been recruited as a Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Mr. K. R Wijeweera has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer to the Department of Computer Science

Mr. K.M.T.S. Bandara has been recruited as a Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Agric culture Engineering.

Mrs. Madhushika W.A.L. has been recruited as a Programmer Cum Systems Analyst

Mrs. Pathmasiri T.K.K.S. has been recruited as a Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Ms. Himanda H.L.C. has been recruited as a Scientific Assistant

Promotions of UoR

Professor Hema K.K. Pathirana of the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Professor of Chemistry

Dr. (Mrs.) D.A.L. Leelamanie of the Department of Soil Science of the Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to the Post of Professor of Soil Science.

Dr. (Mrs.) Lanka Ranawake of the Department of Agric Biology of the Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to the Post of Senior Lecturer (Grade I).

Dr. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Dahanayake of the Department of Agric Biology of the Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to the Post of Senior Lecturer (Grade I).

Dr. A.P. Attanayake of the Department of Bio Chemistry of the Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II).

Dr. Damminie Premachandra of the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Zoology.

Dr. G.D.K. Mahanama of the Department of Physics of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecture (Grade I).

Dr. G.Y. Jayasinghe of the Department of Agric Engineering of the Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Professor in Agriculture Engineering.

Dr. Hemantha Wegiriya of the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Associate Professor in Zoology.

Dr. J. A Jeewani of the Department of Computer Science of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).

Dr. K. Masakorala of the Department of Botany of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II.

Dr. L.A. Panamgama of the Department of Chemistry of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. L.B.L. Prabodha of the Department of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II).

Dr. M.A.G. Iresha of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II).

Dr. Mangala De Silva of the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Zoology.

Dr. N.M Wicramage of the Department of Physics of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade-II).

Dr. P.A Jayantha of the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Mathematics.

Dr. Pushpa Damayanthi of the Department of Botany of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Botany.

Dr. Saman Chandana of the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Associate professor in Zoology.

Dr. Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya of the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Chemistry.

Dr. Vineetha Wickrmasinghe of the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Science has been promoted to Associate Professor in Zoology.

Dr. D. A. L. Leelamani of the Department of Soil Science of the Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Professor in Soil Science.

Mr. M. D. Bandara of the Department of History of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science has been promoted Senior Lecturer (Grade II).

Ms. U. O. Gamage of the Department of History of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II)



UoR Highlights

Published by
University of Ruhuna

News to be sent to
Editor in Chief
UoR Highlights
University of Ruhuna
Matara, 81000 Sri Lanka

Tel: 041-2222682
Fax: 041-2222683

E-mail
newsletter@ruh.ac.lk

Web
www.ruh.ac.lk

Please forward your news articles to the next issue
before November 30th 2015.

Editor in Chief
Prof. Tilak P. D. Gamage Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sci. & Tech.

Editorial Board
Prof. A . J. Ruhunehewa Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Prof. K. K. I. U. Aruna Kumara Faculty of Agriculture
Prof. V. P. Bulugahapitiya Faculty of Science
Dr. M. K. Wanniarachchige Faculty of Management and Finance
Dr. L. B. Lahiru Prabodha Faculty of Medicine
Dr. J. M. R. S. Appuhamy Faculty of Engineering

Coordinator
Mrs. K. K. N. B. Adikaram Scientific Assistant to the Vice Chancellor