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## Feature Article

Inculcating Medical Professionalism in Future Doctors; Are we doing enough?

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# MAIN STORY

## The 25<sup>th</sup> Convocation of University of Ruhuna

The 25<sup>th</sup> Convocation of University of Ruhuna was held on 07<sup>th</sup> and 08<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 at the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium of the University. This year 1678 graduates were conferred with degrees of nine faculties of Agriculture, Humanities & Social Sciences, Management & Finance, Medicine, Engineering, Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Science, Allied Health Science and Graduates Studies.

His Most Reverend, Venerable Pallaththara Sri Sumanajothi Maha Thero, the Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna conferred the Degrees during the first Session followed by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake conferred the Degrees during the other three sessions of the two-day convocation. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake conducted the convocation during the first session and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Doctor A.M.N. Alagiyawanna conducted the rest of the convocation while the Deans of the faculties announced their degree awardees.

At the first Session held on 07<sup>th</sup> Morning 6 graduates were conferred with Doctor of Philosophy and 13 graduates conferred with Master of Philosophy while 398 graduates were conferred with Bachelor of Arts (General), Bachelor of Computer Science (Special), Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Science (General and Special) respectively.

At the second session on 07<sup>th</sup> evening Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Honors Causa) awarded to Mr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe while 63 graduates were conferred with Master of Arts in Economics and 8 with Master of Arts in Sociology. 329 graduates were conferred with Bachelor of Arts (Special).



Two graduates of Master of Engineering, 16 graduates of Master of Science, 406 graduates of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Bachelor of Science in Agri-business Management, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Resource Management & Technology, Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Green Technology degrees were conferred during the third session on 08<sup>th</sup> morning.

Three graduates of Master of Business Administration, 434 graduates of Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Computer Science (General) degrees were conferred during the fourth session on 08<sup>th</sup> evening.

Doctor Palitha Abeykoon, Mr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Professor Sarath Wimalabandara Kotagama and Professor Sampath Amarathunge delivered the Convocation addresses during the four sessions respectively.

Every year the most outstanding graduates are selected from faculties based on academic performances and their achievements in extracurricular activities. The Vice chancellor's gold Medal recipients of this year were Ms. Sandamali Lokuhitige of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Ms. W.G. Piyumi Sakunthala of the Faculty of Science, Ms. D.M.S.S. Pathum Dissanayake of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mr. K.P. Manoj Priyankara of the Faculty of Engineering, Mr. K.M.U. Dananjaya Wijesinghe of the Faculty of Management & Finance.



# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Inculcating Medical Professionalism in Future Doctors; Are we doing enough?

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Professional conduct of present-day doctors has come under scrutiny and criticism by several sections of our society including judiciary, media and general public than ever before. Although successful litigation by an affected patient or his or her concerned party is rarely reported, incidents on alleged professional misconduct in the form of unsatisfactory communication with patients by doctors, inappropriate and verbal abuse, medical negligence and even sexual abuse and physical harassment of patients by doctors in both public and private health care facilities are not very rare encounters in Sri Lankan media.

Majority of doctors practicing in Sri Lanka undergo their undergraduate training locally. Most specialist doctors undergo a period of training in an overseas hospital in addition to local training. Hence, teachers/trainers, academics and administrators in Sri Lankan state medical schools have a duty and responsibility in imparting medical professionalism in future doctors who might unfortunately become victims of their lapses in professional conduct. This article focuses on medical professionalism with a special emphasis on different educational approaches and methods followed to inculcate medical professionalism in undergraduates and postgraduates in the Faculty of Medicine (FOM) of University of Ruhuna (UOR).

### What is Medical Professionalism?

Numerous definitions of medical professionalism have been described. The General Medical Council which is the governing body of undergraduate and post graduate medical education in the United Kingdom describes the duties of a doctor as providing good clinical care, maintaining good medical practice, teaching and training, relationships with patients and working with colleagues. The Royal College of Physicians of London has defined medical professionalism as a set of values, behaviors and relationships that underpin the trust the public has in doctors, with doctors being committed to integrity, compassion, altruism, continuous improvement, excellence and teamwork.

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committed to integrity, compassion, altruism, continuous improvement, excellence and teamwork.

Careful analysis of different definitions reveals that medical educators frame professionalism as a list of characteristics or behaviors namely integrity, altruism, empathy, teamwork and continuous professional development. However, there remains uncertainty about what professionalism means to different sections in the society. Although medical educators define professionalism as a list of characteristics or behaviors, sociologists favor theories that incorporate political, economic and social dimensions into the understanding of the nature and function of professionalism. Moralists argue that professionalism should be seen clearly as an aspect of personal identity and character which develops over time. Nevertheless, the consensus among medical educationists and administrators is that medical curricula should include mechanisms to inculcate certain specific values and behaviors during their training among medical undergraduates and postgraduates.

### Teaching and assessment of Medical Professionalism?

Traditionally, it is expected that students informally acquire certain values and behaviors related to their respective profession from their teachers whom they consider as role models. Hidden curricular prevailing in the individual institutions also influence and help students to cultivate some good practices and behaviors as well as some not so good ones. Although there are standard and time-tested tools and pathways to impart and assess knowledge and skills in medical students, one cannot expect the values and behaviors included in medical professionalism to be taught and tested by the same means as knowledge and skills. Inculcating professionalism among students in medicine requires different and more complex approaches than imparting knowledge and skills. Having understood the importance of incorporation of formal teaching and evaluations on professionalism among present day doctors, most state medical faculties in Sri Lanka have introduced several measures in this direction. Let me go through them from the time of student's entry until he or she is graduated as a medical doctor.

### Nurturing the new entrants as passionate medical students

In most of the developed countries and some developing countries, the selection of students in to medical schools is done following interviews conducted by the respective institute. This is to ensure that in addition to required academic credentials, many personal attributes considered necessary in future doctors are present at least to some minor extent in the new entrants to these institutions. During the interview students are often questioned as to why they choose medicine as their career. Presence of necessary pattern of behaviors among applicants are inquired, tested and given due recognition in selecting students to these medical schools.



However, in Sri Lanka, it is only the advanced level result that is considered as the sole criterion to select students to follow medicine in state medical faculties. This is partly due to the fact that an interview-based selection process is very unlikely to be transparent and independent in a country like ours due to rampant political malpractices and other interferences prevailing in each and every selection process or appointment especially in the state sector.

anatomy, biochemistry and physiology. Clinical clerkship and visiting hospitals and interacting with patients begin in the third year of their training. Although some values and behaviors included in medical professionalism are thought in theory during the first two years as medical ethics, there is an inherent delay and lack of opportunities to introduce the core patterns of behavior and values required by the medical undergraduates at the beginning of their career with the existing system.

However, some medical schools in Sri Lanka have revised their curricular and training programmes to provide early clinical exposure to medical students. In order to provide basic input before visiting hospitals and to interact with patients, FOM -UOR has introduced an introductory clinical appointment after completion the second year. During this appointment, there are formal inputs on several areas of medical professionalism such as engaging in a doctor-patient communication, maintaining confidentiality in clinical clerkships, and respecting patients' autonomy in the form of lectures and clinical demonstrations.

### **Testing communication skills in medical examinations; Introduction of OSCE**

Critical comments by patients and general public on doctor's behaviour is directed mostly towards their poor communication skills in a variety of situations. These may occur while eliciting information on patients' illness (obtaining medical history), obtaining consent to an invasive procedure or a surgery, breaking bad news on patients' illness such as having diagnosed of cancer, instructing on how to continue certain medications, or dealing with an uncooperative patient with poor compliance to prescribed medications.

Cultivating good practices in communication in these situations need formal guidance and training. It also depends on understanding patients' situational and cultural background. Although volumes of articles and chapters have been written on good doctor-patient relationship, without a formal practical assessment of individual students, it is difficult to recognize the deficiencies in communication skills specific to each of the situation.

### **OSCE as an assessment tool in medical professionalism**

Introduction of objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) stations as a tool of assessment in clinical examinations has provided an opportunity to use them to test some of the communication skills embedded in medical professionalism. Over the last two decades, one or many OSCE stations have been a regular component in assessing some of the practices and behaviors related to medical professionalism in major clinical

disciplines including medicine, surgery, genecology, paediatrics and psychiatry in our Faculty.

However, as a tool to asses some of the behaviors in medical professionalism, OSCE bears certain advantages and disadvantages. It is a suitable tool to assess one individual student at a time with a given communication scenario, be it breaking bad news on serious illness, obtaining consent for procedure or dealing with an uncooperative patient with poor drug compliance. With a structured mark sheet and stepwise approach, assessment can be made in several behavioral attributes such as greeting the patient, building rapport, showing empathy when needed, listening carefully without unnecessary interruption, giving opportunity to clarify uncertainties etc.

However, the main drawback or not very real-world nature of OSCE in assessing communication skills is the limited time given for each station which in most cases is limited to a maximum of five minutes. It would be unrealistic and difficult for a student to be assessed in several behavioral components during this period of five minutes. Apart from that, the subjects chosen as patients in these stations are often surrogates either junior doctors or other health care personal without proper training, insight and hurried preparation in the morning of the examination. They too make the communication scenario an artificial experience. In addition, some examiners probably being unaware of what is tested in the OSCE station, try to test additional related subject matter as well. Above all, students are rarely given an individual feedback on their performance to improve their short comings at different points of their encounter.

Therefore, to be academically sound, and effective, a good OSCE in testing communication skills should be well designed giving priority to its specific objective (what exactly is tested?), selecting of trained, suitable surrogates, allocating adequate time for the station and giving feedback to students at the end of the examination. All these factors need to be considered before including an OSCE station to test behavior related to medical professionalism in medical examinations.

### **Future directions in coaching medical professionalism**

Inculcating medical professionalism in future doctors is a duty and responsibility of medical teachers. In this regard, FOM-UOR has taken several steps forward since its inception as a medical school. Some of these attempts like mentoring programme, inclusion of OSCE stations in clinical examinations need further improvements. Before introducing new practices to improve professionalism in medical undergraduates, it is prudent to study the models followed by other medical schools in the country and overseas.

Future steps, especially in line with the proposed curriculum revision process in the faculty, need to include steps to provide early clinical exposure to students, establish a designated department or an academic branch to guide students on professionalism and to introduce a behavioral science stream spanning through the whole curriculum with regular inputs at suitable levels by experts.

With these new additions, we would be hopeful of grooming not only knowledgeable and skillful medical graduates, but also medical professionals who would cater the needs and aspirations of our society.



# ACADEMIC EVENTS

## 15<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions and 14<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor's Award Ceremony

An academic session of the University of Ruhuna is an annual event in which academics, non-academics and postgraduate students of the University present their research findings. 15<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions and 14<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor's Award Ceremony was organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST), and held on 07<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Faculty premises. Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna graced the occasion as the Chief guest while the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. Nayana Alagiyawanna, Deans of the all faculties, Registrar, Bursar, academics and other distinguished invitees added glamor to the event.



Prof. Joseph D. Ortiz, Professor of Geology, Kent State University, USA, and Prof. Thakshala Seresinhe, Senior Professor of Animal Science (Retired), Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna attended as the Keynote speaker and Invited Orator of the inaugural ceremony, respectively. In the inaugural ceremony held at the Auditorium of the Faculty, Dr. R.H.S. Rajapaksha of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mr. P. Vithanage of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. W.W.D.A. Gunawardhena of the Faculty of Agriculture were awarded the Professor Emeritus. Furthermore, Prof. Nilanthi Dahanayake, Faculty of Agriculture was awarded as The Most Outstanding Scholar of the year 2017, and Dr. H.C.P. Karunasena, Faculty of Engineering was awarded The Most Outstanding Young Researcher of the year 2017. Moreover, Mr. J.A.S. Niloka (SC/2014/9068), Faculty of Science was awarded as the Most Outstanding Student Inventor/Innovator of the year 2017, while Dr. G.S.Y. De Silva, Faculty of Engineering was awarded as the Most Outstanding Convener of International Conferences/Promoter of International Relations of the year 2017.

Best presentation awards for the technical sessions (oral) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Academic sessions, held in the year 2016 were received by Dr. K.S.S. Atapaththu of the FMST, Mr. G.R.L. Kodikara of the FMST, Ms I.U. Nagahasinghe of the Faculty of Engineering and Dr. A.P. Rathnayake of the Faculty of Engineering for the theme sessions of Agriculture & Environmental Science, Science & Mathematics, Civil & Manufacturing Engineering, and Electrical, Mechanical and Information Engineering, respectively. Further, the best presentation awards for the poster presentations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions for the theme sessions of Medical, social and Environmental science and Science & Technology sessions were received by Dr. M.T. Napagoda of the Faculty of Medicine and Ms. B.M.J.K. Balasooriya of the Faculty of Engineering, respectively. Technical sessions of the 15<sup>th</sup> Academic sessions were conducted at the Department complex of the Faculty of FMST premises in which 83 abstracts were presented under five themes of sessions by the academic, academic supportive & non-academic staff members and postgraduate students of the University of Ruhuna.

# UNIVERSITY IN PROGRESS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference -2018 [RISTCON 2018]

The fifth Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference -2018 held on 15<sup>th</sup> February has been completed successfully. The conference aimed to bring together the interested academics, scientists, researchers and research students from Sri Lanka as well as foreign universities/institutes, and to provide them an international platform to share research findings on various themes in Science and Technology. The event was enlightened by 225 participants including international participants. A renowned scientist from Federal Drug Administration-USA, Dr. Thilak Kumara Mudalige contributed the RISTCON-2018 by delivering the Keynote speech on Nano-materials in Consumer Products while Dr. Kithsiri Neranjan Karunathilake enriched the conference with his plenary speech on Unraveling the Myths in Western Medicine. The conference was further strengthened by Prof. Alfred Zsmidt from Kyushu from Kyushu University of Japan delivering the guest speech at the Biological secession on Introgressive hybridization in two Indo-West Pacific Rhizophora mangrove species: *R. mucronata* and *R. stylosa*. 120 national and international researchers of diverse disciplines from basic sciences to applied sciences and technology presented their novel findings. All the abstracts were reviewed by three reviewers and the reviewer panel was consisting of 172 reviewers covering all areas of presentations. The event had been functioned both in afternoon and morning by running eight parallel sessions.

## International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment - ISAE2018

As the knowledge hub of Southern Sri Lanka, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, together with its research and innovation experience of over four decades, took pride in organizing the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE 2018) for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This symposium was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The theme of symposium was "Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture towards Food Security" which was focused to produce more food with minimum impact on the environment, intensifying food production while ensuring natural resources based on which agriculture depends is sustained, and indeed improved, for future generations.

ISAE 2018 program was commenced with an inaugural session with Professor Mohan Munasinghe a Sri Lankan physicist, academic and economist with a focus on energy, water resources, sustainable development and climate change,

delivered the keynote speech. Mr Kenichi Suganuma, His Excellency Ambassador to the Japan graced the occasion as the chief guest of the event. The inaugural session was followed by five concurrent sessions inclusive of three technical sessions under the themes of 'production technologies', 'Food processing quality and safety' and 'Socio-economic intervention and agri-business. Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna together with the Ministry of Primary Industries organized "A spice session" within the International Symposium of Agriculture and Extension (ISAE 2018). The scope of this session was to promote the spice sector and to share the knowledge and experiences gained through research among policy makers, scientists, stakeholders and the community. The session: 'young researcher's gateway' provided an instance for prospective undergraduate students to present their research findings.





## UNIVERSITY IN PROGRESS

### Ruhuna International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS)- 2018

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, successfully held the 4<sup>th</sup> Ruhuna International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS) on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Pearl Cliff Hotel, Matara. The chief guest of the event was Senior Professor Gamini Senanayeka, Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna.

The objective of this conference was to create a forum for researchers to address the challenges of a globalized society. Many local and foreign presenters participated the conference. In this year the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies handled the main responsibilities of organizing the conference.

The keynote speaker of this conference was Emeritus Professor P.D.Premasiri [BA (Hons.) (Ceylon), BA (Hons.) (Cambridge), MA (Cambridge), PhD (Hawaii)] of Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya. Professor P. D. Premasiri has specialized the areas of Buddhist Ethics and Buddhist Philosophy. His academic training consists of Buddhist and Western philosophical traditions.

Papers were called from university academics, professionals, research fellows and research students. The main theme of the conference, "Ethics, Morality and Spirituality in Globalized Society", had been split into 16 sub themes: Religion and Spiritual Studies, Globalization, Economy and Development, Higher Education, Language and Literature, Philosophy, Conflict Studies and Reconciliation, Social Challenges, Psychology and Counseling, Culture, Governance and Development, History and Archaeology, Natural Resources, Population and Environment, Research Ethics and Gender. The abstracts were presented either in English or in Pali.



### The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on, Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices for Sustainable Development (ACEPS-2018)

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on, Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices for Sustainable Development (ACEPS-2018) was successfully held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, Galle, with the participation of more than 200 local and international delegates. Academics, Engineers and Scientists who were experts in the field of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science from Japan, India, Indonesia, Australia, China and Sri Lanka took part in this symposium. This International symposium created a venue to discuss advanced sustainable engineering practices that are adopted in developing the country. At this ACEPS-2018, more than 50 original papers on civil engineering practices for sustainable development, ecological engineering of water bodies, infrastructure planning and development, and environmental engineering were presented. ACEPS-2018 provided a venue for promotion and exchange of information on sustainability-oriented innovations in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The Symposium was organized by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Ruhuna in collaboration with Saitama University, Japan; Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), India; and Asia Pacific Network Collaborative Regional Research Program for Global Change.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. Gamini Senanayake, participated as the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Sangam Shrestha, the Chair of Water Engineering and Management Program at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, Prof. Manish Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), India, and Prof. Taro Uchimura, Saitama University, Japan delivered keynote speeches.





## 7<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium on 'Recent Advances in Civil Engineering'

7<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium on 'Recent Advances in Civil Engineering' jointly organized by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Society, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, successfully held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January-2018 at the faculty premises, Hapugala, Galle. This year, the symposium attracted more than 150 participants from Engineering Faculties of University of Ruhuna, University of Moratuwa, University of Jafna, Kothalawala Defense University and Sri Lanka Institute of Technology. Seventy-seven undergraduate researches conducted by the final year civil engineering students (15<sup>th</sup> batch) in the academic year 2017 presented at the symposium. This year, the symposium was graced by Prof. Rupa Purasinghe from California State University, USA and Eng. M.D.S Wijayabadara, General Manager of SD & CC as the Key Note Speakers. Dr. A.M.N. Alagiyawanna, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Dr. Chandana Perera, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and many senior academic staff members and engineers from the industry participated the symposium.



## Adcon 2018

Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance with the collaborative participation of the undergraduates and the school students from the Southern Province proudly organized the 'Adcon 2018', which was basically an advertising competition in nature. The event was an extremely competitive one with a creative 'twist', mainly focusing on a given theme, "Humanity". Initially, an awareness session on the nature of the competition was held on 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018 as to provide contestants with an understanding to develop advertisements in an effective way. Subsequently, the Grand Finale of the Adcon 2018 was successfully held on 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2018 at the premises of University of Ruhuna. The competition along with a musical evening was organized as a part of marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department of Marketing. The event achieved massive success and filled with mind-blowing creative talents of the contestants. Mahinda Rajapaksha college became the winner of the competition while Rahula college was the first runner-up.



## "Athwela" CSR Initiative by Human Resource Development Circle

Human Resource Development Circle at the Faculty of Management and Finance launched a CSR project for the second consecutive year, "ATHWELA 02" on 07<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in aid of Matara / Dehigaspa Anagarika Dharmapala Kanitu Vidyalaya which was one of the extreme rural schools in the Southern Province. As the first phase of the CSR project, the roof of a main building was completely renovated and the buildings of the school were repaired and color washed. The second phase included providing education necessities to the school and school children. Further, the students arranged a day meal for the school children together with a few entertainment-activities. The main objective of this project was to uplift the quality of learning environment and create a passion for continuous learning among the school students. The project was successfully completed with the generous contribution and donations of the all the academic staff, non-academic staff, undergraduates at the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna.





## 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Management and Economics (ICME) 2018

ICME 2018, organized by the Faculty of Management and Finance under the theme of “Entrepreneurial eco-system: Regional policy, innovation and sustainability” was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna. The ICME 2018 provided a platform for academics, researchers, and practitioners across the globe to debate on how a region facilitates to create cultures, institutions, markets and networks with integrated policies and programs that foster entrepreneurship activities for new value creation while promoting social welfare and environmental protection. As such, the conference could be viewed as a timely need in today's integrated world that requires building up networks among governments, industries, and universities in creating an enabling environment to nurture entrepreneurship towards regional development. The ICME 2018 provided researchers with an opportunity to engage in a prolonged debate under a common theme through sharing their research findings.



## The Faculty of Medicine Academic Session 2018

The Faculty of Medicine Academic Session 2018 was held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, Karapitiya. The theme of this year's academic session was 'Unresolved Healthcare Challenges in Sri Lanka' mainly focusing on the chronic kidney disease. The chief guest was Senior Prof. Gamini Senanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna. The key note address was delivered by Prof Saroj Jayasinghe, Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo on “Unresolved health challenges: the need to cross the boundaries”. The Orator of the inauguration was Dr. L.B Lahiru Pabodha. During the Inauguration Ceremony two students: Mr. Jayasekara Gajasinghe Gamage Akalanka and Mr. PNSL Priyadarshana was awarded with Dean's award.

Four eminent speakers: Vidyajothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff, Prof. Mangala C S De Silva, Dr. Shamitha Dissanayake and the Dr. Randula Ranawake shared their knowledge at the symposium followed by the student's session and the free paper session.



## RASAS 2018

The 03<sup>rd</sup> Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Sessions (RASAS) – 2018 was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The theme of the sessions was “Spirit of Sprouting Researchers of Tomorrow”. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the chief guest was Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna. The keynote speech was delivered by Siri Hettige, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo. The abstracts had been called under 11 sub themes. More than 125 abstracts appeared in the abstract volume and enthusiastic young researchers presented their work representing their universities. The effort taken by Mr. Suranjith Gunasekera (Chair), Dr. N.S. Ariyaratne (Secretary), Ms. Upeksha Gamage and Dr. K.D.D. G Silva (Co- Secretaries), and Rev. Makola Mangala (Treasurer) along with the other committees should be appreciated since the RASAS is one of the very few research conferences held for the undergraduates in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences in Sri Lanka.







### Meeting with Morawakkorale Tea Co-op. Ltd. to develop a Ginger tea

With the target of developing Ginger Tea, a value added tea product, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna arranged a meeting with Morawakkorale Tea Co-op Ltd. Dr. Upul Premaratne, Head, Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology represented the Director of Technical Transfer Unit, University of Ruhuna. Several members representing the Agric. Business Cell also presented at the meeting.

While discussing the possibilities of developing the value added product, representatives from Morawakkorale Tea Co-op Ltd emphasized the necessity of the University of Ruhuna to extend its arms towards industry. The trial version of value added ginger tea produced by the Department of Food Science and Technology was introduced at the meeting. University representatives were invited to visit the Tea factory on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 for further discussion on the scope and current practices of Morawakkorale Tea Co-op.

Dr. PLN.Lakshman, Head, Department of Food Science and Technology pointed out the scope of the Faculty to facilitate the industry in different compartments. Overall 5 year business plan will be designed for them by Agric Business Cell-FoA through the University Technology Transfer Unit (RUSSET- Ruhuna University Social Entrepreneur Thrust).

### Seminars organized by the Center for Astrobiology Sri Lanka, University of Ruhuna

Center for Astrobiology in Sri Lanka, University of Ruhuna organized a lecture series in the field of Astrobiology and held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Physics Auditorium. The first lecture titled "Life in the Universe: A new cosmic world view unraveled" was conducted by Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, Adjunct Professor, Center for Astrobiology in Sri Lanka, University of Ruhuna. The second lecture titled "Astroeconomics" was conducted by Professor Gensuke Tokoro from the Institute for the Study of Panspermia and Astroeconomics, Japan. Professor Tokoro is working as an Honorary Visiting Professor of the Center for Astrobiology in Sri Lanka, University of Ruhuna. This is the second event organized by the center and about 100 people from Academic staff, Academic supportive and students of the Faculty of Science have participated in this event.



### Achievements of the Ethical Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna in 2017-2018

The new committee took office in January 2017 and two eminent personalities, a former principal of a leading Girl's school in Galle and an Attorney-at-Law were also appointed as nonaffiliated members. The committee received an office space at CIU building, Faculty of Medicine with a temporary support staff member to attend to all clerical work. There was an opening ceremony with the participation of the Dean, Faculty of Medicine and the ERC members. Membership of the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Sri Lanka (FERCSL) was obtained in July 2017.

Detailed documents of ERC were uploaded to the Faculty Website in December 2017 (<http://www.medi.ruh.ac.lk/ethics/>). ERC underwent the international recognition survey conducted by the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in the Asian and Western Pacific (FERCAP) region during 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. It was an extensive survey by a team of four surveyors (including two foreign surveyors) and nine survey trainees.



### Grades Obtained for the Programme review

The programme review for the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) offered by the Faculty of Management and Finance was conducted by a review team consisting of academics from the state university system in Sri Lanka. The review process was carried out as per the instructions in Section 5.8 of the Manual for Review of Undergraduate Study Programmes of Sri Lankan Universities and Higher Education Institutions, University Grants Commission- December 2015. The review process for the cluster of three degree programmes; Honors in Entrepreneurship, Honors in Human Resource Management, and Honors in Marketing was conducted from 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. The cluster obtained grade "A", which is considered to be the top grade in the rankings system. Further, the BBA Honors in Accounting was reviewed separately from 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 to 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. The Honors in Accounting programme obtained grade "B" for the programme review. The immense contribution and commitment of the academic, non-academic staff, and the undergraduates at the faculty were the backbone for achieving massive success in the programme review process.

### Establishment of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

The Faculty consists of three academic departments; Department of Medical Laboratory Science (MLS), Department of Nursing and Department of Pharmacy. Both Departments of MLS and Pharmacy are located at Uluwike and Department of Nursing is located at Mahamodara. Dr. W.V.R.T.D.G.Bandara, Dr. K.G. Imendra and Dr. S.K.Hettihewa have been appointed as the Heads of the Departments of MLS, Nursing and Pharmacy, respectively.





## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

### Elective summer course in Community Medicine “Global Health in Context: Sri Lanka”

Four weeks Summer course titled “Global Health in Context: Sri Lanka” was conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna in collaboration with Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI), Duke University USA and Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. 10 students from AIGHD and 4 students of DGHI were participated. The course offered students an opportunity to study global health challenges both in and outside of the classroom. Department of Community Medicine planning to conduct this summer course annually.

### Workshop on detection and identification of diseases in different vegetable crops and cinnamon in Sri Lanka

A workshop on detection and identification of different diseases in vegetable crops and cinnamon in Sri Lanka was held at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 under the sponsorship of American Phytopathological Society and the APS Office of International Programs (OIP) and Southern Provincial Council, Sri Lanka. Prof KL Wasantha Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture served as the local coordinator and Dr Sudarshanee Geekiyanage served as the co-coordinator to the event, while Dr Shyam Kandel, a postdoctoral researcher of American Phytopathological Society, Prof KL Wasantha Kumara, Prof Dammini Premachandra and Dr Nalika Ranathunga of University of Ruhuna served as resource persons. Theoretical and practical aspects of detection and identification of diseases of different vegetable crops and cinnamon were discussed during the 3-day workshop, which was rated as highly useful by participants. Research Officers and Agricultural Instructors of Southern Provincial Council and other Agricultural sector representatives participated at the workshop.



### Guest Lecture on Foodweb interactions in temperate and tropical lakes and reservoirs: are tropical food webs different?

Prof. Koos Vijverberg, Guest Researcher of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW), Netherlands delivered a lecture on “Foodweb interactions in temperate and tropical lakes and reservoirs: are tropical foodwebs different?” on 07th Aug 2018 at the auditorium of the Faculty of FMST. This lecture was organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna in collaboration with Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (SLAFAR).





## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

### Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) workshop for Agriculture development

A workshop on Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) was successfully conducted at hotel Amari, Galle during the period of 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. The Academic Staff members including the Dean and all the Heads of Departments of Faculty of Agriculture participated at the workshop. MSP tools and principles were discussed at the workshop which was financially supported by NUFFIC through a fellowship worth 78000 Euros awarded for a joint proposal forwarded by Dr. Ganganee Chandima Samaraweera (Faculty of Agriculture) and Mr. Herman Brouwer (Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands).



### Academic Visit of Delegation from Institute of Plant and Environment

A delegation from the Institute of Plant and Environment Protection, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences China had a discussion with the Prof. KL Wasantha Kumara and other academic staff of Department Agric. Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture on 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. The aim of this discussion was to establish a collaborative research and academic link between Institute of Plant and Environment Protection, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences China and University of Ruhuna.



### Health Sciences University of Hokkaido, Japan – visit to Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Professor Yoshihiro Abiko, the director of international education and exchange center of Health Sciences University of Hokkaido, Japan and Assistant Professor Md Riasat Hasan visited Faculty of Allied Health Sciences University of Ruhuna on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. They had discussions with the Dean, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena and Dr. K.G. Imendra (Head/Department of Nursing) about initiating exchange programs, research collaborations between two universities and providing postgraduate opportunities for students of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.





## STUDENTS IN ACTION

### "Sanda Sakmana 2018"

"Sanda Sakmana 2018", a musical event conducted by the faculty was successfully held at Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna on 08<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Sanda Sakmana 2018 was organized by the Cultural Unit of the Faculty of Management and Finance consecutively for the second time. The event started at 4.00 p.m. in the faculty premises and continued for nearly two hours. Academic, non-academic and students participated and enjoyed the classical music played by the "Saptha" musical group. Students got an opportunity to exhibit their aesthetic skills in collaboration with the "Saptha" musical group. The event provided academic, non-academic staff and the students with a platform to uplift their aesthetic interests by getting rid of the daily work routines for a while. The event was initiated with an idea raised by the Dean of the faculty, Dr.T.S.L.W.Gunawardana and succeeded in its continuation.



### Cleaning campaign in "Kirala Kele" sanctuary

Ruhuna Science Research Circle (RUSREC) conducted a cleaning campaign in "Kirala Kele" sanctuary Matara on 04<sup>th</sup> August 2018 with the participation of large group of students. The event was patronized by Prof. E.P.S.Chandana, Patron, RUSREC.



### Rhythm of Marketing 2k18

The Circle of Marketing, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance organized "Rhythm of Marketing 2k18", which was basically a ceremonial function for welcoming new students to the Department of Marketing. As such, the official welcoming of new comers to the Department of Marketing was held on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 at the MFLT 03 with the participation of academic staff and the marketing major undergraduates. The welcoming ceremony featuring speeches from the Head of the Department and the office bearers of the Circle of Marketing had been continuing for duration of one hour. The welcoming ceremony and the featured speeches were capable enough of providing new comers with an encouragement and a momentum to continue their future studies in the field of marketing.



### The Induction day of the IEEE Women In Engineering (WIE) Student Branch Affinity Group at the University of Ruhuna

The Induction day of the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group at the University of Ruhuna was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the Faculty of Engineering. The keynote speakers of the event were Eng. Shameera Hettiarachchi, Manager at Business Solutions, Mobitel Pvt. Ltd., and, Eng. Sachintha Pathirana, a senior software engineer, LSEG Technology and, the Secretary of the IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section. The speakers extensively discussed how young female graduates can develop a good professional career in the field of engineering. The event was a great success and left a positive impact on IEEE volunteering opportunities. The students of the IEEE Ruhuna Student Branch and the Interim Chair of the IEEE WIE Ruhuna Affinity Group, Eng. Dimuthu Dharshana attended the event.





## Padura

Art society of Faculty of Engineering brings out the most enthusiastic musical experience of the year, Padura. An evening of outdoor music with a continental theme refreshing each year. This year, the theme was a rural bazaar which was created under the banyan tree, by the student center of the faculty. There one was able to experience the sensational voices of university students waving with the melodies of the orchestra of students of faculty of engineering in many languages such as Sinhala, Tamil or Hindi. Padura held dancing events, beautifully organized aesthetic event by the final year students



## Inter Faculty dancing and Literature Competition

Students of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology won the 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Traditional Team Dancing at the annual Inter Faculty Dancing and Literature Competition of the University of Ruhuna, which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018. In addition to above award, students of the same faculty received various places at the IFDLC as below -

- MDM Faazil : 1<sup>st</sup> place - Poem (English medium),
- MWSN Thilakarathna : 1<sup>st</sup> place - Short stories (English medium)
- Lawrance Shibora : 1<sup>st</sup> place - Novels (Tamil medium)
- T. Vinith Steeban : 1<sup>st</sup> place - Short stories (Tamil medium)
- M.M Aris : 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Poems (Tamil medium)
- K. Tharunika : 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Short Stories (Tamil medium)
- HSN Husna : 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Poems (English medium)



## Orator of the Year

Mr. G.A.S. Sandamal of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology won the Championship of the Orator of the year 2018 (Sinhala medium), while Mr. W.P.J. Sathyadith and Ms U. Dilakshika received 2nd Runner-up for English medium and Tamil medium contests respectively at the Grand Finale of the Orator of the Year 2018 which was held on 15.11.2018 at the Faculty of Medicine.





## ACHIEVEMENTS BY STAFF

### NF-POGO-PML-AMT Fellowship Mr. Kokuhenadige Hashan Niroshana

Mr. Kokuhenadige Hashan Niroshana of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was offered the NF-POGO-PML-AMT Fellowship for shipboard training on the 27th Atlantic Meridional Transect (AMT) Research Cruise by the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO), the Nippon Foundation and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML, UK). The AMT is an annual oceanographic expedition between the UK and the destinations in the South Atlantic, which has been operational since 1995. Mr. Niroshana took part in the 27th Atlantic Meridional Transect (AMT) research cruise from 23rd September to 5th November, 2017, onboard the "Royal Research Ship Discovery", sailed from Southampton, UK to Falkland Island. Moreover, he became the first Sri Lankan to represent the team of scientists of the AMT.

During the cruise, he has conducted experiments on carbon and nitrogen fixation to study the activities in the upper layers of the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, he involved in another few research projects; acquisition of information of the lower atmosphere composition to aid the atmospheric radio transfer models of the Sentinel 3 satellite sensors, study of mesoplankton community size structure and abundance in the North and South Atlantic oceanic gyres and collection of DNA samples for a marine DNA archive for the Atlantic Ocean.



### CAS-PIFI Visiting Fellowship – Dr. M.K.Abeyratne

Dr. M.K.Abeyratne of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science was awarded by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) a visiting fellowship under the CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI) for year 2018. He has been conducting research on Dispersion feature during the mesoscale eddy propagation at South China Sea Institute of Oceanology (SCSIO), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou, China, in collaboration with Prof. WANG Dongxiao, the Director, China-Sri Lanka Joint Center for Education and Research (CSL-CER) and his research group, the State Key Laboratory of Tropical Oceanography, at SCSIO. In addition, Dr. M.K. Abeyratne has been appointed as a visiting lecturer to conduct a lecture series on MATLAB Programming for M.Sc. study programme on Physical Oceanography at South China Sea Institute of Oceanology.



### Fulbright Fellowship Prof P. Mangala C.S De Silva

Prof. P. Mangala C.S De Silva received prestigious Fulbright Fellowship 2018 to continue his post-doctoral studies at Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA. He was attached to renal division and worked under Prof. Joseph V. Bonventre a leading expert in the world renowned for biomarkers of renal diseases. Prof De Silva was the first Sri Lankan post-doctoral scientist to work at the Harvard Medical School and his studies were mainly focused on developing urinary biomarkers for detecting early renal damage in CKDu affected populations in rural Sri Lanka. This rare opportunity also resulted in long term collaboration with Harvard Medical School, Boston Children Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, USA.





## IFFGD Developing Nation Research Award Dr. Amaranath Karunanayake

Dr Amaranath Karunanayake is an academic and a researcher working in the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. He graduated with MBBS degree from University of Ruhuna and obtained PhD from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

He has been awarded the IFFGD Developing Nation Research Award - 2018 from International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders at the awards ceremony at Washington DC, USA, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

His current research activities include exploring the epidemiology of Functional gastrointestinal disorders in different communities in Sri Lanka and assessment of autonomic functions and pain related behaviors.



## IIER Excellent paper award Dr. L B Lahiru Prabodha

Dr L B Lahiru Prabodha is a Senior Lecturer, Clinical Geneticist and a researcher working in the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. He graduated with MBBS degree from University of Ruhuna and obtained MPhil from University of Kelaniya and MSc in clinical genetics from University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has participated in the ISRED International conference on Medical and Health Sciences (ICMHS) held in Singapore on 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 and presented an oral presentation titled “Cleft palate an indication for routine screening for Velocardiofacial syndrome”. His presentation won the IIER Excellent paper award at the conference. His current research activities include genetic evaluation of craniofacial anomalies, genetics of diabetic peripheral neuropathy and genetics on subfertility in Sri Lanka.



## President's Awards for Scientific Publications - 2018

A ceremony was held to confer Presidents Awards for Scientific Publications on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Grand Marquee, Taj Samudra, Colombo. The occasion was graced by H.E Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The President's Awards for Scientific Publications are given to Sri Lankan scientists with a local institutional affiliation who achieve a publication in the top 15% of Science Citation Index Expanded journals (ranked on their Impact Factor under each journal category based on SCI categorization of journals) or at least one publication in a Science Citation Index Expanded journal with an Impact Factor of 3.5 or more, in the given year. Following academics received this prestigious awards for 2018.

### Faculty of Medicine

Prof Ajith Nagahawatta  
Prof (Mrs) Sudheera Jayasinghe  
Prof (Mrs) C.K Bodinayake  
Prof Vasantha Devasiri  
Dr Niroshan Dahanayake  
Mrs M.R.P Kurukulasooriya

### Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Dr (Mrs) H.B Asanthi  
Mr H.A.S.D Perera

### Faculty of Science

Prof Mangala C.S De Silva  
Prof Saman Chandana  
Dr (Mrs) N.M Wickramagae  
Dr (Mrs) E.J.K.P Nandani  
Miss Dilini Ekanayake

### Faculty of Agriculture

Prof (Mrs) D.A.L Leelamanie  
Dr Idunil Pathirana

### Faculty of Engineering

Dr G.G.T Chaminda

## Conferring of the State Literary Award and The Buddhist Literary Award

The State Literary Award 2018 for the best scholarly translation was conferred on Dilini Ariyawansa, who is serving as a probationary lecturer in The Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The PhD thesis of Prof. D. J. Wijayaratne was translated by her as සිංහල නාම පදයෙහි ඉතිහාසය in 2017. The awards ceremony, which was organized by The Ministry of Higher Education and Cultural Affairs and Department of Cultural Affairs, was held on 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall. Furthermore, The Buddhist Literary Award 2018 for scholarly translations were conferred on her for the same work on 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018. The Buddhist Literary Awards ceremony was organized by The All Ceylon Buddhist Congress.



## SUSRED Award

Dr. Sudarshanee Geekiyanage and Prof. Gamini Senanayake, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture received SUSRED awards for supervision of Mphil degree of Miss WHDU Pushapa Kumari, titled Evaluation of flowering time variation of Sri Lankan traditional rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) “Ma Wee”. In addition Dr. Geekiyanage received SUSRED award for supervision of Mphil degree of Miss NVT Jayaprada titled An attempt on genetic improvement of anthurium (*Anthurium andraeanum*) Linden ex Andre.





# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

## Future Volunteer Leaders Academy Kazan Russia

The academy was organized by international university sport federation (FISU) from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 where 111 young leaders from 92 countries representing their national university sport federations brought together to Kazan Russia. H.K.P Mahela Bandara from Faculty of Management and Finance, was the one and only Sri Lankan representative to represent the academy. They were taught on the topics of sport management, sport leadership, sport volunteerism etc. There were educational sessions as well as practical sessions where were making some individual and group presentations about how to implement the things they learnt in the academy in their own NUSFs. Participants were given marks for attendance active participation in lectures social media activeness marks from mentors', marks from team members as well as marks from speakers and panelists based on their activeness. So Mahela has emerged in top 10 out of 111 participants from 92 countries based on the amount of marks he scored in the academy. On the other hand Mahela was awarded as the official FISU ambassador for Sri Lanka for next 2 years.



## IESL Migara Ratnatunga Awards Competition for Industrial Training Civil and Environmental Engineering

Ms. M.K.J. Madhavi, graduate of Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, won the Migara Ratnatunga Cash Award and Certificate for Best Undergraduate Projects in Industrial Training under Civil and Environmental Engineering Category at the Competition held at the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL).



## Best Paper Awards at ACEPS-2018

Ms. K.A.H.S. Sewwandi and E.R.D.L. Edirimanna, the two graduates from Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna were awarded for the Best Papers at International Symposium for Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices for Sustainable Development, (ACEPS) 2018, held in Galle. The paper entitled "Antibiotic resistant Escherichia coli in Kelani River" presented by K.A.H.S. Sewwandi, based on her undergraduate research conducted in collaboration with University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, Kanazawa University, Japan and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India, won one award. E.R.D.L. Edirimanna won another award for the paper entitled, "GIS based groundwater potential zone delineation: a case study at upper Gin River basin Sri Lanka" which too was an outcome of his undergraduate research conducted collaboratively with University of Ruhuna and Yamanashi University, Japan. It was an outstanding performance from the graduates of University of Ruhuna to be awarded for their performance in an internationally recognized symposium like ACEPS.





## International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment -ISAE2018

The session: 'young researcher's gateway' provided an instance for prospective undergraduate students to present their research findings. Mr. Airyaseela Wickramanayaka, Founder Chairman of Master Divers, Pelwatte Dairy Industries, contributed to the success of the event by addressing the intellectual gathering as a keynote speaker of the session on "Intensifying the dairy sector for food security" and financially sponsored the event. Recently graduated 35 student who were selected on performance based from each department of Faculty of Agriculture, were presenting their innovative research findings.

Winners of ISAE 2018 of student session as follows;

Oral presentation

First place: WHNY Hewage

Second place: KBMDK Karunarathna

Third place: EKAS Nirmal

Poster presentation

First place: WTR Thathsarane

& KASD Kodisinghe

Second place: JHAT Rathnayake

Third place: ADSD Wickramasinghe



### Best presentation award in the "fauna" category at the WILDLANKA international symposium

Miss. Pawani Anuradha attached to Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science won the best presentation award in the "fauna" category at the WILDLANKA international symposium held at Water's Edge, Battaramulla, organized by Department of Wild Life Conservation of Sri Lanka on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Research project was supervised by Prof. E.P.S.Chandana and funded by Harischandra Mills. Plc and Dr.Tissa Jinasena Foundation



### Manamperi Awards 2017/2018

Janitha Madhavi Migunthanna, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (DCEE), Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, won the Manamperi Award 2017/2018 for the Best Undergraduate Researcher of Sri Lanka by Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science (SLASS). This was award after evaluating research thesis and presentations of shortlisted candidates from all Engineering Faculties of Sri Lanka for engineering research projects carried in a Sri Lankan University related to any engineering discipline. The awarding ceremony was held in parallel with 74<sup>th</sup> annual sessions of SLAAS at BMICH Colombo, with the presence of local and international academicians.

She carried out her undergraduate research project with the thesis title "Investigation of whole-body vibration induced by roller compactors and effect of waste rubber in damping vibrations" under the supervision of Dr. Subashi De Silva, Senior Lecturer, DCEE. This research mainly addressed the health and safety of roller compactor operators due to exposure to mechanical vibrations. Also, this focused on use of industrial waste rubber in damping vibration which can effectively address current problem with industrial waste management together with vibration exposure control. The project was technically supported by Dipped Products Limited (Pvt) Ltd, Kottawa a rubber gloves manufacturing company in Sri Lanka.





## SLUSA colors in 2015-2017 at Wayamba University

The Inter University Sports Award Ceremony organized by Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA) was held on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 at Wayamba University. At the Ceremony, three students of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, were awarded for their outstanding performance.

1. Award for Carrom for the year 2015 – Roobin Sribaran
2. Award for Football for the year 2016 – Manooj Rengaraj
3. Award for Weight Lifting for the year 2017 – Ushan Madushanka



## University colors & Inter Faculty Games

Ms L.N.L.P Jayasinghe of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology awarded as the 2018 Best athlete women- Inter faculty Games. She won the championship of running events 100m , 200m, 400m and the Relay. Further, she is the athletic captain of the university of Ruhuna for 2018-2019



## SLUSA colors and Inter University games

Mr. W.P.J. Sathyadith of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology received 2018 SLUSA colors for the championship of Taekwondo and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place of Karate 2018. Further, he received university colors for taekwondo and karate in 2018



## SLUSA colors, Inter University games & Inter Faculty Games

Mr. W.K.S. Wickramaarrachchi of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology received 2018 SLUSA colors at the inter university games for the championship of the swimming events of 100m Backstroke, 100m Butterfly and 200m Free style. Further, he won the championship for the same events at the Interfaculty games with new records for all three events and he was awarded as the Best swimmer.

## Winning the Inter-faculty dance competition

It is a pride to announce the victory in the 2018 IFDLC (Interfaculty Dance and Literary Competitions) by taking two big shields from both categories. A group of 12 dancers won the first place in the traditional Dance category while the other group of 12 dancers won 2nd place in free style dance category. This is the first time where HSS won places in both of the group dance categories. The winners were appreciated and honored by the faculty inviting them to the faculty board meeting and distributing the certificates by the Dean of the faculty. The competitions were held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at the Rabindranath Thagor Auditorium. The overall coordination of this year's IFDLC was done by the Faculty of Engineering





# INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS

## National Invention Competition, SAHASAK NIMAWUM -2018

Ruhuna University inventors have successful to win one Gold medal, three Silver medals and two Bronze medals in National Invention Competition-2018. The Gold medal winner, Mr. K.T. Methdasun Sandamal, Faculty of Technology was in the nomination list of the “Dasis Award” (the highest performer in all universities and tertiary education institutes) out of the other three nominations. Details of university winners are listed in the table

### STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

	Name	Name of the Invention	Faculty	Medal recieved
1	Mr. K.T. Methdasun Sandamal	Safety, easy & advanced handle system for motorbikes	Technology	<b>GOLD</b>
2	Mr. G.P.D. Madhusanka	Protected plug socket	Science	<b>SILVER</b>
3	Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis Mr. K.M.T.S. Bandara Mr. S.G.C. Dissanayake	Precession seed metering device	Agriculture	<b>SILVER</b>
4	Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis Mr. K.M.T.S. Bandara Mr. H.G.C.P. Bandara	Pneumatically operated paddy seeder.	Agriculture	<b>SILVER</b>
5	Mr. H.G.C.P. Bandara	Manual type smart trans planter	Agriculture	<b>SILVER</b>
6	Mr.R.A.G.C.N.M. Nawarathna Mr. H.S. Agampodi Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis Mr. K.M.T.S. Bandara	Height adjustable paddy weeder	Agriculture	<b>BRONZ</b>
7	Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis Mr. K.M.T.S. Bandara Dr. B.M.J. Siriwijaya Dr. N.K. Hettiarachchi	Semi automated cinnamon rubbing machine	Agriculture & Engineering	<b>BRONZ</b>





## SENIOR PROFESSOR SW AMARASINGHE

### Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Sarath Amarasinghe Kotte. He had been selected to the University of Peradeniya in 1973 and completed his bachelor's honours degree in Sociology with a 2<sup>nd</sup> class upper division. In 1977 young Amarasinghe was selected to the Peradeniya University as a temporary assistant lecturer. Even though he was selected to the permanent academic staff in Peradeniya, he had opted to accept the appointment in Ruhuna University in 1980 owing to a very special reason to the benefit of the University of Ruhuna. He had identified a special task as a duty to accomplish. That is to develop the Sociology stream in to a degree program in the University of Ruhuna. Sarath Amarasinghe was the first permanent academic staff member appointed by the Ruhuna University irrespective of then prevailed situation that the Sociology subject had been taught by young is a senior professor attached to the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He started his primary education from Kalapaluwawa Siddhartha Maha Vidyalaya and later admitted to Christian Missionary School in Sri Jayawardhanapura. He had been entrusted the responsibility of introducing the complete syllabus for a honours degree in Sociology. With the guidance of Dingi Karunathilaka, then Head of the Sociology Department in the University of Colombo, Amarasinghe accomplished this prestigious academic assignment in a short period. The next task was to teach the newly introduced syllabus by himself, being the only lecturer attached to the department of Sociology. Some young graduates who had completed sociology honors degree from Peradeniya and Colombo Universities and engaged in different jobs in the Southern area were assisting Sarath Amarasinghe on this task.

During 1981-1982 he had won a scholarship to undertake his higher studies and he had achieved the MSc in Rural Development Planning from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. In 1994 Amarasinghe received a scholarship from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India to conduct his doctoral studies. He received his PhD in 1998 upon the research and the thesis he submitted under the topic "Rural women in grassroots level Organization: A sociological study of the selected development programs in Hambanthota district, Sri Lanka".

He has supervised many undergraduate and post-graduate scholars for their theses. Moreover, he has served as an examiner for MA, M.Phil. and PhD theses forwarded from several other universities including University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, University of Kelaniya, University of Jaffa and South-Eastern University.

He has done an excellent contribution in building up programs in collaboration with the foreign universities. He has organized two international research conferences in Ruhuna. He was the coordinator of the Soft Skill Committee of Ruhuna University, Director of the Distance and Continuing Education Unit of the University of Ruhuna, Head of the Department of Sinhala for two terms, the first faculty representative in the University senate as a non-Head of the department, Chairperson of the University Buddhist Society, Chair of the Examination Misconduct Investigation Committee.

He has done an excellent contribution on establishing many academic programs and extracurricular activities in the University such as MA program in Sociology, diploma program in psychology, University counselling centre, Ruhuna University Teachers Union, University Gandharwa Sabhawa and University Buddhist Society.

## SENIOR PROFESSOR RT SERASINGHE

### Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture

Professor Rupanjanie Thakshala Seresinghe, who served for the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, retired after 39 years of fruitful and devoted service. Professor Seresinghe obtained her BSc (Agriculture) Degree from University of Peradeniya and joined the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna as a young academic. Then she pursued her higher studies earning MSc and PhD from the prestigious Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland. By the time of her retirement she was a Senior Professor in Animal Science and served as the Chair Professor of the Department of Animal Science. Throughout her impressive academic and research journey, she surpassed many milestones and some of them to mention are the, Contact Person of the Livestock Group of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, the Executive Committee Member of the Sri Lanka Association of the Australian awards Alumni (SLAAA), the Country Representative of the IAEA coordinated research project on "The use of enzymes and nuclear technologies on the utilization of fibrous residues and to reduce the greenhouse gas emission from livestock" and the recipient of several scholarships and fellowships namely, Swiss Govt. Scholarship, Commonwealth, Endeavour and North-South dialogue fellowships. She has traveled extensively in Europe, North and South America, Canada, and Australia and in the Asian region and has worked in close collaboration with National and International Research/Development institutes/universities and projects by receiving prestigious grants & consultancies. Her contribution to agricultural education, research and development through scientific publications in SCI-indexed and refereed journals, several book chapters and articles, along with 2 text books and 6 booklets is praiseworthy. Apart from her academic excellence, Professor Seresinghe was the first female academic to appoint as the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna in its 40 years of history. Presently Professor Seresinghe is serving as a member of the Board of Management of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka, member of the Steering committee of Food Security of the NSF. For her excellence in academic and professional pathways, she has won many esteemed awards which include Presidential Awards for high-impact research in 1999, 2000 and 2003, Vice Chancellors award for the Most Outstanding Senior Scholar of University of Ruhuna in 2010, SLAAS General Research Committee Award in 2010 for the recognition of her contribution to national research and ZONTA women's achievement award for education in 2011.

Having 40 years of fond memories Professor Seresinghe officially bid farewell to the Faculty of Agriculture leaving a legacy as a much-respected academic personality.



# RETIREMENTS of UoR

## SENIOR PROFESSOR S WAWWAGE

### Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Senior Professor Sumanasiri Wawwage of the Department of History and Archeology retired on 8th January 2018 after serving the University of Ruhuna for nearly a period of 40 years. He is a distinguished academic, enthusiastic researcher and well experienced administrative figure. He has authored number of books on various aspects of Ancient History and has an extensive publication record in refereed journals to his credit. As well-known academician in the discipline of History, he presented number of research papers in national and international academic forums. He had been involved in various research programs, development and social activities that were carried out in the Departmental, Faculty and University levels as well as in national level. He was the founder and the pioneering member of the Department of History. Also he served as the Head of the Department of History and Archeology for more than nine years and as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for nine years. His tireless commitment and hard work has immensely contributed to uplift the Department as well as the Faculty to the present standard.

## SENIOR PROFESSOR WMMP WIJERATHNA

### Department of Agric. Economics, Faculty of Agriculture

Senior Professor Mahinda Wijeratne joined the University of Ruhuna in 1978 as a Probationary Lecturer attached to the Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture. At the beginning of his career as a young academic he qualified with his MSc in Agricultural Economics from the State University of Ghent, Belgium in 1984 and Doctoral Degree from the Agricultural University of Wageningen, the Netherlands in 1988. Besides, he has obtained LLB degree from the Open University, Colombo in 2001, which promoted him to held the respectful position of the Proctor in the University of Ruhuna for six years. Prof. Wijeratne has published more than 200 research papers related to Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension, Farming Systems, Environmental Policy and Evaluation, Participatory Techniques, and Community Development. He has written and edited about 6 books. He was instrumental in designing number of undergraduate and post graduate courses not only for the University of Ruhuna but also for other national and international institutes including Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Faculty of Marine Sciences and Fishing Technologies, University of Nha Trang, Vietnam, and Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. His glorious academic work and research has been awarded as the Outstanding *Researcher* for the contribution made to Sri Lankan research conferred by the Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science (SLAAS) in 2006, for *Most Outstanding Scholar* in University of Ruhuna in 2008, and the *Commonwealth Academic Award* in 1994 where he executed research study at the University of Reading, United Kingdom, 1994-95. Top of all he has received the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) excellence award for the *Most Outstanding Researcher in Social Sciences*, by the H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, in 2010 and the Association of Commonwealth Universities Award for Public Relations, Marketing and Communications in the Category of Outreach and Community Relations, 2011. He has chaired number of administrative positions, headships, directorships, presidencies, Senate, Council and many others at department, faculty, university, and national levels. Rendering a noble service to the University of Ruhuna over 40 years he retired on 8<sup>th</sup> of January in year 2018. The University is still fortunate to get his expertise as he has been granted the Professor Emeritus, University of Ruhuna in year 2018.

## MR. AJG HETTIARACHCHI

### English Language Teaching Unit

Mr. AJG Hettiarachchi, joined the English Language Teaching Unit of the University of Ruhuna on 01 January 1997. He taught English Language to the undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and coordinated the foundation programs in English. He represented Sri Lanka at the conference on "Teaching English through Literature" held in Chennai, India; which event featured in the News Letter of University of Ruhuna in December 2003. Mr. Hettiarachchi obtained his Masters in Applied linguistics from the University of Kelaniya. He held the posts of Head of the ELTU and coordinator of the Extension Courses in English during his tenure. He was dedicated and outstanding in performing his duties as a language teacher and an administrator and rendered an invaluable service to the English Language Teaching Unit. He retired from his service on 16 January 2018.



# APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

## Promotions

### Senior Professor

Prof. Saman Abeysinghe, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science  
Prof. LP Jayathissa, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science  
Prof. (Mrs.) LKB Mudduwa, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine

### Professor

Dr. (Mrs) KB Suneetha Gunawickrama, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science  
Dr. (Mrs.) Sudheera Jayasinghe, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine  
Dr. (Mrs.) CK Bodinayake, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

### Senior Lecturer Grade I

Dr. K Masakorala, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science  
Dr. (Mrs.) JA Jeewanie, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science  
Dr. (Mrs.) LWGR Alwis, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine  
Dr. (Mrs.) T T Ponnampereuma, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

### Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. UAD Jayasinghe, Department of Limnology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology  
Mrs. KAKD Wijesekara, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
Mrs. BI Wickramaarachchi, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
Mr. MNM Nismi, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management & Finance  
Mrs. V Vithanage, Department of Management & Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management & Finance  
Mrs. ILL Sagalee, Department of Management & Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management & Finance  
Mrs. MGM Dilrukshi, Department of Management & Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management & Finance  
Mr. GKC Jeewantha, Department of Accounting & Finance, Faculty of Management & Finance  
Dr. A Karunanayake, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine

### Senior Assistant Librarian Grade I

Mrs. Theja Kuruppu

### Instructor in English Grade I

Mr. AJG Hettiarachchi, English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities & Social Science

## Recruitments

### Senior Lecturer Grade I

Dr.(Mrs) Sunethra Gunasena, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine

### Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. (Mrs) KMW Rajawatta, Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Dr. EKC Pradeep, Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Dr. NL Bandara, Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Dr. SW Senevirathne, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering  
Dr. CKW Senevirathne, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering  
Dr. KTKM De Silva, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering  
Dr. (Mrs) MCS Fernando, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science



## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

### Probationary Lecturer

Ms. MPIR Paranavithana, Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Mr. HL Subasinghe, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Mr. HGT Milinda, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Ms. HMNN Herath, Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Technology  
Mrs. WMCS Jayaweera, Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Mr. AH Thalakitunage, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering  
Mr. YSK De Silva, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering  
Mr. AKCI Kodithuwakku, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering  
Ms. KDSV Karunanayake, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied & Health Sciences  
Ms. CR Liyanage, Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Mrs. KHJ Imalka, Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Ms. DS Vithanage, Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology  
Mr. PVS Harshana, Department of Agric. Economic, Faculty of Agriculture  
Mr. KMUD Wijesinghe, Department of Marketing, Management, Faculty of Technology  
Ms. KDTN Weerasinghe, Department of Accounting & Finance, Faculty of Management

### Assistant Network Manager Grade II

Mr. PPBS Premarathna, Dean's Office, Faculty of Technology

### Programmer Cum Systems Analyst

Mr. UE Kumanayake, Dean's Office, Faculty of Technology

### Assistant Librarian

Mr. JA Agith

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