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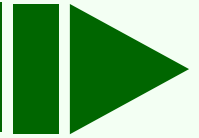


Biannual Newsletter

UoR Highlights

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA - SRI LANKA

Feature Article



Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna

The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences is the youngest amongst ten faculties of the University of Ruhuna. Allied Health Sciences Degree Program (AHSDP) was initiated in the Faculty of Medicine at the request of the Ministry of Health to provide undergraduate education in the disciplines of Medical Laboratory Science and Nursing in 2008, and Pharmacy in 2010. The need for such undergraduate degree programs was there for several decades in the health sector of the country, which increasingly demanded highly trained individuals to cope up with the trends in the modern healthcare system. These degree programs were commenced with the aim of producing graduates suitable for employment at national and international levels. A team of visionary and committed academics in the Faculty of Medicine pioneered the establishment of the AHSDP.

In September 2017, AHSDP was converted to the Faculty of Allied Health Science (FAHS) with the vision “To be the best Allied Health Science education institution in the country”. The mission of the Faculty is “To provide educational opportunities for all pursuing higher education in allied health sciences to produce qualified, technically competent health professionals to the country to achieve sustainable development goals through alignment of educational programs to the economic and health policies of the country”. The Faculty’s goal is set after considering international education standards, criteria and scientific basis, to produce graduates of Allied Health Science with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to provide healthcare services in any part of the world. To achieve this, the faculty focuses on providing high quality education and strives to enrich the learning experience by using a variety of innovative teaching methods.

Currently, the Faculty comprises of Department of Nursing, Department of Medical Laboratory Science and Department of Pharmacy. The Department of Nursing is presently situated within the premises of Teaching Hospital, Mahamodara, whereas Departments of Medical Laboratory Science and Pharmacy are located at Uluvitike, Galle. All three degree programs are conducted in English medium and each degree program consists of 120 credits. The curricula have been designed for four years complying with Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) guidelines with essential components including individual research projects and training programs in private and state hospitals, community, and industry.

Allied Health Sciences Degree program went through a turbulent time initially as Government Medical Officers Association objected four-year degree for health care workers in Sri Lanka and did not grant permission for clinical training facilities for allied health undergraduates in Government Hospitals. Therefore, 3 year degree program was designed in 2010. However, fundamental rights application was filed in the Supreme Court against the failure to grant clinical training facilities to the Allied Health Science students and the Supreme Court upheld the rights of universities to conduct four-year health care degree programs limiting to 120 credits. Thereafter, four-year degree programs are conducted for all disciplines.

Though Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory Science degree programs are accredited by Ceylon Medical College Council and Sri Lanka Medical Council, Nursing degree program is not accredited due to non-functional Sri Lanka Nursing Council since late 2016. Therefore, Faculty has not been able to obtain accreditation for the nursing degree program of the University of Ruhuna. The election and establishment of the executive committee of the Sri Lanka Nursing Council is delayed due to political issues within the nursing profession. Ruhuna University will not be able to obtain accreditation for the nursing degree program until the establishment of the executive committee of the nursing council.

There are nearly 36 academics in the faculty and many of those have foreign and local postgraduate qualifications. In addition, all the departments employ temporary academic staff members (assistant lecturers and demonstrators) to support academic activities. Permanent non-academic staff members, working in all departments and the office of the Dean provide a remarkable service for the smooth operation of all the activities of the faculty.

At present, the faculty admits 200 students for all three departments (50 for Medical Laboratory Science, 100 for Nursing, 50 for Pharmacy) annually. The selection of students for undergraduate programs is done by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka based on the performance of students in the G.C.E. Advanced Level examination in biological stream. Up to 30% of the students may be selected from the professionals who have completed training at training schools of the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka (lateral entry). Recruitment will be based on the performance at selection examination and interview. The criteria approved by the UGC standing committee for AHS will be applied for the recruitment of lateral entrants for the degrees offered by the FAHS.

Due to the limitation of space and laboratory facilities, the same practical has to be conducted twice or more by dividing a batch in to small groups. Even though, the current building has limited space, all the departments offer state-of-the-art facilities in well-equipped laboratories for teaching and research work to meet the demands of modern education. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been very difficult to maintain social distancing and conduct practical classes and lectures according to the health guidelines. Due to limited infrastructure, the faculty depends on many resources in the Faculty of Medicine like lecture theatres, laboratories, computer and IT units. In addition, students share facilities in the Department of Chemistry and Physics of the Faculty of Science at the main University, Wellamadama as well as the Faculty of Agriculture at Mapalana.

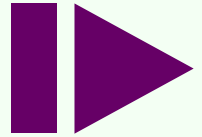
Education is not the sole focus of the Faculty where extra-curricular activities play an important role during the undergraduate period. The Faculty organizes a variety of annual events, such as talent shows, sports festivals, art competitions, musical evenings and community service programs.

The FAHS managed to start construction of a new building complex on December 10, 2020 in a spacious 10-acre land at Walahanduwa, Galle at a total cost of Rs. 3000 million. The first phase of the construction is to put up a six storied building for academic activities, three storied building for administration and two storied building for student canteen and welfare activities.

Construction of the new building complex is to be completed within 30 months period after the commencement of the project. Once the new building complex is ready, the FAHS will be ready to start several new undergraduate degree programs relevant to health sciences.

Prof. Imendra Kotapola
Dean / Professor in Physiology
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
University of Ruhuna

Academic Events



3rd Research Symposium of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (RuFARS-2020)

The 3rd Research Symposium of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (RuFARS-2020) was successfully held on 02nd of October 2020, at the Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, Galle under the theme “Developing Academic Integrity and Literacy through Research”.

Dr. S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo was the Keynote Speaker and the Senior Professor T.S.D Amarasena, Vice Chancellor; University of Ruhuna was the Chief Guest of the RuFARS-2020.

More than 60 abstracts related to Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences were presented at the symposium.



Archaeological Excavation Program

A demonstration of an archaeological excavation was organized by the Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University premises from 06th of July 2020 to 22nd of July 2020. The program intended to provide an opportunity for undergraduates to acquire basic archaeological training prior to heading to an authentic archaeological excavation project. During the program, the undergraduates were trained to excavate, document artifacts in-situ, and to handle almost all the basic field archaeology equipment followed by demonstrations.



Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS-2020)

The 6th Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS-2020) was held virtually on 5th of November 2020, adjusting to the new normal circumstances in the context of COVID-19. The online conference which was fashioned by the theme 'Culture, Modernity and Social Transformation' provided a platform for its participants to engage in an insightful discourse pertaining to diverse disciplines in the realm of Humanities and Social Sciences under 10 thematic tracks. Senior Professor T.D.S Amarasena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Sasanka Perera, Professor of Sociology, South Asian University, New Delhi who took part in the academic event as the Keynote Speaker delivered a compelling keynote address at the inaugural ceremony, enlightening the distinguished gathering. The Department of History and Archaeology shouldered the responsibility for organizing the RUICHSS-2020 in partnership with NORHED-CPDS and the collective effort paved the way to hold a successful online conference with the participation of the local and international delegates, academics, researchers and enthusiasts.



Extension Courses in English

The Department of English Language Teaching, University of Ruhuna has been conducting several Extension Courses in English since 2001. The Extension Courses in English consist of four courses namely Certificate in English, Advanced Certificate in English, Diploma in English and Higher Diploma in English and all these courses are one-year weekend courses.

The Extension Courses in English are designed with the intention of catering to the English language requirements of students and professionals. As this program meets Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) standards, it creates a pathway to achieve higher educational qualification in their life, and they will be able to meet the challenges in educational and professional settings.

Diploma in Human Resource Management (DHRM)

Human Resource Management (HRM) has become one of the pivotal management functions in today's business organizations. It is accepted that the success of any organization depends on the effective and efficient utilization of its Human Resources. It involves both strategic and comprehensive approaches for managing people, as well as workplace culture and environment. The role of human resources professionals today is to ensure that its human capital is being nurtured and supported through the creation and management of programs, policies, and procedures, and by fostering a positive work environment through effective employee-employer relations.

Employees, under effective human resource management, can productively contribute to a company's overall direction, thereby ensuring that company goals and objectives are accomplished.

The Diploma in human resource management is a comprehensive program specially designed to give a solid, basic foundation in Human Resource Management for the candidates. The Students who successfully completed the Diploma in Human Resource Management program will be awarded the Diploma in Human Resource Management from the Faculty of Management & Finance, University of Ruhuna, and he/she can use the designatory letters "DHRM (Ruhuna)".

Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Sessions (RASAS) 2020

Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Sessions (RASAS) - 2020 was successfully conducted as a virtual event on 06th of November 2020, for the fifth consecutive year. This research symposium for undergraduates was organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences under the theme "The Spirit of Sprouting Researchers of Tomorrow." The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Praneeth Abhayasundara who graced the research symposium by virtually appearing through the Zoom technology delivered a thought-provoking keynote speech. In addition, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor T.S.D Amarasena joined the session as the Chief Guest and delivered a remarkable speech. Besides, RASAS - 2020 created a platform for the young undergraduates from the national universities to disseminate their novel research findings and receive constructive feedback from experts. Moreover, Prof. Upali Pannilage, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and



Social Sciences, the Conference Chair Ven. Dr. Morakandegoda Ariyawansa, Co-Secretaries Dr. Ravindu Abeywardhana and Mr. Ruwan Gunawardane, Chief Editor Dr. S. G. S. Samaraweera, the Treasurer Mr. Sarath Katukurunda in collaboration with all the respective members of the committees worked together to make this event a great success.

One-day Workshop on Paper Setting and Moderating

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies conducted a one-day workshop on setting and moderation of Examination Papers for the Staff members of the department on 17th of September 2020. Senior Lecturer Ven. Dr. Beligalle Dhammajothi and Senior Lecturer Ven. Nalahalle Wajiragnana were the resource persons of the workshop and Ven. Prof. Midigama Soratha chaired the Session.

9th International Conference on Management and Economics (ICME - 2020)

The 9th International Conference on Management and Economics (ICME) 2020, organized by the Faculty of Management and Finance under the theme of “The Role of Business Intelligence in Shaping Organizations in Emerging Economies” was held on 11th of September, 2020 at the Weligama Bay Marriott Resort & Spa. Professor Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director and the Chairman, Board of Management of Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and Dr. Sugumar Mariappanadar, Senior Lecturer, Peter Faber Business School, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia delivered insightful keynote speeches at the conference. Moreover, this prestigious event was graced at the higher level of university administration, with the participation of Professor E. P. S. Chandana, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna and the Deans of the respective faculties of the University of Ruhuna. Overall, the ICME 2020 provided academics, researchers, and practitioners with a premier platform to debate and share their knowledge on business institutes and its impact on the economy and contemporary management practices.



Workshops/Sessions Conducted at the Faculty of Management and Finance

Online Session on Writing Research Papers

An online workshop was organized for academic staff of the faculty to provide opportunities for them to improve their academic writing and research skills on 29th June 2020 via zoom. The session was conducted by Professor J. A. S. K. Jayakody, Director, Institute of Human Resource Advancement, University of Colombo, and it was an absolute success.

Workshop on BBA Honours in Business Law Degree Program

A consultative workshop on proposed Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Business Law Degree program of the faculty was held on 23rd of July 2020 from 8.45 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. at the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration, Colombo 07, with the objective of obtaining professional expertise to expand the

proposed curriculum to match with the graduate profile, objectives and outcomes of the program. Professor Wasantha Seneviratne, Department of Public & International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and Dr. Nishantha Sampath Punchihewa, Senior Lecturer, Department of Commercial Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo participated in the workshop as the resource persons.

Stakeholder Meeting on BBA Honors in Tourism and Hospitality Management

A stakeholder meeting on the proposed Bachelor of Business Administration Honors in Tourism and Hospitality Management Degree program was held on 30th of July 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, with the participation of nearly 20 experts representing both the academia and the industry. The primary objective of the workshop was to obtain the expert inputs to develop the proposed degree program, which would meet the needs in the field of tourism and hospitality management.

Workshop on Proposed BBA Honors in Supply Chain Management

A workshop on the proposed Bachelor of Business Administration Honors in Supply Chain Management Degree program was held on 14th of August 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m. at the Chinese Center, University of Ruhuna, with the participation of nearly 20 academics from the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna. The workshop was targeted at creating a platform for academics to present their ideas and perspectives, so that ensuring the development of a sound degree program.

Workshop on Examination Manual

A workshop on examination manual was held on 17th of August 2020 from 10.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m. with the participation of academic and non-academic staff of the Faculty of Management and Finance. The workshop aimed at obtaining staff inputs on the revised examination manual while providing staff with a platform to become familiar with the procedures specified in the manual. The session was coordinated and conducted by Dr. Manjula K. Wanniarachchige, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna.

Workshop on Examination Process and Procedures

A workshop on examination process and procedures, including best practices of paper setting, moderation and marking was held on 19th of August 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, with the participation of academic staff of the Faculty. Professor H.S.C. Perera, Dr. M.K. Wanniarachchige, and Dr. A.B. Sirisena were the resource persons of the workshop. The workshop focused on aligning program learning outcomes with the intended learning outcomes of the course units, setting examination questions, and marking examination papers with a well-structured marking scheme.

Workshop on Photography for Socio-Emotional Skills

The ELTA-ELSE team of the Faculty conducted a workshop on 02nd of October 2020 at the Mini Conference Hall, Department of Economics, University of Ruhuna to develop the curriculum of the course unit of “*photography for socio-emotional skills*”. Mr. Prageeth. M. Aluthwattha from University of Kelaniya, Mr. Nalaka Wijewardhane from Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo participated in the workshop as the resource persons. The workshop assisted to bring and scrutinize the diverse perspectives of the participants in a common forum.

Workshops on Proposed BBA Honors in International Business

Two workshops on the proposed Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business Degree program was conducted to grab the insights of experts and to map the intended learning outcomes of the each course unit of the curriculum with the learning outcomes in order to develop this new degree program. The first workshop was held on 13th of August 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. at the Conference Hall, China Sri Lanka Joint Research Center, University of Ruhuna, with the participation of nearly 25 academics representing Faculty of Management and Finance, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. The second workshop was conducted on 08th of October 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the same venue, with the participation of nearly 20 academics from the Faculty of Management and Finance.

Online Lecture Series

A series of online lectures was organized by the Cultural Center of University of Ruhuna.

1. Lecture delivered by Senior Prof. Jayantha Amarasingha on "Why is Literature Art ?" (සාහිත්‍යය කලා කුමකද ?) on 26th of September 2020
2. Lecture delivered by Senior Prof. T.S.D Amarasena ,Vice Chancellor, University Of Ruhuna on "Role of the University Student" (විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ශිෂ්‍යයාගේ කාර්යභාරය) on 28th October 2020
3. Lecture delivered by Senior Prof. Sarath Amarasingha on "Indigenous Knowledge & Development" (පාරම්පරික දැනුම හා සංවර්ධනය) on 26th of November 2020
4. Lecture delivered by the musician, Nadeeka Guruge on "What to Listen to in Music?" (සංගීතයේ ඇසිය යුත්තේ කුමක්ද ?) on 17th of December 2020

Practical Q & A Session for Students, Faculty of Agriculture in Collaboration with Plantation Sector Experts

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, almost all the lectures were conducted through zoom and most of the students complain that they faced some difficulties to understand theory lessons mainly due to the lack of field practical sessions. Therefore to fulfill this gap the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture organized a practical Question & Answer (Q&A) session for the undergraduates following CS 3102 & CS 3103



(40th Batch) as a collaborative work with the Elpitiya Plantation PLC managed by Aitken Spence plantation management. Mr. Hiranjan Bulugahapitiya (Deputy General Manager), Mr. Saman Dissanayake (Senior Agriculture Consultant), Mr. A. Patabandhi (Senior Assistant Manager) Mr. Aruna Agalawatta (Assistant Manager) participated in the event as resource persons, which was moderated by Dr. I.R. Palihakkara. Students were actively participated (more than 96% attendance) and asked a number of interesting questions to boost their knowledge. Resource persons highly appreciated the active participation of the students during the session.

Felicitation Ceremony for Senior Professor Ranjith Senarathne

The felicitation ceremony organized by the Ruhuna Agriculture Faculty Teachers Association (RAFTA) to honor the retirement of Senior Professor Ranjith Senarathne of the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture was held on 30th July 2020 at the Faculty premises. The felicitation ceremony was graced by Senior Professor Ranjith Senarathne along with his family; Senior Professor T.S.D Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna; Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna; Prof. S.D. Wanniarachchi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; and a number of academic staff members representing different faculties of the university; administrative and non-academic staff members; faculty alumni; and students. Senior Professor T.S.D Amarasena and Prof. S.D. Wanniarachchi highly appreciated the great service rendered by Senior Professor Ranjith Senarathne on behalf of the faculty and university as a whole. Further, they extended their sincere gratitude to Prof. Senarathne for his four decades of dedicated service in higher education ranging from teaching, research, and administration to community services. They highlighted the strategic, inspirational, and operational leadership provided by Prof. Senarathne for the betterment of the higher education sector in Sri Lanka. Several speakers of the event highlighted the immense contribution of Prof. Senarathne for the advancement of Science through collaborative multidisciplinary research conducted locally and internationally along with his significant contribution to uplift the faculty to its current status. Senior Professor Ranjith Senarathne also shared experiences gathered throughout his life journey at the University of Ruhuna and extended his well wishes for the faculty and the university to thrive for excellence in higher education.



Felicitations to Professor Emeritus Ruchira Cumaranatunga

Senior Professor Palawinnege Ruchira Tharangini Cumaranatunga who served in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology retired after more than 40 years of singular service to the University of Ruhuna. The felicitation ceremony, organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was held on 27th of August 2020 at the Auditorium of the Faculty. Vice-chancellor, Senior Professor T.S.D Amarasena, joined the felicitation ceremony via Zoom and extended well wishes to Prof. Cumaranatunga. A number of academic staff, colleagues of Prof. Cumaranatunga and her students appreciated the great service rendered by Prof. Ruchira in numerous capacities. Students of the Faculty performed “Pooja” and “Guru Upahara” dances. Prof. Cumaranatunga addressed the gathering and shared her thoughts and more than 40 years of experience in the University of Ruhuna. A large gathering including Deans of the Faculties, Academic staff, Council members, Registrar, Librarian, Deputy Registrars, administrative staff, non-academic staff, current and past students participated in the event.



University in Progress

Two-Day Workshop for Technical Officers on Instrumentation and Lab Procedures, Faculty of Agriculture

A two-day workshop was organized by the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna on 21st and 22nd of September 2020 to train the Technical Officers of University of Ruhuna on instrumentation, lab procedures, safety methods, and precautions while using scientific instruments, including those with



sophisticated operating systems. The main objective of this workshop was to update them with new knowledge and skills pertaining to the laboratory instruments and procedures. Senior Prof. T.S.D Amarasena, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, and Senior Prof. Sudas D. Wanniarachchi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture graced the inaugural ceremony of this two-day workshops series. Twenty five Technical Officers representing each faculty of the University of Ruhuna participated in this workshop.

Foundation Laying Ceremony for the New Building Complex for FAHS



Foundation stone laying ceremony of the new building complex of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna was held on 10th of December 2020 at Walahanduwa Estate, Galle. The occasion was graced by the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Deans of the University of Ruhuna, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, Hon. Minister of Plantation, Mr. Wijepala Hettiarachchi, former member of the Parliament and the distinguished guests. At the first phase of the construction a six storied building will be built at a total cost of Rs. 3000 million. This is scheduled to be completed within 24 months period of time.



Inspection of MT New Diamond Fire



On 03rd of September 2020, a fire broke out in the engine room of New Diamond, a 330-metre-long Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) around 7.45 hours when the ship was about 65 kilometers (40 mi) east of Sri Lanka in the Sangaman Kanda Point while carrying 277,144.92 tons of Kuwait export Crude oil, Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) and marine gas oil from Kuwait to Paradip in India.

Soon as the incident reported at Sri Lanka Navy, The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) based at Sri Lank Navy

Headquarters, Sri Lankan authorities took prompt actions to rescue 20 members crew, ensure the safety of the ship by dowsing the fire with the assistance of regional support. During the event, it was observed that oil is being released to sea from the damaged tank of the vessel on 6th September 2020. Honorable Attorney General appointed a team of marine experts to visit the site, evaluate the oil spill and pollution damage, collect evidences and to immediately report back to the Department of Attorney General's Department. This team was led by Dr. P.B. Terney Pradeep Kumara (General Manager, MEPA), who is an expert in Marine Ecology and Marine Pollution. This team was represented by Dr. R.M.G.N Tilakarathna (Marine Biology/ Ecology expert), Ms. R.G.A. Iroshanie (Physical Oceanography and Ecology expert) and Mr. Gayan Pathirana (expert in physical Oceanography) of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology. Besides, Dr. A.A.D. Amarathunga (Contaminants and pollution science) and Ms. K. A. W. S. Weerasekara (Environment Management) represented National Aquatic Resources and Research Agency (NARA) while Mr. W.I.H.K. Wijerathna of MEPA was also participated. This team visited the area of the distressed ship at 11.30 hours on 8th September 2020 and it was observed that the presence of oil on seawater was very much visible to the naked eye. The group inspected the extent of the oil spill by crossing the spill and estimated the length and the width of the spill. The smell was intense, which could have been attributed by the fire on board and passage through the smoke was unbearable. The colour of the oil slick is greyish black with an iridescent sheen. However, when samples were collected, it appeared as thick jet black in colour.



Awareness Sessions on Breastfeeding for the Pregnant Mothers

As per the instructions and guidance of the Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, the Department of Nursing has conducted an awareness session on breastfeeding for the pregnant mothers attending the University clinic at the Teaching Hospital Mahamodara, in recognition of the World Breast Feeding Week-2020 (BFW2020) highlighting the theme of “Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet” as a consecutive four days awareness session from 24th to 27th August 2020, in collaboration with the Teaching Hospital Mahamodara.



A Series of Workshops to Develop the New Curriculum – Faculty of Medicine



The Faculty of Medicine decided to have a curriculum revision forty years after its inception. Based on the preliminary workshops, the Curriculum revision committee decided to have a series of workshops to develop the new curriculum to address the need of the society, medical community and the future graduates.

The main changes proposed were a semester based programme with Course Unit and end semester examination to replace traditional Second MBBS, Third MBBS and Final MBBS examination. However, the academic and administrative structure of departments will remain intact and the students will be awarded

equivalent certificates for the Second MBBS and the Third MBBS. The soft skills will be taught within the curriculum as a Personal and Professional Development Strand. Clinical Programme will not have a major change as it has to follow UGC guidelines for the Final MBBS Examination.

On the first day the staff members discussed the proposed content focusing outcome based education and student centered learning, and sequencing according to a semester structure. On the second day assessments methods were discussed. The third day was dedicated for development of Personal and professional Strand. Required changes of teaching learning methods were discussed on the fourth day and on the Final day required changes for the by-laws were discussed and had a broad consensus.

The workshops were different from traditional workshops as the different departments prepared the required changes for their departments at the end of each day.

Professor Vasantha Devasiri, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Professor K D Pathirana, Professor Sampath Gunawardene and Dr. Avindra Jayawardene participated as facilitators and resource persons. Most of the academic staff members participated in formulating their curricula.

Increasing the Student Intake - Faculty of Management and Finance



The Faculty of Management and Finance is in the process of increasing the student intake to meet the growing demand for higher education. As such, the faculty is expected to expand the current student intake of 400 students by at least 50%, leading to an enrolment of 600+ students in the coming intake. To cope with this expansion in student numbers, the faculty intends to expand the capacity of the physical resources too. Consequently, a new building complex at the faculty is being constructed and well underway at the moment. Apart from the administrative block designed to accommodate faculty office new building complex will consist of a computer lab as well. The computer lab with the capacity of serving 200 students will provide students with a novel experience, enabling them to utilize online study materials and gain access to cutting-edge technology in a more convenient manner.

Workshops on Programme Review – Faculty of Medicine

Faculty Quality Assurance Cell (FQAC), Faculty of Medicine, successfully conducted a series of workshops on Programme Review. Initially, two workshops were conducted to train members of the FQAC and Core group of Quality Assurance on Programme Review. Prof. Mahinda Atapattu, Director/Center for Quality Assurance, Prof. Kanthi Yapa and Dr. Manjula Wanniarachchige were the resource persons of the first workshop which was held on 21st July 2020. A general overview of the programme review was delivered with an introduction to external reviews in the context of Sri Lankan quality assurance framework and programme review from a reviewer's point of view. The second workshop, conducted on 28th August 2020. Senior Professor Nilanthi De Silva, Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, University Grants Commission was the resource person and gave an insight on training for programme reviewing, followed by an interactive session.

Seven workshops were conducted in October 2020 as brainstorming sessions, covering the eight criteria of the programme review for academic staff members to identify the evidence needed to produce for the next programme review. Dr. Indrani Withanawasam (Faculty of Management and Finance), Dr. Sudhira Silva (Faculty of Engineering), Prof. Kanthi Yapa (Faculty of Science), Dr. Nalika Ranathunga (Faculty of Agriculture), Dr. Manjula Wanniarachchige (Faculty of Management and Finance), Prof. K. L. Wasantha Kumara (Faculty of Agriculture), Prof. G. Y. Jayasinghe (Faculty of Agriculture) contributed as resource persons for the workshops. Each academic staff member chose at least one criterion out of the eight criteria and out of

the 99 academic members in the Faculty of Medicine, 80 had participated to at least one workshop, making the workshop series, a huge success.



The second workshop series conducted in November 2020, consisted of four workshops targeting academic staff, non-academic staff, the staff of the administration, finance, maintenance and security branches and for the representatives from the student bodies. The chairperson/FQAC, as the resource person for the workshop series, educated the participants about collecting evidence for the next programme review as identified in the first workshop series. Further, FQAC distributed files with check lists to the departments, units, branches and student bodies to collect evidence routinely.

Two-Day Workshop on Outcome Based Education – Learner Centered Teaching (OBE – LCT)

A two-day workshop on Outcome Based Education – Learner Centered Teaching (OBE – LCT) organized by the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science was successfully conducted on 3rd and 15th of September 2020 at the Physics mini auditorium. The workshop was funded by the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE DP Department of Chemistry grant and it was organized by Dr. Y. M. A. L. W. Yapa, OBE-LCT activity coordinator and Dr. Jeewantha S. Hewage, the coordinator of the grant. Around 35 academic staff members including the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Heads of the Departments participated in this workshop. The resource person was Senior Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, the Vice Chancellor of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Prof. Udith also holds the posts of Senior Professor and the Chair of the Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management of the WUSL and carries an excellent track record as an academician, researcher, expert consultant and social worker.



The aims and objectives of the workshop were to enrich the academic staff members of the faculty with the specialized knowledge and hands-on-skills required to use a fully-pledged Course Outline that fits into the global standards towards the management of effective teaching – learning environment, and more specifically, to achieve the Intended Program and Learning Outcomes (IPOs and ILOs) through Learner-Centered Teaching and Assessment supported Lesson Plans.

Workshops on “Instrumentation in Chemical Laboratories”

Department of Chemistry has conducted a series of workshops on “Instrumentation in Chemical Laboratories” to enhance the knowledge and skills of the laboratory staff (technical officers and lab attendants) under the

AHEAD grant during the months of August and October 2020. The objectives of these workshops were to educate the laboratory staff about the basic theoretical accepts behind the laboratory equipment and instruments, and to properly operate, maintain and troubleshoot them. Resource persons were mostly from the Department of Chemistry including Prof. Jinesena Hewage, Dr. Jeewantha Sampath, Dr. Nadun Ratnaweera, etc. The workshop on basic electronics was conducted by Mr. Sameera Lakshan at the physics department. In addition, resource persons from Sri Lanka Saukyadhana Movement have conducted a hand-on workshop to educate the staff on basic first-aid treatment required in a laboratory. Dr. Nadun Ratnaweera coordinated these events under the guidance of the Head of Chemistry Department Dr. Chinthaka Sanath.

Date	Resource Person	Title
2020-08-11	Dr. Nadun Ratnaweera Mr. Sujeewa Lamaheewage	Colorimetry, Spectrophotometry, Flamephotometry
2020-08-19	Prof. Jinasena W. Hewage	Electrochemical Instruments and their maintenance
2020-08-21	Dr. Jeewantha S. Hewage	Measurements (Mass and Volume)
2020-08-25	Mr. Pathum Dilshan and Ms Niroshini Perera Sri Lanka Saukyadhana Movement	Basic First Aids Training
2020-10-21	Mr. Sameera Lakshan Department of Physics	Basic Electronics Practical Training Workshop

Faculty of Technology PET Recycling Project and Awareness Program



A million, one-time served plastic bottles are purchased each minute adding tons of non-degradable trash everywhere and hundreds of PET bottles collected daily within the University. Realizing the importance of sustainable disposal in reducing the impact of pollution, The Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, has initiated a plastic recycling and an awareness project in collaboration with a PET bottle recycling project named "Give Back Life" sponsored by Coca-Cola Beverages, Sri Lanka and Eco Spindles (Pvt) Ltd. The first phase of the project was successfully launched within the faculty premises on 24th September, 2020 with the active participation of Dr. Harshadewa Gunawardana (Dean, Faculty of Technology),

Dr. KMW Rajawatta (Head, Dept. of BST), Mr. Pasindu Liyage (Eco Spindles (Pvt) Ltd.) and Mr. L.Wickramasinghe (Coca-Cola Beverages), academic staff members and undergraduates from the Faculty of Technology. The project is coordinated by Mr. HAC Priyankara (Dept. of BST). In this inaugural session, the participants received the valuable opportunity to receive insights on the plastic pollution crisis in Sri Lanka and the need for the involvement of youth in finding solutions for this global disaster. Furthermore, as a part of the project, PET bottle collection bin was established within the faculty premises to strengthen the mission of making a “Go-Green” Sri Lanka. The project is expected to expand through various other initiatives such as awareness programs for different communities.

MOU between Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna and Dialog Axiata on Automated Agricultural Systems in Protected Houses

Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna has signed a MOU to conduct research activities on protected agriculture systems in the framework of private-public partnership with Dialog Axiata PLC. The scope of this agreement shall be for the parties to engage in research activities for exploring the possibilities of automating hydroponic agriculture practices and thereafter explore the possibility of carrying out research on Aquaponic and Aeroponic Agriculture, with the participation of the university students and engage in product development, launching and popularizing the products relating to IOT supported protected agriculture. Dr. (Mrs.) KMW Rajawatta Head/ Department of Biosystems Technology is a faculty coordinator from Faculty of Technology.



Achievements of the Technology Transfer Office University of Ruhuna 2020

Technology Transfer Office successfully attained the phase I, II and III of the World Bank targets and ready for phase 4 completion.

Prof. K.G. Somasiri of the faculty of Medicine formulated an instant nutritionally balanced breakfast meal and it was successfully licensed to Cargills PLC for marketing.



Mosquito repellent cream and a herbal hand sanitizer developed by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences were successfully licensed to Green Enterprises.

We were able to do licensing of six herbal products developed jointly by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and Faculty of Medicine and those products will be marketed under one of the leading Tea exporters, Heritage Tea Private Limited.



Most of the research projects were facilitated by patent data base supports.

Industrial Consultative Committee (ICC) Meeting 2020 - Department of ICT, Faculty of Technology



Collaboration between universities and industries is important for skills development through education and training and adoption of knowledge through innovation and technology transferring. In producing an internationally accredited Technologist in the field of Information and Communication Technology, the Department of ICT has recently formed an Industrial Consultative Committee (ICC) in order to provide the

students with the necessary technical and professional skills to face the challenges and adapt better for the rapidly changing phases of the highly competitive job market in today's world. In the accomplishment of this mission, the role of ICC is of immense importance as it plays a vital role in ensuring that our degree program, curriculum and academic activities stay aligned with the desired capacity and industrial requirements leading to the production of high-quality professional graduates.

Academics and students of the Department wish to maintain a wide range of industrial collaboration portfolios like consultancy appointments, student participation in industrial collaboration projects, internships and visiting lectures etc. Department Industrial Consultative Committee (ICC) consisting of all the members of the academic staff, visiting lecturers, the department coordinator of the industrial training and invited members representing the industry meet normally twice a year. The ICC plays a vital role to make sure that our degree programme, curriculum and academic activities stay aligned with the desired capacity and industrial requirements leading to the production of a high-quality professional graduate in the field of ICT.



Appointment of the Director of the Distance and Continuing Education Unit



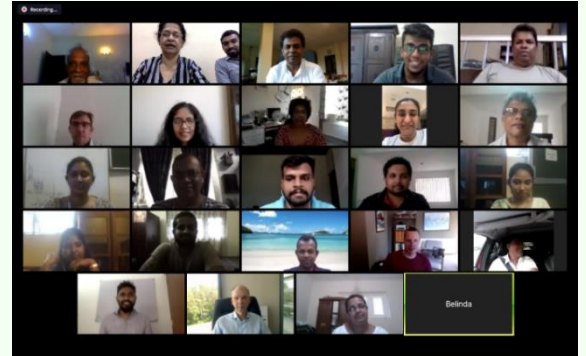
Prof. Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya, professor of chemistry has been appointed as the Director of the Distance and Continuing Education Unit, by the Council of the University of Ruhuna with effect from 15th July 2020.

International Collaborations

Building Resilience in Tropical Agroecosystems (BRITAE) Project Funded by European Union under Erasmus+ Programs

Second Consortium Meeting

Second Consortium Meeting was held as a virtual event on 25th June 2020, with the participation of all the members of each partner University. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss about the progress of the work packages and the way forward.



Development of the BRITAE Website

BRITAE website was launched on 1st of July 2020, with the intention of dissemination of project information and outcomes (<https://www.britae.lk>).

Development of BRITAE Framework

BRITAE framework was developed by analyzing the comprehensive literature review, survey results, institutional reports and the country report. BRITAE framework lays the basis for the development of a joint master's degree program.

Establishment of Smart Agro-ecosystem Resilience Centre

BRITAE project intends to establish a "Smart Agro-ecosystem Resilience" (SAR) Centre, to enable the delivery of the BRITAE curricular and to provide teaching materials, learning materials, evaluation procedures, assignments and other required materials for complete the courses. The floor plan for the establishment of SAR centre has been already prepared, equipment for the SAR centre have also been finalized and the purchasing process is on progress. Discussions are being carried out with Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania about development of Adaptive Biometric Examination System and Adaptive Examination System, Affective Tutoring System and Adaptive MOOCs and personalized learning system with moodle for SAR centre.

Erasmus Day 2020 Celebration

It was three days of celebration of the Erasmus+ programme in Europe and beyond during 15th, 16th and 17th of October 2020. A video testimonial was published in official Facebook page (<https://fb.watch/2JmRGFKOtn/>) of BRITAE project with the collaboration of members from Sri Lankan partner universities of BRITAE project. It was a unique opportunity to organize an event, share our Erasmus experience or spread the word about the project. On behalf of the project staff, Prof. CM Navaratne, Prof. GY Jayasinghe, Prof. Vijith Jayamanne and Emeritus Prof. KDN Weerasinghe shared the progress and the way forward of the project activities.

Third Consortium Meeting

Third Consortium Meeting of the BRITAE project was held on 17th and 18th of November 2020 as a virtual event, with the participation of all the members of each partner university. The basic objective of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the work packages and the way forward.

Visiting Honorary Professor Prof. Ragupathy Kannan, University of Arkansas, USA



Prof. Ragupathy Kannan, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, USA came to the Department of Zoology on a Fulbright Fellowship in February 2020, and has been an Honorary Professor at University of Ruhuna since then. Professor Kannan has been involved in teaching and academic orientation for students seeking graduate study opportunities at the University of Arkansas. He was involved in research/ academic collaboration, extension and networking and brought a contribution of valuable textbooks and instructional materials to the Department of Zoology. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, his Fulbright Fellowship was prematurely suspended in March 2020, but he opted to continue his scholarly visit for one year at University of Ruhuna.

Dr. Kannan is a Professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, a field biologist, and a contributing Editor for *Indian Birds-Journal of South Asian Ornithology*. During his stay at University of Ruhuna, he has continued his field and birding activities in Sri Lanka, even amidst the pandemic, and has contributed largely to enrich avian encounter reports. His recent achievement was to report a new bird species for Sri Lanka.

Meeting with H.E. Mr. Denis Chaibi the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and Maldives

H.E. Mr. Denis Chaibi the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and Maldives had a courtesy call with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna and participated in a progress meeting with the coordinators of all EU funded projects coordinated through the University of Ruhuna.



Online meeting with the Professor M. D. Lamawansa, H.E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation



Online meeting was conducted between Professor M. D. Lamawansa, H.E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, delegation from Russian University of Transport (MIIT) and Universities of Ruhuna, Peradeniya and Moratuwa to explore possible collaborations between Russian University of Transport (MIIT) and Universities of Sri Lanka on education and research.

Online Meeting with the Delegation from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan and University of Ruhuna



An online meeting was organized between the delegation from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan and University of Ruhuna to explore bilateral corporation in education and research between the two universities

Establishment of Ruhuna-Duke Centre for Infectious Diseases (RDCID) as an Official Centre of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna and the Duke Global Health Institute created a research and educational collaboration in partnership with the Duke Hubert Yeargan Center for Global Health, in an effort to facilitate bi-directional collaboration on health related research and student/clinician training exchanges.

Given the longstanding relationship and growing recognition for the work in infectious diseases conducted by the Ruhuna-Duke Collaboration, it was decided to formalize the administrative structure as an official center within the university and the new Unit was established. Having a formal structure would allow greater national and international visibility, may facilitate new collaborations (throughout Sri Lanka as well as internationally), and open new avenues for funding.



H.E. the EU Ambassador and H.E the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives visited the Department of Public Policy

H.E. the EU Ambassador Denis Chaibi and his delegates Mr. Nicolas Gerard, Programme Officer; and Ms. Tania Perera, Communications and Human Rights Officer visited the Department of Public Policy on 29th of September. H.E. the EU Ambassador Denis Chaibi and his delegates Mr. Nicolas Gerard, Programme Officer; and Ms. Tania Perera, Communications and Human Rights Officer visited the Department of Public Policy on 29th of September 2020. Followed by the visit,

H.E. the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Holger Seubert too visited the department on 07th of October 2020 with his delegates comprising Ms. Christiane Einfeldt, the Country Director of GIZ in Sri Lanka and the Maldives; Mr. Christoph Feyen, the Director of Strengthening Reconciliation Process in Sri Lanka (SRP) Project of GIZ; Ms. Dharini Daluwatte, Advisor to the German



Embassy; and Ms. Marsha Daniel, Advisor on Technical Lead, Institution Development & Learning, SRP. The ambassadors engaged in a stimulating discussion with the staff members of the Department of Public Policy and Sociology who participated in the series of online workshops on Pluralism conducted by the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka. Thus the discussions were fundamentally based on the Reconciliation Process of Sri Lanka and the empowerment of the university undergraduates as catalysts to positively influence the inter-ethnic relations of the country. The ambassadors further expressed their willingness to be informed of the outcomes of the project which is being implemented in collaboration with the NPC and three other state universities.

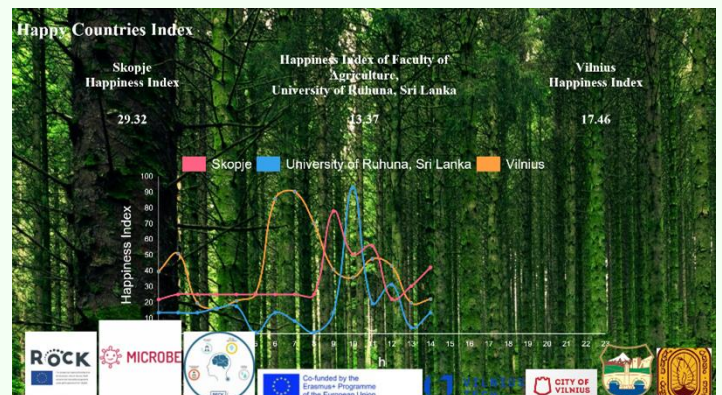
Virtual real-time Happiness Index Measurement: Collaboration of BECK Project and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and University of Ruhuna

Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture has established Mood Measuring Camera systems at the faculty and department premises. The camera systems and neuro-analytical systems developed by The Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) has indexed the mood of passers-by based on their facial expressions, body language, temperature, and other factors.

The index of happiness in Skopje (Macedonia), University of Ruhuna (Sri Lanka), and Vilnius is displayed online in real time at: <http://iti4.vgtu.lt/happyindex/>.

The project was initiated by Prof. Artūras Kaklauskas from VGTU. Prof. CM Navaratne, Emeritus Prof. KDN Weerasinghe, Prof. GY Jayasinghe, Dr. P. Priyankara, Dr. RH Wickramasinghe and Dr. HAC Priyankara are in the process of conducting the research activities parallel to the BECK Project.

The main goal of the study is to establish parameters that make people feel good in public spaces and lead a more effective life. Anonymized information collected by the sensors of the neuro-analytical system can be used for better city planning. Furthermore, it can also be used by businesses to create customized services –helping, for example, to breathe new life into certain places/cities/institutions, etc.



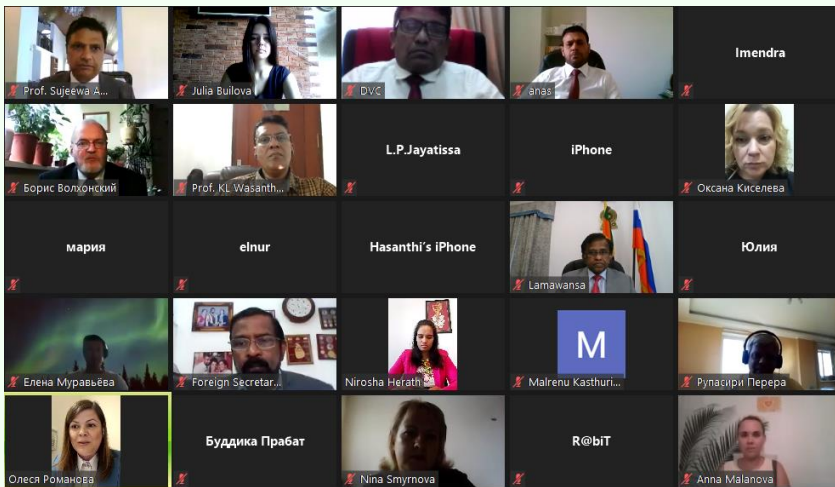
Student Exchange Program under the NOPART Partnership Project NOR-LANKA BLUE

The student exchange program under the NOPART partnership project NOR-LANKA BLUE with the Arctic University of Norway (UiT), Tromsø was successfully implemented amidst COVID-19 pandemic time to send seven students who will register or have registered for MPhil degree programs at the University of Ruhuna (04) and University of Jaffna (03) to Tromsø in October 2020. They were joined by one NARA scientist under a full MSc scholarship offered by the same project. The project aims to enhance the quality of higher



education through semester abroad student exchange programs. They will complete their stay at end of February 2021 and resume their studies in Sri Lanka. NOR-LANKA BLUE is a partnership project among the Arctic University of Norway, University of Ruhuna, University of Jaffna and National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency (NARA) and will be effective until 2023.

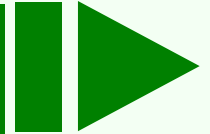
Inauguration of the Certificate Course in Communicative Sinhala for Non-Native Speakers



The Embassy of Sri Lanka to Russian Federation in collaboration with the University of Ruhuna held a virtual inauguration ceremony on 17th of October 2020 to mark the commencement of a Sinhala Language Certificate Course for the native speakers of the Russian Language. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Admiral Professor J. Colombage, Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka. The ceremony was graced by Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, H. E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation; Senior Prof.

T.S.D Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna; and the academic staff of the University including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deans; Ms. Lokeshwari S. Karunarathna (Lead Lecturer), Dr. Darshana Liyanage (Coordinator of the course). Prof. Boris Volkhonsky (Moscow State University) and the Embassy staff. About 100 students from diverse parts of Russia participated in the opening ceremony.

Students in Action



FOT XMAS – Christmas during the times of the Pandemic, Faculty of Technology



Great sights were seen at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna on the 23rd of December when the staff and students united to organize a Christmas carols event, to celebrate the upcoming Christmas festival. The Department of Multidisciplinary studies in collaboration with the Catholic Students' Association took the initiative in organizing this magnificent event while adhering to strict COVID-19 health guidelines. Nevertheless, the event was

abundant with creative Christmas decorations and the enthusiastic participation of students and staff showing that the 'new-normal' is not a barrier for creativity and entertainment.

Senior Prof. T.S.D Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna graced the occasion as the chief guest accompanied by Dr. Harshadewa Gunawardena, the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna. While appreciating the efforts of the students and staff, the Vice Chancellor pointed out the importance of paying equal respect to all religions in the country. The two carols performed by the students and the staff were the highlights of the event where carols belonging to different nationalities were sung to the rhythm of the students' band. The event came to a close successfully marking another event that reflected the aesthetic capabilities of the Faculty of Technology.



Katina Pinkama at Hapugala Sri Sudharmaramaya by Faculty of Engineering



"Katina Pinkama" is considered as one of the rarest opportunities according to the Buddhist Philosophy and it's difficult to have a chance to sponsor for the occasion as we wish because, one time one person can sponsor for the event in one temple. The last year (2020), the Katina Pinkama of Hapugala Sri Sudharmaramaya was acquired by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna as the main sponsor for the event in accordance with the request of former Dean, Dr. Chandana Perera several years ago.

The "Vas Aradhanawa" was performed by the dean, Dr. Harsha Sooriyaarachchi and the staff members of the Faculty of Engineering University of Ruhuna on 03rd August 2020. Throughout the "Vas" three months, the

daily evening “gilanpasa pujawa” was initiated for the monks (round 18) in the temple from 12th August 2020. The Katina Cheewara Perahara was held on 22nd November 2020 by following the COVID-19 health and safety regulations. The Katina Pinkama was held on 27th night (pirith chanting) and 28th morning (handing over the “Katina Cheewaraya” to “Maha Sangha”) November 2020. The final event of the Katina Pinkama is “Katinânisansa Deshanawa” held on the 29th November 2020 evening.



Further, the main burning problem in the temple was the water problem and as a part of the Katina Pinkama and as the main benefactor of Katina Pinkama, a long term solution has been proposed by the faculty. As the first stage, the abandoned well in the temple cleaned and donated a water pump with 200 feet head to the temple. Then the second long term solution; the construction of the tank with the capacity of 29,000 liters has been started by spending more than 1.6 million rupees at the beginning of November 2020. It's on progress now and willing to finish and handover the tank by the end of January 2021.

Voice of Hopes-Rays of Greetings, Faculty of Medicine

Christmas is the season which symbolizes the joy and the lord wonders the world with his love, compassion and grace. In every year people tend to gather together in order to encourage interfaith dialogue by celebrating this in a spectacular way. But unfortunately the pandemic situation prevailing throughout this year moved people away from each other. Although the situation is in such a way, students of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna joined hands together to solemnize this great feast.

The Students' Union, Faculty of Medicine organized the Virtual Carol Service 2020, “An Evening of Carols” in collaboration with the 42nd batch, it was streamed on 24th of December, 2020 from 7.00 pm via YouTube and Facebook Live. The event included many popular carols in both Sinhala and English and also a drama. This was an event which emphasized the elegance of Christmas, as the students representing all the batches, regardless of their religion participated to make it a success. Singing, Announcing, Recording, Playing, Mixing and Mastering, Role-Playing, Videography and Video Editing all were done by the students themselves. Hence it was a huge opportunity to find the hidden talents of students apart from studies. (Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13_5lh_gkYs)



Mistletoe Mania-Christmas Carol Competition

Christmas is an adorable period which everybody is awaiting to celebrate. To emphasize the elegance of Christmas, The Catholic Student's Society, University of Ruhuna successfully held a Christmas carol competition, "THE MISTLETOE MANIA 2020" in the last December. It was organized under 4 categories, Solo and Group singing, Solo and Group instrumental. Mr. Ravi Royster and Mr. Ashoka Pushpakumara contributed to the judge board while the most popular performance out of all categories was selected via social media voting.



The Most Popular Performance
Maheeka Gamage
Faculty of Medicine

The Best Solo Performance
Inushi Gunathilake
Faculty of Engineering

The Best Solo Instrumental Performance
Janith Pramudhutha
Faculty of Science



The Best Group Singing Performance
Thisura Gunaratne, Minuri Samarathunga, Dulmini
Muthuminithilake, Tharindu Widyananda
Faculty of Science



The Best Instrumental Performance
Thisura Chamika, GodeGodellawatta, Ashok
Kumar, Pramodya Kasun, Dhananjaya
Sudusinghe
Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences &
Technology

"Yuthukama" Monthly Alliance - Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology

The introductory monthly teamwork arranged by the Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna was successfully rounded off on 26th September 2020. This concept was put forward by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. EPS Chandana with objectives of widening attentiveness on

protection, enhancement, value addition and sustainable utilization of land and other resources in faculty premises.

During the introductory session, cleaning and land preparation for model garden, restructuring medicinal plant garden and nurseries, tree planting and all the groundwork necessary for establishment of spices, fruits and vegetable fields (edible gardening concept) took place predominantly.

The event launched was reinforced by members of both academic and non-academic staff, students, security and minor staff where the path was led under the patronage and presence of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. EPS Chandana and Head of the Department (BST), Dr (Mrs) KMW Rajawatta. Involvement of students in this event was significant as they were able to get experiences in novel technological applications. This program will be conducted in each month targeting different aspects to achieve the objective of “redefining difference”.



Mandaramen Eha; The Nascent Arties in the University who are Finding the Emotions of Poems

“Mandaramen Eha” is a music programme organized by the students who follow the Certificate Course in Soft Skills Development conducted by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna. The programme had been conducted with the objectives of building a soothing environment for the viewers, strengthening the performance of the students, making a platform to enhance the abilities of students and making a smooth contact between the public and the university. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna participated in the programme and the announcement of the ongoing UoR facilitating project in connection with students’ activities cheered up the audience.

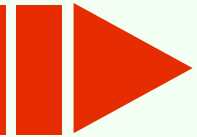


Table Manners and Etiquettes



Good manners make sharing a meal a pleasant and neat experience for everyone. “Table manners and etiquettes” training was conducted for undergraduates and staff members of the University of Ruhuna by the Career Guidance Unit, University of Ruhuna in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, Habaraduwa. That was a great opportunity to explain and practice good table manners which are a way of showing respect and consideration for themselves and others.

Staff Achievements



Fulbright Professional Fellowship - Prof. Disna Ratnasekera, Department of Agricultural Biology

Prof. Disna Ratnasekera from the Department of Agricultural Biology was awarded the prestigious and highly competitive Fulbright Professional (Teaching and Research) Fellowship from the Government of United States to serve as a visiting professor, attached to Department of Botany and Plant Science, University of California, Riverside, (UCR), USA. She worked at the UCR for 6 months (January 2020 to July 2020) under the supervision of Prof. Norman Ellstrand, Distinguished Professor of Genetics, Jane S. Johnson Endowed Chair in Food and Agriculture, Director, California Agriculture and Food Enterprise (CAFE). Prof. Ratnasekera focused her research on synthesis mechanisms behind the evolution of weedy rice in Sri Lanka focusing Sri Lankan rice ecosystem with the “Domesticated-weed-wild Complex” (DWWC). The evolution of weed species may go beyond the hands of a breeder. Perhaps the most dynamic opportunities for spontaneous evolution are in regions rich with cross-compatible plants in both managed and unmanaged populations. An ideal system to measure the role of multilateral gene flow in the evolution of a DWWC occurs on the large island nation of Sri Lanka. The island nation has the advantage of being politically and geographically discrete from the rest of South Asia. The DWWC is incredibly rich, involving six evolutionarily discrete groups in the genus *Oryza* that share a common ancestry. Thus, the findings of this analysis have a significant contribution to the evolutionary studies in global. Besides this, Prof. Ratnasekera has served as a resource person to the international training workshop on “Neglected and Underutilized crop species for food and nutritional security during time of uncertainties” during 16-29 Oct. 2020 organized by Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, India and in the International Conference on “Immerging Trends in Biotechnology (14-16 Dec. 2020) organized by Vellore Institute of Technology, India.



Research Collaborations of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and the Department of Industrial Development of Southern Province to Support Sri Lankan Fabric Production

In supporting the current higher demand for locally made fabrics, on an official invitation from the State Ministry of Batik, Handloom Fabric & Local Apparel Products and the Department of Industrial Development of Southern Province, the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (DMME) of Faculty of Engineering is in the process of developing a high-performance fabric weaving machine. This is in replacement of Indian machines which were brought to the country so far by spending foreign exchange. Based on a design proposal submitted by Dr. Chaminda Karunasena, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department, a sum of Rs. 1 million research and development funding has been granted to develop high-performance fabric weaving machines which can produce sarees and other high-demanding fabrics to cater to the local demand. Under the main supervision of Dr. Karunasena, a team of undergraduate students and instructors and workshop staff of the DMME are conducting the development works at the workshop of DMME.



General Manager/Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Environment Protection Authority



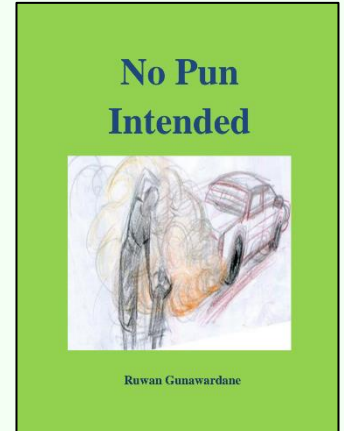
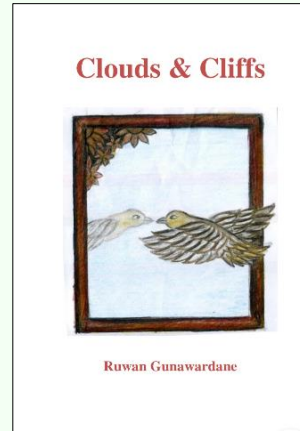
Dr. P.B. Terney Pradeep Kumara was first appointed as the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Environment Protection Authority on 04th august 2014.

Since then, the knowledge on the subject of the marine environment and the exceptional qualities and skill possessed by Dr. Terney has performed a successful mission in achieving the objectives of the Authority during the two years in which he served as General Manager of the Marine Environment Protection Authority. In addition, as the Chief Executive Officer, he has rendered effective and efficient service to the Authority by monitoring the Operations, Legal, Administrative and Accounts Divisions in accordance with the powers vested by the Marine Pollution Prevention Act No. 35 of 2008, coordinating the Ministry and the line agencies and representing the Authority locally, regionally and globally. During his tenure as the General Manager, he was able to push MEPA to be in the limelight in Marine Pollution control, marine environment protection, and conservation aspects. In all these occasions, he raised the flag of the University of Ruhuna high above the air.

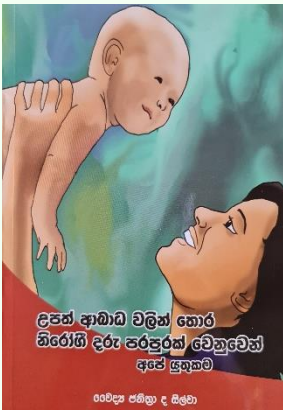
Considering his unprecedented service, The Cabinet of Ministers of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has extended his service for another year from 2020 August. University of Ruhuna wishes him good luck!

Publication of Two Collections of Poetry in English

Mr. Ruwan Gunawardane is a Senior Lecturer in English attached to the Department of English Language Teaching and he has published two collections of poetry in English, namely 'Clouds & Cliffs' and 'No Pun Intended.' Besides, 'Clouds & Cliffs' is a collection of Haiku poems in English, which could perhaps be the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, and 'No Pun Intended' is a collection of poems in the form of free verse.



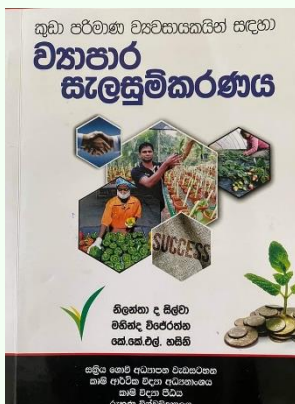
A Hand Book on Prevention of Birth Defects



A hand book on prevention of birth defects (උපන් ආබාධ වලින් තොර නිරෝගී දරු පරපුරක් වෙනුවෙන් අපේ යුතුකම, ISBN: 978-955-1507-63-3) published by Dr. Janithra De Silva, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine of University of Ruhuna, was distributed among the Public Health Midwives attached to the 20 Medical Officer of Health unit areas in Galle district at Dakshinapaya, Labudoowa. Information on common birth defects among children and the measures needed to be carried out to prevent birth defects by the primary health care staff are included in the handbook. This activity was carried out as an initiative to reduce the occurrence of birth defects in Galle district.



Book Launching; 'Business Planning for Small Scale Entrepreneurs'



The book titled 'Business Planning for small Scale Entrepreneurs' written by Dr (Mrs.) Nilantha De Silva, Emeritus Prof. Mahinda Wijerathne, and Ms K.K.L.Hasini of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna was officially launched on 06th November 2020 at the Dakshinapaya, Labuduwa, Galle. The event was graced by Hon. Mr. Willy Gamage, the Governor, Southern Province, Sri Lanka. Five hundred copies of this book were donated to distribute among the libraries of the Southern province.

This book was published as a community service of the Life Long Learning for Farmers (L3F) Project implemented by the Commonwealth of Learning with the purpose of improving the entrepreneurial knowledge and skills of the farming community. Lack of economic orientation is one of the key issues of the Sri Lankan agricultural sector. Poor knowledge of the



farmers on business planning is a critical issue behind the lower economic returns. This book provides them the fundamental knowledge in business planning.

Appointment as the Chairman of the ICOMOS National Scientific Committee of Sri Lanka on Places of Religion and Ritual



Ms. K.V.J. Koshalee, Lecturer (probationary) attached to the Department of History and Archaeology was appointed as the Chairman of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) National Scientific Committee of Sri Lanka on Places of Religion and Ritual and also as a Voting Member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual with effect from 08th of December 2020 for a period of 3 years. The ICOMOS is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to conserving the world's monuments and sites. The International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual (PRERICO) was established under ICOMOS statutes so as to promote the research, understanding, protection, preservation and management of diverse heritages including structures, sites, landscapes and other places of religious or sacred significance.

NCAS Scholarship was awarded to Ms. H.S. Hidellaarachchi

Ms. Hemanthi Subhadra Hidellaarachchi of the Department of English Language Teaching, University of Ruhuna was awarded a scholarship by the National Centre for Advanced Studies to follow a PhD programme in September 2020. She will be able to pursue her research studies at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. The experience she gathers from the exposure to an international learning community will be an asset for her to reach her potential and share the novel knowledge with students and colleagues at the University of Ruhuna.



Raising the bar: Increasing achievements of Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine



The academic year of 2020 exhibits a fruitful transcript of awards received by the academic members of the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. On 04th March 2020, Prof. Channa Yahathugoda was awarded the University of Ruhuna-Vice Chancellor's Award for "The Highest

Recipients of Grants of the year 2019" at the Seventeenth Academic Sessions of the University of Ruhuna. The paper published in the journal of Tropical Medicine and Health under the title of "*Surveillance of Wuchereria bancrofti infection by anti-filarial IgG4 in urine among schoolchildren and molecular xenomonitoring in Sri Lanka: A post- mass drug administration study*" (*Tropical Medicine and Health* 47:39, 2019), which was co-authored by Snr. Prof. Mirani Weerasooriya and Prof. Channa Yahathugoda was awarded "The "Best Paper of 2020". For the first time in the Faculty of Medicine's history it has received such a recognition from high caliber SCI-indexed journal. Further, the research work carried out on leishmaniasis; three awards were received at two local scientific conventions. Dr. N.L De Silva, Snr. Prof. Mirani Weerasooriya, and Prof. Channa Yahathugoda co-authored this work. The presentation of work carried out under "*The diagnostic accuracy of a modified nested PCR-RFLP method in the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by Leishmania donovani*" was presented at the 29th Annual Scientific Sessions, The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (13th -14th August 2020) and won "The First Prize in Oral Presentations". The said work was also awarded the "Dr C. Palasuntheram Prize for The Oral Presentations" at the same convention. "The Award for the Best Paper" at the 79th Annual Sessions of the Galle Medical Association, September 2020 was awarded for the work presented on the "*Development of a sandfly anti-salivary gland—SG747—IgG antibody-based urine enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for cutaneous leishmaniasis risk mapping using geographic information systems (GIS) in Sri Lanka*".

Students' Achievements

Online 2020 World Taekwondo Asia Poomsae Open Championship

Miss. W.H.I.S.Chandrasena of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences won Gold medal in female under 30 colour Belt Poomsae event and Mr.K.H.K.L.Dilshan of Faculty of Management and Finance won Silver medal in male under 30 colour Belt Poomsae event representing Sri Lanka national Taekwondo team for Online 2020 World Taekwondo Asia Poomsae Open Championship.



1st Virtual Taekwondo National Championship

Following achievements were obtained by the University of Ruhuna Taekwondo team for the 1st Virtual Taekwondo National Championship organized by Sri Lanka Taekwondo Federation. These athletes received colours for Taekwondo in 2020.

1. Mr. K.H.K.L.Dilshan of the Faculty of Management & Finance won Individual Poomsae university category Gold medal and open under 30 category Bronze medal.
2. Mr. K.A.D.M.K.M.Kathiriarachchi of the Faculty of

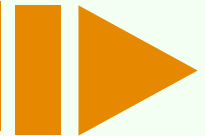


Science won individual poomsae university category Bronze medal and open under 30 category Silver medal.

3. Mr. P.H.B.S.Sandaruwan of the Faculty of Science won two Silver medals in university and open under 30 categories.
4. Miss. A.A.E.Rasanduni of the Faculty of Management & Finance won two Bronze medals in individual poomsae university and open under 30 categories.
5. Miss. K.W.D.O.Priyadarshani of the Faculty of Science won two Bronze medals in individual poomsae university and open under 30 Categories.
6. Miss. W.H.I.S.Chandrasena of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences won the Bronze medal in individual poomsae open under 30 category.

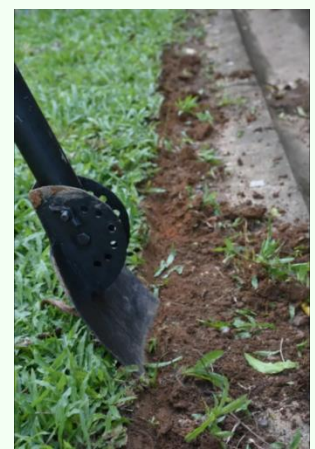


Inventions and Innovations



Sahasak Nimavum 2019 (International Invention and Innovation Competition)

A research group led by Senior Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna newly invented a multipurpose foldable mamoty with a blade that can be adjusted to different angles. The traditionally used mamoty is a hand-operated tool used in various agricultural activities such as cleaning, weeding, uprooting, and harvesting, however, this is less efficient in achieving the expected production to fulfill the rising demand. Thus, with the supervision of Senior Prof. P.L.A.G.Alwis and Mr.



K.M.T.S.Bandara from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, three undergraduate students; Mr. Akila Indika Herath, Ms. K.R.T.A. Kahandawa, and Mr. S.G.C. Dissanayaka from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna tried to overcome the existing problems of traditional mamoty by inventing a multipurpose foldable mamoty for the field of Agricultural Engineering. Due to the

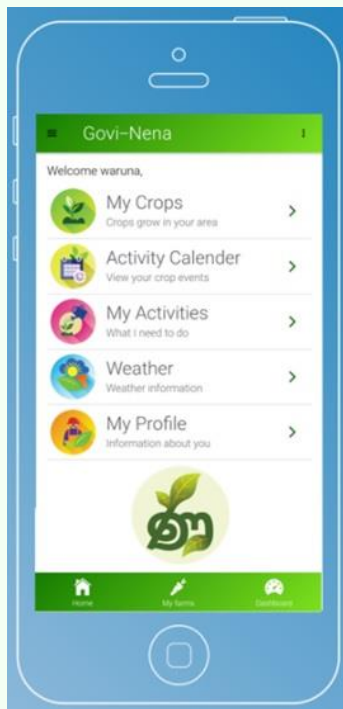


blendable and rotating blade, it can perform the functions of a range of agricultural equipment such as hoe, fork, and shovel. The blade can be rotated to different angles so as not to cause discomfort to the handler's body, resulting in a high level of efficiency. This new design was awarded the “Gold Medal” under the Agricultural category at the “Sahasak Nimawum” Competition in 2019 due to its high efficiency, less storage space, and the high degree of occupational health and safety. This new invention was featured in the Sri Lankan newspaper “Dwara” by “Dinamina” in November 2020 for its commendable characteristics and novelty.

Commercialization of a Real Time Agricultural Mobile-Based Information System (“Govi-Nena”)

Digital agriculture can play a major role in food security by reducing wastage, predicting demand, providing real-time information, feedback, and much more.

Govi-Nena mobile application is such a game-changing technological application specially designing and developing for Sri Lankan farmers by the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. The main objective of the project is to develop and commercialize the mobile-based information system to enhance the growth and long-term sustainability of the Sri Lankan agriculture Sectors.



Dr. W.A. Indika, Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, is the grantee of this project. This is funded with Sri Lanka Rupees 35 million by Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) – Research- Innovation, and Commercialization Grant (RIC-Grant). The project period is from 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2021 and this collaborates with the Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka; University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC), Sri Lanka; and the Western Sydney University, Australia. The partners in this project are Hayleys Agriculture and the AgStar PLC.

The 'Govi-Nena' project operates on two major mobile applications. The main app is the 'Govi-Nena Commercial Farmer Application' and the other one is the 'Govi-Nena Home Gardening application'.

"Govi-Nena Commercial Farmer" mobile application provides contextual

information for commercial farmers that will be useful to make quality decisions for successful farming. Further, this app collects a vast amount of information, and then for each crop type, the collected information will be aggregated based on the locations, crop varieties, etc. Based on the aggregated information, the relevant Authority can decide different incentives to be offered to the farmers.



This “Govi-Nena - Home Gardening” application has been developed with the intention of doing something for the nation during the critical time period of the Covid-19 epidemic. Therefore, this mobile application was launched as a sub-project under the 'Govi-Nena' project. This Home Gardening App has many functionalities related to home gardening such as it guides the farmers step by step how to cultivate the crops correctly until harvest; provide helpful information for organic farming in a structured manner; give an activity calendar that supports farmers to organize their farming activities and many more features. Further, this application is in three languages (English, Sinhala, and Tamil).

You may download this App via Google Play Store and use it to manage your home garden (Android version) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.govinena.app>

Now available for iOS download - <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1527128861>

FOT INVO 2020 – Faculty of Technology



The Faculty of Technology has successfully conducted the **FOT INVO 2020** programme on 21st Oct, 04th Nov and 10th Dec for this year. During the COVID-19 lockdown the students of the Faculty have been committed to developing their own inventions by utilizing the COVID period in a fruitful way at home. The concept of this competition was put forward by Dean, Dr. K.G.S.Harshadewa Gunawardana. This programme has been arranged by the coordinator, Dr. (Mrs.). E.U.U. Rathnathunga, Senior

Lecturer, Dept. of BST, and the organizing committee, Ms. M.S. Jayathilalaka, Lecturer (Probationary) from Dept. of BST, Mr. Uditha Isuranga, Lecturer (Probationary) from Dept. of ET and Ms. Buddhika Gayashani from Lecturer (Probationary) from Dept. of ICT.

It was a great opportunity for the students as they were able to provide a preliminary platform to the future inventors of the faculty to arise with the glory. During the Xmas Event of the Faculty of Technology, Snr. Prof. T.S.D Amarasena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna awarded the certificates for the participants of the FOT INVO and the inventions of the individuals or the teams are as follows.

1. Fingerprint Voting System for Sri Lankan electoral system
2. Automated hand washer
3. Isolated patient monitoring system
4. Modified hazmat suit with controllable inside temperature
5. Smoke Absorber
6. Automated small finger marker for election
7. An automated IOT system
8. Integrated egg index meter



9. Solar power sanitizer machine
10. Automatically measuring Temperature and Smart Safety Door System
11. RUTS COVID - 19 helping Robots
12. App on "COVID -19" (provide dashboard about COVID - 19 situation in Sri Lanka)

The Committee is currently planning to conduct the next event in 2021 with a wider opportunity by lunching a blog for the students as well.

Retirements

Academic Staff Members

Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake



Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake, retiring on September 30, 2020, from the University of Ruhuna has planned a new life of freedom of leisure after long university life of 40 years with overwhelmed duties as a Probationary lecturer, Senior lecturer, Senior student counselor, Professor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and finally the Vice-Chancellor for two consecutive terms.

Prof. Gamini Senanayake started his career at the University of Ruhuna as a young member in the team of a handful of academics at the newly established Faculty of Agriculture in a government farm, which was restricted to a few infrastructural facilities in 1980. He had to play not only the role of the lecturer but also all strata of workers in a university when the need arose. The life at the emerging Faculty of Agriculture in the 1980s was adventurous: He once drove the faculty vehicle to take a sick student to the hospital and went down to an abundant well to rescue a student. Life was challenging for young Dr.

Senanayake during the 1988 unrest. He was strategic to save the lives of students at critical points when the armed forces invaded the faculty.

Prof Gamini Senanayake was converted to an academic administrator with patience, inspiration, and long sight when he became the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna followed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University. Being a Senior Professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology, he was blessed with the sense of Research; He implemented the research grant scheme of the Transforming University of Ruhuna into International Status (TURIS), which benefitted the University of Ruhuna and the whole research arena creating many local and international scholars. He was instrumental in introducing new Faculties to the University with a lot of new infrastructure including the biggest auditorium in the southern province.

Prof Senanayake actively involved in numerous national development activities in Sri Lanka. To name a few, he was recently appointed as the Senior academic consultant to the Mahapola Trust Fund, Lead Consultant of the City University Project of the University Grants Commission, and Lead Consultant of the University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, Sri Lanka. He had been serving as the Controlling Chief Examiner of the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in Agricultural Science since 1995. He currently serves as the Chairman of Sri Lanka

Council for Agricultural Research and Policy continuing his untiring effort to accomplish prosperity in the country through agricultural innovation.

Senior Professor W.G.D. Dharmaratna

Senior Professor W.G.D. Dharmaratna retired on 30th September, 2020 after 37 years of service as an Academician at the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. He dedicated his entire career for serving the education sector, ranging from teaching, research, administration as well as serving the nation. He provided strategic, inspirational and operational leadership to the institution, and he is considered as a visionary leader and a faculty builder. He has a unique and a remarkable capacity to accomplish the tasks bestowed on him unlike any other. That extraordinary personality paved the way for him to reach his career goals and aided the university to accomplish many of its objectives. His unwavering commitment to duty has made him a superior academic, persevering researcher, inspiring mentor and an effective administrator. In his personal capacity, he is a recreational sportsman, self-taught singer and a serving Lion.



Prof. Dharmaratna obtained his Bachelor of Science in Physics special degree from the University of Peradeniya in 1978. After about one year of service to the Department of Physics there, he joined the University of Ruhuna in 1979. He was offered a teaching assistantship by the Tufts University, USA to follow the Degree of Philosophy in 1982. He carried out his postgraduate studies at Tufts University and obtained the MSc in Physics in 1984 and the PhD in Theoretical High Energy Physics in 1989. He was offered a postdoctoral position at Florida State University in 1990 and worked at the Fermilab in Chicago until his return to Sri Lanka in 1993. Prof. Dharmaratna joined the Department of Physics at University of Ruhuna as a Senior Lecturer in 1993 and served the department of Physics and the University of Ruhuna until his retirement last year. During the period 1994 – 2004, he served as the Head of the Department of Physics. He was promoted to the post of Professor in Physics and Chair Professor of Physics in 2001 and to the post of Senior Professor of Physics in 2008.

Prof. Dharmaratna has been a highly acclaimed researcher and has earned more than 36000 citations with 51 h-index which is the second highest in Sri Lanka. He has over 150 journal publications and over 50 conference publications to his credit. He introduced High Energy Physics research in Sri Lankan universities through a collaboration with CERN, Switzerland by initiating a joined research project approved by the Sri Lankan government covering a fund of over 250 M rupees. At present four Sri Lankan students are following their postgraduate studies under this collaborative project. In addition, he initiated and directed Sri Lankan undergraduates to join the annual summer programme at the CERN laboratory.

Many events that takes place at the Faculty of Science had been introduced by Prof. Dharmaratna during his tenure as the Dean of the Faculty of Science from 2010 - 2016. Invention and innovation activities, Annual Science Faculty Day and Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium are to name a few. The Invention/Innovation exhibition was introduced to the Faculty in 2013, and it has now been expanded to hosting the Southern Province Sri Lanka Invention Innovation competition by the University of Ruhuna. The Science

Faculty Day is an event which has been held very successfully every year. It provides the opportunity for the staff and students to come together to engage in sports, communal and entertainment events.

Prof. Dharmaratna has many years of experience in other administrative positions at the university as well. He served as the Director of Graduate Studies from May 2007- 2010 and initiated the process to establish the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Ruhuna. Prof. Dharmaratna initiated the process of developing curricula, infrastructure and human resources for the establishment of Faculty of Technology during his Deanship at the Faculty of Science. Thus, he was appointed as the pioneering Dean of the Faculty Technology in 2016 and served there until close to his retirement. He also served in many committees at other institutions during his career and one such position was serving as the Chairman of the NSF Working Committee on Basic Sciences from 2016-2019. Prof. W.G.D. Dharmaratna rendered an admirable and irreplaceable service to the department, faculty and to the university for nearly four decades until his retirement on 30th September 2020.

Professor K. G. Somasiri



Prof. K. G. Somasiri served the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine for nearly 30 years from 1990. Having completed his secondary education at Hikkaduwa Sri Sumangala Central College, he entered the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya and obtained MBBS degree from it. He has a PhD from University of Ruhuna and Diploma in Child Health (DCH) from the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), University of Colombo.

After obtaining his MBBS degree he served the Ministry of Health for over 10 years and then joined the Department of Physiology as a Probationary lecturer. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II) after completing his PhD degree. The title of his PhD study was ‘Histopathology and electrophysiological features of patients with leprosy’.

He served as the Head of Department of Physiology in many occasions totalling over eight years. He served in many committees of the Faculty of Medicine during his career. Further, he obtained training on student counselling and served as a student counsellor and the deputy senior student counsellor of the Faculty of Medicine. He was the coordinator for QEF grant of IRQUE project, University of Ruhuna. He served as a co-coordinator of the first-ever medical exhibition held at the Faculty of Medicine in 2006.

His scholarly contributions span across many areas of Physiology as well as on other areas such as meditation, quality of life and nutrition. He authored two books on Physiology for medical students which are being widely used across the country. He was the principal investigator of the field centre of the World Health Organization (WHO) quality of life in the Faculty of Medicine which translated and validated the WHOQOL questionnaire to the Sinhala language. He supervised many postgraduate students.

He was the President of the following associations: Ruhuna Faculty of Medicine Teachers’ Association (RFMTA), Physiological Society of Sri Lanka and Galle Medical Association. Using his vast experience, he

guided those organizations to reach greater heights. In addition, he served in the voluntary force of the Sri Lanka Army as a Lieutenant Colonel.

His academic commitments were not confined to the University of Ruhuna alone. He served as an academic staff member in the Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Eastern University of Sri Lanka. He served as an examiner in the MD (Surgery) selection examination conducted by the PGIM. He served as a member of the Board of Management of the PGIM and the Senate of the University of Ruhuna.

As a chairperson of the energy audit for the Faculty of Medicine, he contributed immensely to minimize the energy wastage in the faculty. Further, he was a key person in initiating the waste management programme of the Faculty of Medicine. In addition, he was instrumental in establishing the Horticulture Society of the Faculty of Medicine. During the latter part of his career, he was engaged in developing a healthy breakfast food made of rice flakes and other selected ingredients.

Having completed 30 years of service, Prof. K. G. Somasiri has retired from service on 29.12.2020 leaving a significant vacuum in the department as well as the faculty. Department of Physiology wishes him a healthy and productive retirement.

Senior Lecturer G. Senarath

Senior Lecturer G. Senarath who served in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences retired after rendering his dedicated service to the University of Ruhuna for 33 years. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Special degree in Geography from the University of Colombo in 1980 with second class (upper division) honours. Afterwards, he pursued his MA at the University of Colombo and completed the degree in 1987. He embarked on his academic career as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna in 1983. Then he was appointed as a Probationary Assistant Lecturer at the same department in 1986 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II position in 1989. By 1995, he obtained the promotion to Senior Lecturer Grade I position. Senior Lecturer G. Senarath immensely contributed to

the Department as the Head of the Department of Geography from 2008 to 2011 and he also served as the Acting Dean for five consecutive months, displaying his capacities as a visionary leader. In addition, he served as a Visiting Lecturer for Advanced Certificate Course in Environmental Management and Regional Development and he was also a Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, and University of Ruhuna.



Apart from these appointments, Senior Lecturer G. Senerath was appointed as a Coordinator of the MA programme in Regional Development; Coordinator of the Computer Centre in the faculty for 4 years; Coordinator for IRQUE project in the faculty for 3 years; Senior Treasurer of the Geographical Society, University of Ruhuna in 1992 and 1993; Student Counsellor in the university from 1990 to 2001 and Senior Treasurer of the Student Council of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He also provided his invaluable service to the Sri Lanka Association of Geographers. Furthermore, his specialized fields and teaching areas were quantitative geographies, land use planning, cartography and mathematical projections. His research areas were related to land use planning and he too paid his close attention to disaster management challenges in the Matara District. Consequently, he had published several research papers and books in national and international platforms, enlightening the interested parties related to his discipline. He was an academic who dedicatedly contributed to the progress of the university and the community.

Non-Academic Staff Members

Senior Assistant Registrar

Mrs. G.A.J. Hemmalie, Library

Staff Technical Officer

Mrs. B.C. Algiriyawithana, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science

Senior Staff Management Assistant

Mrs. P.T.S. Rupasinghe, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. K.G. Karunawathie, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

Data Entry Operator

Mrs.P.G.M. Ranjanie, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Nurse

Mrs.T.M.I.A. Kanthi, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine

Security Guard

Mr. W.A.R.C. Ranasingha, Faculty of Engineering

Two Wheel Tractor Operator

Mr. H.A. Piyasiri, General Administration Branch (Transport- Wellamadama)

Recruitments & Promotions

Recruitments (Academic Staff)

Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. B.I.A. Mendis , Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. K.P.V.R. De Silva, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine

Dr.(Mrs.) W.K.K.D. Siriwardana, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

Dr.(Mrs) E.U.U. Rathnathunga , Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology

Lecturer (Unconfirmed)

Dr. K.V.S.N. Bandara, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science

Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. A.S. Mudalige, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Mr. H. Asela, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Mr. G.W.G.K.N. Udayanga, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Mr. G.R.U. Senevirathne, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Mrs. B.B.D.S. Abeykoon, Dean's Office, Faculty of Management & Finance

Dr. A.D.S.S. Sanjeewa, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine

Dr.(Mrs.) V.P.C. Rajakaruna, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Mr. L.S.N.S. Lamaheewage, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

Mr. Y.C.Y. Sudusinghe, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

Ms. H.H. Senevirathne, Dean's Office, Faculty of Science

Mr. W.A.H.M. Karunaratne, Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology

Instructor in Computer Technology Grade II

Mr. A. W. A. Dilhan, Dean's Office, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Mr. D.A.Y.K. Gunawardana, Dean's Office, Faculty of Science

Instructor in English Grade III

Ms. S.H. Piyumi, Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Ms. K.D.L.H. Jayarathna, Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Instructor in Physical Education Grade III

Mr. K.G.S. Divanjana, Physical Education Unit

Mr. W. P.N.T. Lakmal, Physical Education Unit

Ms. R.M.C. Shamali, Physical Education Unit

Career Guidance Counsellor

Mrs. V.A.H. Walihena, Career Guidance Unit

Ms. E.W.D. Dilhan, Career Guidance Unit

Programmer Cum System Analyst Grade II

Mr. P.G.W. Lasantha, Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Mr.B.G.S. Kumara, General Administration

Promotions (Academic Staff)

Senior Professor

Rev. Prof. Midigama Soratha Thero, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Prof. Jayantha Amarasinghe, Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Prof. K.D. Mahanida, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine

Prof.(Ms.) Isurani Illeperuma, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine

Prof.(Mrs.) N.J.De S. Amarasinghe, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science

Professor (Chair)

Prof. K.H.M. Ashoka Deepananda, Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Professor

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Geekiyanage, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. D.P.I.N. Pathirana, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. P.W.A. Perera, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. (Mrs.) D. Senaratne, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. G.S.Y. De Silva, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
Dr. (Mrs.) G.H.M.J. Subashi, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
Dr.(Mrs.) H.B. Asanthi, Department of Limnology & Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology
Rev.Dr. U. Mahinda Thero, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Rev.Dr. B. Dhammajothi Thero, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr. H.M.M. Herath, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
Dr.(Mrs.) G.D.K. Mahanama, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science
Dr. K. Masakorala, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science

Associate Professor

Dr.(Mrs.) N.M.N.K. Narayana, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr.S.L.J. Fernando, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr. S. Wijerathne, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr.(Mrs.) G. Edirisinghe, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr.(Mrs.) P.L.G.C. Liyanage, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine

Senior Lecturer Grade I

Dr. W.M.C.J. Wijekoon, Department of Soil Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. (Mrs.) S.R. Amarasinghe, Department of Soil Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. (Mrs.) H.H. Peiris, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Dr.(Mrs.) S.K. Hettihewa, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Dr. G.G.T. Chaminda, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
Dr. D.L.A.H. Shammika, Department of Public Policy, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Rev.Dr. Koggalle Wijitha Thero, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Dr. P.M.T.C. Wijesundara, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Mrs. E.I. Lelwala, Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Mr. Wimal Wijesinghe, Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Mrs. L.R. Rupasinghe, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management & Finance
Mrs. G.A. Niluka Darshi, Department of Accounting & Finance, Faculty of Management & Finance

Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr.(Mrs.) A.A.M. Subodinee, Department of Food Science & Technology, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr.(Mrs.) H.W.A.S. Subasinghe, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Ms. H.J.H. Madhushanthi, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Ms. M.W.K. Gamage, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Dr. (Mrs.) S.M.T.D. Sundarapperuma, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Dr.(Mrs.) N. M. Wagarachchi, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering
Dr.(Mrs.) W.M.I. Udayangani , Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering
Rev. Aparakke Sirisudhamma Thero, Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Mr. Ruwan Gunawardane, Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Mr. E.K. Jayampathi, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management & Finance
Dr.(Ms.) K.K.W.J.C. De Silva, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
Dr.(Mrs.) M.K.S. Madushika, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science

Recruitments (Non-Academic Staff)

Bursar

Mr. K.A.R.S. Jayakody

Chief Security Officer

Major. S.S.P. Liyanage

Audio Visual Technical Officer

Mr. H.A. Asanka Chamara, Distance & Continuing Education Unit

Works Engineer (Civil) Grade III

Mr. W.M. Pushpa Kumara, Faculty of Technology

Mr. L.R. Vithanawasam, Faculty of Engineering

Mr. S.G.L.M.U. Samarasinghe, Administration (Maintenance Unit)

Promotions (Non-Academic Staff)

Senior Staff Assistant (Data Entry Operating)

Mr. H.P.B. Pathirana, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. P.G. Mala Ranjani, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Staff Assistant (Data Entry Operating)

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