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Department of Human Resource Management
University of Ruhuna

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Biannual Newsletter

UoR Highlights

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA - SRI LANKA

Feature article:
Faculty of Technology, A Developing
Faculty in University of Ruhuna
By Dr. K G S H Gunawardana

THANK YOU



MAIN STORY

Institutional Review Conducted by the University Grants Commission



The University of Ruhuna obtained “Very Good” grade at the Institutional Review conducted in 2021. The review was conducted by the University Grants Commission and the review team consisted of senior academic members including,

Snr.Professor A. Pathmeswaran (Chair of the team) - University of Kelaniya

Professor Emeritus N. shanmugalingam - University of Jaffna

Professor Nazeera Salim - University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Professor R.P.Chithra Ranjani - University of Kelaniya

Snr. Professor W.A.P Weerakkody - University of Peradeniya

Professor Sisira Ediriweera - Uva Wellasa University

The Institutional Review was initially planned to be held in 2019 and was delayed due the prevailed pandemic situation of the country and was then rescheduled to be conducted in 2021.

The period covered in the Institutional Review was from 2015 to 2020.

Due to the prevailed health guidelines imposed by the government all the desk reviews and stakeholder meetings were conducted virtually using Zoom platform. The evidence of the best practices to support the Self Evaluation Report (SER) had been submitted through a Data Management System (DMS) developed by the ICT team with the guidance of the Director / IT and the Acting Director CQA. The DMS introduced by the University of Ruhuna was highly commended by the reviewers on its user friendliness and reliability.

The stakeholder meetings were held between 16th to 19th of December 2021 where altogether 84 stakeholder meetings were conducted covering academics, administrative



officers, academic supportive officers, non-academics, internal and external students, student unions, university alumni etc. The main institutional review presentation was presented by Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena the Vice-chancellor of the University of Ruhuna in the presence of the Council and the members of the Senate of the University of Ruhuna, where he briefed the reviewers about the universities approach on quality and quality related standards.

The onsite inspection of the Institutional Review 2020 was conducted on 28th and 29th of December 2021. During their visit the team of reviewers visited nine faculties, administrative divisions, departments and centers of the University, libraries, hostels, auditoriums, gymnasiums etc. After completing the onsite visits, a wrap up meeting was held by the reviewers. The meeting was held at the new Senate room of the University, with the participation of the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Acting Director / CQA,



senior academics and the SER writing committee of the Institutional Review 2020. The major Findings of the review were discussed at this wrap up meeting. The team of reviewers at the wrap up meeting commended the leadership and guidance given to successful completion of the Institutional Review 2020.

From the report of the team of reviewers the University of Ruhuna has obtained an overall mark of 83.1 points with nine out of ten Criteria scoring above 80%. According to which the University of Ruhuna is given an overall grade of 'Very Good' placing the University among the top three Universities in Sri Lanka in the Institutional Review 2020.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Faculty of Technology, a Developing Faculty in University of Ruhuna



With the fourth Industrial Revolution in the world, Sri Lanka is also needed skilled graduates in Technological fields to ensure its development. The technology subject streams has been introduced in GCE advanced level education opening new avenues for

students with hands on skills in technological fields to improve both their lives and ones of those around them. Technology faculties has been recently established in leading state-owned Universities in Sri Lanka to fulfill the requirement of providing university education to students following Technology subject streams during the GCE Advanced Level.

Background

Faculty of Technology (FOT) of University of Ruhuna was established under the gazette notification issued, on 26th April 2016, as the 9th Faculty of University of Ruhuna. The faculty offers three honors degrees at the level of 6 in Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF). The degree programs that are offered currently are Bachelor of Engineering Technology honors (BET), Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology honors (BICT) and Bachelor of Biosystems Technology honors (BBST). These are conducted under four academic departments: Department of Engineering Technology (ET), Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Department of Biosystems Technology (BST) and Department of Multidisciplinary Studies (MDS). The Department of Multidisciplinary Studies offers courses for all the students following three major degree programs. It is focused on developing soft skills required for Technology Students. All the three-degree programs are four years (8-semesters) in duration and will be accredited with relevant professional bodies. The annual intake to the

Faculty of Technology is 354 students from 2019/2020 intake. This is twice the proposed intake at the beginning of the Faculty of Technology.

Infrastructure Development

The faculty is located at Karagoda Uyangoda, Kamburupitiya, in a serene landscape about 20 minutes away from the Godagama-Palatuwa and Kapuduwa exits of the southern expressway. The Faculty of Technology initially occupied the buildings of Faculty of Science at Wellamadama, Matara with the first intake of students in December 2016. The FOT was initiated with the lead taken by the Senior Professor W.G.D. Dharmarathne, the founder Dean of the Faculty of Technology (Aug. 2016-Feb. 2020). The FOT has gained a rapid development during the last six years from its start. It was moved to its current permanent location in August 2018 with the partial completion of the construction of four stories laboratory complex, hostels and renovating some existing old buildings for administrative purposes. At present the faculty consists of a four storied laboratory complex equipped with modern laboratory facilities designed for skill development and technology education of students, a library, facilities for sports activities and recreational activities, hostel facilities for 800 students and university housing for the staff. A three stories Lecture Hall building complex including an auditorium of 500 seating capacity was declared opened recently. Moreover, the construction of a new canteen facility has almost been completed and will be opened for students in near future. Further, an administration building complex, a library facility and a mini gymnasium are in line with the master plan of the Faculty of Technology.

Teaching and Learning Activities

All the teaching learning activities of the faculty are mediated through the FOT Learning Management System (FOT LMS) from its beginning. Students can access course information sheets, lecture notes, recorded (audio/video) lectures, reading materials and past papers of each course units registered for a semester from the FOT LMS. Some assessments may also be conducted through the FOT LMS. Further most of the administration processes are automated through the Faculty of Technology Management Information Systems (TECMIS). Students are required to register for course units at the beginning of each semester and register to sit for the end semester examination during the stipulated time period through the TECMIS. The grades obtained for each course unit followed are also available in TECMIS. Students' attendance and submission of medicals are also managed through the TECMIS. Wireless internet access is available for students on their registered devices in the designated Wi-Fi zones in the faculty.

Laboratory Facilities

The FOT has well developed laboratories for skill development. The Department of Engineering technology has six developed laboratories, namely; Engineering Technology Laboratory, Mechanical Machine Shop, Electronic and Simulation Laboratory, Material Laboratory, Robotics

Laboratory and Automobile Laboratory. In the Engineering Technology Laboratory students acquire a good intuition on basic concepts of science required for engineering technology. This modern undergraduate lab is well equipped to experiment concepts of fundamental physics and engineering mechanics. The Mechanical Machine shop is focused at giving students thorough hands on experience in engineering design and modern manufacturing techniques. This is a modernize machine shop housing lathe machines, milling machines, CNC machines and a wide range of other machinery. Electronic and Simulation Laboratory is designed to develop student's skills on analog and digital electronics, fault diagnosis techniques and embedded systems through state-of-the-art training modules. Material Laboratory provides students essential scientific knowledge in testing and processing materials according to the relevant national and international standards. The laboratory comprise of a Universal Testing Machine (UTM), a Thermal conductivity meter, a density meter and a complete set of equipment for Non-Destructive Testing, etc. Robotics and Automation Laboratory supports students unleash their creativity through self-driven robotics and automation projects. Further, it helps students to develop hands on skills on mechatronics, pneumatics, electro pneumatics, hydraulics, etc. Automobile Laboratory helps student strengthen the knowledge in automobile systems. This laboratory consists of Petrol and Diesel Engine Test Rigs and an Automotive Test Bench. Further, the department is serving the university in providing the technical know-how and the assistance in repairing and maintaining vehicles own by the university.

Department of Biosystems Technology is equipped with fully-fledged research and teaching laboratories including Common Laboratory, Tissue Culture Laboratory, Molecular Biology Laboratory, Animal Cell Culture Laboratory and Analytical Chemistry Laboratory. These laboratories are facilitating to conduct teaching and research in wide range of fields including, Natural Product Isolation and analysis, Molecular Diagnosis and Immunoassay, Plant and Animal Cell Culture and Plant & Animal Cell Culture. The above laboratories are equipped with High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC), UV-Vis Spectrometer, Rotary Evaporator, Melting Point Apparatus, Freeze dryer, PCR thermal cycler (gradient), Vertical Gel Electrophoresis, UV-Illuminator, Gel Doc System, Laminar Flow, CO2 Incubator, High speed refrigerated centrifuge, LED Fluorescence microscopes, Automatic Slide Stainer, Semi-automated microtome, etc. The common laboratory is generally dedicated for teaching undergraduates. This Teaching laboratory includes all required facilities to teach basic courses in analytical chemistry, Biology, environmental science etc.

The Department of Information and Communication Technology has three computer laboratories and a ICT workshop. These laboratories are equipped with computers and necessary software for training undergraduates.

Goals and Achievements

The main objective of the technology degree program is to develop professionals to face and handle technological advances that develop rapidly at the workplace. The graduates produced through this faculty, in the areas of Engineering Technology, Biosystems Technology and

Information & Communication Technology would certainly fulfill the need of the country to bring new technology to industries. Students are continuously engaged in innovative projects and have obtained distinguished awards in many National and international competitions. The first batch of students followed Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honors and Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology Honors degrees were graduated on 11th September 2021. At this point, their employment rate is almost 100%. Most of them are serving in private firms as Assistant Engineers, software engineers and equivalent positions. Thus, it is believed that the Technology Graduates will make an exceptional contribution to the country and citizens of Sri Lanka.

Dr. K.G.S.H. Gunawardana
Dean, Faculty of Technology
University of Ruhuna

ACADEMIC EVENTS

The 28th Convocation 2022



The 28th Convocation of the University of Ruhuna was held on 25th March 2022 at the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium of the University of Ruhuna. A total of 1952 graduates including 121 postgraduates were conferred with degrees of nine faculties in four sessions.

Every year the most outstanding graduates are selected from faculties for the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal based on academic performances and achievements in extracurricular activities.

The recipients of the Vice Chancellors Gold Medal in 2021 are K. G. P. Wasana I.L.A.N. Darshana (Faculty of Graduate Studies), D.M.W.P. Dissanayake (Faculty of Agriculture) L.N.L.P. Jayasinghe (Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science and Technology), D.P.D. Ranawaka (Faculty of Science), W.M.D.C. Wijesinghe (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), D. D. Bamunukula (Faculty of Management and Finance) Y.K.K.N. Ranasinghe (Faculty of Engineering).

The list of Gold Medal recipients are as follows

Faculty of Management and Finance

Harischandra Gold Medal - M. S. S. Ranbanda

Securities and Exchange Commission Gold Medal - A. N. P. Poojani

Lucky Lanka Gold Medal - T. I. Ranasingha

Deshamanya Dr. Nihal Jinasena Memorial Gold Medal - W. W. I. Madhavi

Thrift and Credit Cooperative Society of the University of Ruhuna (SANASA) Gold Medal -
M. S. S. Ranbanda

Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Neil Fonseka Memorial Gold Medal - A. W. K. Mithunika

Neliya Mendis Memorial Gold Medal - P. G. N. J. Dias

Cristie Dias Perera Memorial Gold Medal - H. M. M. P. Bandara

Wijayawardhana Gold Medal - A. M. Kandamby

Dr. D. V.J. Harischandra Memorial Gold Medal - D. N. Wickramaratne

Mr. & Mrs. C. R. De Silva Memorial Gold Medal - P. M. T. D. Karunarathna

Caroline Mohotti Memorial Gold Medal - P. G. N. J. Dias

Dr. P. R. Anthonis Gold Medal - K.V.R. Harshana

L. A. D. Sirisena Memorial Gold Medal - K.V.R. Harshana

Miss Sadha Perera Memorial Gold Medal - P.M.T.D. Karunarathna

Dr. Stella De Silva Memorial Gold Medal - P.M.T.D. Karunarathna

Faculty of Allied Health Science

Indian High Commissioner's Annual Gold Medal - N. G. H. Madhushika

Indian High Commissioner's Annual Gold Medal - M.A.S.L. Nilakshini

Indian High Commissioner's Annual Gold Medal - P.M. Kumarapperuma

Faculty of Agriculture

Professor Mahinda Wijeratne and Professor Vinitha Wijeratne Gold Medal - A. P. H. J. Silva

D. H. E. Mohotti Memorial Gold Medal - M. H. D. Madumadhawa

Upali Wijewardhana Memorial Gold Medal - E.M.U.I. Ekanayake

Professor Y. D. A. Senanayake Gold Medal - E.M.U.I. Ekanayake

Dr. P. S. J. W. Seresinhe Memorial Gold Medal - E.M.U.I. Ekanayake

Gold Medal awarded by the Academic Staff of the Department of Food Science
and Technology - M. H. Kodikara

Gold Medal awarded by the Academic Staff of the Department of the Soil Science -

P. A. N. R. Senevirathna

Thrift and Credit Cooperative Society of the University of Ruhuna Gold Medal - S. S. Ranasinghe

Emeritus Professor K.D.N. Weerasinghe Gold Medal - S. H. S. R. Silva

Dr. S.K. Charles Memorial Gold Medal - M. H. Kodikara

Gold Medal Awarded by the Academic Staff Members of the Department of Agricultural Economics - A. P. H. J. Silva

Mallika De Mel Memorial Gold Medal - E.M.U.I. Ekanayake

Faculty of Engineering

Dr. A. D. V. Premaratne Memorial Gold Medal - K. G. N. M. Karunasinghe

Colombapatabandige Jinasena Memorial Gold Medal - J. I. K. Jayakodi

Lambert Weerasekera Memorial gold Medal - M. G. P. Perera

S.D. Jayasundara Memorial Gold Medal - D. R. P. Chamal

Mallika De Mel Memorial Gold Medal - K.G.N.M. Karunasingha

Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology

South China Sea Institute of Oceanology of Chinese Academy of Sciences Gold Medal – V. Brabaharan

Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology Gold Medal -

L. N. L. P. Jayasinghe

Faculty of Science

Professor R. H. Wijayanayake Gold Medal - D. K. D. G. Dissanayake

Professor Isabelle Attali Memorial Gold Medal - A. A. R. P. Abeysinghe

L. C. De Silva Memorial Gold Medal - D. K. D. G. Dissanayake

Wasantha Mohotti Memorial Gold Medal - A. A. R. P. Abeysinghe

Professor N.J. De S. Amarasinghe Gold Medal - W. R. M. Perera

Mallika De Mel Memorial Gold Medal - A.A.R.P. Abeysinghe

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

L. W. A. Weerasekara Memorial Gold Medal - V. O. Madhushika

Professor R. M. Ranaweera Banda Memorial Gold Medal - B. N. G. Perera

Professor Sucharitha Gamlath Memorial Gold Medal - H. A. S. Kanchanamali

The Most Venerable Abhidhammika Beligalle Shri Dhammadhara Memorial Gold Medal – D. D. Indrachapa

The Most Venerable Rajakeeya Panditha Belummahara Shri Pannatissa Memorial Gold Medal - D.M.G.M. Disanayaka

Deshabandu Sirisumana Godage Gold Medal - W. A. Y. S. Perera

Mallika De Mel Memorial Gold Medal - V.O. Madhushika

Faculty of Technology

Gold Medal awarded by the Academic Staff of the Department of Information and Communication Technology - D.D.S. Thiranjaya

The 19th Academic Sessions and the 18th Vice Chancellor's Awards Ceremony

The 19th Academic Sessions and the 18th Vice Chancellor's Awards Ceremony of University of Ruhuna was Successfully held under the theme "overcoming the challenges of the next decade", on the 2nd of March 2022, at the new building complex of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna.

The Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena graced the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest of the event. The Deputy Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna - Professor E.P.S.Chandana, Deans of the Faculties, Senior Professors, Professor Emeritus were among the invited guests. The inaugural ceremony was held in the Auditorium of the newly opened Lecture Hall complex of the Faculty of Technology.

The keynote speech titled "knowledge, technology and complexity in economic growth", was delivered by the Senior Professor R. M. G. Rajapaksa from Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya. Dr. N.W.J.A.L. Prins delivered the oration of the academic session titled "Engineers mimicking reinforcement learning in the brain".

The conferment of emeritus professorship to Senior Professor Rev. M. Soratha Thero, Senior Professor (Ms.) H.M.K.K Pathirana, Professor Oscar Amarasinghe, Senior Professor (Mrs.) N.J. De S Amarasinghe, Senior Professor. P. Hewage, was among the highlights of the inauguration session.

The 18th vice chancellors' awards and best presenter awards of the 18th academic sessions were awarded at the inauguration ceremony. Sixty-one oral presentations were held under eight themes and forty-seven poster presentations were presented by the students at the students' poster presentations sessions.

Recipients of the 18th Vice Chancellor's Awards

The Most Outstanding Scholar

Prof. (Mrs) G.H.M.J. Subashi De Silva - Faculty of Engineering

The Most Outstanding Promoter of International Relations

Senior Prof. Champa M. Navaratne - Faculty of Agriculture

The Most Outstanding Staff Inventor/Innovator

Dr. H.C.P. Karunasena - Faculty of Engineering

The Most Outstanding Student Inventor/Innovator

Mr. H.M.W.A.I. Herath - Faculty of Agriculture

The Most Outstanding Young Researcher

Dr. R.H.M.P.N. Rathnayake - Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

The Highest Recipient of Grants

Senior Prof. Champa M. Navaratne - Faculty of Agriculture

Donation of High-tech manikins to up-lift training skills of medical undergraduates in Obstetrics & Gynaecology



Skill training laboratory of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology is established to provide hands on training of medical undergraduates and postgraduates in basic Obstetrics and Gynaecological procedures as an essential component of current medical education.

However, most of training materials are not usable due to long term use. As per the request made by the department from Professor Malik Goonewardene, President, Galle Mother Care Foundation (GMCF) has arranged the donation to

fulfill the necessary requirement of the skill lab.

Ceremonial handover of this donation was taken place in the department with the presence of Professor Malik Goonewadene, Professor Vasantha Devasiri (Dean) office bears of the GMCF, members of the department and medical students. The donation included high tech manikins worth Rs 5.2 million. In addition to the training manikins, GMCF also assisted airproofing and the air conditioning of the skills lab to protect heat damage of these training manikins.

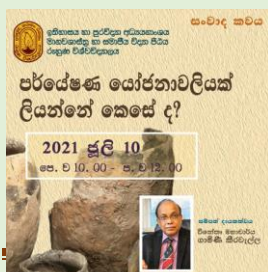
International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE) -2022



The annual symposium of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna; “International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE)” was successfully held on 15th June 2022 providing a constructive virtual platform for researchers around the world to

disseminate their research outcomes. The symposium’s theme for this year was “Advanced Technologies, Training, and Research for Optimizing Agricultural Production.” The symposium was held as a virtual event with the participation of professionals around the world. The Chief Guest of the main event was Mr. Naor Gilon, honorable ambassador of Israel to India and non-resident to Bhutan and Sri Lanka, and the keynote speech of the inaugural session was delivered by Dr. Joseph Shevel, President of the Galilee International Management Institute, Israel. Senior Prof. Ranjith Dissanayaka, Senior Professor in Civil Engineering – University of Peradeniya/Chairman of Green Building Council Sri Lanka/Secretary, Ministry of Rural Roads and Infrastructure Development honored the inaugural session as the Guest of Honor and discussed the role of researchers in the time of crisis. Further, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, and Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Senior Prof. S.D. Wanniarachchi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture also graced the inaugural session of the symposium. Prof. Dulcy Senarathne from the Department of Animal Science served as the overall coordinator of ISAE 2022 while Dr. Indika Palihakkara from the Department of Crop Science served as the secretary of the symposium. Over 120 researchers shared their valuable research findings under six thematic areas namely; Crop production and productivity; Innovative agricultural technologies; Plant, soil, water, and environment; Food technology and nutritional sciences; Livestock, poultry, and aquaculture; Agriculture economics and agribusiness.

A discussion forum on history and archaeology



A discussion forum on History and Archaeology was conducted with the aim of sharing insights on different topics related to the field of history and archaeology. Discussions of the forum were conducted by Prof. Gamini Keerawella (Professor Emeritus in History – University of

Peradeniya) who is a renowned scholar in the particular field. Interesting and noteworthy ideas were shared via the online platform that was instrumental in improving the audience's knowledge of the subject.

Field Archaeology Training Program

A field archaeology training program was conducted for twenty students of the Department of History and Archaeology under the Trincomalee Archaeological Project of Central Cultural Fund during the period from 12th December to 26th December 2021. All the expenses of the program were funded by the University of Ruhuna. The field archaeology training program is one of the compulsory course units of the archeology (Special) Degree Program to train students in field excavation methods and techniques. The participants had the opportunity to obtain practical experience related to the fieldwork and also to develop their soft skills including teamwork, leadership, etc.



A Lecture Series for School Students



Final year students of the Department of History and Archaeology conducted a lecture series on History subject for a group of G.C.E. A/L students, under the internship program. The program was coordinated by Dr. Lakmini Gamage; the Head of the Department with the collaboration of Haupe Nawalakanda Maha Vidyalaya, Kahawatte, Rathnapura and twenty-five online lectures were held during the period

of one month in July 2021. More than a hundred students, officers of the Niwitigala Zonal education office, school principals, and teachers were joined with the program. The interactive sessions were able to improve the knowledge of the school students on various topics under the subject of history as well as the teaching, speaking and presentation skills of our Undergraduates as well.

Virtual Nuit 2022 - Virtual English Discussion Series

Following the success and positive feedback received for Virtual Nuit 2021, the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT) commenced Virtual Nuit 2022-“Virtual English Discussion Series” on the 23rd of February 2022, with the aim of further enhancing the English speaking skills of the undergraduates in an innovative and entertaining atmosphere. It is being conducted for all the undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences on Wednesdays from 6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. The programme discussions are based on thought-provoking videos, texts, and extracts from works of literature which cover diverse subjects enabling the students to share their thoughts, knowledge, and experiences with the audience. The first few weeks of the programme were conducted on a virtual platform due to the COVID19 pandemic, and now it is successfully being conducted in the university premises. This novel approach in English language skill development has motivated the undergraduates to interact with their lecturers and peers with confidence.

Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference RISTCON 2022

The 9th Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON) 2022, organized by the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka was successfully held on 19th January 2022 under the theme of “Empowering Research in a Digitally Advancing Society”. The Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena graced the Inauguration Ceremony with his presence as the Chief Guest at RISTCON 2022. Professor Saman Halgamuge of School of Electrical, Medical and Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne, Australia delivered the keynote speech titled of “Can 21st Century AI conquer the



challenges in a brave new post pandemic World?”. The conference included plenary talks by Dr. Jay Prakash Verma, Senior Assistant Professor, Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development, Banaras Hindu University, India, and by Dr. Ranga Dinesh Kahanda Korallage, Senior Lecturer in Energy Technologies, University of Southampton, UK. The conference was a terrific opportunity for the conference attendees, including more than 120 presenters to hear the latest findings from their respective fields of research and also to learn from their vast experiences.

Launching Ceremony of ‘Prabhasha’ in Honor of Emeritus Professor M.U. de Silva, Department of History & Archaeology

Launching ceremony ‘Prabhasha’, the felicitation volume in honor of emeritus Professor M.U. de Silva was held on 14th February 2022, at the auditorium of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Felicitation volume was compiled with a collection of academic articles from Sri Lankan as well as Indian scholars in the historical and archaeological field. Guests including emeritus Professor M.U. de Silva, Senior Prof. Susirith Mendis; the former Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena; the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. E.P. Saman Chandana; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upali Pannilage; the Faculty Dean, Dr.N.V.G.A. Hemantha Kumara, and Dr. Lakmini Gamage; the Department Head participated in the ceremony. The occasion was adorned with several performances done by the students of the Department.

AdCon 2021- Inter- University Advertising Competition



AdCon, the renowned inter-university advertising competition organized by the Department of Marketing of the University of Ruhuna was successfully concluded on 12th January 2022. AdCon is a multi-phase competition which exposes the contestants to diverse hands-on experiences in developing an advertising campaign. Ensuring the consistency in popularity for the event, AdCon 2021 received the participation of more than 300 contestants representing all state universities in the country. The competition which commenced on 8th August 2021 incorporated a technical workshop, a series of phase-by-phase evaluations and frequent discussions for contestants with marketing specialists in the country during the five months period in which it was carried out. AdCon 2021 was organized in collaboration with Maliban Manufactories (Pvt) Ltd. as the title sponsor who provided both monetary and

technical support to enhance the quality of the competition. At the end of all rounds of evaluations, team Mora warriors representing the University of Moratuwa secured the champions title while team Elite Alliances representing the University of Wayamba secured the first runner up title.

Introduction Session to Workshop Practices for Athuraliya Maha Vidyalaya Students (Grade 12-13)



The department of Engineering Technology, University of Ruhuna conducted a workshop practice session for the students who were studying under the technology stream at Athuraliya Maha Vidyalaya. A group of students and teachers of the school participated this session. They were welcomed by Dr. Sanjaya Thilakaratne who was the head of the department of Engineering Technology.

Initially they were given an introductory lecture of basic workshop practices by Dr. Sanjaya Thilakaratne. They had a familiarization session about hand tools and power tools as the first session of the event. In addition to that the students were allowed to work with basic machineries such as Lathe, End Mill, CNC and Laser Cutter Machines. The latter part of the event was comprised with familiarization sessions of welding techniques and automobile technology.

The Department of Engineering Technology expects to enhance the awareness of the technology stream among school students through this event. Dr. Sanjaya Thilakaratne (Head of the Department) conducted the session with the contribution of Mr. Sajula Ravindu (Demonstrator), Mr. Buddhika Wanigathunge (Welder), Mr Oshan Dumeera (Mechanist) and Mr. Achintha Sandakelum (Mechanic).

ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE STAFF

The Best Scientific Paper - Annual Academic Session of Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians - 2022



Dr Pushpika Jayawardana, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Pediatrics won the award for the best scientific paper at the Annual Academic session of Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians-2022

The presentation was on 'comparing the effectiveness of oral Montelukast versus Cetirizine in the management of allergic rhinoconjunctivitis in 6- to 12-year-old children; A randomized double blind clinical trial. The co-researcher was Dr Thyagi Ponnampereuma, Senior lecturer, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.

J.B. Peiris Oration at the Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists Annual Congress by Dr. N. W. Prins

“Monkeys Playing Video Games Lead to a Paralyzed Man Walking” was the title of the oration delivered by Dr. N. W. Prins at the Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists Annual Congress (ASNAC) on 18th February 2022 held at the Shangri-La, Colombo. She presented her work of developing brain-machine interfaces using marmoset monkeys, where they needed to do tasks in sort of a video games format to acquire neural signals. She and her team used what they learnt in this to do translational research, where they did an invasive clinical trial with a 22-year-old paralyzed person. Prior to the surgery, he was not able to use his hands at all. However, with this new technology he was able to perform several upper extremity tasks. Researchers also used the paradigm to show proof of concept that a paralyzed man can walking of his own volition using this technology.



The prestigious oration is given annually in the honour of Deshamanya Vidyajyothi Dr. J. B. Peiris. It was the first time an engineer had given the oration at an Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists Annual Congress. Dr. Prins is a senior lecturer at the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering. She holds a B.Sc. Eng (Hons) degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Moratuwa and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical

Engineering from University of Miami, USA. In collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine and Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, she and her team are doing similar brain-machine interfaces clinical trial for stroke rehabilitation.

CONNECT – 2021: An International Platform for Communication and Intercultural Awareness for ESL Students from Different Cultural and Linguistic Backgrounds

CONNECT is an international project launched to develop intercultural awareness and communicative competence among university students who learn English as a Second Language across the world. The programme offers an ideal platform for the students to participate in real-world virtual conversations in English in a safe and supportive context, build confidence in speaking in English, improve students' ability to make effective use of technology for communication, and develop their understanding of cultural differences.



The participating countries include Japan, South Korea, Israel, Taiwan, Brazil, Spain, Turkey, and Sri Lanka, and Ms. Anushika Kariyawasam from the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), University of Ruhuna was invited to be an 'Affiliate Partner' of the CONNECT organizing committee and the 'Project Coordinator' representing the university. Having conducted an introductory session, 25 volunteer students of average English language competency from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna were selected to join this project. This was a 10-week project conducted from the 04th of October 2021 to the 20th of December 2021, and the participants were awarded certificates based on their active participation and performance within the programme. Eventually, the CONNECT project was decided to be further continued and expanded to cater to the ESL learner needs across the world.

2021 Best Journal Paper Runner up Award (IEEE Communications Society)

The Paper “Priority Enabled Grant-Free Access with Dynamic Slot Allocation for Heterogeneous mMTC Traffic in 5G NR Networks”, authored by Dr. Thilina Weerasinghe and Dr. Anuradha Mendis along with two other international coauthors won the 2021 Best Journal Paper Runner Up Award awarded by the Communication Systems Integration and Modelling Technical Committee of the IEEE Communications Society. Dr. Thilina and Dr. Anuradha are currently working at the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna.

UNIVERSITY IN PROGRESS

Second Tenure of the Vice Chancellor



Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena Started his second tenure as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna on 9th March 2022 after dedicated three years of visionary leadership to the University of Ruhuna (UOR). Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena is the first Ruhuna alumni appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the UOR and the seventh Vice- Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna.

He is a remarkable person with straight forward character and has shown high confidence in decision-making. Prof. Amarasena has given the leadership to the University for achieving "A very good" garde in Institutional Review of National Universities in Sri Lanka.

As the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena highly considers Academic Social Responsibility with better interactions with communities serving the society. He always gives attention to the education, discipline, skills development, and training of undergraduates to produce socially responsible citizens to serve the nation.

He obtained his MBBS degree from the University of Ruhuna with honors, obtaining a gold medal for Pediatrics in 1985. He earned his MD in 1990 and joined the Academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. He has obtained his area of sub-specialty of Neonatology from Monash Medical Center, Melbourne, and Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown, Sydney, Australia. He is the pioneer in establishing the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya.

He got training in Medical Education from the University of Dundee with the local training as a teacher trainer. He is an internationally accredited, certified instructor in Advanced Pediatric Life Support, Neonatal Life Support, and Advanced Trauma Life Support.

As a distinguished academician and administrator, Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena has played several leadership roles at national and international levels. Before becoming the Vice Chancellor, he served in several administrative positions in the university system, as Head, Department of Pediatrics, UoR about ten years, and he served as the founder Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, UoR. He also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Kotelawala Defense University.

Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena is an eminent Pediatrician in Sri Lanka who made significant contributions to pediatrics. He took part in many national and international organizations and societies as founder secretary and later as the President of the Pediatric Society of Sri Lanka, President of the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians, Technical Committee member of Newborn and Family Health, Maternal and Child Health, and Monitoring Committee of breast milk code in Sri Lanka. Prof Sujeewa Amarasena has also given his contribution to the Technical Advisory Group for Regional Director of WHO on Maternal and Newborn Health for the South East Asian Region (SEAR) from 2016 to 2019 and currently serving on the verification committee for the elimination of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella syndrome in the SEAR region.

Other than several previous awards, he received the lifetime achievement award in 2019 for his outstanding contribution to perinatal and newborn care in Sri Lanka by the Perinatal Society in Sri Lanka and the outstanding Pediatrician award in 2022 from Asia Pacific Pediatric Association.

His distinguished academic career and extensive experience in leadership positions pave the way for his position as the Vice Chancellor. Prof Sujeewa Amarasena has highly committed and dedicated to the development of the University of Ruhuna, and he is directly involved in providing solutions to the issues of the University of Ruhuna.

In his first tenure as the Vice Chancellor, he developed the University in a broad spectrum of areas like research, teaching, discipline & attitudes of staff & students, skills development, and infrastructure development. He introduced the Agrahara Insurance scheme to the University of Ruhuna and partly funded by generated income of UOR that is highly benefited and appreciated by the staff of the University. Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena has given guidance to start scheduled training programs for the nonacademic staff expected for their professional development, which also positively affected streamlining of the administrative processes. The automation of administrative works of the University is another implemented concept of the Vice Chancellor. The starting of the University ICT Unit, Audio-Visual unit, and the modern office concept initiated under his direction immensely benefited the upgrading general administration processes of the UoR.

He has given leadership to recruit new talents to the University through the transparent recruitment system and started to decide the area of specialization of academic staff members when recruiting based on the University requirements other than the choice of the academics. That would directly affect the academic standard of the UOR. Prof. Amarasena has strategically guided the staff to adhere to the academic work norms that have significantly improved the accountability of academic staff. He also initiated several Policies such as research publication standards and rules for recruiting temporary academic staff, further enhancing the quality of the University.

He has taken steps to increase the number of student scholarships getting support from external well-wishers. It is widely acknowledged the successful effort taken by Prof. Amarasena

to eliminate ragging from the UoR, developing fear free environment for the new entrances. He has given attention to the development of students' discipline, attitude, IT and English knowledge, mental & physical fitness, student innovations, and practical exposure of students aiming to develop successful citizens nationally and internationally well demanded. The University of Ruhuna has progressed significantly in a relatively short period during his first tenure as the Vice Chancellor.

During his period of office as the Vice-Chancellor, the University of Ruhuna has significantly stepped forward with his remarkable foresight and wisdom.

Appointment of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna



Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Professor in Zoology commenced duties in the post of Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna on 5th May 2022.

In 2019 he became the Deputy Vice Chancellor and this remarked his 2nd term. During his earlier tenure he took many efforts to develop

comprehensive programmes to improve the welfare facilities of students based on the human and physical resources available in the University of Ruhuna. Also he has developed and implemented suitable programs of activities together with relevant staff and institution in promoting the engagement of student of extra-curricular activities and fostering their intellectual and spiritual development.

Memorandum of Understanding between Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna and Mahaweli Authority

Mahaweli Authority Sri Lanka (MASL) is one of Sri Lanka's major thriving institutes that facilitate the sustainable use of land & water for innovative agriculture, environmental conservation and thereby support uplifting the living standards of citizens. The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, and Mahaweli Authority – Sri Lanka came to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 30th March 2022 to accelerate the agriculture and livestock development in the Walawa Region of Mahaweli Authority, Sri Lanka. The main objective of this University-

Mahaweli Collaboration is to double the productivity and income of the settlers of this Mahaweli Development Zone. Through this MoU, it was possible to identify the roles and responsibilities of each party and collaborative need-based research and development activities for the future. Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna intends to provide the technical support required to enhance the productivity of crop husbandry, animal husbandry, and the fisheries sectors by sharing smart knowledge and technologies in this Mahaweli Development Zone through this collaborative project.



Voluntary Business Consultation Programs for Co-operative Societies in Bandarawela and Monaragala



Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture is one of the outstanding departments of the Faculty of Agriculture with the vision of being a universal hub of excellence and a premier source of education, training, research, and development; outreach and consultancy services in the areas of

Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness development. With the intention of developing agribusiness in the region, the department was able to conduct a series of voluntary business consultation programs in collaboration with other departments of the faculty while visiting co-operative societies to provide technical support. These programs were held during 24th -25th February 2022 focusing on co-operative societies in Bandarawela and Moneragala with the participation of academic members of the Faculty of Agriculture and Co-operative society



members. In this consultancy program, special priorities were given to transforming the co-operative societies into profit-earning establishment networks under a diversified model, initiating a broad-based, improved, and robust production co-operative system related to sectors such as local farm productions. The consultancy

programs focused on enhancing the productivity of agriculture, and dairy production, creating direct market opportunities via co-operatives and developing export-based value-added businesses. Further, through this outreach activity, it was aimed to develop women's entrepreneurship in regional areas through co-operative societies.

Farm Machinery Training Program for Future Agro- Intelligent - 2022

The Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna successfully conducted the “Farm Machinery Training Program for Future Agro-intelligent – 2022” for third-year students following “EN3202 Training in Agriculture Machineries” course in collaboration with the Browns & Company PLC. This program was designed as a field training course where students were allowed to learn through a problem-based learning approach.



During this program, a comprehensive introduction was provided for students on the usage and maintenance of farm machinery by the Academic Staff Members of the Department of Agric. Engineering and the members of the Browns & Company PLC. All the students were able to obtain hands-on experience in the identification of fuel system parts and the operation of four-

wheel tractors, two-wheel tractors, and transplanters. Further, students were able to enhance their knowledge and skills in regular maintenance of the common farm machinery such as four-wheel tractors and two-wheel tractors. After providing the required background knowledge and technical know-how, students were provided with the opportunity to have test



driving sessions of both four-wheel tractors and two-wheel tractors under the supervision of skilled instructors. At the same time, sufficient field experience was provided for lowland and upland ploughing using the farm machinery. After four consecutive days of training, on the fifth day, each student was evaluated for their knowledge and competencies gained through this program.

Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia (SECRA) Project

The Colombo Symposium

On 15th -17th March 2022, the Colombo Symposium – Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia was held at Pegasus Reef Hotel, Wattala, Sri Lanka as a hybrid meeting. The symposium was led by Prof. Rukmal



Weerasinghe, the Country Lead of the project, and Prof. Lasith Gunawardena, the Program Chair, from the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The inauguration ceremony was graced by many guests and keynote



speakers from academia, industry, and representatives from international agencies. The University of Huddersfield, University of Ruhuna, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, and the University of Peradeniya physically participated in the event and other partners joined online. Keynote speakers for the day included Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman of the University Grants Commission; Snr. Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, Chairman of the Commercial Bank PLC; Mr. Supun Weerasinghe, Director/Group CEO of Dialog Axiata PLC; attended physically, and Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Technical Director Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience of Tonkin and Taylor, New Zealand joined online.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony Snr. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura stated that building and maintaining close university-industry ties and inculcating entrepreneurial skills in our students is of crucial and timely importance. Speaking on an overview of university enterprise collaboration in Sri Lanka, Snr. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge spoke on the gap between graduates against industry requirements and that several efforts are now directed towards easing off this gap. Further Prof. Amaratunge discussed some of the projects implemented by UGC to uplift university-business linkages and entrepreneurial culture in the face of many bureaucratic barriers.

Mr. Supun Weerasinghe sharing industry experiences on effective university-enterprise collaborations for DRR, stated that managing resilience involves: 1) Risk reduction; 2) Effective recovery, and 3) Resilience through empowering the community. Mr. Weerasinghe presented several projects, such as DEWN (Disaster and Emergency Warning Network), Sayuru; GoviMithuru has undertaken by Dialog collaborating with universities, government agencies, and other industry partners for better community resilience.

Prof. Richard Haigh and Dr. Kinkini Hemachandra from the University of Huddersfield, UK presented an overview of the GDRRC Annual Report 2021. International collaborations, coproduction, whereby they formulate research ideas with end-users; and creating an impact are central to their achievements. Dr. Hemachandra discussed GDRRC collaborations with Sri Lankan institutions, academia, and practitioners. Second day afternoon onwards the symposium was dedicated to internal project discussions among coordinating and partner universities and the event successfully concluded after many fruitful discussions.

Ateneo Intellectual Property Office (AIPO) Experiences and Insights on Collaborations with Enterprises, Ateneo de Manila University

The webinar series was designed to facilitate discussion of AIPO's experiences and insights related to business incubation, enterprise engagement, and the role of IP in sustaining University Enterprise Collaboration (UEC), particularly in resilience. The consortium discussed both the mistakes and successes of AIPO and tools better equipped to handle similar challenges that may come up that the consortium sets up communities of practice for UEC in climate action and disaster resilience.

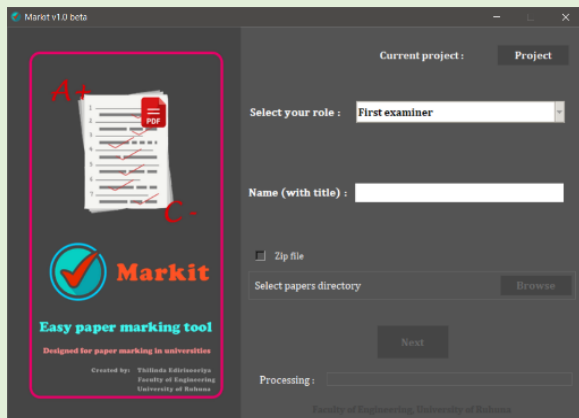
The Webinar was held in three parts as follows; Part 1 of the webinar series via online on 22 April 2022 about Experiences in Business Incubation, Part 2: Experiences in Enterprise Engagement on 29 April 2022, and Part 3 about the role of IP in Sustaining UEC for Disaster Resilience on 6 May 2022.

Innovation Enterprise Webinars, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom

The Webinar was conducted under the guidance of the University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom regarding Innovation and Enterprise. First Webinar was held on June 10, 2022, about Promoting Equity and Diversity in UECs via MS Teams and covered the reasons behind promoting equity and diversity which is important for University Enterprise Collaboration, especially those in the disaster field. The other webinar organized by the University of Central Lancashire was held and delivered 'Developing the Business Mindset in Academic Staff and Students' on June 17, 2022.

The Webinar covered an introduction to the Propeller service at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and explore how Propeller helps to foster a culture of enterprise and case studies from academics and students who are involved in UECs.

Markit – Simple Software Tool to Mark Softcopies of Answer Scripts



As a result of the disruption caused to physical teaching and learning activities during the COVID pandemic, online teaching and assessments has become popular. In association with the online examination system developed by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, Eng. Thilinda Edirisooriya have created a software tool named “Markit” to grade softcopies of answer scripts with the advice of Dr. Subodha Gunawardena. This software seamlessly incorporates the roles of

different stakeholders in exam paper marking, such as the roles of first examiner, second examiner, and marks moderator in order to satisfy the legal and operational compliances stipulated by the UGC.

The Markit software has the following features:

- User friendly interface
- Time efficient compared to manual marking (in overall process)
- 100% accuracy in marks addition
- Automated reporting

This software is presented and widely acknowledged by a diverse audience consisting of public and private sector academia, academic support staff, and industry professionals at the monthly seminar of EU-funded TEAL2.0 project hosted by the project management team of the University of Peradeniya held online on 24th February 2022. The session was titled "Markit - A Simple Tool to Assist Marking Soft Copies of Answer Scripts". A number of academics and institutions obtained a free copy of the software customized to their individual credentials to tryout its usefulness in their own context.

Establishment of Mini Forest

The Department of Biosystems Technology collaboratively with the Department of Forest, Wilpita, established a mini forest at the faculty premises with an area of 0.16 hectares on 30th November 2021. The main objective of the establishment of the mini forest is to use this forest to provide knowledge to students of the Department of Biosystems Technology and carry out practical activities within the university premises. In addition, using forests helps to reduce stress and enhance physiological relaxation. Planting and maintaining trees absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change.



November 30, 2021 Mini-forest: Reestablishment Project Department of Biotechnology Faculty of Technology University of Riau

Observing these different biosystems in forests is important to understand their characteristics and purpose, from an educational perspective. Also, Greenspace provides important mental health benefits to students, faculty, and staff, as well as encourages physical activity. Many studies demonstrated that exposure to nature, such as forests, improves cognitive tasks that require direct attention. The Department of Forest had a major role in providing advice and plants for the mini forest. The establishment of plants of the forest is carried out considering the zonal characteristics. This zone has intermediate characteristics, therefore plants growing in the dry zone and intermediate zone were used to plant within this forest. Also, the plan of the forest included the existing trees and a few pathways which can be used as access points to each tree in the forest. After the establishment of the plants, nameplates will be installed to facilitate the identification of each tree.



Fungarium of University of Ruhuna



The Fungarium (The fungus herbarium of University of Ruhuna) was formed affiliated to NYBG Steere herbarium network and brought in to being in Dept. of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna with the unique Code "FUoR". Fungarium formation came about as a widening step of a study carried out by Dept. of Biosystems Technology with relevance to identification of wild mushroom species in Sri Lanka. Currently, the fungarium carries around 150 dried mushroom specimens belong to 75 species submitted by students of University of Ruhuna and other universities, staff

members and mushroom collectors island-wide. Each specimen features with macro and micro-morphological descriptions, ecology and distribution maps and DNA sequencing results. Identification of novel and threatened species, facilitation of both academia and general, address climatic changes and most importantly to maintain a collection of genetic material of macrofungi from Sri Lanka.

The correspondent of fungarium is the Prof. EPS Chandana whilst the contact person is Dr (Mrs) K.M.W Rajawatta, Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology. Formation of virtual fungarium and culture collection maintenance of mushroom species will be carried out as a second step for the expansion of fungarium facilities and following mentioned objectives will be achieved by the fungarium establishment for University of Ruhuna.

Opening of the Lecture Hall Building Complex



Three stories Lecture Hall Building Complex with a 500 hundred seating Auditorium were declared open by the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena. The distinguished guests included the founder Dean of the Faculty, Emeritus Professor W.G.D. Dharmarathna, Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor E.P.S Chandana, Deans of the Faculties, Registrar and Bursar of University of Ruhuna. This building consists of Three Lecture Halls, An

Examination Hall, Music and Art Room, A Conference Room, Auditorium, Laboratory spaces and staff office rooms.

'Athitha' E-magazine Launching Ceremony

The launching ceremony of the 'Athitha' E-magazine organized by the Department of history and archaeology was held online (zoom) on 21st February, 2022, with the participation of Senior Professor Sujeewa Amaresena as the chief guest and Senior Professor Raj Somadeva as the Keynote speaker. The Magazine is comprised of a collection of academic articles based on fields of history and archaeology and acts as a noteworthy platform for sharing knowledge in particular fields. It is expected to be published as a series in the upcoming years as well.

Establishing '5G Innovation Centre' at DEIE with Dialog Axiata PLC

In collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC), Dialog Axiata PLC has established '5G Innovation Centres' at the Engineering faculties of leading universities to create and incubate interest-driven learning, innovation and entrepreneurship for future leaders. Accordingly, all the infrastructure facilities related to the Innovation Centre at the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering have been completed and both parties have already begun discussions to move forward with potential projects.

Moreover, this Innovation Centre aims to empower students to be interdisciplinary, computational, and entrepreneurial by giving students first-hand experience with 5G connectivity and many of its cutting-edge use cases. This includes artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, block chain, robotics, the internet of things and related emerging technologies that will fuel national innovation and economic diversification.



Staff Sports Meet



The Staff Sports Meet of the University of Ruhuna is an annual event organized by the Sports Advisory Board (SAB) and the Physical Education Unit (PEU) of University of Ruhuna. This annual event provides a platform to showcase the sports talents of the entire staff of the University. The main objective of the event is to strengthen the unity and mutual understanding among the University community which includes both academic and non-academic staff members. Following the prescribed COVID-19 safety guidelines, this year's event was successfully held on 19th - 20th February and 5th - 6th of March 2022 at the Wellamadama Premises. Cricket, Volleyball, Netball,

Badminton (men & women), Table tennis (Men & Women) and Chess were organized in this year. As the first phase, cricket matches were held on advance on 19th and 20th February 2022 at the University playground. The second phase of the event consisted of indoor games including table tennis, volleyball, netball, badminton and chess and those games were held on 5th & 6th of March 2022 at the University gymnasium. Twelve volleyball teams, five netball teams, 24 badminton teams, eight table tennis teams and two chess teams participated in the second phase. Closing ceremony of the event was held on 6th March 2022 with the presence of Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna as the Chief Guest. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Prof. K.H.M. Ashoka Deepananda, Chairman Sports Advisory Board, Prof. Nilantha Liyanage and Director of the Physical Education Unit, Mr. Palitha Weerasinghe participated in the closing ceremony. The final netball match was scheduled as a display match for the guest at the closing ceremony. The event was addressed by the Chairman SAB, Prof. Nilantha Liyanage, Mr. Palitha Weerasinghe Director PEU, Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, the Deputy

Vice Chancellor and the Chief Guest Snr. Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor of the University.

The smallest Faculty of the University, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) was at top among others by winning five championships while other championships were won by the faculty of Technology, Faculty of Agriculture and the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as given bellow.

Event	Champions	Runners-up
Badminton (Men)	Faculty of Technology	Faculty of Medicine
Badminton (Women)	FMST	Faculty of Management
Table Tennis (Men)	Faculty of Agriculture	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Table Tennis (Women)	FMST	Faculty of Agriculture
Volleyball	FMST	Maintenance Unit
Netball	FMST	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Chess	FMST	Faculty of Agriculture
Cricket	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Non-Academic Team)	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences



The organizing committee of the event decided to offer a special award to the cricket team of the cleaning service unit of the University to appreciate their unity, strength and active participation.

On behalf of the University, the sports advisory board and the Physical Education Unit admired the overall coordination made by two SAB members Dr. K.S.S. Atapaththu and Ms. Kushlani Dissanayake of the Faculty of

Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna.

Computer Laboratory of Faculty of Technology



A computer Laboratory with 50 computers were declared open by the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena on 24th on September 2022. The founder Dean of the Faculty, Emeritus Professor W.G.D. Dharmarathna were participated on this occasion.

The Open Art Theatre and a New Administration Building for the Faculty of Management and Finance

The Faculty of Management and Finance had the honor of acquiring two new facilities: the Open Art Theatre and a four-story Administration Building. The official opening of the Open Art Theatre took place on 18th March 2022 by Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna on the cordial invitation of Professor P. A. P Samantha Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management and Finance, and the staff of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna.

The Open Art Theatre and the Administration Building have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 198, 017, 040.00. The architecture of both facilities is inspired by the architectural style of Geoffrey Bawa, the world-renowned architect, homage to his wondrous creation of the original structural design of the University of Ruhuna. The construction of the Open Art Theatre commenced on October 14th in 2017. The theatre comprises 8 tiers with a seating capacity of 880 and spread over 135 square meters. The Open Art Theatre has become a venue for undergraduates to portray their artistic skills along with their academic curricula.

The New Administration Building of the Faculty of Management and Finance was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor on the same day. The new administration building comprises 4 stories and, is equipped with a modern computer center to enhance the IT skills of undergraduates of the faculty. The ground floor includes another computer pool to facilitate students in order to support their academic activities and improve their communication skills. The first floor includes the Dean Office and and the third floor includes a new conference room.

These facilities will be a tremendous strength to the professional and personal development of the students and the staff of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna A

pirith chanting ceremony was also organized to commemorate the opening and bless the faculty.



Soft Skills Development Workshop for Non-Academic Staff

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Faculty of Management and Finance organized a workshop for the non-academic staff of the Faculty on 'soft skill development'. It was held successfully on 25th May 2022 at the new board room of the faculty. Dr. A.C. Karunaratne, Senior



Lecturer attached to the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance participated as the resource person to conduct the workshop. The staff members enjoyed the workshop and highly appreciated the learning experience they received.

This workshop is the first in a series of workshops, specially designed to improve the soft skills of non-academic staff members of the faculty. The workshop series is intended to develop attitudes, inculcate values and disciplines, improve communication skills, enhance relationship building skills & teamwork, and improve coping for managing stress among the staff members, all of which are treated as important components to manage the personal and employed life of the staff members and enhance the productivity of the employees.

Appointment of Prof. Madhusanka Liyanage as an Adjunct Professor to DEIE



On the request of Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Madhusanka Liyanage, an Assistant Professor and also the Director of Graduate Research at School of Computer Science, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland, has been appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor with effect from 1st of January, 2022 for two (02) years.

This will open up more avenues for two existing undergraduate programmes; Electrical and Information Engineering and the Computer Engineering by acquiring his support for teaching activities as well as research collaborations. Mainly, he will assist the department to list more Cyber-security related modules in the newly introduced Computer Engineering programme curriculum.

STUDENTS IN ACTION

Intra-Faculty Batch Meet 2022 - Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The Sports Club of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology organized its annual intra-batch sports meet on 28th and 29th of May 2022 breaking the long silence caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a long-awaited physical reunion for all four batches strengthening the unity, team spirit, and the sportsmanship among batch mates. Victory and defeat, smiles and tears, joys and sadness all accumulated in these two days bringing out the past glory of the faculty. Softball Cricket and Football matches were held at the University playground on the first day while the second day was reserved for the indoor games of netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, and table tennis in the University gymnasium. The closing ceremony of the event was held on 29th May 2022 with the presence of Prof. Saman Chandana Ediriweera, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University as the Chief Guest. Prof. K.H.M. Ashoka Deepananda Dean, faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Prof. Nilantha Liyanage, the Chairman Sports Advisory Board, Mr. Palitha Weerasinghe, the Director

Physical Education Unit of the University, Academic Staff of the Faculty and physical instructors of the university also participated to the closing ceremony.

At the end of the event, the 12th Batch of the faculty (Level-IV) won the overall champion trophy with 59 points while the fierce battle 14th Batch (Level-II) was able to secure the runner-up trophy with 50 points by beating the 13th Batch of FMST (Level-III). Even though the 15th batch (Level-I) is new to the university environment, they exhibited outstanding sports skills in every sport and they scored 37 points being the 4th place.



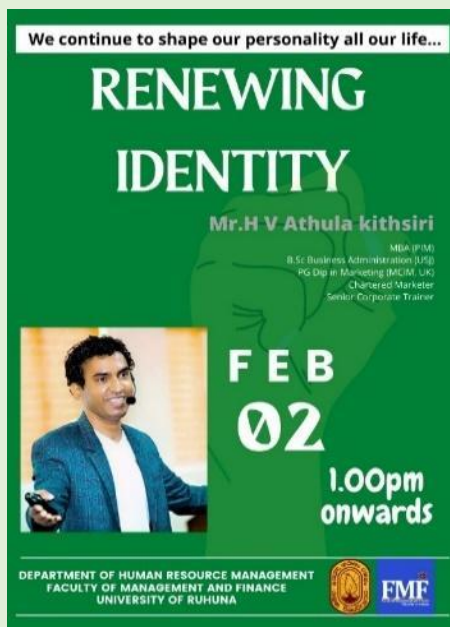
Elle Tournament



The Sports Club of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology organized an Elle tournament among students of the faculty on 22nd May 2022 at the university playground. All batches of the faculty actively participated in this event as this was the first sports event

organized by students after the COVID pandemic. Mr. Keerthi Kumara, Master In-charge of Elle, University of Ruhuna, Sports Advisory Board Members of the Faculty, and the academic staff members participated for the event. The closing ceremony of the event was held at the playground in the evening of the same day. The Championship of men and women were won by the 15th and 12th batches respectively, while 14th and 13th batches won the Men's and Women's runners up respectively.

Renewing Identity- Personality Development Workshop Finance



'Renewing Identity', the personality development workshop was organized by the Department of Human Resource Management on the 2nd February 2022 targeting the second year Human Resource Management specialized undergraduates to shape their personality and enhance their passion for performing better in the industrial world. The resource person of the session was the well-experienced Corporate Trainer Mr. Athula Kithsiri.

“Sarasabhiwandana” (සරසාභිවන්දනා)

By aiming to provide a psychologically refreshing experience to undergraduates as they move away from online education into a new beginning and identifying students' talents, and marking Poson Poya 2022, the Circle of Human Resource Development organized the event “Sarasabhiwandana” Poson devotional songs programme, which was held on 21st June 2022 from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm at the Faculty of Management Finance.



'Isimbu Panhida- 2021' - Department of History & Archaeology



'Isimbu Panhida- 2021', a competition organized by the History and Archaeology students' society; the official association of the Department of History and Archeology students provided the students with an opportunity to exhibit their creative skills. The students eagerly participated in the competitions held on creating verses and songs, writing articles, reports, etc. In the end, the winners were selected from each category and presented with a certificate to appreciate their skills and to encourage all.

Outbound Training - 2022

'Outbound Training - 2022' was a behavioral training intervention centered on action and activity for students' leadership and personality development, based on the experiential learning philosophy of learning through fun and experience. The first outbound training



programme was held on the 16th and 17th of June 2022 from 6.30 am to 8.00 pm on the university premises. It was organized by Department of Human Resource Management in partnership with the Career Guidance Unit, University of Ruhuna. The session was conducted for 4000 level 1st semester Human Resource Management specialized undergraduates. On the 27th June 2022, an outbound training programme was held on university premises for 3000-level

undergraduates of the Department of Human Resource Management and two experts from outside the university facilitated the session. The OBT programmes were streamlined with adventure and challenging team activities, where students had to go through obstacles and work together as a team to overcome challenges and learn from their experiences, feelings, and reflection. The focus of the Outbound Training approach was to impart learning on organizational needs such as Leadership, Strategic Thinking, Conflict Management, Team Building and Effective Communication.

The Aesthetic Association of the Faculty of Management and Finance

The Aesthetic Association was recently established in the Faculty of Management and Finance in order to improve the aesthetic sensibility among students.

Accordingly, this time, the freshers' orientation



programme for the 2020/2021 batch was organized by the Aesthetic Association of the Faculty of Management and Finance. The event was a very colourful one, and the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty along with the staff graced this occasion.

Poson Bethi Gee Prasngaya

Buddhist society and the Spiritual committee of the Faculty of Medicine presented a “Poson Bethi Gee Prasngaya” at the Faculty premises Karapitiya. Students, academic staff, and non-academic staff participated in the event. Students visited some wards in the Teaching Hospitals Karapitiya and Mahamodara to present their performances.



Thai Pongal Vizha

For the first time in the history of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Thai pongal was celebrated on an auspicious day. As the milk began to boil during the sunrise, everyone started hailing ‘Pongalo pongal ‘ and everyone’s hearts were filled with warmth and blessings from the God of Sun.



Following it, prayer was performed followed by the bhajna.

Breakfast was all set with pongal, wada, laddu and chickpeas served by the students.

The event was graced by the presence of prof Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice chancellor, university of Ruhuna and prof Vasantha Devasiri, Dean, Faculty of Medicine. The event was organized by



the traditional and cultural practices subcommittee of the cultural centre, faculty of medicine. The students and members of the academic and non-academic staff contributed financially, materials, energy and time to make this event a success. Almost 150 people gathered to celebrate this festival making it a milestone.

Career Week 2022



The Faculty of Engineering “Career week 2022” was held 10th-20th June to help place undergraduates for internships. The internship/ industrial training is part of the Engineering Curriculum earning 6 credits over 24 weeks. The Career Week preparations included workshops like resume writing, facing interviews and making most of the industrial training as well as a series of mock interviews with the help of the alumni associations of the departments. Companies also had the opportunity to introduce their training programs and employment benefits at the info sessions. The Career week had 59 Electrical and Information Engineering students attend interviews with 16 companies and 23 Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering attend interviews with 4 companies. This was organized by the Electrical and Information Engineering Society (EIES), Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Students’ Society (MMESS) and Civil and Environmental Engineering Society (CEES) in collaboration with the Engineering Education Centre (EEC) and the Career Guidance Cell of the Faculty of Engineering.

“Eminence 2.0” encouraging women in engineering

IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) affinity Group held a competition “Eminence 2.0” on 18th June 2022 at the Faculty of Engineering. The goal of IEEE WIE is to facilitate the recruitment and retention of women in technical disciplines and thus, 24 teams participated in 4 different challenges in electrical lighting design, coding, telecommunication and networking and innovation. The teams had to have minimum 50% female participation and promoted women in



engineering and technical disciplines. The organizing committee was able to overcome power cuts and other challenges and have a truly remarkable competition.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

G17 University Ambassadors Consortium

Tharushie Karunatileke and Samudi Rohana from the 43rd batch of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna were selected to represent the university in the prestigious G17 University Ambassadors Consortium (G17 UAC) for the term 2022/2023. G17 UAC is a global undergraduate platform initiated by the Road to Rights youth-led organization with its ultimate vision to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the university community. G17 UAC aims at moulding university undergraduates into resilient leaders through an experimental learning environment to make our communities and earth a better place through Sustainable Development Goals.



Annual Big Match between the student cricket Teams of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

The 12th Annual Big Match between the student cricket teams of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna was held on 8th May 2022 at the Asgiriya Cricket Stadium.

The Peradeniya Student's team won the toss and elected to bat first. Peradeniya Student's Team was restricted to a total of 1'41 runs in 20 overs. The Ruhuna Student's Team was able to chase the target down in 19.3 overs scoring a total of 145 for the loss of 5 wickets, thus winning the match.

The Best Batsman award went to Daham Pieris of the Peradeniya Students' team. Nimsara de Silva of the Ruhuna Students' team was awarded the best bowler award. The Man of the Match award was awarded to Binara Vihanga of the Ruhuna Students' team.



Ruhuna Debaters brings home the Championship in Debating



“Ruhuna Debaters”, UoR Sinhala debate team has the unique mixture of talent, dedication and team spirit that has enabled them to bring 3 championships home in 2021 and 2 championships home thus far in 2022. The team was captained by Adithya A.B.R.C.S.B. (Engineering). The other team members were Udara H.H.A. (Management), Jayawardhana



N.W.A.S.N. (Humanities and Social Sciences) and Rathnasekara K.A.N.N. (Science), while Kotawalagedara S.K. (Allied Health Sciences) and Pabudanan P. K. M. (Engineering) were the reserves. Dr. N. W. Prins, senior lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering was the staff representative on behalf of the

university WeStand 2021/22 inter university Sinhala debate tournament organized by the Leo Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura in March 2022: UoR competed and won against two different teams of University of Sri Jayewardenepura 3:0 both times. The finals were held at the Faculty of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura against University of Kelaniya (5:0). The motion of the debate was “ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ සමාජභාවය පදනම් කරගත් ජීවන රටාව මැඩලීම සඳහා ගෙන ඇති පියවර සාධනීය මට්ටමක පවතී/නොපවතී.” Best point presenter was Avishka Udara and best point breaker was Navod Rathnasekara, both in the “Ruhuna Debaters” team

Clash of Minds 2022 inter university trilingual debate tournament organized by J’pura Voice, the official media unit of University of Sri Jayewardenepura in May 2022: “Ruhuna Debaters” competed and won against Wayamba University (3:0), Uwa Welassa University (3:0) and University of Sri Jayawardhanapura (3:0) in the preliminary rounds and the University of Kelaniya (3:0) in the semifinals. The finals were won against the University of Jaffna, Faculty of Law Team: “දිනෙන් දින ඉහළ යන ළමා අපයෝජන නවතාලීම සඳහා කළ යුතු ජරමුඛ කාර්යය නෛතික පරිසරය ශක්තිමත් කිරීම වේ/නොවේ.” Best point presenter was Shamith Jayawardhana and best point breaker was Navod Rathnasekara both in the “Ruhuna Debaters” team. We wish to thank Ms Sajeewani Abeykoon, Director law and enforcement at National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and Ms. Nadishani Croos, Attorney-at-Law for the time given to interview them for the research for this debate.

“Ruhuna Debaters” is the finalists for the “A New Dawn” Inter-University Debating Competition, organized by the Department of Sociology & Cultural Center of University of Ruhuna.

Debating improves critical thinking skills, speech delivery and public speaking skills while improving listening, note-taking skills and self-confidence. Debating helps to articulate ideas, identify holes in their theories and have balanced arguments in a logical manner. This year, we were able to select 6 teams for debating in English, Sinhala and Tamil. We hope in future other teams selected will be able to bring the cup home too. We wish to thank the following resource

persons for helping with the team selections with the staff of the Faculty of Engineering; Dr. N. W. Prins, Dr. Sujeewa Wimalasena and Dr. Thanuja Srimal from the Faculty of Engineering.

A Tale of a Budding Innovator – Mr. Akila Indika Herath

Mr. Akila Indika Herath from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Award for most outstanding student inventor/innovator at the 19th Academic Sessions and the 18th Vice Chancellor's Awards Ceremony held on the 2nd of March 2022. Mr. Herath recently graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna completing his degree in BSc Agricultural Resource Management and Technology and specializing in the department of Agricultural Engineering.



Mr. Herath has received a number of awards in recognition of his innovations and achievements in his undergraduate career. He commenced his invention and innovation journey with his very first invention, “Multipurpose Foldable Mamoty”, under the supervision of the Department of Agricultural Engineering. Among his innovations and industrial designs, inventions such as “Hand-held Vacuum-type Precision Paddy Seeder”, “Vacuum-powered Sprouted Seed Establisher”, and “Leap Preventing Fish Transfer Net” can be considered as noteworthy inventions. Along with his team, Mr. Herath has already applied for

patent rights for three of the above-mentioned inventions.

As an inventor, Mr. Akila was awarded two gold medals in Ruhuna Invention and Innovation Exhibition 2018/2019 and a gold medal and two silver medals in the “Sahasak Nimawum” International Invention & Innovation Competition held in 2019 and 2020. In addition, Southern Provincial Industrial Development Authority awarded him an honorary award in recognition of his contribution to developing new technologies. In addition, Mr. Herath has participated in many outreach activities and awareness programs organized by the Department of Agric. Engineering to disseminate knowledge on his inventions and innovations. Considering all his achievements, Mr. Akila Indika Herath was awarded as the “Most Outstanding Student Inventor/Innovator of the year 2021” at the 19th Academic Sessions of the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. Mr. Herath is now continuing his post graduate research studies in the field of Agricultural Engineering with the aim of discovering more useful avenues for farming community in Sri Lanka.

Best Emerging Young Leader of AIESEC Sri Lanka 2022 AIESEC in University of Ruhuna



Ms. Gayashi Kavindi a final year undergraduate in the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of English Language and Linguistics. She started her AIESEC journey back in 2020 January in her 1st year. She was recognized as the emerging young leader in AIESEC Sri Lanka in the National Conference 2022 (Natcon). She was able to achieve and develop many skills in my AIESEC journey. She was able to make AIESEC in Ruhuna proud because this is the first time in the history of AIESEC in Ruhuna where an individual was recognized at the National level. She has been a part of entity projects, national projects and also in international projects representing Sri Lanka. She started my journey by volunteering and becoming the Vice President for Events and Logistics of the NOTE to Self the organizing Committee, then her journey in the entity was Vice President for Public Relations of the STEPARC Organizing Committee and Finally the Organizing Committee President for Youth Space 2021, her national Journey began by being selected for Vice President-External Relations of the Coca Cola Green Code 2021 Organizing Committee and she was able to become the Organizing Committee President of the 'Amplifier'21' national project, her international volunteering started as the Congress Committee Member Delegate Experience for International Presidents' Meeting 2022 and now she is the Partner Delivery Manager for the Global Heading for the Future Project and Congress Committee Vice President Communications for International Conference 2022. Now, she is an Official Expansion Vice Presidents in AIESEC in Ruhuna and hope that she will move even further.

Best Undergraduate Research Award 2021 at 38th Annual Sessions of GSSL



The Best Undergraduate Research Award is annually presented by the Geological Society of Sri Lanka (GSSL) to a graduate who has completed the first degree at a state university of Sri Lanka, recognizing his/her outstanding research in the field of earth science.

The award for 2021 was presented to Ms. Thilini Wijewardhane (FM/FW/2016/011) of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology at the 38th Annual Sessions of GSSL held in Colombo on February 25, 2022 for her undergraduate research

titled “Mid-Late Holocene Indian Winter Monsoon Variability Recorded in a Lacustrine Sediment Core from Southeastern, Sri Lanka”. She carried out this research under the supervision of Prof. Pradeep Nalaka Ranasinghe, Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, University of Ruhuna.

Champions of “Evolution AI” (Artificial Intelligence Ideathon)

A group of students from the 22nd Batch, Faculty of Engineering has won the championship of islandwide “Evolution AI”, an Artificial Intelligence Ideathon organized by AIESEC in the University of Kelaniya. They found a method, a Genetic Algorithm and an Artificial Neural Network written in Python to optimize time and resource allocation of operating theatres in hospitals. In finals, they competed with teams from University of Moratuwa, University of Kelaniya and Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT) Campus.



Team members of “Eximius Ruhuna” are Lakdinu De Silva, Nisal De Zoysa, Sachintha Liyanage, Isuru Deshapriya and Saiamirthan A.T.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

AIESEC and Future Career - AIESEC in University of Ruhuna

“Only the people who take learning, growth and skills development into their own hands will be tomorrow’s leaders.” - Alli Worthington.

Adaptability is the only solution in a context where the future of work is uncertain. Therefore, as the best form of adaptability, upskilling should be prioritized over any other thing as future employees and employers. So, AIESEC, as an international, youth-run, non-governmental and non-profitable organization, which runs according to a company structure, has the capacity to train thousands of young people to take up the employee’s role as well as the employer’s role before stepping into the corporate world. Taking responsibilities, team-working, proper communication, problem-solving, task management, organization, project planning, leading others and cooperation are not new things for AIESECers. So, according to these reasons, we can introduce AIESEC as the best platform for young people to get first-hand experiences before entering into the corporate sector. AIESEC continuously equips young people with new

skills and provides enriching leadership experiences. Therefore, it's not inaccurate to say that there's nowhere like AIESEC where you can get complete corporate training free of charge. AIESEC acts as a bridge between the youth and the corporate world to upskill the future workforce by educating young people through a unique system of activities that acts as catalysts for successful prospective employees.

Gain international talents that the companies are seeking

Cross-cultural experiences play a vital role in achieving growth, open mindset and uplifting leadership. A leader who's built up with cross-cultural experiences can work in multicultural environments. So, especially the future workplace, which is definitely a modern globalized environment, requires leaders who are capable of understanding and embracing a cross-cultural setting. AIESEC, as a facilitator for young people to live diverse cross-cultural experiences, not only provides AIESECers but also non-AIESECers with foreign internships, global volunteering programs and also IR specialization, which allows young people to gain experiences in cross-cultural settings.

Find the correct industry that suits you

AIESEC continuously offers young people pools of opportunities from which they can choose and determine the best field or the path that fits their backgrounds and experiences. As an organization with a company structure, AIESEC contains many departments and functions, which are equally important for a balanced employee life. Areas such as customer service, which enhances the skill of guiding people through excellent communication, marketing which enhances youngsters' creativity, analytical skills, collaboration, brand management and social media handling, finance department, which enhances finance monitoring skills, strategic planning, budgeting, resource management and finally human resource handling which requires design training, developing plans, tracking performances, creating systems, recruiting people and HR management comes in our organization as back office functions to provide volunteers with a real corporate environment and perfect training.

Build your network

As a youth-run organization allows young people to connect with like-minded people and let them own their own local and international network. When volunteering for AIESEC, you become one of the 40,000+ members all across the globe.

Learn to lead

As a place where leaders are constantly being prepared, AIESEC has a very unique way of crafting leaders by allowing them to work in challenging environments. AIESEC always focuses on learning by doing. In AIESEC, we have a unique leadership development model that reflects a set of leadership skills that prepares young people to be their own version of leadership. Empowering others, self-awareness, solution-oriented, world citizens are the fundamental leadership skills that we focus on here. The leadership hierarchy that AIESEC holds provides

self-confidence and a sense of responsibility to the members. It motivates members to climb the hierarchy and to improve their leadership skills step by step.

Up skilling tools provided by AIESEC

PDP - Provides members with a more realistic understanding of themselves and allows them to identify what they need by evaluating themselves.

Organizing Committees - Encourage representation and teaches to work in challenging environments with a high level of cooperation required where there are pools of opinions.

Cross-cultural training. -Holds numerous cross-cultural events and training sessions.

Learning spaces - Seminars, lectures, projects, events, training and workshops.

Meetups - Acknowledges members of the value of cooperation and friendliness in a working environment. Provides internal communication and strengthens member bonding and interaction.

So, as a globally recognized youth organization, AIESEC always teaches members how to adapt to future work challenges today. The contribution of AIESEC in empowering youth to grow impact fully is immense. The relationship between AIESEC and future careers is always inseparable and interconnected in all possible ways.

BRITAE (Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-ecosystem)



BRITAE Newsletter

The third newsletter of project BRITAE which is the first issue of the second volume was successfully published in January 2022 based on the activities and outcomes of the project. This issue of the BRITAE newsletter brings three main information sections. The first key thematic area is project progress reporting, team BRITAE having successfully completed the interim report, and the establishment of the SAR Centre, the central platform linking partner universities and stakeholders. Second, in line was the capacity building and professional

development programs designed for membership and partner universities. Academics and researchers of partner institutions shared their knowledge and experiences among the membership and the process was immensely helpful in building the capacities of the BRITAE team. The third section of the newsletter is devoted to sharing the achievements of the project partners.



Newspaper article

The project description under the topic “Beyond traditional learning: an international initiative to improve capacities of Sri Lankan universities on resilient agro-ecosystems” has been translated to Sinhala and Tamil languages and is available for circulation in “Dinamina” and “Thinakaran” newspapers respectively. The English version was already published in “Daily News” on 28th May 2022.

Centre for International Affairs (CINTA) - Signing of MoU between Gallilee International Management Institute, Israel and University of Ruhuna

Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna, in the presence of Prof. Dulcy Senaratne, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, signed the MoU between Gallilee International Management Institute, Israel and University of Ruhuna on 28th June, 2022.



Centre for International Affairs (CINTA) - Signing of MoU between University of Persov, Slovakia and Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna

The MoU between Faculty of Management, University of Persov, Slovakia and Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna was signed by Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna on 28th June 2022 .



Signing of Two MoUs - 'Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia and University of Stavanger, Norway



Two MoUs between 'Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia and Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna' and between 'Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Stavanger, Norway and Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna' were signed by Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna on 17th June 2022 .

Staff Training on Engineering Design Process by Duke University



A workshop series was conducted by Duke University, North Carolina, USA to train the academic staff in the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering regarding Engineering Design Process (EDP). The resource persons of the workshops are Dr. Anne Saterbak and Dr. Eric

Richardson from the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Duke University. The workshop sessions include training on the different engineering design methodologies and train-the-trainer type of programs. This collaboration was initiated by Prof. Gayani Tillekeratne and Prof. Truls Ostbye of Duke Global Health Institute, Mr. Jonathan Perera, Undergraduate Student, University of Duke and Dr. N. W. Prins, Senior Lecturer, University of Ruhuna back in September 2020. The training was officially launched in June 2021 and 6 sessions were held hitherto.

BECK Project - Integrating Education with Consumer Behavior Relevant to Energy Efficiency and Climate Change at the Universities of Russia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh



The 10th coordination meeting of the BECK Project which was jointly organized by the Social Policy Analysis and Research Center (SPARC) of the University of Colombo and the University of Ruhuna was successfully held at Jie Jie Beach Hotel, Panadura from 2nd to 5th March 2022. On the first day of the program, informatic presentations on the environment, climate change, energy-efficient, and mitigation were conducted by resource persons from the Faculty of Arts University of Colombo, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, Ministry of Environment, and International Organization for Mitigation Mission in Sri Lanka. On the second day, a guided tour to the Kerawalapitiya waste to energy power



plant for all the participants and a guided city tour to Negombo took place. On the 3rd day, progress presentations by partner universities and discussed dissemination and exploitation plan, project website, summarizing key actions, priorities, and planning for further cooperation and financial reporting took place.

Book publication

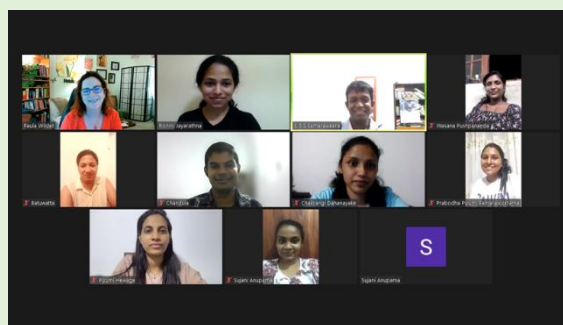
Three books were compiled under the topics “Urban and peri-urban agriculture as a strategy to meet challenges of the climate change”, “Water management techniques to meet the challenges of climate change” and “Green Behavior and Sustainable Consumption Stimulation”.

Final Conference

The 11th coordination meeting of the BECK project which was organized by the Patuakhali Science and Technology University and the University of Barishal was held successfully with the participation of all the partners of HEIs in Bangladesh from 18th to 25th April 2022. Each partner HEIs presented the overall achievement of the BECK Project, outputs of each work package, research findings on energy-efficient and climate change, and its relevance to the integration of education with consumer behavior.

Virtual English Language Specialist Programme

The Virtual English Language Specialist Programme organized by the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna commenced on the 1st March 2022, and concluded on the 3rd June 2022. It was a programme funded by the United States Embassy in Sri Lanka, and conducted by Ms. Paula Wilder.



This programme was conducted for two different focus groups; namely: the staff of the DELT, and the academic staff of all the faculties of University of Ruhuna together with the academic staff of the University of Jaffna. The aims of the Virtual English Language Specialist Programme were to support the university teachers in syllabus designing and lesson planning in English, and in enhancing the productive skill of speaking in English language. This interactive programme was conducted from Monday to Thursday, from 6.00-8.00p.m. via Zoom.

The resource person, Ms. Paula Wilder Paula Wilder is the Director/Instructor of English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and Continuing Education for Non-Native English Speakers at Durham Technical Community College in Durham, North Carolina. She received her MA in TESOL from Greensboro College and her BA in English from Guilford College. Ms. Paula has been responsible for the creation and implementation of EAP curriculum programs at two other community colleges in NC. She has also taught at Harvard University's Institute of English Language and teaches in the MA TESOL programme at Greensboro College and the Global Training Institute and the TESOL Certificate program at NC State University. In 2020, she received the Greensboro College Alumni Excellence Award in recognition of her contributions and outstanding service and achievement in her profession. She has presented her research in a variety of venues, including TESOL International, NC Community College System Office Conference, SETESOL, Carolina TESOL, TALGs, NCADE, NCEI. Over the years, she has got to work with academics from various cultures on a meaningful level; and through the Virtual English Language Specialist Programme she acquainted with the people and culture of Sri Lanka.

The Virtual English Language Specialist Programme was an immensely fruitful series of sessions that enhanced the participants' understanding of the cultural diversity among two cultures while cultivating lasting relationships with their American counterparts.

1st workshop of nEUROcare Project - Centre for International Affairs



The 1st workshop of nEUROcare Project (A European initiative for capacity building to meet the challenges of caring for people with neurodegenerative disorders in Sri Lanka) was successfully held in Water's Edge Hotel, Kotte which was hosted by University of Colombo during 7th February to 11th February 2022. The Inauguration was held with the participation of administrative staff including Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, and delegates

from partner countries. The five-day workshop includes the activities that the managers of each University gave the introduction on their universities, identified the administrative perspectives, foreign team identified the aspects of Sri Lanka Qualification Framework, identified the outline of course structures and planned for next workshops and activities.

This is a Joint Project through the main coordination of Kristianstad University (Sweden) with partner Universities in Europe and Sri Lanka namely University of Triskelion (Norway), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), University of Tartu (Estonia), Neapolis University Pafos (Cyprus), University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), University of Peradeniya and Kotelawala Defense University.

Residential Workshop Conducted by NOR LANKA BLUE Project Centre for International Affairs (CINTA)

A workshop was successfully conducted from 4th – 12th April 2022 as a residential workshop under NOR LANKA BLUE project which was coordinated by Prof. Suneetha Gunawickrama. Twenty-one students and 4 members from Arctic University of Norway participated in this event. After the workshop, seven students were selected for MPhil Degree programmes and they are expected to visit the Arctic University, Norway as exchange students for 5 month period. A courtesy meeting with the Vice Chancellor was also held at the end of the workshop.



South Fest Event Organized by AIESEC in University of Ruhuna



This is the time of festivity. Let's bridge the gap worldwide with peace and harmony!

South Fest was the largest cultural event organized by AIESEC in University of Ruhuna. The main theme of South Fest was the "New Year festival" in the month of April. South Fest was mainly organized to provide a unique cross-cultural experience to the Exchange Participants who are not aware of Sri Lankan heritage and culture. It was the type of a Global village where the

cultures of different countries were shared in one place to strive towards promoting peace and harmony by bridging the gaps and differences between countries.

At the beginning of the day of our event, Exchange Participants were welcomed with a traditional dance with the intention of showing them our culture. The "Boiling Milk" ritual, a symbol of fertility was held in the first place and New Year festival activities followed.

Avurudu food is one of the most unique delicacies in the world. A colorful glamorous table full of Avurudu food was there, especially for Exchange participants: giving them a chance to enjoy our food. It was a great opportunity to showcase to the world the taste of Sri Lankan food. Also, Exchange participants were able to make 'Kokis', one of our famous New Year dishes, on their own. We were able to add some taste to their experience.

There are lots of fun folk games we do during the New Year season such as 'Kana mutti', 'Aliyata esa thabeema', 'Goni race' etc. Our Exchange participants were able to enjoy a lot by doing

those fun Avurudu games with us. We could give them unforgettable memories through the South Fest event.

South Fest was a great opportunity to not only show the distinctive cultural identity of Sri Lanka to our Exchange participants but also to show us their cultural aspects too.

As an example we were able to play a small German game. This is a team sport played by two people. A blindfolded person is given a stick and kneels on the floor. Then a gift should be hidden in a turned-over pot. Once the game starts, the person with the blindfold should find the saucepan with the help of a stick. The other partner helps to find that saucepan by guiding him “cool” or “hot”. “Cool” means he is close to the pot and “Hot” means he’s far from the pot. The team who finds the saucepan first, wins the game and gets the gift.

We also did some creative games such as “Newspaper dress”. The main purpose of this game was to give our Exchange participants a good exposure to Sri Lankan traditional dresses. It was a team game and teams were provided with some newspapers and asked to choose a model from the group members and make a traditional dress using those newspapers within a limited period of time. Before starting the game we showed them a picture of “Osariya” which is a traditional dress of Sri Lanka. This game was one of the trending games in the event.

AIESEC in University of Ruhuna organized this event to provide a memorable experience to Exchange participants who came to Sri Lanka for Incoming Global Volunteering projects. We were able to create an indelible image of our country and culture in their hearts through South Fest. It was one of the most remarkable cultural events so far.

Staff Training Week – Conducted by the Support Centre for Students with Special Needs, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic



Students with Special Needs, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic from 9th May – 13th May 2022. Masaryk University is one of the European partners of the project consortium and is responsible for helping the Sri Lankan partner universities to identify equipment and assistive technology required for teaching students with disabilities.

This training programme was organized as part of the activities of Erasmus + CBHE project “Developing Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities in Sri Lankan Universities” (IncEdu). Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna is one of the partners

to this project together with 03 other Sri Lankan Universities and 03 European Universities. The programme provided the opportunity for academics to receive hands-on training as well as exposure to support technologies and teaching - learning methods available in European countries as to how the students with disabilities could be empowered to be more autonomous in their lives.



Visit of Prof. Torsten Fransson, International Coordinator of the European Union funded EUSL-Energy Joint Project, to the Faculty of Engineering

Prof. Torsten Fransson, International Coordinator of the EUSL-Energy project visited the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, Gapugala, Galle, Sri Lanka on 3rd March 2022 and met the dean of the Faculty and staff members including HOD of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. He discussed the new trends in online education and the 21st century education methods. Further, he observed the progress of the Wind Energy Remote Online Laboratory (WEROL) constructed under the grant of EUSL-Energy project.

Prof.(Em.) Torsten Fransson gave an online guest speech on Modern Distance Learning via zoom to the students and staff of Faculty of Engineering and other interested academic members of other educational institutes on 2nd March 2022. This event was organized by the UOR members of EUSL-Energy project with the support students societies of MMESS, Marvel Crew and Institution of Mechanical Engineers Ruhuna Student Chapter.



AIESEC in University of Ruhuna

AIESEC continually provides young people with opportunities from which they can select and decide which field or career path best suits their qualifications and prior experiences. AIESEC is a company-structured organization with numerous divisions and functions, which are essential for a proper work/life balance. Marketing, which fosters young people's creativity, analytical abilities, teamwork, brand management, and social media handling, the finance department, which enables financial monitoring skills, strategic planning, budgeting, and resource management; and finally, human resource management, which necessitates design training, developing plans, tracking performances, creating systems, and recruiting

Being a youth-run organization, it enables young people to meet others who share their interests and to build their own local and global networks. Volunteering for AIESEC makes you join the organization's 40,000+ international members.

AIESEC has an extraordinary way of creating leaders by allowing them to work in demanding circumstances. It is a location where future leaders are constantly being developed. Learning by doing is always a priority for AIESEC. We have a distinctive leadership development methodology at AIESEC that represents a set of leadership competencies that equips young people to be their brand of leadership. The core leadership abilities that we concentrate on here are empowerment of others, self-awareness, solution-orientedness, and global citizenship. The leadership structure that AIESEC maintains gives its members a sense of accountability and self-assurance. Members are encouraged to go through the hierarchy and hone their leadership abilities gradually.

AIESEC, a youth organization with a global reputation, constantly trains membership how to adjust to relevant situations. AIESEC makes a massive difference in enabling young people to develop positively. Future careers and AIESEC are always intertwined in every conceivable way, and their relationship is always unbreakable.



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTHSPACE2.0- AUSEC University of Ruhuna

Youth Space is organized by AIESEC in University of Ruhuna with the purpose of achieving Sustainable Development Goals 04-Quality Education and 08-Decent Work and Economic Growth. Quality education, decent jobs, and economic prosperity are all important factors in the country's development.

We, as members of AIESEC at the University of Ruhuna, wished to forge a new route in AIESEC's history, as well as a new movement in Sri Lanka, in which the country's future leaders obtain more knowledge to contemplate their future trajectories and talents. The main goal of Youth Space is to raise awareness about the opportunities for pursuing an efficient and beneficial, educate students on the requirements for creating a better CV, and provide situational awareness of the other skills and strategies required, such as how to prepare for a job interview, firsthand experiences with industry experts, and the value of entrepreneurship career paths to direct their future, to pick the correct way and to furnish them with the right information in the corporate world they are going to enter later on. Through the participation of experts in the field, it gave a chance to understudies to acquire a more extensive comprehension of topic and to pose questions from industry specialists and to assist understudies with taking care of their issues.

The first phase of the Youth Space project was held on 17th and 18th July 2021 with great success. In the first phase, the target audience of the project was only the southern province, which could not be held as a physical event due to the prevailing situation in the country at that time. Many educational institutions have partnered with the project to award scholarships to students who have participated in the program. They are the ones who are going to enter the corporate world after completing A/ L, and after completing A/ L, they were able to understand what the path should be, what institutions should be involved in it and how to qualify. It consisted of a series of seminars involving experts in various fields.

The second phase is scheduled for August this year. This year we intend to hold this series of seminars in a virtual as well as a physical way, and we hope to carry out the project beyond the southern province and represent the whole of Sri Lanka. We are ready to launch the project with a new face than before and hope to integrate this project with a new experience very soon.

Ruhuna Quality Assurance Sessions and Pre- Conference Workshop



RUHUNA QUALITY ASSURANCE SESSIONS -2022

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA, SRI LANKA

ACHIEVING BUILT-IN QUALITY



Chief Guest
Snr. Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena
Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna



Keynote Speaker
Prof. Deepthi Bandara
Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Agriculture,
University of Peradeniya



Guest of Honor
Snr. Prof. Tilak Gamage
Director Quality Assurance Center, UGC

Rethinking built-in quality in higher education - strategies for success by Prof. Deepthi Bandara.

Instructions for Authors
Please visit the website for further details
www.ruh.ac.lk

21st September 2022

Conference Organized by the Center for Quality Assurance, University of Ruhuna



RUHUNA QUALITY ASSURANCE SESSIONS -2022

ACHIEVING BUILT-IN QUALITY

Pre-Conference Workshop on

“Revising Academic Accountability and Workload Model”

With the participation of Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Director of the Center for Quality Assurance, Chairpersons of the Internal Quality Assurance Cells of the faculties, Academic nominees from the faculties, representatives from the teachers unions of the faculties

Meeting ID : 636 5290 4251
Passcode : Uor2022! [Click to join](#)



On Zoom platform

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA, SRI LANKA

24th August 2022 at 9:00 am onwards

Conference Organized by the Center for Quality Assurance, University of Ruhuna

RECRUITMENTS, PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

Recruitments

Academic Staff

Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr.Mrs R.M.T.M Ramanayake - Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Dr.(Mrs) H.C.C De Silva - Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology

Dr. MDP Kumarathunge, Department of Agric Biology, Faculty of Agriculture

Lecturer (Unconfirmed)

Mr. H.I.G.S Piyaruwan, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture

Dr.Niranjan Kannangara, Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology

Lecturer (Probationary)

Dr. G. J. Chandana, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Ms. H.M.C.S Wijerathne, Department of Limnology & Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Ms. R.D.N Shakya, Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mr. A.M.K.C.J Costa, Department of Limnology & Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Mrs. M.P.H.K Dias, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Mrs. K.J.M.D Tharanga, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Ms. Akila Brahmana, Department of Information & Communication, Faculty of Technology

Mrs. B.H.C.S Thilakarathne, Department of Engineering, Faculty of Technology

Mr. H.V.H.H Senevirathna, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mr. M.B.A Deemantha, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mr. L.S.L Fernando, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mrs. J.W.A Madushika, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mrs. P.M Nanayakkara, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Mr. K.K.D.C.S Weerathna, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mrs. B.H.D Perera, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering

Assistant Librarian (Probationary)

Ms. K.A.I.M. Amarasekara, Agriculture Faculty Library, Faculty of Agriculture.

Ms. H.E.P. Mayuri, Allied Health Sciences Faculty Library, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Mr. D.M.T. Madushanka, Legal Deposit Division, Main Library

Non - Academic staff

Assistant Network Manager Gr II

Mr. M.M.D Chinthaka, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science

Scientific Assistant Gr II

Ms. W.M.A.M Karunaratne , Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture

ICT II

Ms. I.S Samaraweera, Dean's Office, Faculty of Management and Finance

Ms. H.I Andrahennadi, IT Unit, faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Pharmacist

Mr. T.L.H.Anuranga , Medical Centre

Marshal

Miss. A.G.V.A.Bandara ,Marshal Office

Mr. S.C.Nanayakkara ,Marshal Office

Mr. A.P.J.Madhushan,Marshal Office

Appointments and Promotions

Academic staff

Chair Professor

Prof. EPS Chandana, Professor at Department of Biosystems Technology was appointed as Chair Professor at the Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna.

Professor

Prof. S.P Kahandagamage, Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Prof. L.A Panamgama, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

Prof. W.S Hemalika, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

Prof. S Wanniarachchi, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

Prof. H.C.P Karunasena, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Prof. (Mrs.) M.W Indrani, Department of Accountancy, Faculty of Management & Finance

Senior Lecturer Grade II

Mr. M.I.T Ranjan, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr (Mrs.) J.A.N Sandamali, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Dr (Mrs.) K.G.P Nirmani, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Dr (Mrs.) E.H Silva, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Dr (Mrs.) Prabhavi Wijesiriwardhana, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Dr. M.D.P Kumarathunge, Department of Agric Biology, Faculty of Agriculture

Senior Lecturer Grade I

Dr. (Mrs.) B.M.L.A Basnayake, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. W.M.K.R.T Bandara, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. W.M.T.R Wijesundara, Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management & Finance

Non-academic staff

Sub Warden (Special Grade)

Mr. A.D.Kularathna

Mrs. R.A.S.L.Karunarathna

Mr. J.G.S. Udugama

Mr. M.P. Kodithuwakku

Mr. S.D. Lakmal

Sub Warden (Grade I)

Mrs. D.K.Champika

Lab Attendant (Supra Grade)

Mr. M.L.D.U. Kumara

Mr. B.M. Prasanna Priyalath

Work Supervisor (Grade I)

Mr. U.M.Wijesiriwardena

Security Inspector (Special Grade)

Mr. B.W.Saman

Library Attendant (Grade I)

Mr. P.H.M.Priyantha

Mr. N.G.S.Manjula

Security Inspector (Grade I)

Mr. M.V.Ranjith

Lab Attendant (Grade II)

Mr. P.K.Sirisena

Mr. H.G. Kapila

Mr. K.G.P. Indika

Security Guard (Supra Grade)

Mr. P.H.S.Kumara

Security Guard (Higher Grade)

Mr. K.J.L.de Silva

Retirements

Academic staff

Mr. M. P. A. Wijayasiri, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science

Mr. M. P. A. Wijayasiri who served as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna has retired on 30th of June 2022, after completion of nearly 39 years of academic career. He is one of the pioneering academic members of the Department of Mathematics, with vast experience in teaching, research and academic administration. He rendered his service immensely for the development of the Department and the university, and his extraordinary character has paved the way for him to achieve many of his academic and personal life goals.



He obtained his Bachelor of Science Special Degree from the University of Kelaniya in 1982. Soon after the graduation, he embarked on his academic career as a Probationary Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Mathematics, University of Ruhuna in 1983. He had to play a vital role as a Lecturer and as an academic administrator at the newly established Department of Mathematics. He obtained his Master of Science Degree in Computing from the University of Bradford, UK in 1986 in the area of Expert Systems and then a Master of Philosophy Degree from the University of Kelaniya in 1994 under the supervision of late Professor SBP Wickramasuriya. The title of his thesis was “Some solutions of Einstein and Einstein-Maxwell equations with special reference to slow rotation.” In 1994, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II). Further, he served as the Director of then Computing Unit of University of Ruhuna from 1991 to 1993.

He served as the Head of Department of Mathematics on two occasions totaling over six years in 1996 and in 2015. Mr. Wijayasiri has many years of experience in other administrative positions at the university as well. He was a member of the Action Committee on University Reforms since 1998. Further, he obtained training on student counselling and served as a Student Counsellor of the Faculty of Science in 1990 and 1991. Mr. Wijayasiri has served as a member of the Senate of the University of Ruhuna in 2005. Nevertheless, he was a member of the subcommittee appointed to design the BSc degree course in Pharmacy in 2008.

As a chairperson of the Student’s request subcommittee, he shared his experience and knowledge to uplift the academic and career goals of the student in the faculty. Mr Wijayasiri

served as a Chief Examiner for GCE (A/L) examinations since 1998 at a numerous occasions. He was a member of the committee of National Institute of Education to introduce the new curriculum for GCE (A/L) Combined Mathematics.

He was promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade I) in 2000. Further, he was one of the advisory members who helped in initiating the Mathematics and Statistics Society, in the Department of Mathematics in 2016.

He had a great research interest in ancient Sri Lankan and South Asian mathematics and mathematicians. He is one of the handful of intellectuals in the area of General Relativity Theory and Tensor Analysis in Sri Lanka. Under his supervision a postgraduate research degree has been successfully completed in this area with the title “Slowly rotating dust sphere for free space in general relativity with uniform matter distribution”.

Mr Wijayasiri has been the author of 6 Computer Science and Mathematics textbooks, is an expert in theoretical computer science and Artificial Intelligence based Expert Systems.

His commitment to voluntary social and community service which extends to even unreachable rural communities in Sri Lanka is immense. Specially, thousands of school children and school libraries of these areas had benefited from these work. He was the founder and advisor of a scholarship fund at the Department of Mathematics established in 1998 to support BSc (Special) Degree undergraduate students with financial difficulties, where he has spent time, money and his leadership skills to make this endeavour a great success, which runs to-date.

Furthermore, he was the Honourable Secretary of two such voluntary organizations – Umi-Matara Book Foundation – which was set up with the support of communities in Umi City in Japan and the Educational Support Foundation Ruhuna Mathematics (ESFoRuM) set up with the funds from a UNESCO supported academic activity just after the 2004 Tsunami disaster. Both organizations were set up and functioned with the support of academic and non-academic staff members of Department . During his 23 years long service in these, he had travelled all across Sri Lanka not only to donate books and educational materials to the libraries of under-privileged schools but also to renovate or construct such libraries. Furthermore, around 400 students who lost father, mother or both due to tsunami, were given scholarships with the help of various organizations and well-wishers in foreign countries. The ESFoRuM also awards two gold medals to the best B.Sc. Mathematics undergraduates at the annual degree congregation of University of Ruhuna. As the Secretary of the Umi-Matara Book Foundation and ESFoRuM, Mr. Wijayasiri spent much of his valuable time in raising funds through his various contacts, coordinating collection of funds, collecting details of children and families, visiting a large number of schools and assisting disbursement of scholarships to students.

In so doing he was exemplary and a role model to many generations of the members of the University showing the extent to which the academic's career could be utilized to make the world a much better place, not only by disseminating the knowledge via teaching and research but also by many other means. In fact, he had sacrificed his valuable time which many others would have used to focus on one's career progression, to these noble humanitarian works.

His academic commitments were not confined to the Faculty of Science alone. He rendered his service as a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Economics, University of Ruhuna in 1998 and also, he served as a Visiting Lecturer for the students in the Open University of Sri Lanka.

This note would be incomplete without mentioning the great support Mr Wijayasiri received from his beloved wife Mrs. Kumari Wijaysiri who was also an academic staff member of Department of Mathematics until 2006, who took an early retirement. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Wijayasiri are the proud parents of a son - Dr Adheesa Praveen Wijayasiri who is currently a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Computer Engineering of University of Moratuwa and a daughter – who became a Silmaniyo; Meddawatthe Dhammasarani in 2017.

He is a humble gentleman who led a spiritual journey in balancing his academic and personal life. Nevertheless, Mr. Wijayasiri is an exceptional who rendered an irreplaceable service to the department, and as the Department of Mathematics we wish him a healthy and productive retirement.

Non-academic staff

Security Guard (Higher Grade)

Mr. K.D.D.Subasinghe



Acknowledgement

Mrs. P.M.S.P.Yapa, H.G. Nilanthi Devika, Mrs C. Senevirathne and Mrs. Imasha Dilhani are greatly acknowledged for their support in providing information for the newsletter. Mrs. Madumi Kumarage and Dr. W.K Amanda Prasadi contributed in compiling and designing the cover page respectively.

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