

## Conferences and Research

### 14th International Conference on Business Management (ICBM 2017)

#### Managing Interface Corporate Resilience and Growth

14th International Conference on Business Management organized by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 8th December 2017 at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo under the theme of "Managing Interface: Corporate Resilience and Growth Potential." The ICBM provided an interdisciplinary platform with ample opportunities for the academia and practitioners to share their updated knowledge and networking. ICBM 2017 consisted of three main parts namely, the Doctoral Consortium, Research Sessions and the Forum.

The keynote speaker at ICBM 2017 was Associate Professor Evan Lau, Deputy Dean of Postgraduate and Research, University of Malaysia Sarawak. He is also the Managing Editor of the International Journal of Business and Society, and Director of the Centre for Business, Economics and Finance Forecasting. The chief guest was

Professor Patrick Mendis, who is a former Rajawali Senior Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School, and current Associate-in-Research of the Fairbank Centre for Chinese Studies at the Harvard University. A former American Diplomat and NATO Military Professor during the Clinton and Bush administration, and Prof. Mendis currently serves as a US Commissioner for UNESCO.

The invited panelists of the Business Forum of ICBM 2017 were Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Professor Patrick Mendis, Harvard University, Professor N.C. Narayanan, Author and Transformation Catalyst, Mr. Mangala Yapa, Managing Director of the Agency for Development of the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade, Mr. Conrad Dias, Chief Information Officer of LOLC Group and Mr. Vidura Ralapanawe, General Manager of Environmental Sustainability of MAS Intimates.

A large number of research presentations were made on the given conference tracks, and ICBM 2017 was successfully completed with the participation of many national and international scholars and practitioners.



## Conferences and Research

### International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches (iCMA) 2017

iCMA 2017 was organized this year at HikkaTranz, Hikkaduwa from 20th to 22nd September. The theme of the conference was "Sustainable Development through Multidisciplinary Research". In 2017, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, National Science Foundation also joined as co-partners. Hon.Susil Premjayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research, graced the occasion as the chief guest and Prof Paul Sanders of Queensland University, Australia was present as the Keynote Speaker. Prof. Paul Sanders addressing the conference spoke about importance of public space for enhanced resilience of urban areas.

In this international conference planned for the fourth time, 165 researchers presented their findings under different disciplines; Engineering, Technology & Physical Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, Management, Commerce & Industry Development, Health Sciences & Nutrition, Environmental Sustainability, Green Innovation & Natural Resources Management and Natural & Life Sciences.

In addition to the above, Prof. Seow Ta Wee from University of Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia, Prof. Sagadevan Munree of Queensland University of Technology, Australia, Prof. Anu Rammohan from University

of Western Australia, Dr. MadhavKarki from Environment Protection Council, Nepal and Mr Zachary Lomo from York University, Canada presented guest lectures under the themes of Agriculture in Transition, Food Security and Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Life Styles towards Lasting Happiness, Sustainable Cities and Communities Innovation and Green Industry Development, Education towards Better Informed Community and Role of Eco System Services for Sustainable Development.



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## Conferences and Research

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### International Conference on Drug Discovery & Development (ICDD 2017)

The International Conference on Drug Discovery and Development (ICDD 2017) under the theme "Medicines for the 21st Century" was held on 12th and 13th September 2017 in Colombo. Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was the hosting partner for this event this year, and a committee comprising of the following academics attached to the Department of Pharmacology and the B.Pharm Degree Program, Department of Allied Health Sciences, FMS, USJ contributed.

The conference chair was Dr. Gareth Williams from the School of Pharmacy, University College London, and he also delivered the keynote speech on "Polymer Nano-materials for Drug Delivery and Tissue Engineering" which was an inspiring experience for the participants. Two other keynote speeches, "Natural Products for Medicines in the 21st century" by Prof. Priyani Ashoka Paranagama, University of Kelaniya, and "Getting There in a Better Way" by Dr. Rohini M. de Silva, University of Colombo, also added to the scientific vigor. Plenary speeches were delivered by Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy, B.Pharm Degree Program, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe, Senior Research Scientist, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC). Plenary by Dr. Wijayabandara, representing the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was on the topic, "Discovery of Immunomodulators through Nature Inspired Thinking", and was based on his very own research experiences on discovery of drug substances from natural sources of Sri Lanka.

This conference was one of the very limited opportunities for participants to experience and share knowledge exclusively on drug discovery and nanotechnology which was well appreciated.

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### 2nd Folklore Research Conference

Second Folklore Research Conference organised by Art Assembly and Cultural Centre of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on 15th December 2017. This year's conference was chaired by Dr. Praneeth Abeysundara, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, with the support from the secretary, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The coordinator of the conference was Ms. Mayuri Thennakoon from the Cultural Centre.

Inauguration Ceremony of the conference was graced by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, Mr. A. Senanayaka, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs and the Guest Speaker of the Conference, Dr. Jayantha Jayasiri, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Dr. Janak Kumarasinghe, Treasurer of the Conference. Academic and Non Academic members of the University also participated in the event.

The theme of this year's conference was "Former Wisdom and Qualities for Today's Coexistence". The tracks ranged from Food Culture, Folk life – Folk Songs, Folk Dancing, Folk Tales, Folk Drama, Folk Medicine, Traditional art and Craft, Folk Religion, Rituals and Magic, Plant and Animal Lore etc. About 13 universities and

institutions of the country represented while 150 abstracts were presented in the conference.

A cultural show and the award ceremony were held with traditional mask performances such as, "Naga Raksha", "Anabera Kolama", "Salu Paliya" etc. This year's 'Best Poster Presentation Award' was achieved by Dr. Gamini Ranasinghe from the Department of History and Archaeology for his paper titled "Ms. K. H. M. Rasika Darshani Malkanthi from the University of Ruhuna was awarded with the 'Best Abstract Award' for her research abstract titled "Ancient Village Society evidenced from the Sokari Drama; with reference to the Ridimaliyadda Grama Niladhari Division".

## Conferences and Research

### 13th International Conference on Pali and Buddhist Studies – 2017

13th International Conference on Pali and Buddhist Studies 2017, organized by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, was held on 6th December 2017 at Sumangala Reading Hall.



Keynote speaker of this year's conference was Prof. Maeshiro Teruaki from the Buddhist University in Kyoto, Japan. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences participated in the inauguration ceremony of the conference.

Dr. Dunesh Gunathilake, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences chaired the conference with the support of Dr. Nimal Wasantha Mendis, Senior Lecturer in the aforesaid Department as the secretary. Research papers on various themes under Pali and Buddhist studies including Pali Language and Literature, Buddhist Philosophy, Buddhist Culture & Civilization, Meditation, Buddhist Philosophy and Counseling, Amoghavajra Studies etc., were presented by participants who represented national and international universities and institutes.



### 22nd International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2017



Fulfilling its mission for the 22nd consecutive year "22nd International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2017" organized by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on 10th and 11th of November 2017 at Tangerine Beach Hotel, Waskaduwa.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage and several Heads of the Departments, Professors and academic members took part in this symposium.

Prof. Naoto Kamata, Director, University of Hokkaido Forest, The University of Tokyo Forests, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences was the keynote speaker for the event. Theme talks were delivered by the Asst. Prof. Nobuaki Tanaka, Ecohydrology Research Institute, The University of Tokyo Forests, Graduate School

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of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo and Mr. Zuzhang Xia, Forestry Officer (Wood Energy), Food and Agriculture Organization.

Around 140 new key research findings under the themes of Forest & Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity and Ecological Health, Climate Change & Disaster Management, Sustainable Land Use and Urban Development, Biomass and Sustainable Energy, Waste Management and Pollution Control, Wood Science, Wood and Non-wood Industry, Environmental Economics in Resource Management, Geology, Soil and Water Resource Management, Environmental Engineering and Green Technology and Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Tourism were presented by the scholars. Local and foreign participants including key government officials, academics, researchers and business leaders in forestry and environment sectors participated in the event.

The symposium was chaired by Dr. Prasanthi Gunawardena, Head, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science. Dr. S. M. C. U. P. Subasinghe and Dr. G. G. T. Chandrathilake were the coordinators of the 22nd International Forestry and Environment Symposium.

This year's symposium was co-organized with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and University of Sri Jayawardenepura. Sustainable Biomass Energy Project, Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy and Tokyo Cement Group shared the platinum partnership of the event. In addition, State Timber Corporation, Green Force Agriculture (Pvt) Limited and Control Union Inspections (Pvt) Ltd shared the gold partnership.



### Inaugural ceremony of "Tradmed 2017"



Inaugural ceremony of the Tradmed International Sri Lanka, International Symposium on Traditional and Complementary Medicine, Educational Exhibition and trade fair jointly organized by the Health Ministry, the World Health Organization and the University of Sri Jayawardenepura was held on 24th November 2017 at the Waters Edge, Battaramulla.

President Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health, Rajitha Senaratne, Minister, Susil Premajayantha, Secretary to the Health Ministry, Janaka Sugathadasa, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Jayasundara Bandara, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and the Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region, Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Professor in the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the University of Sri

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Jayewardeneperura, Prof. Ranil De Silva, Co-Chair of the "TradMed International 2017" were among those participated in this occasion.

In the exhibition and Trade fair, at about 300-500 of local and international exhibitors displayed their products and practices related to a wide range of plant based drugs, supplements, nutraceuticals cosmetics & related products.

The International Symposium was a premier interdisciplinary platform to present and discuss the most recent research evidence and innovations, and to discuss concerns and practical challenges encountered with a panel of specially selected internationally and locally reputed researchers and practitioners.

### The First Student Research Conference

The first student conference in Finance organized by the Department of Finance was held at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce on 24th of November 2017.

Conducting a research study as part of their degree program is not compulsory for finance students under the present curriculum. Consequently, many students tend to take practical training or alternative subjects deviating from research. Having identified this deviation, the department introduced many strategies to motivate students to conduct a research study in their final semester. The department publishes the research agenda of the academic staff members of the department at the start of the semester, divides the final year students among the senior academics for consultation in proposal writing and helps them choose a good research topic and conducts a series of workshops on data search, data analysis and academic writing. The Student Conference in Finance is another strategy implemented by the department in order to develop an interest for research among the students, using it as a means of rewarding them for taking the challenge of conducting a research study.

At this year's conference, fourteen students who conducted research as part of their degree program in 2016 presented their work. The chief guest of the occasion was Prof. Lalith P. Samarakoon and the Key note Speech was made by Emeritus Professor. W. M. A. Bandara. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amarathunge graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Key personnel from the Finance industry were invited to participate in this event. Students representing twelve other Finance departments of twelve national universities were also invited. The Heads of other departments were also present.

The day's events started with the university anthem and students taking over the event by welcoming the guests. The Vice Chancellor emphasized the need for allocating funds for research and praised the department for organizing an event of that nature. Enhancing soft skills was the emphasis of the keynote speech and the chief guest emphasized the importance of research.

Students benefited by sharing their research findings, receiving detailed feedback from the intellectuals gathered, an opportunity to sharpen their communication and presentation skills and making it an occasion to make their very first publication.

The department expects to continue the conference as an annual event. This year's event was organized by Dr. (Ms.) R. P. C. R. Rajapakse with the support of the Head of the Department of Finance, Prof. D. B. P. H. DissaBandara. The review team for the conference was, Prof. D. B. P. H. DissaBandara, Prof. Y.K.Weerakoon Banda, Dr. (Ms.) R. P. C. R. Rajapakse, Dr. K. L.W. Perera, and Dr. (Ms.) P.A.N.S. Anuradha.



## Contribution to the National Development

### Emeritus Professor Gita Fernando - President of the Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT)

Emeritus Professor Gita Fernando, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was inducted as the President of the Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT) for the year 2017/2018 at the President's Induction Ceremony held on 13th October 2017



at the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) auditorium.

### President of Sri Lanka Library Association 2027/ 2028

Dr. NayanaWiyasundara, Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was appointed as the President of Sri Lanka Library Association 2027/ 2028 at the Annual General Meeting held on 29 and 30 September, 2017.

### Dr. Hasini Banneheke elected as the Secretary of SLMA 2018

Dr. Hasini Banneheke was elected as the Honorable Secretary of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) for 2018 at the AGM held in December 2017. She also serves as the Secretary of Expert Committee on Communicable Diseases of the SLMA since 2015 to date, and was the Chief Editor of the SLMA Newsletter in 2016.



### Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara - Newly Appointed Director of BMARI

Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara, Former Coordinator of the Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree Program, Faculty of Medical Sciences was appointed to the post of Director of Bandaranayake Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute (BMARI) by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine.

In the quest of advancing scientific research in the Ayurvedic system of Medicine, Dr. Wijayabandara's appointment would mark a paradigm shift through reconciliation of traditional and modern strategies of disease management which will take Pharmaceutical research in Sri Lanka to new dimensions.

## Awards

### Twenty Seven Academics of University of Sri Jayewardenepura win Presidential Awards for Scientific Publication

The President's Awards for Scientific Publication was held on 6th November 2017. This year, twenty seven scientists of University of Sri Jayewardenepura received awards for their research, published in 2015. The ceremony was graced by His Excellency the President and the Hon. State Minister of Science, Technology and Research.

The award ceremony organized by the National Research Council is the country's most prestigious of its kind in the field of science. Through these awards the council hopes to promote and support scientists in Sri Lanka. Selection is done in a wider range of categories allowing the expected encouragement to be received by all local scientists.

Following are the awardees from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Prof. M. M. Pathmalal



Prof. K. D. Gunawardana



Prof. N. Kottegoda



Dr. T. G. I. Fernando



Dr. Upul Subasinghe



Dr. S. Fernando



Prof. L. D. C. Peiris



Dr. C. Jeewandara



Prof. Neelika Malavige



Dr. D. T. Jayawardana



Dr. M. M. Weerasesara



Dr. S. Prathapan



## Awards



Prof. C. A. Wanigatunge



Dr. S. Ranasinghe



Ms. A. Kamaladasa



Prof. S. S. N. Fernando



Dr. C. P. Gunasekara



Ms. T. N. Adikari



Mr. L. Gomes



Dr. N. L. A. Shyamali

### NRC Merit award for Dr. A. A. T. D. Amarasekara

Dr. A. A. Thamara Dilhani Amarasekara was awarded an NRC Merit award for scientific research publication in the year 2015 from the National Research Council, Sri Lanka.



### Kala Shuri Dr. Praneeth Abeysondara wins Golden Award for best lyrics

**Kala Shuri Dr. Praneeth  
Abeysondara**

**Wins Golden Award for the  
Theme Song of "Paththini" at  
Signis Film Festivals 2017**

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Kala Shuri, Dr. Praneeth Abeysondara, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology won the Golden Award (SwarnaSammana) for best lyrics for the theme song of "Paththini Devi" in the film "Paththini" directed by Prof. Sunil Ariyaratne. This award was won at the Signs Film Festival 2017 held at NelumPokuna (Lotus Pond). This song's lyrics were composed by Dr. Praneeth Abeysondara, Music was by Dr. Rohana Weerasinghe and Dr. Nanda Malini was the artist.

## Awards



### E – Swabhimani IT awards for Department of Computer Science

Two projects conducted by the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences, won E-Swabhimani 2017 awards presented by the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) on 30th November 2017 at the Galdari Hotel, Colombo.

Ms. Harini Wijesinghe, a past student of the B.Sc. (Hons) in Applied Sciences and the team, won a certificate for developing a computer system, titled "Gift of Life", that can be used to store information about blood donors and intended recipients.

Mr. Malinda Punchimudiyanse, a Ph.D. student and the team, won an award for developing an interactive software that can translate Sinhala text to Sinhala sign language funded by the National Science Foundation. The project was titled as "චූඡ්චූඡ".

The two projects were supervised by Prof. R. G. N. Meegama of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences.



# News

## Professor Sampath Amaratunge reappointed as the Vice-Chancellor

Prof. SampathAmaratunge was reappointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura by His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena on 10th November at the Presidential Secretariat. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge will assume duties as the Vice-Chancellor on 16th November 2017 at Vice Chancellor's office of the University.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge assumed duties as the new Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 16th November 2017 amidst invoking blessings by the Maha Sangha headed by Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana thero, Previous Chancellor of the university. Prior to the Induction ceremony Prof. Sampath Amaratunge observed the five precepts in front of the University Budu Madura and obtained blessings from Reverend Weliwitiye Sri Soratha Thero and most venerable Reverend Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero.



## Special Psychology Workshop Organised by the Union of the Philosophy and Psychology

Special Psychology workshop on behalf of the World Mental Health Week was organised by the union of the Philosophy and Psychology in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and was held on 12th October 2017 at the Bandaranayake Hall of the University.

Prime resource-person of the workshop was Prof. W. A. G. Perera, Professor in the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. W. A. G. Perera conducted lectures on music therapy, hypnotherapy as well as psychological performances and short movies which are capable in enhancing mental health of individuals were also played and screened.

Prof. Saman Chandra Ranasinghe, Professor in Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts, Dr. W. M. Yaparathne, Dr. Asha Nimali Fernando and Mr. Aruna Shantha Walpola academics of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies undergraduates of the Faculty participated in the workshop.



# News

## Using Big Data for Predictive Analytics in Health Care

Dr. Sudha Ram from the Department of MIS, Eller College of Management, University of Arizona visited Faculty of Graduate Studies to deliver a guest lecture under the title of "Using Big Data for Predictive Analytics in Health Care" on 4th December, 2017.

The phenomenal growth of social media, mobile applications, sensor based technologies and Internet of things is generating a flood of "Big Data" and disrupting our world in many ways. Talk was on the paradigm shift caused by Big Data and how to harness its power to create smarter world for health care. It was focused on examples from developing predictive models using streaming sensor and social media data sets combined with healthcare records. The talk highlighted research challenges and opportunities for extracting value from Big Data specifically for population and personalized health care.



## Soft Skills Development Seminar for Management Undergraduates

Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce organized a special seminar series for its undergraduates with the purpose of developing their skills, capabilities and attitudes. The 5th programme of the seminar series was held on 22nd November 2017 at the Fayol Hall of the Sri Soratha Building.

Resource person of the seminar was, Mr. Mahendra Jayasekara, Managing Director of Lanka Tiles PLC, Lanka Walties PLC, Lanka Ceramics PLC, Swisslek (Ceylon) PLC. Several Academic members including, Dr. Sudath Manjula Amarasena in the Department of Decision Science in the Faculty of Management and Commerce participated in the seminar programme.



## News



### Soft Skills Development Program of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Soft Skills training workshop for selected 150 final year students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was taken place on 25th September 2017 at Janaki Hotel. This workshop was organised by the Soft skills Development Unit of the Faculty with the contribution of Mrs. Sandya Salgadu. Main objective of the workshop was to develop knowledge and skills which are necessary in balancing undergraduate's future work life.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. W. M. Yaparathna, Chairman, Soft Skills Development Unit, Rev. Dambara Amila, Committee Member of the Soft skills unit as well as Dr. Shirantha Heenkenda, Internship Director (Faculty Coordinator) participated in the workshop.

Ms. Nayana Munasinghe and Mr. Irushi Aluvihare conducted lectures to undergraduates under the topics of 'Developing a Positive Attitude', 'Business and Dining Etiquette', 'Personal grooming', 'Hygiene and Dress Code' and 'How to Face an interview and win your dream'.

### "Shadows of Success" Lecture Series "භෂන්කම් ගොන්කම් සහ පුරසාරම්" by Mr. Jackson Anthony

"Shadows of Success" is a novel concept of the Career Skills Development Society of the Career Guidance Unit. This programme involves a series of workshops that would feature notable personalities of the country who have thrived as professionals in their respective fields, gaining much respect and admiration.

First workshop of the "Shadows of Success" workshop series was conducted by Mr. Jackson Anthony, actor, producer, director, lyrics writer, screen play writer, on "භෂන්කම් ගොන්කම් සහ පුරසාරම්" on 6th December at the Munasinghe Hall of the University. This programme aims to provide a sense of direction to our students guiding them in making advantageous career choices with more conviction.



## News

### Three Day Intensive Short Course on Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis of Data

Faculty of Graduate Studies successfully organized a 3 day Intensive Short Course on Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis of Data on 22nd, 23rd & 24th of November, 2017 with participation of 15 participants where 9 of them were from USJP and others from external universities & institutes. Experimental design & observational studies, multivariate statistics, quantitative data analysis using variety of statistical tools and qualitative data analysis using Atlas.ti software were covered during this course. Mr. P. Dias, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, USJP, Mrs. Dileepa Endagamage, Department of Decision Science, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, USJP and Prof. Samantha Thelijjagoda, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIT) joined as resource persons of this course.



### Workshop on "Obtaining ethical approval for animal and human studies involving plant materials and herbal products"

Faculty of Graduate Studies together with Research center for plant materials and herbal products conducted a workshop on "Obtaining ethical approval for animal and human studies involving plant materials and herbal products". This was conducted on 8th of November, at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Many graduate and undergraduate students as well as academics participated in this event. Resource persons of this workshop were Prof. (Mrs.) Sugandhika Suresh and Dr. Vajira Seneviratne.

**Workshop on  
Obtaining ethical approval for  
animal and human studies involving  
plant materials and herbal products**

*Jointly Organized by*  
Research Centre for  
Plant Materials & Herbal Products  
&  
Faculty of Graduate Studies,  
University of Sri Jayawardenepura

**Speakers**

 **Prof. (Mrs.) Sugandhika Suresh**  
Head Dept. of Biochemistry  
Faculty of Medical Sciences  
University of Sri Jayawardenepura

 **Dr. Vajira Seneviratne**  
Consultant: Siv Scientist (Pharm Chemistry)  
University of Colombo  
Ayurveda Research Institute  
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka

**For : Undergraduates / Postgraduates / Academics**

**Venue:** Seminar Room 1, Faculty of Graduate Studies  
**Date:** 08<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
**Time:** 9:00am - 12:30pm

**FREE**  
Registration

For Registrations: (31st or before 8<sup>th</sup> November),  
Mr. Ashan Dissanayake  
077 526 29 16 / ashand@ug.ac.lk

### Research Progress Seminar – BOS in Life Sciences

Second Research Progress Seminar for the year 2017 of the Board of Studies in Life Sciences was held at Seminar Room 1, Faculty of Graduate Studies on 8th of December 2017. Twelve PhD and MPhil students presented their research progress in this seminar in the fields of Zoology, Chemistry, Botany, Food Science & Technology and Forestry and Environmental Sciences. Academics within the university and from other universities participated in this seminar to give their valuable comments for the students to improve their research work.



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## News

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### Research Assembly of Postgraduate Students



First research assembly of the Postgraduate Students of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), USJP was held on December 11th, 2017 at Aqua Pearl Lake Resort, Moratuwa. The intention of this program was to provide a forum for the participants to enhance their awareness and understanding of the revised guidelines of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the Postgraduate Programs, the facilities available in the University and outside in connection with sourcing of literature, financial assistance for the course fees and also to publish their work, participate in research conferences. Students also got the opportunity to clarify their questions and concerns with regards to their studies. Also there was an experience sharing session of their postgraduate journey and interactive session to get to know each other well. Sampath bank joined hands with FGS as the principal sponsor for this even to make a success.



Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe delivered a speech on "an insight to the Revised Guidelines for postgraduate Studies" followed by a discussion facilitated by the Dean, Deputy Registrar and study board chairpersons to answer the questions forwarded by students. Mr. Lalith Weragoda, Human Resources Manager, Sampath Bank presented University Industry Collaboration and financial facilitations available for research students. Prof. Sirimalee Fernando, Chairperson, National Science Foundation & Prof. Padmalal Manage, Co-Chair, University Research Council spoke about "how to procure grants and conduct postgraduate research in Sri Lanka and internationally" & "the facilities offered by the University to research students and staff" respectively. Facilities available at FGS for the postgraduate students were presented by Mr. Mohomad Atheeq, Temporary Instructor, FGS.

In the evening session, "Developing cooperation and support among students through networking exercise" was conducted by a veteran trainer and a Management Consultant, Mr. Maxwell Ranasinghe. Prof. Chamalie Nahallage, Chairperson, Board of Studies in Social Sciences, FGS delivered a lecture on "Challenges of completing graduate studies". Finally, "Devising a plan to complete graduate studies within the stipulated time and how to enhance the contribution of students to the FGS and University during and after the studies" conducted by Mr. Uditha Senaratne, Consultant at the FGS.

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## News

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### Prof. Sue Turale Visits the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP

Professor Sue Turale RN, DEd, FACNA FACMHN from Australia visited Sri Lanka from 10th-17th October 2017. She is the Editor of International Nursing Review, the official journal of the International Council of Nurses in Geneva, Switzerland and is a visiting professor in several universities in Asian countries. During her visit, Professor Turale conducted workshops on writing of manuscripts for journal publication and on different aspects of qualitative research, including mixed method research. The workshops were well attended and the audience included graduate students from many universities in Sri Lanka and academic faculty. The "Workshop on Qualitative Research and Assessment of Respiratory Functions" held on 11th October 2017 was organized by the Department of Physiology and Nursing Unit of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with the Primary Care Respiratory Group of Sri Lanka. The seminar on the 12th October 2017 was organised by the Staff Development Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Furthermore, Professor Turale had discussions with Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and the Coordinator and academic staff of the nursing program regarding developing a masters degree programme for nurses in Sri Lanka.



### INCEPTION 2018 - Annual Career Fair

Guest lecture series organized concurrently to the INCEPTION 2018 - Annual Career Fair, by Marketing Management Association of Department of Marketing Management in the Faculty of Management and Commerce was held on 19th December at the Taylor Hall of the Faculty. Guest lecture was conducted by Mr. Niranjana Perera focusing on the areas such as, CV preparation, interview facing, job stress handling, career selection, personality building etc., that are important for the marketing undergraduates in their future career development.



Its second guest lecture was held on 21st December at the Taylor Hall of the FMSC which was conducted by Mr. Dilshan Perera. Dr. K. P. Lalith Chandralal, Head of the Department of Marketing Management also participated in the lecture and appreciated the contribution made by Mr. Dilshan Perera for the undergraduate students in developing their knowledge on selecting a marketing career.



## News

### Workshop for Research Dictionary Project by Multi-Disciplinary Research Center

Workshop for Research Dictionary Project was conducted by Multi-Disciplinary Research Center of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences on 22nd December 2017 at the board room of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, Director of MDRC and Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ven. Prof. Madagampitiye Vijitha Damma, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Ven. Dr. Pinnawala Sangasumana, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography, Prof. Rathnasiri Arangalla, Professor in the Department of Sinhala and Mass-communication, Prof. Tennyson Perera, Prof. Rathna Wijethunge, Prof. Ashoka Premarathna, Prof. Ananda Thissakumara, Dr. W. B. A. Witharana, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts, Mr. Ganushka Randula and many other reputed academics participated in the workshop.



## News

### Workshop on Sustainability Leadership Development

Center for Sustainability of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science organized a two day workshop on Sustainability Leadership Development in Collaboration with the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, targeting undergraduate students of the university on 19th and 20th December 2017. This workshop held at the Faculty Board Room Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



### Field Workshop on Forest Ecology for DWC Range Officers

The Center for Sustainability of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science conducted a 4 day field course on Forest Ecology and Plant Taxonomy for Range Officers of the Department of Wildlife Conservation from 3rd to 7th October 2017 at Yagirala Forest Research and Conservation Education Center. The workshop was conducted as a part of the DWC diploma for range officers.



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## News

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### Curricular Revision of the Department of Statistics

Department of Statistics successfully completed one day workshop on curriculum revision for the degree program of B.Sc Honors in Statistics on November 23, 2017 at the Kithulkanda Resort, Padukka. The main objectives of the workshop were to streamline the courses to make sure that no repetitions in subsequent courses, discuss in detail the content of the course, integrate technological and conceptual pedagogies for better comprehension, retention and creative/critical application and to discuss in detail that program meets the requirements of subject bench statements (SBS) of Statistics. All the senior members of the department actively participated in the workshop and the workshop was chaired by the Head of the Department of Statistics, Dr. Chitraka Wickramachchi.



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### Ceremonial Establishment of the Department of Sports Science

The opening ceremony of the novel department "Department of Sports Science" of the Faculty of Applied Sciences was taken place on 7th December 2017 with the blessings of Mahasangha. Prof. Sampath Amaraturge, Vice Chancellor graced the ceremony as the chief guest. Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences and academic members as well as non-academic members of the faculty participated in the ceremony.



## News

### Opening Ceremony of the Center for Evaluation

Opening ceremony of the "Center for Evaluation" was held on 15th November 2017. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura graced the event as the chief guest. The ceremony was attended by university professors, academic staff, representatives from UNICEF, evaluation community, representatives from the government organizations and other stakeholders. In the speech at the inauguration, the Vice Chancellor extended his full support for establishment of the Center. This is the first center in South Asia region and few among in Asia. The vision of the Center is to ensure a well-developed evaluation culture through increased demand and use of evaluation. The mission is to promote high quality and ethical professional standards in evaluation through enhanced capacity at all levels.

The center is managed by an advisory panel, headed by the Director of the "Eval C", Mr. Asela Kulagampitiya. The center was made a reality with the contribution of the UNICEF with its financial support, Ms. Isha Miranda Wedasinghe and the staff of the Department of Community Medicine.



### Incorporation of three dimensional digital technology to Anatomy Dissection halls

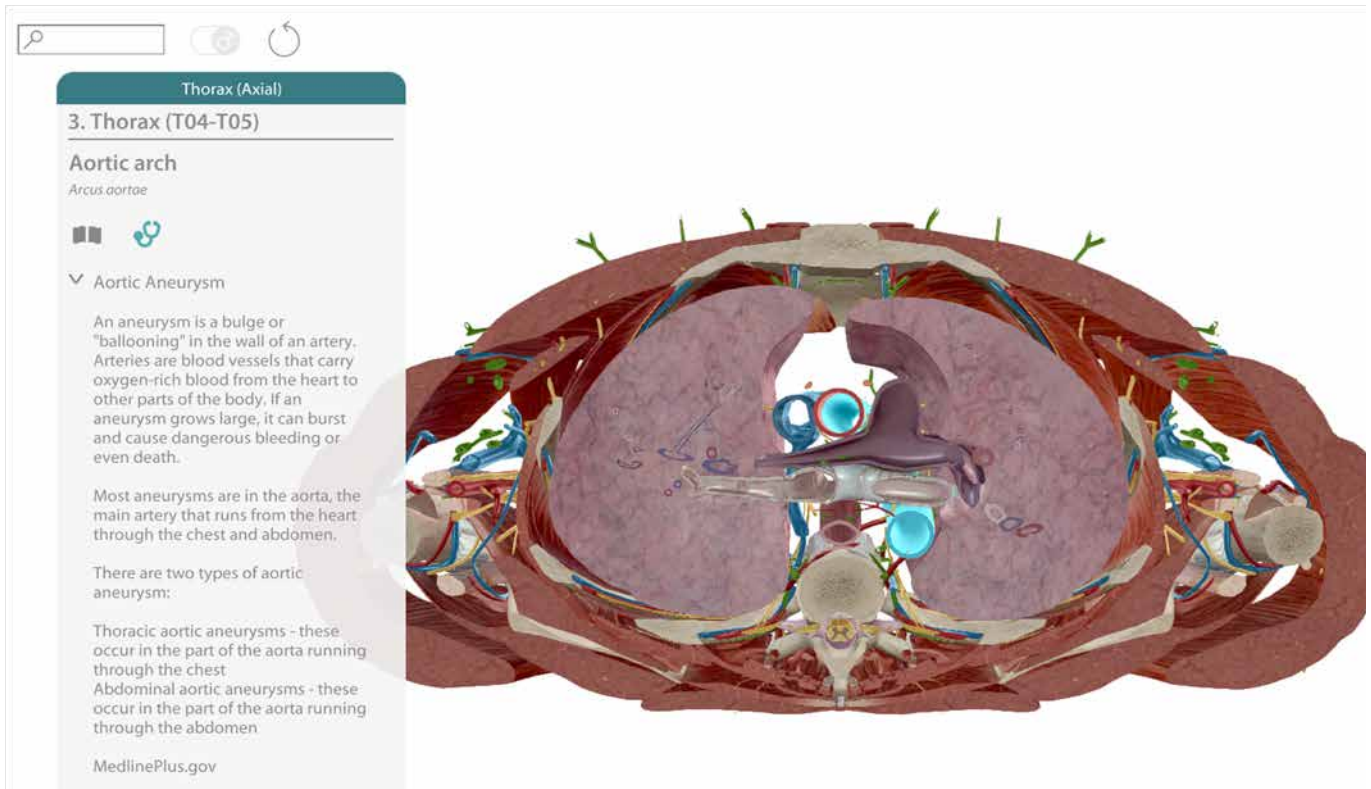
Anatomy dissection is one of the major components in undergraduate preclinical teaching. With the introduction of reformed curricular in medical, dental and other allied health faculties, most faculties have reduced the total hours allocated for anatomy dissections. These changes have been continuously debated upon, and triggered the introduction of innovative teaching and learning strategies in anatomy. Learning from the failures and consequences of reducing time for anatomy dissection experienced in other countries, the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, initiated to incorporate three dimensional digital technology to Anatomy dissection halls to augment the efficacy of anatomy teaching without compromising on dissection hours.

Anatomy is a discipline where spatial visualization is of importance. Students need to learn not just anatomical structures and functions but also spatial relationships to surrounding structures. Therefore, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Lecturer from Department of Anatomy under the guidance of Dr. P.H. Dissanayake, Head, Department of Anatomy,



and Prof. S.G Yasewardene, Dean, FMS, embarked on this project. During the initial phase, four 55 inch LED panels were installed and networked in the dissection halls. In the second phase, the Department of Anatomy started using commercially available recommended software and Anatomy videos to teach anatomy during cadaver dissections. The department provides 3D glasses to students during these demonstration sessions.

## News



Dissection schedules are given in advance and students are expected to come prepared. Initial 15 minutes of the dissection time is used to give an overview of the area to be covered utilizing the 3D software in LED panels and student queries are discussed and resolved. During dissections, if there are variations or proper/clean dissections, they are transmitted live through all LED panels. This has helped students easy visualizing and understanding. The difficult areas of dissection are explained directly using the 3D software for better understanding. Teaching of cross sectional anatomy, radiological demonstration and bone demonstration has become more effective and productive after installation of the three dimensional LED panels. Since the commercially available software has shown to be more productive in teaching, the Department of Anatomy has purchased and installed it to all the computers at the IT laboratory for students to further pursue on learning these areas on their own.

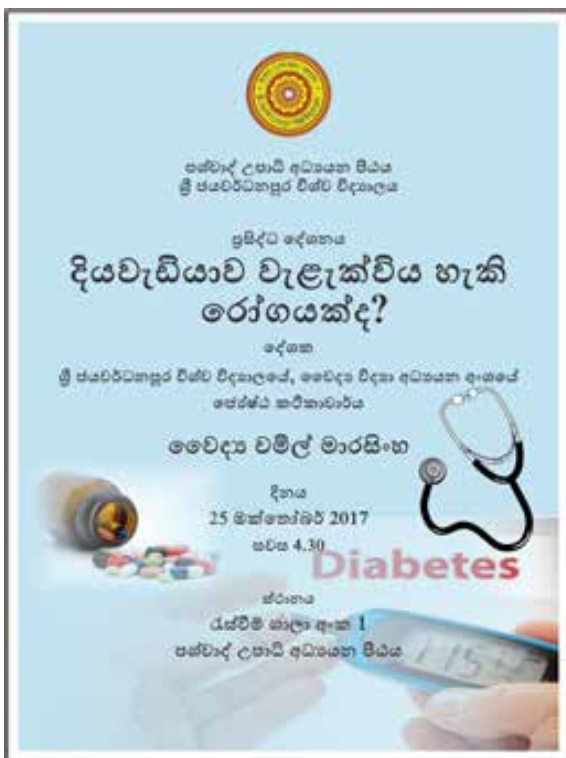
Currently, the Department of Anatomy is also utilizing the three dimensional digital technologies for research, and for actual case based discussions during the pre-clinical period.



# News

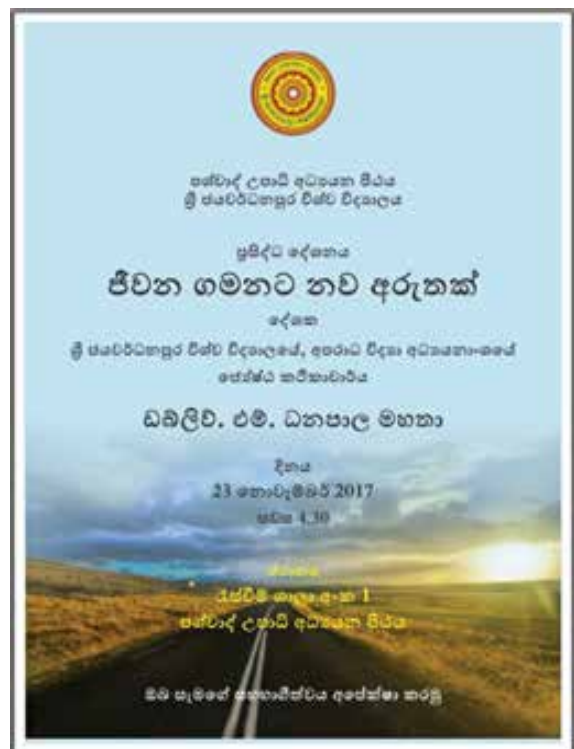
## Public Talk on “Can Diabetes be Prevented?”

Dr. Chamil Marasinghe, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences delivered a speech on “Can Diabetes be prevented?” on 25th of October, 2017 at the Seminar Room 1. During his speech he explained what diabetes is, what causes diabetes and how it can be prevented. After the speech, there was a discussion where participants brought forward their questions.



## Public Talk on “New meaning to the Journey of Life”

Public talk of the month of November was conducted by Mr. W. M. Dhanapala, Senior Lecturer, Department of Criminology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, USJP on 23rd November 2017. He explained how a new meaning can be added to life using the theory of five Buddhist precepts. Many academic and non-academic staff members participated in this event.



## News

### Pre-Symposium Workshop in parallel to the "TradMed International 2017"



A Pre-Symposium workshop, organized by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in parallel to the International Conference on Traditional Medicine, Educational Exhibition and Trade Fair 2017, (TradMed International 2017), Sri Lanka was held on 22nd November 2017 at the University premises and was themed as "Bridging Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine – A Multidisciplinary Approach".

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Ranil De Silva, Co-Chair of the 'TradMed International 2017', and several Featured Speakers, Keynote Speakers, Plenary Speakers of the TradMedInternational 2017, such as Dr. Rathnayake M. Abeyrathne, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Harry Steinbusch, Professor in Cellular Neuroscience, Consortium Leader EURON – European Graduate School of Neuroscience, President Neurotoxicity Society and Dr. Mitali Mukerji Senior Principal Scientist, Genomics and Molecular Medicine & Programme Director, CSIR-Ayurgenomics Unit, TRISUTRA Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology participated in the Pre-Symposium Workshop.



The Pre-Symposium workshop facilitated opportunities to explore the newest technologies available in molecular biology and molecular diagnostics, phytochemical analysis and microscopy which are applicable for the development of natural/ herbal based drugs.

There were parallel interactive and brainstorming sessions under the following categories in the workshop, such as, Chemistry, Botany, Molecular biology, Microscopy. A session on double doctorate opportunities with EURON and a Brainstorming Session on Private-Public partnerships, participated by international and national entrepreneurs in the field of herbal/natural product were organized apart from technical sessions.

The Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, in collaboration with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and World Health Organization organized the International Conference on Traditional Medicine, Educational Exhibition and Trade Fair 2017, TradMed International 2017, Sri Lanka on the 23rd-25th of November 2017 at Water's Edge, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

# News

## Training in India for undergraduates of the Department of History and Archaeology

Prior to the participation for a special archaeological training in India, undergraduates of the Department of History and Archaeology met Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Meantime, Vice Chancellor conferred air tickets to undergraduates who had been selected to the training programme in India. Ven. Dambara Amila, Senior Lecturer of the Department, Dr. K. M. Alexandar, Head of the Department, Dr. Gamini Ranasingha, Senior Lecturer of the Department also participated in the meeting.



## “Speech Masters 2017”

“Speech Master 2017” is an Inter Department Speech Competition organised by the Soft Skills Development Unit of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The final round of the competition was held on 13th December 2017 at the Sumangala reading Hall. Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication (Sinhala medium category) and Department of English (English medium category) became winners after a competitive contest. Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. W. M. Yaparathne, Chairman of the SSDD, Dr. K. M. Alexander, Secretary of the SSDD, and academic members of the faculty participated in the final round.





## News

### 35th Annual General Meeting of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the University Librarians Association (ULA) was held on 29th September 2017 at the Seminar room, Surgery Department of Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event as the chief guest.



### The Oath Ceremony of B.Sc. Nursing Students of the 11th Batch (2014/2015)

The Oath taking ceremony of the 11th Batch (2014/2015) of B.Sc. Nursing students was held at the Anatomy Auditorium, Faculty of Medical Sciences on 10th August, 2017. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. W.M. Ariyaseeli, Director, Nursing Education, Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine. The Oath was taken by the nursing students in their 2nd year after successfully completing the theoretical and practical components of the subject, 'Fundamentals of Nursing' in their Part I examination. It is a solemn ceremony where the nursing undergraduates take their oath after receiving their cap and the lamp.



Photographer: Enuka Jayalath  
OATH CEREMONY 2017  
Faculty of medical sciences,  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Photographer: Enuka Jayalath  
OATH CEREMONY 2017  
Faculty of medical sciences,  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

## News

### Public awareness programme by the Cancer Research Centre

University of Sri Jayewardenepura was a collaborative partner of the TradMed International 2017, Sri Lanka – an International Symposium on Traditional and Complementary Medicine, Educational Exhibition & Trade Fair – 2017, which was organized by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine.

A public awareness programme was conducted by the Cancer Research Centre at the TradMed International 2017, Educational exhibition and Trade Fair. Information sheets and leaflets on breast, lung and cervical cancer were distributed among the visitors. "FAQ session" on cancer was conducted by the subcommittee members of the research centre.



### University Investment Day 2017

University Investment Day 2017 organized by the Department of Finance on 12th December 2017 opened a platform for youth to connect with some of Sri Lanka's authoritative institutions of Finance such as, SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka) and CSE (Colombo Stock Exchange).

Professor Sampath Amaratunge who was present at the event said that he was pleased that such an initiative had been taken to introduce youth to the Finance sector at an early age. Dr. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Management Faculty and several academics of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce attended the event.



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## News

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### English Day by English Language Society

The English Day organized by the English Language Society (ELS) of the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) was held in a simple but elegant manner in the Banadaranayaka Hall of the University on the 20th December 2017 under the patronage of the Head, ELTU and Lecturers attached to the ELTU. English Day is an annual event organized by the ELS under the supervision of the ELTU staff to create a platform for the students to showcase their talents and develop their soft skills.



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### The English Day 2017 - Faculty of Applied Sciences

The English Day Programme 2017 organized by first year students of the Faculty of Applied Sciences at the end of the English Intensive Programme conducted by the English Language Teaching Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 9th of December 2017 at Science Auditorium.



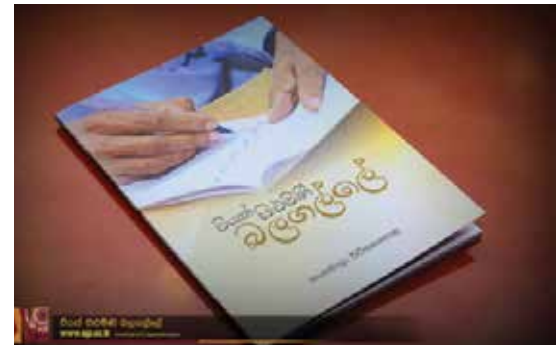
## Academic Discourse for Commemoration of Prof. W. G. Balagalle

Commemorating the 93rd birthday of one of the most acclaimed Sri Lankan linguists in Sinhala Language Prof. Wimal G. Balagalla, a pioneer professor of the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Alumni Association of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organised an Academic Discourse. This event was held on 24th November 2017 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH).

Prof. Ven. Bellanwila Wimalarathana Thero, Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardhenepura, Prof. Sampatha Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Wimal G. Balagalla and Mrs. Balagalla, Mr. W. Wegapitiya, President

of the Alumni Association (USJP), Mr. Ranjith Iddamalgoda, National Organizer of the Alumni Association (USJP), the Honorable, Bandula Gunawardane, Member of the Parliament, Prof. Sunil Ariyaratne, Prof. J. B. Dissanayake, Dr. Nanda Malini, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, many academics and undergraduates of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and alumni members of the Alumni Association of the University participated in this academic discourse.

Concurrently, to the academic discourse, "Viyath Silumini Balagalle (වියත් සිළුමිනි බලගල්ලේ)" written by Ms. Hansamala Ritigahapola, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was launched and first copies of these book was awarded to Prof. Balagalle by the author.



## 5S workshop and field visit for the Staff of Faculty of Graduate Studies

A field visit was organized for the staff of Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) to Kotmale Divisional Secretariat office, which won the first place in National Productivity awards, to see how they implemented 5S concept in their workplace. A workshop was also conducted by the Kotmale Divisional Secretariat officers to share their success story with the FGS staff on 29th of November. The aim behind this visit was to create a road map to apply for the National Productivity awards in 2018 under the guidance of National Productivity Secretariat. An interactive session was held with the FGS staff members on 30th of November to



discuss and plan implementing 5S concept at FGS. This was facilitated by Mr. Uditha Senarathne, a veteran in lean management.



## Grand Final of RADIX 2017 by the Department of Business Economics

The Grand Finale of RADIX 2017, the first-ever inter-university dancing competition for management undergraduates organized by the Business Economics Students' Association (BIZCON) was held on 16th November 2017 at the Bandaranayake Hall of the university. This event was overwhelming with brilliant performances of six finalists namely Temptation, Ritmo Sevens and Phoenix from University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Absalute from University of Colombo, Roothal from University of Ruhuna and Waya BSF-A from Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Three legendary figures in the field of performing arts in the country, Mr. Channa Wijewardena, Mr. Kevin Nugara and Mr. Ranjith Priyanga were the distinguished panel of judges of the competition. Team 'Temptation' was awarded as the champions while team Absalute and team Phoenix were the first and second runners-up, respectively. The musical performances of Wayo band added more glamour to the event.



## Commencing Renovation of the Buddhist Shrine Room

Renovation of the Buddhist Shrine Room of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was started on 11th September 2017 at the university premises. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event as the chief guest. Deans, academic and non-academic members participated in the event.



## Prof. Dissabandara delivered a Keynote address at CSE Investor Forum

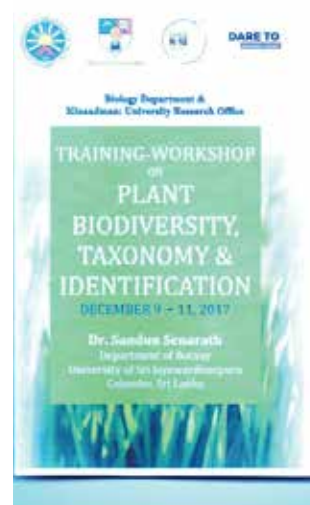
The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) jointly concluded another successful Investor Forum in Kandy. This forum was the fourth in the series and was held on 9th September at Queen's Hotel. More than 300 participants attended the Forum which was aimed at broad-basing the capital market by ensuring wider investor participation.

Prof. Hareendra Dissabandara, Professor in Finance, Head of the Department, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura delivered a keynote address on Macroeconomic overview and the Stock market at CSE Investor Forum.



## Prof. Sandun Senarath conducts a workshop at Xavier University, Philippines

Professor Sandun Senarath from the Department of Botany was invited as the Resource person to conduct a three day training workshop on Plant Biodiversity, Taxonomy and Identification by the leading university – Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro in Philippines. The workshop was sponsored by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), Philippines. The workshop was conducted in December 2017 from 9 -11 which continued to a short course on Medicinal plants. Training workshop mainly focused on sampling techniques and plant preservation other than the identification. The training workshop was well attended with over thirty personal which consisted of academics, technical staff, postgraduate students as well as official from other national institutes.



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## News

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### Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge represents Sri Lanka at 1st Belt and Road International Diabetes Forum in Chongqing, China

Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge, Chair Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Vice President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) together with three other medical delegates from SLMA, represented Sri Lanka at the 1st Belt and Road International Diabetes Forum in Chongqing, China held on 21-22nd November 2017. Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century maritime concept of enhancing economic cooperation and socio-cultural exchanges along the Belt and Road routes. Furthermore, this initiative is important in promoting close bonds among the nations in terms of sharing mutual knowledge and experiences in the areas of health, education, science and technology.

Prof. Wanigatunge, in her speech on the topic "Rational drug prescribing for diabetes in a lower middle income country from South Asia", elaborated on the practices and challenges faced by healthcare providers in the lower middle income countries in combating the pandemic of diabetes.

Prof. Wanigatunge's participation at this event was funded by the Overseas Travel Grant awarded by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, initiated by Vice Chancellor, Professor Sampath Amaratunge.



### MOU between USJP and Edith Cowan University

University of Sri Jayewardenepura signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with School of Medical and Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University Australia focusing on developing institutional linkage for clinical collaboration, student placement, teaching and research cooperation and assistance.

### Mr. Yuji Nishikawa, Representative of Japan Science and Technology Agency meets Vice Chancellor

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) is a research funding arm of Ministry of Education, Science & Technology (MEXT), and works closely with universities/ research institutes in and outside Japan.

Visit of Mr. Yuji Nishikawa, India Liaison Representative of JST to University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) was to search for future possibility of promoting joint research activities with JST paving way for postgraduate opportunities with Japan. A meeting was arranged with the Vice Chancellor of

# News

the USJP, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and Prof. Ranil de Silva, Director of the World Class University Project, USJP on the 29th November 2017.

This unique achievement will provide an opening towards exchange of students, faculty members and researchers with the objective of realizing research projects and joint publications. As a fruitful effort of this meeting in the near future, student exchange opportunities will be available in collaboration with USJP.



## USJP Partnership with the University of Warwick

Prof. Dulini Fernando, a fellow of the University of Warwick United Kingdom, met with the Vice Chancellor on the 18th of December at the Vice Chancellor's office to discuss partnering with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in conducting a series of workshops to further strengthen the research initiative taken by USJP.

This initiative will develop the quality of research done by the academic staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Fernando, a specialist in the area of journal publishing hopes to conduct workshops that will inform the staff on the best and the most updated methods of writing papers so as to be recognized and published by international journals.

Prof. Fernando is experienced in publishing qualitative research in more than four Management Journals. A resident in the UK, Prof. Fernando has worked with a range of theoretical frameworks, and has applied these to understand professional work and professional workers in a range of empirical settings. She has worked with leading organizations in the UK developing HRM interventions to facilitate the career development of the professional workforce.

She also conducts many workshops regarding academic publishing in many countries. She hopes conduct the workshops upon her return to Sri Lanka in the coming year. In the meantime she will also be conducting several workshops to some of the leading private sector organizations in Sri Lanka.





## News

### Delegates from Korea Food Research Institute and Tea Industrialists Visit USJP

A group of 10 Korean delegates including professors / academics from Korea Food Research Institute and Tea Industrialists from the Republic of South Korea were invited for the International Symposium on Traditional and Complementary Medicine, Educational Exhibition & Trade Fair- TradMed International, 2017- Sri Lanka organized by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, in collaboration with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) and World Health, held on the 23rd – 25th of November 2017 at Water's Edge, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Korean delegates were invited for a visit to USJP on the 29th November 2017. This meeting was held at USJP Premises in the presence of Prof. Ranil De Silva Director of the World Class University Project, USJP.

As a fruitful effort of this discussion USJP will be initiating a step forward to build up a private public partnership between USJP and South Korea on Ceylon Tea and Ceylon Cinnamon extraction.



### Department of Accounting extends MOU with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, United Kingdom

Department of Accounting of Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce extended their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a second term of three years with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), United Kingdom on 30th November 2017 at the university premises.

The ACCA, founded in 1904 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1974, is the largest and fastest-growing global professional accountancy body that has 198,000 members and 486,000 students in 181 countries. ACCA enjoys statutory recognition in the United Kingdom, the European Union and many other countries worldwide.

Under this MOU, the department and ACCA agree to mutually collaborate in the areas of research in accounting, training of students, professional development of staff and students and promotion of programmes. Further, the two institutions agree jointly to recognize the most outstanding student of the Department of Accounting through the presentation of an award at the annual convocation or graduation ceremony of the university.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura signed the MOU on behalf of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Nilusha Ransinghe, Head of ACCA Sri Lanka signed the MOU on behalf of ACCA. Dr. A. H. N. Kariyawasam, Head, Department of Accounting, Prof. (Ms.) Samanthi Senaratne, Dr. A. S. P. G. Manawaduge, Dr. A. R. Ajward and Mr. H. M. R. W. Herath from Department of Accounting and Ms. Dilani Perera, Business Relationship Manager Learning and Mr. Amrith Thilan, Education Executive, from ACCA Sri Lanka participated in the event.



## News

### USJP partners with KRMG Capital to Establish the First-Ever Blockchain Laboratory in Sri Lanka

University of Sri Jayawardenepura entered into the university's latest partnership with KRMG Capital to establish the first-ever Blockchain Laboratory in Sri Lanka. The Blockchain initiative is to take place in 2018. The partnership was sealed during a meeting held at the Vice Chancellor's office on the 12th of December 2017. Dr. Chandima Jeewandara and Dr. Chandimal Alahakoon of the Faculty of Medical Sciences and Dr. Prasad Jayaweera of Faculty of Applied Sciences and a few delegates from America were present at the meeting.

Blockchain Labs is known as the 'Technology that changes rules'. University of Sri Jayawardenepura in keeping with time and evolving with the changes in the scope of technology has embraced the Blockchain laboratory initiative with open arms. With Blockchain's emergence as the next biggest global technology disruptor, it will affect various sectors and revolutionize the way humans conduct businesses, govern institutions and utilize information.



### Future Insight to Postgraduate Scholarships to Taiwan from National Sun Yat-sen University in collaboration with USJP



A group of delegates led by Professor Chih-Wen Kuo, Professor / Vice President for International Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), Taiwan accompanied with professors from College of Science, Multidisciplinary and Data Science Research Center, International Business MBA (IBMBA), Global HRM English MBA Program, Division of International Relations, Office of International Affairs and

Department of Physics, Department of Applied Mathematics and Department of Computer Science and Engineering visited USJP on the 6th December 2017 for an interactive session with USJP academics and postgraduate scholars in the presence of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amarantunge and Prof. Ranil De Silva, Director of World Class University Projects.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss possible future research collaboration, research students exchange programs and joint PhD programs with USJP and National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan.

NSYSU is a public, compact research university located in Sizihwan, Kaohsiung, Taiwan with strong bureaucrat background and mainly consists think tank scholars and many research centers. According to Financial Times (2015) EMBA rankings, NSYSU Global Executive MBA programme is ranked at 64 in the world and according to Academic Ranking of World Universities (2015), NSYSU ranks as the

## News

### MOU between USJP and Guangxi International Business Vocational College, China



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Guangxi International Business Vocational College (GIBV) was signed on the 12th of December at the Board Room, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Professor Ranil De Silva, Director of the World Class University project, Professor Lihongmi, Vice President of GIBVC participated in the signing of this MoU. Upon signing the MoU between the

5th university in Taiwan's national universities and 1 for Mathematics in Taiwan.

As a fruitful effort of this meeting in the near future, USJP will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan, initiating collaborative research with Taiwan. Further to this Interdisciplinary Centre for Innovation in Biotechnology & Neurosciences will initiate a joint research program on DNA fingerprinting of Medicinal plants of Sri Lanka with Prof. Yu Chung Chiang, Department of Biological Sciences, NSYSU, Taiwan.



two universities, the event moved into a panel discussion featuring e-commerce.

The GIBV College is a state-owned higher education institute with major international affiliations. The inception of the college can be dated back 1965. The College comprises of three colleges featuring Modern Business. GIBV College provides over 50 main subjects in departments such as; Department of Applied Foreign Language, the Department of Foreign Trade, the Department of Accounting, the Department of Market Circulation, the Department of Information Engineering, the Department of Finance, the Department of Fundamental Course, and the Department of Social Science. The College has affiliations with over 20 international universities in countries such as the United States of America, United Kingdom and Malaysia. The college has over 300 international students learning in their midst and they have over 1000 students engaged in exchange programmes with other international universities.



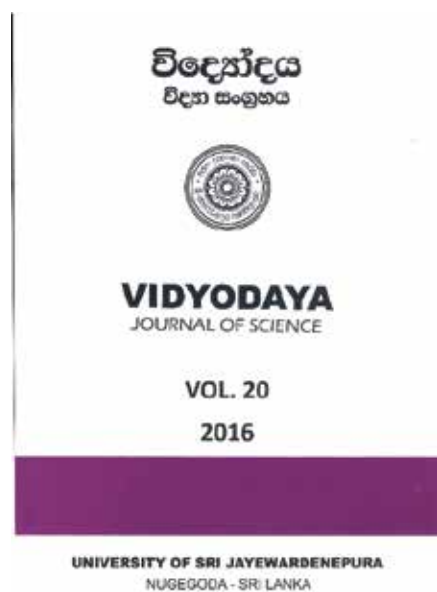
# Announcements

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## Publications

### Vidyodaya Journal of Science, Volume II

The latest publication of Vidyodaya Journal of Science Volume 02 which is comprised of research articles from academics on Science was published in November 2017.



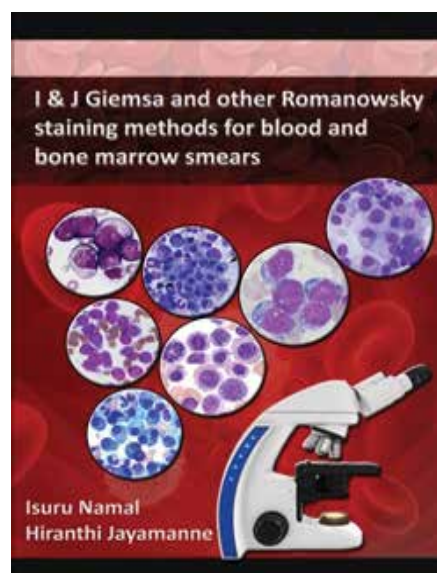
### Launching ceremony of "Vidharani Volume 2"



Launching ceremony of "Vidharani" an academic volume annually published by the Students Association of the Department of History and Archaeology in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 23rd November 2017 at Sumangala Reading Hall. One Volume was entitled as "Prof. Malani Andagama Honorary Volume" and the other one as "Prof. T. G. Kulathunge Honorary Volume".

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Malani Andagama, Prof. T. G. Kulathunge, Dr. K. M. Alexander, Head of the Department of History and Archaeology graced the event. Academics of the Department of History and Archaeology including , Senior Lecturer, Rev. Dambara Amila, Senior Lecturer, Dr. Gamini Ranasingha, and Mr. W. M. Dhanapala, , Dr. Sunil Rajaneththi, senior lecturers in the Department of Criminology as well as undergraduates participated in the launching ceremony.

### Launching of Laboratory Handbook: "I & J Giemsa and other Romanowsky stains for blood and bone marrow smears"



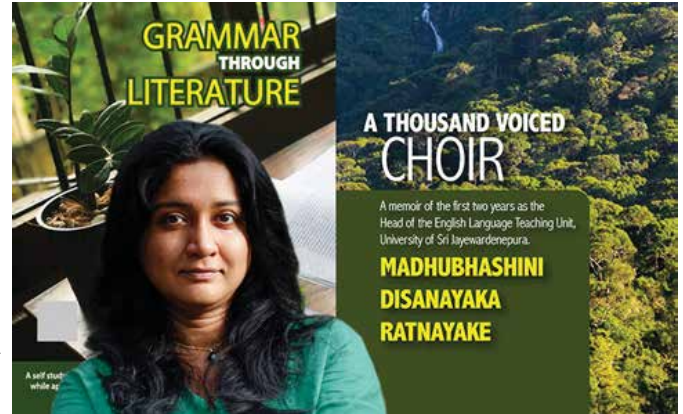
A new haematological staining method which solves the problem of poor staining of hypercellular bone marrow smears was invented by two of the final year undergraduates in Medical Laboratory Sciences Degree Programme of the Faculty of Medical Sciences under the supervision of Dr. D. Gunawardena, Consultant Haematologist, Department of Pathology Faculty of Medical Sciences and Dr. S. Suresh, Consultant Haematologist, Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama.

The new staining method was named and applied for the patent as "I & J Giemsa staining method". The researchers, Mr. Isuru Namal Priyankara and Ms. Hiranthi Jayamanne launched a laboratory handbook titled, "I & J Giemsa and other Romanowsky stains for blood and bone marrow smears" which is a source of Romanowsky staining methods and their preparation methods on 20th November 2017 at the Annual Academic Sessions-2017 of the College of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Sri Lanka.

## Publications

### Launching of language teaching books by Madhubhashini Ratnayake

Two books related to English language teaching by Gratiaen Award winning writer Madhubhashini Disanayaka Ratnayake, Grammar through Literature and a memoir A Thousand Voiced Choir published by Godage International Publishers were launched on the 23rd of September 2017 at the National Museum Auditorium, with the Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Sampath Amaratunge, as Chief Guest. Ms. Parvathi Nagasundaram, former Head of the Department of English, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, participated as the Guest of Honour.



Distinguished writer in Sinhala and Professor of the Sinhala Department at Peradeniya University, Liyanage Amarakeerthi and Dr. Kennedy Jeevaretnam, Head of the Languages Department and the English Language Teaching Unit at Eastern University, touched upon issues faced by Sinhala and Tamil speakers related to learning and teaching English as a second language in their speeches. Commenting on the memoir was done by Vishaka Nanayakkara, Head of the Decision Science Department of Moratuwa University, who as the Director of the HETC Project at that time, had followed the progress made by the ELTU, USJP with great interest. Dr. Chitra Jayathilaka, Senior Lecturer of the English Department of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura delivered a speech on the grammar book.

### Publication of Anthology of Poems (Driftwood) (photo attached)

Dr. Dilantha Gunawardana launched his second anthology of poems on the 29th of November 2017, at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

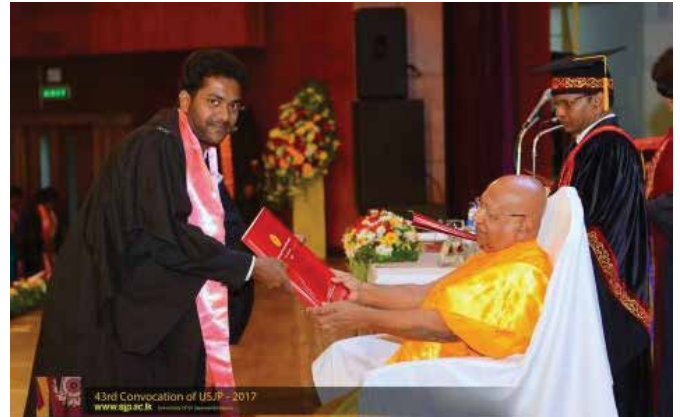


## Award Ceremonies and Convocations

### 43rd Convocation of University of Sri Jayewardenepura

43rd Convocation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 7th and 8th September 2017 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo. Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana thero, Previous Chancellor of the university and Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university, academic members graced the event. More than two thousand five hundred Degrees were conferred in six sessions in this two day convocation. This is the prime event in the University which offered Special Degrees, General Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees of the faculties of "Humanities and Social Science", "Medical Sciences", "Applied Sciences", "Management Studies and Commerce" and "Graduate Studies".

In this year's convocation at about 20 Doctoral Degrees and 200 master degrees were offered for postgraduate students representing various fields of studies. Postgraduate diplomas in Marketing Management, Industrial Mathematics, Industrial Analytical Chemistry, Management, Drama & Theater, Writership & Communication, Entrepreneurial Business Management, Applied Finance, Forestry & Environmental Management and Sociology were also offered.



### Annual Research Awards Ceremony of University of Sri Jayewardenepura 2016

Research Awards Ceremony of University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held at the Hotel Golden Rose, Boralesgamuwa on 29th September 2017. These awards were given away for the research work carried out in the year 2016. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Prof. M.M. Pathmalal, Professor in Zoology won the most prestigious Vice Chancellor's award, and Dr. J.M.K.C. Jeewandara attached to Family Medicine won the Early Career Award at this ceremony.

Initiated in 2015, the Annual Research Awards Ceremony is a much awaited occasion in the university wherein the academia is recognized and awarded for their groundbreaking findings and outstanding excellence in the field of research. This colorful occasion was undeniably a memorable one, not only for the winners but also for the entire university, as it marks another milestone in the university's history.



## Award Ceremonies and Convocations

### Awarding Ceremony of Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Diploma awarding ceremony of the Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice conducted by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was taken place on 29th October 2017 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences graced the event. Chief Guest of the diploma awarding ceremony was Inspector General of Police, Mr. Pujith Jayasundara. Mrs. Anuruddhika Buddhadasa, Head of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Dr. Sunil Rajaneththi, Course Coordinator, Prof. Muditha Vidhanapathirana, Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine in the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the University, Mr. Sajeewa Madawaththa, Deputy Inspector General of Police, and academics of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Mr. W. M. Dhanapala, Mr. Chanaka Udayakumara participated in the event.



### Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma Awarding Ceremony of FMSC

Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma Awarding Ceremony of Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) was held on 24th September 2017 at University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University graced the event as the chief guest.





## Award Ceremonies and Convocations

### J'pura Employability Skills Awards 2017

J'pura Employability Skills Awards 2017 was held on 30th August 2017 at Hotel Golden Rose, Boralesgamuwa. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and academic members graced the event.



### "Sri Jayewardenepura Pradeepa", Annual Awards Ceremony of USJP

University of Sri Jayewardenepura has been home for many distinguished personalities throughout the ages, producing many visionary men and women who've brightened the lives of thousands contributing tremendously towards the upliftment of society and the country as a whole. These stars that vivify society have gotten together and formed the Alumni Association of the university in 2008, providing an arm of strength to the university in terms of its continuous improvement and betterment.

The eminent personalities of the Alumni association range from different fields of expertise varying from, academic, research, management, law enforcement, politics, artistic circles, medicine etc. Therefore, as the first phase in recognizing their genius and contribution to society, the alumni have decided in awarding a selected few individuals. This selection by no means has been easy since the eligible are in numbers! Therefore since this marks the first of many, they've decided on appreciating the service of those involved in Government Service in Sri Lanka.

The 2nd "Sri Jayewardenepura Pradeepa", Annual Awards Ceremony of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 20 October, 2017 at the Waters Edge, Battaramulla. The occasion was graced by the President Maithripala Sirisena as Chief Guest. 42 scholars including Ven. Diviyagaha Yasassi Nayaka Thero, Ven. Omalpe Sobhitha Thero, Hon. Ministers S.B Dissanayake and Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Sunil Handunnetti and Bandula Gunawardhene, members of the Parliament, Reginald Cooray, Governor of the Northern Province and former minister Mahinda Wijesekera were awarded there. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university, W.H.K.H. Vagapitiya, President of the Alumni Association of USJP, Secretary of Alumni association, Dr. Abeyratne Bandara, national coordinator Mr. Ranjith Iddamal goda and several academic members participated in this event.



# Sports

## Japura Champions of Inter University games 2017 meet Vice Chancellor

University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the championship of Inter University games 2017 which was taken place from August to September 2017. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university met them on 12th October 2017 to congratulate all stupendous athletes of Japura who contributed towards this journey of victory in the Inter University Games 2017. With this victory, University of Sri Jayewardenepura became three-time champion of Inter University games (2015, 2016, and 2017). This meeting took place in the main library lobby with the participation of academics in the university.



## Sports Fiesta 2017 Suburbs

"Sports Fiesta'17", the interdepartmental sports competition, was successfully held on 6th and 7th of September 2017 at the university grounds. This event was organized by AFMA, the student body of the Department of Accounting. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge participated as the chief guest. Veteran cricket player, Mr. Chaminda Vass graced the opening ceremony as the guest of honor. Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Harendra Kariyawasam, Head of the Department and the academic and non-academic staff members of the Department of Accounting also participated in this event.



## Sports

### 87/89 Graduate's Society of Business Administration Sponsors Basketball Men's Team

The Basketball Men's Team of University of Sri Jayewardenepura was awarded with a sponsorship for the upcoming Inter-University Tournament 2017 by the 87/89 Graduate's Society of Business Administration. The event was held on 11th of September 2017 with the presence of Vice Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The sponsorship was handed over to the Basketball Captain, Mr. Kaveen Perera by the President of the 87/89 Graduate's Society of Business Administration, Mr. Senaka Manamperi. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, President of the 87/89 Graduate's Society Senaka Manamperi, Chairman of the Sports Advisory Board, Prof. Pradeep Jayaweera, Mr.



Anura Jayarthne, Physical Education Unit's Acting Director, Ms. Nishanthi Widanage, Mr. Lahiru Dilankara and the member of the Basketball Men's Team also participated in this event.



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# Community Celebrations

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## Concerts and Cultural Events

### “Ranrasu 2017”, Festival of Art



“Ranrasu”, Festival of Art organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 20th November 2017 at the Bandaranayaka Hall of the University. This splendid artistic festival was graced by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. S. A. A. M. Subasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Chief invitees of the event were Prof. Wimal G. Balagalla, a pioneer professor of the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Mrs. Sujatha Aththanayake, one of the famous and eminent artists in Sri Lankan music industry. This year’s Ranrasu festival was coordinated by Mr. Sunil Darangala, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication. President of the cultural panel of

the festival was Dr. Praneeth Abyesundara, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Mrs. Miranda Hemalatha, Mr. Saman Panapitiya, Mr. Daglous Siriwardhana, Mr. Dharmananda Wijesinghe and Mr. Dharmasri Kariyawasam participated in the event to evaluate the performances.

Parallel to the Ranrasu 2017, the academic volume of Ranrasu was launched. Prof. W. G. Balagalla and Mrs. Sujatha Aththanayake received the first volumes from Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This is the largest festival of art conducted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, aiming to open a platform to display undergraduates’ talents in various fields such as dancing, singing, announcing, acting, painting, lyrics writing, short story writing, short film making, documentary writing and producing, etc. All the undergraduates in the faculty, academic members as well as non-academic staff members have the opportunity to participate in these competitions, and to show their talents and skills and finally to own the victory. The most competitive event of this whole festival is the inter department competition. This year, “Award for the Best Department” was achieved by the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication for their excellent performance.

### “Sanduli 2017”, Musical Concert and Competition

“Sanduli 2017”, musical concert and competition organised by the university Art Circle and the Cultural Center under the guidance of Dr. Praneeth Abhayasundara (President of the Art Circle), was held on 6th September 2017 at the Sumangala Reading Hall.

This is a showcase of musical talents of the undergraduates in various fields such as, singing, announcing, lyrics writing and music composing etc. This evening was graced with music of musical group headed by the accomplished musician, Mr. Mahinda Bandara. Undergraduate’s talents were evaluated by Mrs. Samitha Mudunkotuwa, Mr. Nimantha Heshan Gamage and Mr. Indrachapa Liyanage, some popular artists in the Sri Lankan music industry. From the total of 163 undergraduates, 67 were selected to the final event, and was given the opportunity to perform their musical talents at Sanduli 2017 Musical Concert.



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## Concerts and Cultural Events

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### "Nada 2017" by Students' Association of Finance

"Nada 2017" organized by Students' Association of Department of Finance, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 29th of August at the Bandaranayake Hall of the university.



## Student Activities

### Sakunthala Dilrukshi participates in JENESYS 2017

Ms. B. Sakunthala Dilrukshi, an undergraduate of the Department of English in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was selected to participate in JENESYS 2017, SAARC the 1st Batch: Economic Cooperation which was organized by the JICE or Japan International Cooperation Center in Japan. The program was held in several cities of Japan such as, Tokyo and Fukushima from 27th of November to 5th of December 2017 with the participation of representatives from all the SAARC countries. About 11 university students and 4 high school students with a supervisor from each country participated in the program. The main objective of the program was to promote the knowledge of the economic cooperation in Japan among the other SAARC countries, and develop the bond between all. various programs such as lectures, visits and workshops were conducted related to the theme. At the end of the program, each participant was awarded with the JENESYS Participation Certificate under the inspection of the JICE and all the embassies of the SAARC countries.

Ms. B. Sakunthala Dilrukshi was first nominated by the university as the applicant from USJP considering her victory at the all Island Japanese Speech Contest 2017 and the background of the overall Japanese language education. After that, the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka had conducted an interview for all the applicants and based on the performance at the interview one or two applicants from each university were selected.



## Annual Carol Service of the Catholic Students' Movement

The 8th annual Christmas carol service 2017 themed "Primeiro Natal – The First Noel" was held ceremoniously on the 11th of December 2017 at the Sri Sumangala Reading Hall. The event organized by the Catholic Students' Movement of University of Sri Jayewardenepura was graced by the presence of His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Maxwell Granville Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Colombo.

Most Ven. Prof. Medagoda Abhayatissa Nayake Thero, President of the University Buddhist Association; Most Venerable Prof. Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero, Head

of the Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director of Postgraduate Institute of Management, Dr. Praneeth Abeyesundara representing the University Art Circle and Prof. (Ms). Chamalie Nahallage, Coordinator of University Harmony Project were also present at the event.



## Mahapola Scholarships Awarding Ceremony of 2015/2016 Batch

Mahapola Scholarships Awarding Ceremony of 2015/2016 batch was held on 17th October 2017 at University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the event as the chief guest.



## IT Workshop by Student's Society of Computer Center

The first workshop organised on Information Technology (IT) by the Students Society of Computer Centre in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 11th December at the Sumangala Reading hall. Student members of the society could make this an opportunity to disseminate IT knowledge among the undergraduates of the faculty. Workshop covered the basic areas of IT including an introduction to hardware and software, booting an operating system, installing virus guards and MS office package and other software etc.

Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences graced the event. Mr. I. D. Jayaruwan, Coordinator Computer Center, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Statistics, Dr. Chithra Jayathilaka, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and several academic members of the Faculty participated in the workshop.







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## News Feature

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In this issue, we run a feature article on recent developments taken place in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP.

### Phase IV Building Complex a Reality for FMS



The Phase IV Building project of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), University of Sri Jayewardenepura was initiated by Prof. Jayantha Jayewardene and Prof. Mohan de Silva, Past Deans of the Faculty of Medical Sciences with the patronage of Dr. N.L.A. Karunaratne, who was the Vice Chancellor at the time, by acquiring close to three acres of land from Methsevana detention centre. The University Grants Commission approved the proposal for the building in 2010 and the Cabinet approval to commence the project was obtained in October 2012 during the deanship of Prof. Mohan de Silva who worked tirelessly to make the 'Phase IV dream' a reality. The foundation stone for the Phase IV building complex was laid on 12th March 2014 marking the beginning of a revived journey for medical education in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Surangi Yasawardene, current Dean of the Faculty, took over the mammoth task of completing this project from Prof. de Silva, and with tremendous support from Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, our current Vice Chancellor, ensured that the long awaited dream was a reality in the year 2017.

An all-night pirth ceremony was held on 19th January 2018 to auspiciously mark the occupation of the Phase IV building complex with the participation of the reverend clergy, led by the previous Chancellor of the university, Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana Nayaka theru.

Today the Phase IV building complex of the Faculty of Medical Sciences stands majestically, seven stories high, and spanned across 2.6 acres of land. The unique 'Bo Tree' at the entrance, greets those arriving at the premises with serenity and stillness, an ideal atmosphere for education. The state of the art building houses the administrative division, medical library, and nine other departments of the Faculty, including Medicine, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Physiology, Forensic medicine, Psychiatry, Community Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The building includes two state of the art lecture theaters and 17 rooms for conducting seminars and tutorials. There are laboratories for each department to facilitate practical classes and research laboratories for those engaged in experimental research. One large board room and one mini-board room facility is available for meetings and gatherings. A large examination hall and a separate examination unit are allocated to accommodate examination and related confidential



duties. Noteworthy to mention about the two sound-proof studios with audio and visual filming facilities especially built for facilitating new medical education tools. The student common room and the largely spaced canteen for students are expected to provide room for student leisure and recreation.

As a result of budget proposals approved on developing universities as 'University Townships', the academics of the Faculty of Medical Sciences was granted opportunity to disseminate their expertise in medical practice to the community through the establishment of a family practice center. Today, the family practice center branches out from the main body of the building, facilitating access to approximately 3000 inhabitants of Gangodawila to reap the generous health services offered by the medical experts of the Department of Family Medicine. It is indeed rewarding to watch the general public walking into 'their' family practice center for medical care, also generating an ideal setting for medical and allied health undergraduates for experiential learning. It is also expected that more unique and personalized medical, allied health and rehabilitation facilities will be made available to the community in the future.

This unique and futuristic Phase IV building complex is a reward for the staff and students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences for their tireless efforts in uplifting the Faculty to the status it is today.

## Creative Writing

In this issue, we carry two poems by Dr. Dilantha Gunawardana, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Botany

### Vesak

The branches in foliar dressings,  
 The bright yellow mangos,  
 On a tree, that remained elusive  
 To the passers by, while a little monk looks at the sky,  
 As moonbeams fall on mangoes,  
 Like lanterns on tips of branches, waiting  
 To be plucked by hand, or pole, or perhaps,  
 A greedy peck of a bird. How man and bird converge  
 On a mango fruit, without realizing  
 How far apart in evolution they are. One bipedal and one  
 Bi-winged, and in the center, a reservoir of unheralded sweetness.  
*Mangifera zeylanica*, a fruit that was spawned millions of  
 Years ago, each a flesh yellow pulp,  
 The same yellow tone that beautifies the moon,  
 The saffron-colored robes,  
 And a spice made of the stigma and style of a flower.  
 How they all come together on Vesak day,  
 In a shared meal, lit by dhal and potato curry.  
 How yellow seems the order of Vesak,  
 A yellow dwarf to a yellow moon, to a little  
 Monk in a yellow robe. How yellow is,  
 A lesson in renunciation, of all worldly things,  
 Which gets forgotten to the temptation,  
 Of a mango in the front yard,  
 How a little monk, is still a lad in his early teens,  
 Whose sweet tooth, enfeebles,  
 In mea culpa.

### Christmas

Snowy mountain tops  
 Where abominable snowmen are found,  
 Searching for some grub, like they would like  
 To be invited to a Christmas feast.  
 The timber wolves march on,  
 In a crowded gang, while two reindeers  
 Pull a sleigh over a chimney, while the huskies  
 Bark like mad, at the falling snow.  
 And while this is going on,  
 Snow falls from the cloud cover,  
 Almost like coconut white rice grains thrown  
 Over a newly married couple,  
 Symbolizing a rare birth to a virgin,  
 Whose flesh was still as pristine,  
 Still untouched, as the falling snow.  
 And just outside the town limits,  
 Syrian refugees are singing aloud,  
 Christmas carols, over a campfire,  
 Remembering the hour Mary nestled Jesus  
 Inside a little barn in Bethlehem,  
 Child of god and bride of god,  
 Bridged in tender breast,  
 Paving a path for glaciers,  
 To advance.