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**Energi Research Award in Norway - Mr. J.P. Liyanage**

*Lyse Energi Research Award 2000* was awarded to Jayantha Prasanna Liyanage of the Department of Production Engineering, University of Peradeniya at present a Doctoral research fellow at the School of Science & Technology of the Stavanger University College. The research award was established by Lyse Energi to encourage eminent research in different professional disciplines in the Stavanger University College and is also linked to the progress towards the Rogaland University. Grethe Hoiland, the Net Director of Lyse, awarded the plaque of honour with the cash award of NOK 25,000 to Jayantha Prasanna Liyanage.

**Mentoring Programme**

University of Peradeniya has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to be launched a ‘Mentoring Program’ intended to help the undergraduates become more employable after graduation. This program is supported by the Rotary Club of Kandy and is sponsored by *Janashakthi Insurance Company*. This program will enable 60 undergraduates in the Faculty of Arts to interact with a number of mentors working in private sector organizations in the Kandy region. The mentors will guide the undergraduates in developing their skills and attributes and make them ready for employment.

**Establishment of a Career Guidance Unit**

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in August 2001 established a Career Guidance Unit to design and conduct suitable training programmes specific for veterinary undergraduates. So far the Unit has conducted 3 programmes. The fist activity was a workshop held on 25 August 2001 to identify training needs through participatory appraisal and was conducted by Dr. Wijaya Jayatilake, Director of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. The second programme conducted by Mr. Harsha Fernando, State Counsel and a Visiting Lecturer at the Postgraduate Institute of Management and Sri Lanka Law College under the theme of “Are you ready to become a professional”, was held on 23rd September 2001. The third training programme on “Make it happen-sell yourself (how to market a professional service)”, conducted by Mr. Sudath Amaratunga, General Manager, The Finance and Property Development (Pvt.) Ltd. and Managing Director, Australian Higher Education Consultants (Pvt.) Ltd was held on 20 October 2001. All the programmes were well attended by the students and staff.

**New Entrants**

- The 2001/02 batch of Veterinary Students commenced their intensive English Training Programme on 8th October 2001. This programme will conclude on 07th January 2002.

- The first batch of Engineering students who sat the A’ Level in 03 subjects in August 2000 commenced their academic year on 8th October 2001.

**Commissioning of a New Building**

The new building completed under Phase I of the Backlog Clearance Building Programme at the Faculty of Veterinary Science was commissioned in October 2001. ‘Seth Pirith’ was chanted at the site in the morning of 25th October to invoke blessings.

**Annual Research Sessions – 2001**

Annual Research Sessions - 2001 of the University of Peradeniya will be held on 16th November 2001 at the EOE Pereira Auditorium of the Faculty of Engineering. The Chief Guest will be His Excellency Seiichiro Otsuka, Ambassador of Japan.

**Outreach Activities**

- A workshop on ‘Extension Training Methodology’ was held in the Conference Room of the Department of Agricultural Extension on September 28, 2001. The workshop was organized on the request of the ‘HADABIMA Authority of Sri Lanka’. The objective was to provide training on training methodologies for the Unit Managers and Senior Managers of HADABIMA Authority. The senior academic staff of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Prof. A.N. Jayakody of Department of Soil Science served as resource persons. The workshop was organized and moderated by Dr. W.A.D.P. Wanigasundera of the Department of Agricultural Extension.
• A seminar on ‘Livelihood at risk: Land use and coping strategies of war affected communities in Trincomalee District’ was held in the Conference Room of the Department of Agricultural Extension on October 15, 2001. The results of the study conducted by an intercultural team of researchers from the Integrated Food Security Program, Trincomalee and the Centre for Advanced Training in Agricultural and Rural Development, Berlin were presented and discussed. The Senior academics from the Departments of Sociology, Political Science, Geography, Agricultural Extension and Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture participated in the discussion. The program was organized and moderated by Prof. C. Sivayoganathan of the Department of Agricultural Extension.

• The Media Unit of the Department of Agricultural Extension has been awarded a contract to produce two video documentaries (10 minutes each) on Sugarcane Cultivation for the Sugarcane Research Institute of Sri Lanka (SRI). This is one of the outreach activities of the Media Unit which has mutual benefits for the University and SRI. The undergraduates, those following Journalism and Media use as a subject offered by the Department, will also be able to expose themselves to hands on practical experience by involving themselves in these productions.

• The Media Unit also undertook to produce a video program on the ‘Control of internal browning in Pineapple’. This was produced on the request by Dr. (Mrs.) Deepthi Bandara of the Department of Agricultural Biology, who directed the production, as a part of her NSF research project.

• Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) and CIC Company have agreed to sponsor several final year students of the Faculty of Agriculture in their final year research projects. The students will benefit from their supervision as well as financial assistance during their project time. These research topics include food security, hydroponics cultivation, indigenous knowledge on paddy cultivation and assessment of socio-economic status of a target village.

• FVMAS-SLVA joint seminar series was inaugurated on 12th September 2001. The inaugural seminar on the series was done by Prof. S.E. Ranawana, Professor of Livestock Sciences of the Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries and Nutritional Sciences of Wayamba University. Prof. Ranawana was the former Deputy Director General of Animal Production and Health and he presented a discussion paper on “Livestock development in Sri Lanka-past, present and the future.”

• The Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the University of Peradeniya held a one day workshop on “Implementation of the Course Unit System in Semesters” for the academic staff of the University on 8th October 2001 in the Senate Room.

• The SDC also held a two day workshop on “Counselling Skills in Higher Education” for academic staff on 27th and 28th October, 2001.

• A 02 day workshop on “Reviewing University Curricula vis-a-vis National Needs and emerging Global Trends in Higher Education” organized by the CVCD was held on 20th and 21st of October at the University of Kelaniya with the participation of Vice Chancellors and Deans of Faculties of Universities.

A talk was given by Prof. Michelle Shevey, a French Agricultural Economist on “The First Subsidy System and Measures Adopted by the French Farmers”.

Science Camp

A science camp organized by the Science Education Unit, Faculty of Science was held at Hali-Ela on 07th October 2001.

Publications

• Can the concept of re-birth be explained in terms of modern Science? An international panel of academics attempts to answer this question in the recent publication.

“Trends in Rebirth Research, Proceedings of an International Seminar” edited by Prof. Nimal Senanayake, MD,PhD,DSc,FRCP foreword by
This book, based on a seminar held at the Gal Bangalawa last year, attempts to analyse the concept of re-birth and research in this field from a perspective of modern science. The panel of 12 contributors includes five academics from our own University. Professor Ian Stevenson, World’s foremost scientific investigator of re-birth in his Foreword states that this was the first ever conference exclusively devoted to the question of re-birth. (ISBN 955-599-260-6, 194 pages, Price: Rs. 725/=) Available at the Department of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.

A presentation of a volume of Poetry was held on 24 October, 2001 at the Arts Theatre by Miss A.M.S. Sanjeeewani Amarakoon who follows a Special Degree Course in Arts.

Korean Film Festival

A Korean Film Festival organized by the Korean Embassy, National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka and the Arts Council, University of Peradeniya was held from 08th to 13th October, 2001 at the D.E. Hettiarachchi Memorial Hall, Faculty of Arts. Two shows were held each day at 5.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. The films screened were Joint Security Area/JSA, Art Museum by the Zoo, Ditto, My Heart, Rainbow Trout and II Mare.

Inauguration of the Prof. D.J. Kalupahana Collection

The private library of Prof D.J. Kalupahana, retired Professor and Chairman of the Department of Philosophy, University of Hawaii, consisting of nearly 1,500 items presented to the University of Peradeniya Library, was declared open by Prof Kapila Goonasekera, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, on the 2nd Floor of the Main Library on 25th October 2001.

It is a prestigious collection of books, with an international focus on Religion, Philosophy, Pali and Buddhist Studies, accumulated by Prof Kalupahana in U.S.A during a distinguished academic career exceeding four decades.

Before the inauguration, a graceful ceremony was held in the Arts Faculty Seminar Room, which was addressed by Prof. P.D. Premasiri, Head, Dept. of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Mr. N.T. S.A. Senadeera, Librarian, University of Peradeniya, Dr. W.M. Tilakaratne, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof Kapila Goonasekera, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya and Prof. D.J. Kalupahana.

Sports

- Three Students; C.S. Masakorala/Faculty of Engineering - Table Tennis, D. Herath/Faculty of Medicine - Table Tennis, C.B. Wickramarachchi/Faculty of Medicine - Track & Field, from the University of Peradeniya participated at the World University Games of 2001 which was held in Beijing, China. This is the first time 3 students participated in the World University Games from the University of Peradeniya.

- Womens Weight Lifting Team of the University of Peradeniya emerged Joint Champions at the National Intermediate Weight Lifting Championship 2001 which was held at the University of Peradeniya Gymnasium. S. K. Sirirwardana of Faculty of Arts won 2 Runner-up in 62 Kg. category at this Championship.

- Our strong Weight Lifter Janaka Perera from the Faculty of Arts won a Silver Medal in 79 kg category at the National 22nd Sports Festival, Kurunegala.

- The 06 men Chess players represented the University of Peradeniya at the Grand Asian Chess Challenge which was held in Malaysia from 19th October to 26th October 2001.

- University of Peradeniya Rugger Team took part in the 7-a side Invitation Rugger Tournament which was organized by the University of Kelaniya and won the Championship in the Cup finals.

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