UNIVERSITY OF
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NEWS

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Newly Appointed Dean for the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Dr. M.A.J.C. Marasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Radiography/Radiotherapy was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences/University of Peradeniya, for a period of three (03) years with effect from the 26th of February, 2019.

ICMME 2019 – The First International Conference in Mathematics and Mathematics Education in Sri Lanka



The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) at the University of Peradeniya hosted the first-ever International Conference in Mathematics and Mathematics Education (ICMME 2019) on the 22nd and the 23rd of March, 2019 at its premises. This conference was jointly organized by the PGIS, the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka, and the National Institute of Education.

The conference lasted for two days; the inauguration ceremony was on the 22nd of March and was followed by the technical sessions on the 23rd of March at the PGIS. The Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy (Sri Lanka), Mr. Dhirendra Singh was the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony. Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, Director/PGIS and Prof. S.R. Kodituwakku, Dean/Faculty of Science also participated at the event. Two internationally acclaimed keynote speakers graced the event - Prof. Kathy Horadam, Emeritus Professor at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and Prof. Rhonda Craven, Director of the Institute of Positive Psychology and Education, Australia. In addition, there were two invited speakers, Dr. Mala Fernando, a senior lecturer attached to Simon Fraser University, Canada and Prof. Pamini Thangarajah, an Associate Professor attached to Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada.



Workshop on Leadership, Personality Development & Team Building.



The Career Guidance Unit conducted a workshop on Leadership, Personality Development & Team Building for the first year students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science. This event was a great opportunity for students to develop leadership and team building skills; it was held on the 18th of February, 2019 from 8.30 am to 3.00 pm at the Career Guidance Unit.

Awareness Programme on Disability and Physiotherapy



An awareness programme on Physiotherapy and Disability was organized by the Harispaththuwa Divisional Secretary Office in their Divisional Secretariat on the 11th of March, 2019.

Ms. Anuradhi Bandara, Lecturer/Department of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, and a representative of the Department, were the resource persons upon the request made by the Harispaththuwa Divisional Secretariat Office.

There were more than 40 participants, with various disabilities and their caretakers. The programme comprised of a brief introduction about the types of disabilities, their causes, physiotherapy treatment methods and benefits of physiotherapy treatments. It also included the caretakers' role for the wellbeing of the patient.

The event concluded successfully with the participants expressing appreciation for the programme and its comprehensive coverage of most of the aspects related to disability and physiotherapy.



Short-Term Training Program

The Information Technology Center (ITC) conducted 29th short term training program on Basic ICT Skills (Batch 29) from the 26th of January, 2019 for external students and the University staff. Forty participants were enrolled in the program. This was conducted from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm as a weekend program.

Diploma in Information Technology (DITUP)

The Information Technology Center (ITC) plans to conduct the Diploma in IT (DITUP) program for undergraduates. The Diploma in IT has already been advertised and is ready to be launched.

Welcome ceremony for new entrants, Faculty of Arts



The welcome ceremony of the new entrants to the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya was held at the University Gymnasium, on 07th January 2019, under the patronage of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

Professor O.G. Dayarathne Banda, Dean Faculty of Arts welcomed the gathering. Eight Hundred and five undergraduate students were enrolled for the 2017/18 academic year and their parents were also present at the occasion.



Welcome ceremony for new entrants, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences



The welcome ceremony of the new entrants to the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya was held at the Faculty Auditorium, on 07th January 2019, under the patronage of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

Professor D.B.M. Wickramarathne, Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences welcomed the gathering. One Hundred and Sixty-four undergraduate students were enrolled for the 2017/18 academic year and their parents were also present at the occasion.

Annual Drama Festival, 2019



The Annual Drama Festival, 2019 organized by the Arts Council/University of Peradeniya, was held on the 24th to the 29th of March at the Sarachchandra Open Air Theatre.

Welcome ceremony for new entrants, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science

The welcome ceremony of the new entrants to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, University of Peradeniya was held at the Farm Animal Auditorium, on 03rd January 2019, under the patronage of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

Dr. Madura Munasinghe, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science welcomed the gathering. Sixty-four undergraduate students were enrolled for the 2017/18 academic year and their parents were also present at the occasion.



Farewell to Prof. N. Ratnatunga



A farewell ceremony was held in the Department of Forensic Medicine on the 14th of March, 2019, to bid farewell and appreciate the peerless service rendered by Prof. N. Ratnatunga (Professor of Pathology) during the past years.

Welcome ceremony for new entrants, Faculty of Agriculture



The welcome ceremony of the new entrants to the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was held at the Animal Science Department, on 18th January 2019, under the patronage of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

Professor D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture welcomed the gathering. Two hundred and fifty eight undergraduate students were enrolled for the 2017/18 academic year and their parents were also present at the occasion.



A delegation from Choonhae College of Health Sciences, Ulsan City, Korea

A delegation comprising four Professors from Choonhae College of Health Sciences, Ulsan City, Korea visited the office of the Vice-Chancellor on 18th January 2019 and developed an MOU for student exchange.









Display of the Thripitaka Scared Books in parallel with 'Thripitakabhiwandana' National Programe

The sacred Thripitaka books were displayed for the readers in parallel to the 'Thripitakabhiwandana' National Programme from the 21st to the 29th of March, 2019 at the entrance of the Main Library. Several printed resources and palm leaf manuscripts containing the Thripitaka Dhamma were displayed during this period.

Delegation from Delhi Technological University, India



Prof. Anu Singh Lather is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Ruchika Malhotra, Associate Dean (IRD) and Associate Professor in Computer Science & Engineering Department, Delhi Technological University, India visited University of Peradeniya (UoP) on 22 January 2019.

In order to discuss the potential collaborative research in the fields of Management and Computer Engineering within two institutions, a meeting was held between the Vice- Chancellor, UoP and the delegation. Furthering the discussions, it was also decided to sign a MoU between two institutions, for future collaborations.

Delegation from USA

Prof. David Damrel, Associate Professor of Religious Studies of the University of South Carolina, Dr. Dixie Damrel, a botanist and the Curator of the Clemson University Herbarium located in Clemson, South Carolina in the USA and Dr. Markus Dettenhoffer, an ERASMUS scholar from Czech Republic visited University of Peradeniya on 28th January 2019. Prof. Damrel has been appointed as a US Fulbright scholar for teaching at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, commencing from January - June, 2019.



The Inauguration of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education.



The inauguration of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Full Time) course was held on 2nd January 2019 at the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts. This programme has been conducted annually for more than half a century. Seventy-five teachers were selected for the programme from a competitive examination conducted by the Ministry of Education.

Book Launching



The 356 page book titled "Foot Prints on the Vet Sands of Time: a brief history of the Veterinary Profession in Sri Lanka" by Indira Nanayakkara Silva was launched at the "Vet Expo 2019" organized by the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association. At the launch on 5th April 2019 at the BMICH, the author, Professor Indira Silva, the Senior Professor in Veterinary Clinical Sciences of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, presented a book to Hon, P. Harrison, the Cabinet Minister of Social Empowerment and former Minister of Rural Economic Affairs, who was the Chief Guest of the Exhibition.

Delegation from University of South-Eastern Norway (USEN)



Prof. Tone Jøran Oredalen, Prof. Mona Sæbø and Ms. Anette Norheim Fredly from USEN visited University of Peradeniya on 01 February 2019. A meeting with Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice- chancellor, University of Peradeniya was held to discuss the possibilities of establishing academic & research collaborations between the two institutions.

MoU Signed between ESSEX University, UK and University of Peradeniya

A delegation from Essex University, UK comprising Professor Anthony Forster/ Vice Chancellor, Sandeep Sharma/ Director of the Regional Office in India, Sally Day/ International Partnerships Officer and Satha Alaga/ Senior Finance Business Partnering Manager visited the office of the Vice-Chancellor on 11th January 2019 and signed an MoU with the UoP.



Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone for the Seven Storey Building of the Faculty of Arts



The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for the proposed seven storey building for the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya was held on the 9th of March, 2019 at the auspicious time of 07.41 am. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Dean/Faculty of Arts Prof. O.G. Dayaratne Banda, Heads of the Departments, academic and non-academic staff and students were present at this ceremony.



Delegation from Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)



Prof. Yuansong Wei, Deputy Director, Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences and Prof. Eng. Wang, Former Vice- President of Chinese Academic of Science visited University of Peradeniya on 29 January 2019.

In order to strengthen the already existing academic collaborations between the two institutions through student exchange programs, scholarships and other linkages. CAS delegation carried out a special discussion with the Professor Upul B. Dissanayake/ Vice-Chancellor, Professor G.B.B. Herath/ Dean, Faculty of Engineering, and Dr. Shameen Jinadasa/ Acting Director, International Affairs Office at the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium (FAuRS) – 2018, University of Peradeniya



The Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium – FAuRS-2018, was successfully staged on 21st February 2019 for the fifth consecutive year at the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya with over 550 participants including final year students, academic & non-academic staff, invitees from academia and institutions in state & private sectors.

The event was graced by His Excellency Tunca Özçuhadar, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey to Sri Lanka as Chief Guest, Dr Roshan Rajadurai, Managing Director, Heyleys Plantations as the Keynote Speaker, Prof. Upul B Dissanayake, Vice - Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof Parakrama Karunaratne, Deputy Vice - Chancellor, University of Peradeniya Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Deans of other faculties.

Twenty eight oral presentations in four parallel sessions and another 28 poster presentation in three parallel sessions were held under different thematic areas. These 56 oral and poster presentations were selected on merit basis from 210 graduands of 2018 from eight departments of studies in all three degree programs offered by the Faculty.

Workshop on Eating Etiquette & Dress Sense



The Career Guidance Unit organized a workshop on Eating Etiquette and Dress Sense for the undergraduates of the university. The main purpose of this program was to provide the social etiquette needed for their career. Retired Air Lanka officers, Miss Dhammi Peiris and Miss Sheami Dewendre, served as the resource persons and the workshop was sponsored by CEAT. It was held on the 22nd of March, 2019 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm at Royal Mall, Kandy.

Inauguration of Induction Programs for Non-Academic Staff



Staff Development Centre of the University of Peradeniya commenced two more induction programs for the Non-academic staff of the University.

The seven-day Induction Program commenced on the 12th Monday February 2019 was the fourth program conducted for technical officers and the staff of Allied Grades of the University. Thirty-nine staff members got enrolled in this training program which was held during February to May 2019 on seven discrete days.

The six-day Induction Program commenced on 14th February 2019 was the fifth such program conducted for the Stenographers, Clerks and the Staff of Allied Grades of the University. Thirty-six staff members got enrolled in the present offering of the program. The program was conducted on six discrete days during February to April, 2019

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. S.H.P.P Karunaratne, Prof. R. Pallegama the Director, the Acting Registrar Mr. Saman Rajapaksha, and the Bursar Mr. E.A.R.M. Edirisinghe graced the inaugurations which were held respectively on 12th and 14th February 2019 at 8.30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Staff Development Centre. The program aims to motivate and raise the awareness and skills of staff members for continuous professional and personal development that will in turn help the University in its mission.

Science Practical Programmes for G.C.E. (A/L) Students



The Science Education Unit, Faculty of Science/University of Peradeniya, conducted 3 one-day Science Practical programmes for 185 G.C.E. (A/L) biological and physical science students at the Science Education Resource Centre. The schools that participated included: Delta Gemunupura Maha Vidyalaya, Pussellawa (20.02.2019), Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa (06.03.2019), and Trinity College, Kandy (13.03.2019). These practical programmes consisted of sessions on biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Almost all the participants were grateful for the experience and motivation received from these programmes.

Teacher Training Workshops for G.C.E. (A/L) Science Teachers of Uva & Central Provinces



The Science Education Unit, Faculty of Science/University of Peradeniya, organized two Teacher Training Workshops for 70 G.C.E. (A/L) physics teachers of the Uva Province and 120 biology, chemistry, and physics teachers of Central Province from the 16th of January to the 18th of January, 2019 and from the 25th of March to the 29th of March, 2019 respectively.

The Science Education Unit organized the above programmes in collaboration with the Department of Education, Uva Province and the Department of Education, Central Province. The participants of these workshops highly valued the knowledge and practical exposure they received.

Feasibility Study to Establish a Comprehensive "Sensor Based end to end Early Warning System" for Hydro-Meteorology Induced Disasters in Sri Lanka.



A delegation comprising Dr. Masugi Inoue/ Director of International Research Advancement Office, Global Alliance Department, NICT (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology), Dr.Yasunori Owada/ Senior Researcher, Resilient ICT Research Centre, Dr.Goshi Sato/ Researcher, Resilient ICT Research Cente, Mr.Toru Sanefuji/ Chief Technical Officer, Nassua Solutions, and Mr. Yoshimasa Gunji/ Counsellor, BHN Association visited the office of the Vice-Chancellor on 23rd January 2019 and discussed about the Feasibility Study to Establish a Comprehensive "Sensor Based end to end Early Warning System" for Hydro-Meteorology Induced Disasters in Sri Lanka.



16th Induction program on 21st January 2019







Staff Development Centre of the University of Peradeniya commenced the 16th Induction program on 21st January 2019. The program was held during the following periods at the Staff Development Centre.

- 01st Segment – 21st to 25th January, 2019 and 28th January to 01st February, 2019
- 02nd Segment – 18th to 22nd February, 2019 and 25th February to 01st March, 2019
- 03rd Segment – 25th to 29th March, 2019 and 01st to 05th April, 2019

From among the large number of applicants, thirty-two academic staff members were selected and got enrolled in this induction program. The Inauguration was held in the auditorium of the Staff Development Centre on 21st January, 2019. Thirty- five senior academics and experts of different disciplines contributed as resource persons. The content of the program was in line with the training manual of the UGC and aimed to improve academic competence of the participants so that they would be effectively and efficiently contributing to the University to achieve it mission and vision





DNA barcoding of Sri Lankan mosquitoes



Species identification is essential for many biological studies. Morphological characters and DNA barcoding are two major approaches used in species identification. The modern system of taxonomy, referred to as 'DNA barcoding', which is based on molecular techniques, has become increasingly popular as it potentially produces results with very high precision and accuracy within a short period of time, compared to traditional morphology- based taxonomy. DNA barcode is a 'short standardized gene region of 400 to 800 base pairs (bp) embedded in every cell that could be easily isolated and characterized for any species'. These segments/standardized gene regions can be described as universal DNA regions/barcodes that could be used as identification markers for any form of life. As DNA barcoding is associated with estimating genetic diversity, this approach is currently used as a guide in biodiversity conservation and management programmes due to its ability to confirm the identity of organisms, to infer the presence of new/endangered/ invasive/cryptic species and to estimate genetic diversity among individuals of a species.

The project `DNA barcoding of Sri Lankan mosquitoes' was initiated with the funding came from InRC, University of Peradeniya and is presently to other sources. DNA barcods have been established to identify and determine the genetic diversity of Sri Lankan mosquitoes belonging to genera *Aedes, Anopheles, Armigerus, Culex, Mansonia* and *Mimomiya* with 344 generated sequences which are available online in the GenBank database, for researchers and scientists to use in their research activities. A voucher specimen collection of these mosquitoes have been deposited at the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya and is freely available for the use of teaching and research purposes. The project is led by Prof. S.H.P. Parakrama Karunaratne, Dr. Thilini C. Weeraratne and Dr. W.A. Priyanka P. De Silva of Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya. Mr. Dilan Chathuranga, Mr. Nalaka Nugapola, Ms. Janadaree Bandara, Ms. Hansani Sandukalani and Ms. Chathurani Ekanayake work as postgraduate/graduate research students.

Recent publications arose from the project:

Weeraratne, T.C., Surendran, S.N. Karunaratne, S.H.P.P. (2018). DNA barcoding of morphologically characterized mosquitoes belonging to subfamily Culicinae from Sri Lanka. Parasites & Vectors, 11 (1), 266

Weeraratne, T.C., Surendran, S.N., Walton, C. and Karunaratne, S.H.P.P. (2018). Genetic diversity and population structure of malaria vector mosquitoes Anopheles subpictus, Anopheles peditaeniatus, and Anopheles vagus in five districts of Sri Lanka. Malaria journal, 17(1), 271.

Weeraratne, T.C., Surendran, S.N., Reimer, L.J., Wondji, C.S., Perera, M.D.B., Walton, C. and Karunaratne, S.H.P.P. (2017). Molecular characterization of Anopheline (Diptera:Culicidae) mosquitoes from eight geographical locations of Sri Lanka. Malaria Journal, 16, 234.doi 10.1186/s12936-017-1876-y



Robarosiya Certificate awarding Ceremony



Career Guidance Unit (CGU), University of Peradeniya conducted three month training of trainees programmes to Robarosiya students society members and completed two batches of trainees by now (2017 & 2018). Robarosiya has initiated by the CGU with students of all faculties to serve students and it is hosted by the CGU. Prof. Nimal Dharmasena, the Director Career Guidance Unit serves as the senior treasurer. The trained group of students help the CGU to conduct different personality development training programmes in addition to help their own fellow colleagues for facing the challenges of their student life.

The "Robarosiya" certificate awarding ceremony of personality development training programme course was held on 24th January 2019 at the Career Guidance Unit, University of Peradeniya. The chief dignitary was the present Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Upul B. Dissanayake. Certificates were awarded to 70 students of the Robarosiya society who have successfully completed three month personality development training.





Ceremonial Opening of the New Geology Building, Faculty of Science



Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya Professor Upul B. Dissanayake ceremonially opened a New Geology Building on 31st January 2019 at the Science Faculty premises. Professor S.H.P.P Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Saluka Kodituwakku, Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Rohana Chandrajith, Head, Department of Geology, Registrar, Bursar, Academic, Non-Academic staff members and students were also present in this occasion.

The new building has lecture theaters, laboratories, staff rooms etc. for teaching, training and research activities.



Career Fair 2018 at Faculty of Engineering



The annual Career Fair of Faculty of Engineering was held on 26 January 2019 at the faculty premises. Nearly 70 representatives from 17 Industrial establishments participated at the event. The final year students of all Engineering disciplines who completed the four year BSc Eng programme on the preceding Friday were able to meet their future employers on that day. The industrial participants, on the other hand, got an opportunity to screen potential candidates for future recruitments.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the E.O.E. Pereira Theatre from 8.30 am to 9.30 am. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake along with Prof. Gemunu Herath, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Nimal Dharmasena, Director of University Career Guidance Unit and Prof. T.M. Pallewatta, President of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka graced the occasion.

Mr. Taya Diaz, representing the Principal Sponsor "Lanwa", delivered an inspiring speech at the ceremony, in which he described the expansion plans of his company and highlighted the importance of having necessary "Soft Skills" for the success in the career of an Engineer. The event was concluded at around 6.00 pm.



White Coat Ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya







This year 2019 Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya conducted its 9th white coat ceremony on 05 February 2019 under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Professor Upul B. Dissanayaka robing 240 medical students just before they commence their clinical practice. After the inspirational lectures delivered by the Professor Upul B. Dissanayaka Vice-Chancellor, Professor Asiri Abeygunwardana, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the Chief Guest Professor Ranil Fernando of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kalaniya, the entire group jointly recite the students pledge in front of the senior teachers of the Faculty with a sense of responsibility and commitment to the profession.



University Colours Awarding Ceremony for the years 2017 & 2018



Colours Awarding Ceremony of the University of Peradeniya for the years 2017 & 2018 was held on 1st February 2019 at the University Gymnasium under the patronage of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya.

Five hundred and eighty-three students were awarded Colours and Certificates for different sport events. Professor S.H.P.P Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Acting Registrar, Academic & Non-academic staff members and student also present at this event.

The welcome address was delivered by Mr. M.D. Palitha Kumara, Director, Physical Education. While addressing the gathering the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the benefits of sports for the students during their undergraduate life. He further stressed that sports will immensely help to build up Self-confidence and self-esteem, Leadership, Teamwork, Social Skills, Discipline, Brainpower etc.



Postgraduate Diploma Awarding Ceremony – 2019



The First Postgraduate Diploma Awarding Ceremony of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) was successfully held at the Arts Theatre (AT), Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya on 15th of February 2019. During this ceremony, 394 Diplomas were awarded, including 39 in absentia, under 12 disciplines: Accounting and Finance, Archaeology, Economics, Education, English, Islamic Civilization, Management, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Tamil and Development Practice.

"Expressions" Cine & Arts Festival



The Art and Culture Unit of "Strengthening Reconciliation Processes in Sri Lanka Project" of GIZ Sri Lanka, has engaged with the University of Peradeniya in a partnership for organizing "Expressions" Cine & Art festival from the 03rd to the 05th of April, 2019 at the Arts Theater, Faculty of Arts. The inauguration programme was held on the 03rd of April in the presence of Vice- Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake. The overall purpose of the Cine & Art Festival is to provide space for the public, academic and student community at the university to appreciate art and to enable them to engage in dialogue related to the film themes pertaining to reconciliation, co-existence, peace building and other socio-political issues.

Courtesy visit of South African High Commissioner



H.E. (Ms) Robina P. Marks the High commissioner of South Africa in Sri Lanka made a courtesy visit to University of Peradeniya and met Professor S.H.P.P Karunaratne, Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Dr. Shameen Jinadasa, Acting Director International Affairs Office and Dr. Athula Withanawasam, Head, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts at the Vice Chancellor's office on 12th February 2019. A fruitful discussion on student-staff exchange programmes and research collaborations between the two countries, especially in the areas of International Politics, Law and Waste Management was taken place at this meeting.

Renewal of the Joint PhD Agreement between University of Peradeniya (UoP) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT)



A delegation from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) visited University of Peradeniya on 13th February 2019. The purpose behind the visit of Helen Klaebe, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Helen Edwards, Prof. Louise Hafner, Prof. Stephen Kajewski, Associate Prof. Saiful Karim, Dr. Stephen Cox and Prof. Deryn Vahl Meyer was to renew the Joint PhD Agreement between the two institutions for the years 2019 to 2024.

Health Education Program in Sisila Rehabilitation and Training Center



The students of batch 2015/2016 of the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences successfully conducted a health education program at Sisila Rehabilitation and Training Center in Delthota which is attached to Peradeniya Teaching Hospital on the 23rd of April, 2019. This visit was based on the field work of the Health Promotion Course in B. Sc. Nursing Curriculum. The objectives of this health education program were to apply the theories learnt in the course by conducting a health education programme to patients suffering from chronic mental ill-health. The knowledge and skills gained during the undergraduate period was shared with the residents of the rehabilitation center and was meant to improve the awareness on a healthy life style, proper hygiene and the importance of physical and mental rehabilitation. The residents as well as the staff of the Sisila Rehabilitation and Training Centre were highly appreciative of the effort taken by the students to raise awareness on health education.

Wilfred P Jayasekara High Voltage Laboratory



On Friday 23rd of February 2019, High Voltage Laboratory of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering was named as Wilfred P Jayasekara High Voltage Laboratory after renovating and refurbishing in the presence of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya.

Vidya Jyothi Professor K.K.Y.W. Perera, Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa was the Chief Guest of this occasion. As part of this project, An Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) laboratory sized 8' x 8' x 8' is newly fabricated as a closed metallic chamber to minimize electromagnetic interferences from surrounding. At the moment this laboratory is equipped with a 15-kV surge generator made by HAEFELY (Model PS 1500) which can be used for testing of power and communication equipment for lightning induced voltages.



Seminar on Environmental Health and Natural Science

Associate Professor Mona Sæbø, Assistant Professor Tone Jøran Oredalen and Senior Advisor Anette Nordheim, being the resource persons from University of South-Eastern Norway conducted a Seminar on Environmental Health and Natural Science at University of Peradeniya on 01 February 2019.

The program was presented at the Chemistry Auditorium, Faculty of Science as a collaborative work of International Affairs Office and the Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Faculty of Science.

Around 60 participants were able to get exposed to fruitful discussions and factors related to Environmental Health and Natural at this seminar.





World Oral Health Day – 2019 - Organized by the Faculty of Dental Sciences



The World Oral Health Day, 2019 was celebrated on the 21st of March, 2019 by the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Presidential Task Force on Drug Prevention, Center for Research in Oral Cancer (CROC), Oral Health Unit of the Office of The Regional Director of Health Services, Central Province and Sri Lanka Army.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Prof. K. Bambaradeniya auditorium of the Faculty and was graced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake and many other distinguished guests including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Dean/Faculty of Dental Sciences, Dr J.A.V.P Jayasinghe, and Deputy Regional Director of Health Services, Dr (Ms) Niranji Wijesooriya.

An awareness programme on oral healthcare was held at the same premises with the participation of more than 150 school teachers from the Kandy District. Two playlets by the undergraduates of the Dental Faculty were also staged to increase the awareness on oral cancer and dental caries among teachers.

The Faculty also organized a mobile exhibition bus in collaboration with the Presidential Task Force on Drug Prevention, to educate school children on the early diagnosis of oral diseases including oral cancer, their prevention and treatment strategies.

This event was organized by the World Oral Health Day, 2019 Organizing Committee led by Dr Chandra Godamunna Herath, the Consultant Paedodontist of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya.



A Program on Thripitakabhivandana



In parallel with the program launched to declare the Thripitaka as a world heritage, the University of Peradeniya organized a seminar on Thripitakabivandana that discussed the Thripitaka and its importance from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on the 22nd of March, 2019 at the Senate Room with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake. A former Mahopaddyaya of Anuradhapura Bhikkhu University and a committee member of the Asgiriya Chapter, most Venerable Prof. Thumbulle Seelakkhanda Thero, conducted the seminar followed by a discussion. Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Bursar, academic and non-academic staff members of the university were also present at this event.



PGIHS Research Congress, 2019 (PGIHS-RC-2019)







The third Research Congress of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS-RC-2019) was held successfully at the PGIHS, University of Peradeniya, on the 29th of March, 2019. The Congress consisted of a ceremonial inauguration followed by technical sessions. The inaugural session of the congress was graced by the chief guest Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, Prof. J.M.A. Jayawickrama, Director/PGIHS Prof. O.G. Dayaratne Banda, Dean/Faculty of Arts and Ms. Andrea Cuzyova, UNDP Deputy Resident



Launching Ceremony of the Journal and Magazine of the Faculty of Management





The Faculty of Management of the University of Peradeniya launched the maiden issues of its journal and magazine in a ceremony graced by Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, the Vice Chancellor and Prof. S.H.P. Parakrama Karunaratne, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University on the 03rd of April, 2019. Peradeniya Management Review (PMR), the journal of the Faculty, aims to disseminate both theoretical and applied research articles, review articles and book reviews on disciplines such as Management, and Accounting and Finance among a wider academic community.



Welcome ceremony for new entrants, Faculty of Science



The welcome ceremony of the new entrants to the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya was held at the University Gymnasium, on 02nd January 2019, under the patronage of Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

Professor Saluka Kodituwakku, Dean Faculty of Science welcomed the gathering. Four hundred and sixty-one undergraduate students were enrolled for the 2017/18 academic year and their parents were also present at the occasion.



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Library Seminar Series Organized by the Main Library





Library Seminar Series Organized by the Main Library the first seminar was conducted by Dr. Piyatissa Senanayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Archeology, on the 28th of January, 2019 at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Arts. The topic was on Making, Using and Preserving Palm-leaf Manuscripts (පුස්කොළ පොත් සම්පාදනය භාවිතය හා සංරක්ෂණය).

The second seminar was conducted by Dr. Danister L. Perera, Visiting Lecturer of the University of Kelaniya and Sri Jayawardhanapura, on the 19th of March, 2019 at the B Room, Faculty of Arts. The topic of the seminar was Cultural Literacy for a Healthy Life (සෞඛ්‍යමත් ජීවිතයක් සඳහා සංස්කෘතික සාක්ෂරතාව). Dr. Perera delivered an admirable speech on the influence of thinking patterns on human health.

Awareness Program for the Academic Staff on URKUND ANTI-Plagiarism Checker



The University of Peradeniya Library Network organized an awareness programme to introduce an anti-plagiarism software called URKUND for the academic and library staff of all faculties on the 05th and 06th of February, 2019 from 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm at the University IT center. The programme was coordinated by Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library and Mr. H.N.K.M. Herath, the local agent for URKUND, participated as the resource person of the program. About 150 academics participated in the event.

DETAILS OF RETIRED & RESIGNED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31.03.2019

Name	Designation	Faculty	Service Year
Mr. S. Rathnayake	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Arts	17
Dr. W.D. Bandula kumara	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	05
Dr. M.L.A.N.R. Deepani	SeniorLecturer Gr.II	Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	13
Dr. D.J. Epasinghe	SeniorLecturer Gr.II	Dental Sciences.	01.08

APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR ACADEMIC POSTS FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31.03.2019

Name	Designation	Faculty	Effective Date
Ms. B.R.G.T.K. Weerasinghe	Lecturer(Probationary)	Allied Health Science	06.02.2019
Ms. S.D.Maithreepala	Lecturer(Probationary)	Allied Health Science	25.01.2019
Dr. W.M.G.M.B. Bowatte	Senior Lecturer Grade II	Allied Health Science	21.03.2019
Ms. D.G.S.R.Karunarathne	Lecturer(Probationary)	Allied Health Science	07.02.2019
Ms. R.M.U.R.K. Rathnayake	Lecturer(Probationary)	Management	06.02.2019
Ms. K.D.M.K. Weerathunga	Lecturer(Probationary)	Management	06.02.2019
Dr. B.M.C.A. Bandaranayake	Lecturer(Probationary)	Dental Sciences	04.01.2019
Dr. D.P.H. Wijesekera	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	01.02.2019
Dr. N.M.T. Anupama	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	31.01.2019
Dr. Y.H.S.P.N. Kumara	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	14.02.2019
Dr. T.M.H.A. Usoof	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Science	01.01.2019
Dr. J.M.R.P. Bandara	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Medicine	01.01.2019

DETAILS OF PERMANENT RELEASED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31.03.2019

Name	Designation	Faculty	Date of Releasement
Ms. W.M.D.P. Madawala Hulugalla	Deputy Registrar	Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS)	15.03.2019

DETAILS OF RETIRED NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31.03.2019

Name	Designation	Faculty	Service Year
Mr. K.A. Madduma Banda	Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade)	Faculty of Science	34
Mrs. G. I. Mangalika	Senior Staff Assistant (Clerical Services)	Faculty of Medicine	35
Mr. S.C. Dissanayake	Senior Staff Technical Officer	Faculty of Vet. Med. & Animal Science	27
Mr. E.K. Senaratna Banda	Driver (Special Grade)	Faculty of Vet. Med. & Animal Science	29
Mr. U.G. Ranasinghe Banda	Mason (Special Grade)	Faculty of Vet. Med. & Animal Science	24
Mr. L.A.B.K. Liyanaarachchi	Clerk (Grade III)	Faculty of Vet. Med. & Animal Science	32
Mr. S.G. Maddumabanda	Labourer (Special Grade)	Faculty of Agriculture	37
Mr. S.H. Sumanaratna	Staff Assistant (Clerical Services)	Faculty of Agriculture	27
Mr. W.G.H.S.K. Jayabandara	Matron (Higher Grade)	Faculty of Agriculture	17
Mr. E.G.K. Buddhadasa	Carpenter (Grade II)	Faculty of Agriculture	24
Mr. O. Hallaldeen	Drawing Officer Assistant (Grade I)	Faculty of Engineering	25

APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR NON-ACADEMIC POSTS FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31.03.2019

Name	Designation	Faculty	Effective Date
Mr. B.M.U.C. Bandaranayake	Works Superintendent (Civil) (Grade II)	Maintenance Division	01.02.2019
Mr. W.A.D. Rangana	Works Superintendent (Civil) (Grade II)	Maintenance Division	01.01.2019
Mr. H.M.P.S.B. Herath	Works Superintendent (Civil) (Grade II)	Maintenance Division	01.01.2019
Mr. K.U.N. Chandrasiri	Audit Assistant (Grade III)	Internal Audit Division	21.01.2019
Mr. W.M.S.B. Wijetunga	Audit Assistant (Grade III)	Faculty of Agriculture	25.01.2019
Mr. W.G.J. Gunasekara	Driver/Tractor Operator (Grade II)	Health Centre	25.01.2019
Mr. R.M.A. Rathnayake	Storeman (Grade II)	Faculty of Engineering	01.02.2019

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2019 TO 31.03.2019

Name	Designation	Faculty	Date of Resignation
Administrative Staff			
Mr. S.N. Liyanage	Senior Assistant Internal Auditor	Internal Audit Division	01.02.2019
Non Academic Staff			
Mrs. R.M.N.T.K. Rajanayake	Technical Officer Grade II, Seg. 'B'	Department of Basic Science, Faculty of Dental Sciences	14.01.2019
Mr. S. N. Thalawala	Senior Staff Technical Officer	Department of Physics, Faculty of Science	11.02.2019

Workshop on Business Career Advancement – Graduates Entrepreneurship



The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) organized an awareness session for "Business Career Advancement - Graduates Entrepreneurship Programme" for the undergraduates of the University of Peradeniya on the 23rd of March, 2019 from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at the CGU. This was a collaboration with the Youlead project funded by USAID. This workshop focused principally on graduate employment through business startups by empowering undergraduates and exploring their business interests. 25 students participated in the programme representing various faculties and Dr. Premasiri Gamage, Chairman/Business Development Centre served as the resource person. Youlead sponsored the training.





Workshop on Vision Building, Career Assessment, Critical thinking and Personality Development



The Career Guidance Unit conducted the above workshop for students specializing in the Department of Management Studies of the Faculty of Management. This was an activity-based training that aimed to give these students employability skills. All students designed visually pleasing presentations and had created a vision for themselves as well; overall, this was a great opportunity to enhance their leadership, critical thinking and team building skills. This workshop was held on the 28th of March, 2019 from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at the Career Guidance Unit.

CPD activities by the MEU staff - A Training Workshop for Academic Staff of Faculties of Health Sciences



A training workshop on collegial processes to enhance the quality of the learning process titled "Enhancing the Quality of Teaching: How Can Peer-Review Help?" was organized by the Medical Education Unit of the Faculty of Medicine on the 23rd of January, 2019.

Prof. Chinthaka Balasooriya, the Director of Medical Education Development of the University of New South Wales, attended the workshop as a resource person. Around 15 academic staff members representing the faculties of Health Sciences in the University of Peradeniya took part in the two-hour long workshop that effectively combined information sharing and training.



A Workshop on 'Trends in Teaching Learning and Assessment'

A one day workshop on 'Trends in Teaching Learning and Assessment' was organized and conducted by the Medical Education Unit (MEU) with the help of the Faculty staff on the 29th of January, 2019.
It was attended by 15 MD trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.







Insects of Mahausakande - A story of Conserving an Abandoned Rubber Plantation into a Regenerating Tropical Forest





Emeritus Professor Jayanthi Edirisinghe and Professor Inoka Karunaratne of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya along with a nature lover photographer from Ukraine, Mr. Roman Prokhorov authored a coffee table book which was edited by a conservation biologist Dr. Sriyanie Miththapala with a mission- 'Insects - Hidden Treasurers of Mahausakande". The book unfolds the story of how a once abandoned rubber plantation is being conserved into a regenerating natural forest, through carefully chosen pictures of insects from Mahausakande forest and a narration on the role of insects in the once sterile rubber plantation.

Mahausakande is a 23 hectare patch of regenerating tropical forest, nestled in the foothills of Bambaragala – Mukalana Forest Reserve in Kiriella in the Ratnapura District. Its proximity to the Sinharaja Tropical Rain Forest is of considerable significance. This book is also the very first on the insects of the lowland rainforests of Sri Lanka.

The 300 paged- coffee table book showcases over 100 breathtaking photographs of insects in their natural surroundings and includes several bizarre insects, insects easily seen by the naked eye and others only through a powerful camera lens. Captured on camera are several endemic insect species, and a number of threatened species and a few rare insects that have made their home and brought up their young in the regeneration forest.

The text provides a concise overview of the insect structure, distinguishing features of the different insect groups, where they live, what they feed on and their roles in the forest ecosystem. Technical terms, the use of which could not be avoided, are explained and presented in bold face, and also defined in a glossary at the end of the book.

Insects make up 2/3rd of all animals on Planet Earth and are classified into 25 major groups (Orders). The book features 15 major insect groups from Mahausakande forest, backed by clear photographs of insects, arranged according to the evolutionary order, starting with the most ancient group of flying insects, the dragon flies and moves through to the most evolved group of ants, wasps and bees.

The book conveys to the reader the important message of conservation through a group of small animals without a backbone (the invertebrates), the insects, that fulfil major ecosystem services.

The conservation effort, the first of its kind in Sri Lanka is an initiative of the Ellawala Foundation Trust. The book, published by the Foundation was launched in Colombo on the 19th of January 2019.





