UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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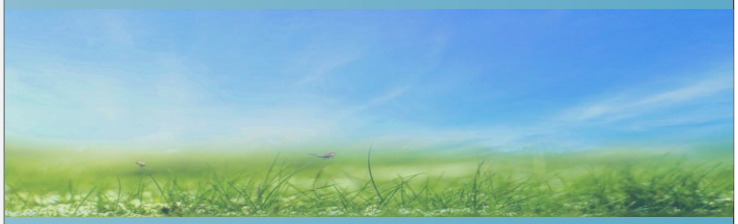
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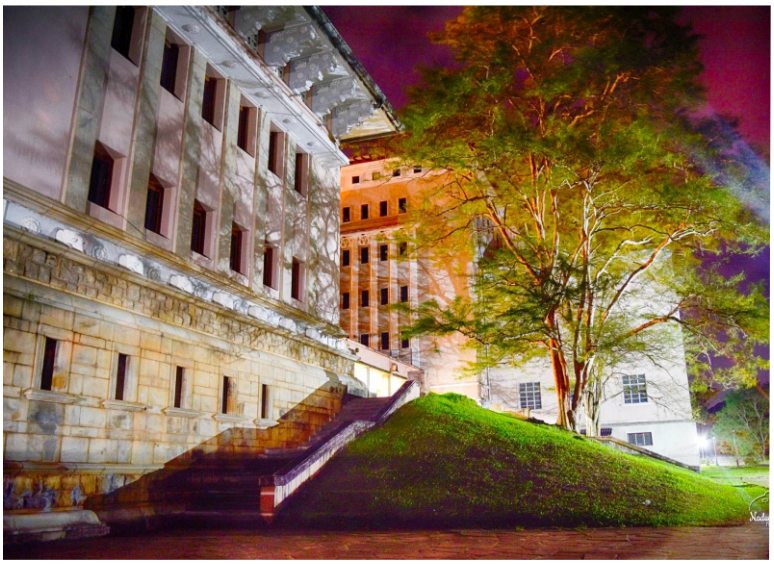


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Progress Review and way forward meeting with Hon. Minister of Education



Hon. Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Peiris and the Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof. Sampath Amarathunga visited University of Peradeniya on the 20th of September, 2020. Following a presentation made by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Upul B. Dissnayake on the progress and the way forward of the University, a special discussion was held between Hon Minister, Chairman UGC, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and all the Deans of the faculties. Hon. Minister agreed to give a special attention towards developing two teaching hospitals come under the Faculty of Dental Sciences and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science.



Quality of the present undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs, career counselling for undergraduates, uplifting facilities for students, requirements for additional students' intake were among the topics taken for discussion. Both the Hon. Minister and the Chairman of the UGC were impressed about the progress of the university & the global ranking that the university maintains.

The Faculty of Agriculture Received "A" Grades for All Degree Programs

Under the UGC Program Review Process, the three degree programs of the Faculty of Agriculture received "A" Grades. The BSc Agricultural Technology and Management Degree received 96.81 marks out of 100 which is the highest mark awarded so far for any degree program in Sri Lanka. The BSc Food Science and Technology and BSc Animal Science and Fisheries degree programs received 83 and 80.16 marks, respectively.

Commissioning of the CSS System at the University of Peradeniya





The Multi-university Project on Solar Edu-Training was initiated in 2017 as collaboration between Universities of Kelaniya, Peradeniya, Jaffna and the National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS) with the financial support from the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (Rs. 240 Million) with main objectives of creating public awareness on solar energy, building a skilled workforce of solar technicians and conducting R&D work towards manufacturing of prototype thin film solar cells.

The Closed Spaced Sublimation (CSS) system, which is the major equipment which was purchased under the project at a cost of about Rs. 26 Million, housed at the Advanced Materials Research Laboratory (AMReL) at the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, was commissioned in the presence of Mr. Anura Dissanayake, Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation and Mr. Chinthaka Lokuhetti, Former Secretary of the State Ministry of Technology and Innovation on the 30th of July, 2020. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. Saluka Kodituwakku, Head of the Department of Physics, Dr. Varuni Seneviratne, Director/Planning of Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Mrs. Nazeema Ahamed, Director of the Solar Edu-Training Programme, Prof. Sudath Kalingamudali, Deputy Project Directors, Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake and Dr. Buddhika Dassanayake were also present at the ceremony.

With the installation of the CSS system at Peradeniya, the AMReL becomes the only laboratory in the country to house such a state-of-the-art equipment for thin film research.




Library Visit of Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education

The Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education visited the Library, University of Peradeniya, on the 30th of July, 2020. Mr. R.Maheshwaran, Acting Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, welcomed the Secretary and accompanied the team on the visit to the library. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Parakrama Karunarathne and the Public Relations Officer, Mr. Mahesh Abeywickrama, were also present at the tour.

Opening of the New Library Building



The six-storied new library extension building was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Upul B. Dissanayake on the 28th of August, 2020. This long awaited and much needed facility has been constructed as a left wing to the old Main Library building and connected to the old building by a bridge. The wing includes an auditorium, an art gallery cum museum, E-library and an IT lab and expected to house the Ceylon Room collection and some valuable collections donated by several eminent personalities.



Diploma Awarding Ceremony



The CDCE held the "Diploma Awarding Ceremony" for those who completed the "Diploma in Management and Development" course successfully in the 2018 batch on the 18th of September, 2020, at the CDCE Main Hall of the University of Peradeniya. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor SHPP Karunaratne, Dean/Faculty of Management, Professor Athula Ekanayake and the Director/CDCE, Prof. Mallika Pinnawala, graced the occasion with their presence.

Donations of Tabs from AAUP

Based on the request made by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya donated three tabs to be provided to the students who needed devices for online learning.

InRC Research Grants Completion Awards



International Research Centre (InRC) (presently known as International Relations Office - InRO) has awarded 18 research grants to the outstanding academic staff members of the University of Peradeniya to conduct research in the year 2013 and presently all grantees have completed their research successfully. Hence the International Relations Office (InRO) organized the "InRC Research Grants Completion Awards" in order to acknowledge the grantees of InRC. The Ceremony was held on the 10th of July, 2020 at the Senate Room of University of Peradeniya. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice- Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Dr. Nanda Gunawardhana, Former Director, International Research Centre, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa and the grantees along with many distinguished guests including Deans of Faculties, Directors of Units and Centres graced the prestigious occasion.



Sri Lanka Telecom Research and Development Lab Opens at the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering







Sri Lanka Telecom Research and Development laboratory was ceremonially opened by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake and the group CEO of the Sri Lanka Telecom Mr. Lalith Senavirathne on the 10th of July, 2020. The CEO of the Sri Lanka Telecom Mr. Kiththi Perera, COO of the Sri Lanka Telecom Mr. Priyantha Fernandez, and the Group Chief IT Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, Mr. Saman Perera were among the dignitaries who graced this occasion. This laboratory is a major boost to the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and to the University. The lab consists of a functioning model of a modern telecommunication system equipped with the state of the art equipment. Students will be able to carry out experiments and research using the laboratory. After the opening of the laboratory, Dr. Shamil Appathurai presented the proposal for a new Mobile Communication Systems Research Laboratory sponsored by Sri Lanka Telecom and Mobitel. The formal proposal was handed over by the group CEO of the Sri Lanka Telecom, Mr. Lalith Senavirathne to the Dean/Engineering Prof. Gemunu Herath.

The MoU between the University of Peradeniya and the Sri Lanka Telecom was extended by three more years by the Vice-Chancellor and The CEO SLT. The Vice-Chancellor, Dean/Engineering, Prof. Kithsiri Liyanage, Head/Electrical and Electronic Engineering, group CEO SLT, and CEO SLT addressed the gathering. The Chairman SLT, Mr. Rohan Fernando also addressed the gathering via Zoom.

Seed Production Program at Dodangolla Experimental Station



The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has selected 16 priority crops for expansion in cultivation and production during the COVID-19 crisis period. Accordingly the GOSL has made a request from all concerned parties to produce required planting materials for those prioritized crops. In response to this request, the Department of Crop Science of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya initiated a program to produce planting materials of cowpea and chilli using the facilities available at the University Experimental Station at Dodangolla, managed by the Department. This activity was done in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. The first seed lot was officially handed over to Ms. Jayantha Ilankoon, the Additional Director General of Department of Agriculture by Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake the Vice-Chancellor of University of Peradeniya on the 14th of August, 2020.

"Lekhanawali" – A book consists of collection of scholarly articles of Emeritus Professor P.B. Meegaskumbura



"Lekhanawali" – A book consists of collection of scholarly articles of Emeritus Professor P.B. Meegaskumbura, Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Arts, was launched on the 25th of August, 2020 at the Senate Room. The "Lekhanawali" has been edited by Rev. Aparekke Sirisudharma, Rev. Pitathalawe Wimalasara, and Rev. Dambulle Sudava from Department of Sinhala and Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Peradeniya/Ruhuna. The book was presented to Prof. P.B. Meegaskumbura by the editors at this Ceremony. The "collection of Articles of Prof. Meegaskumbura" is a Bi-Lingual book and it is divided in to three major parts as part I, II and III.

Programs Conducted by the Art Circle of the Faculty of Agriculture

- The Agriculture Faculty "Prabuddha" Art Circle organized a joint musical program, "Nada Denuwara", in collaboration with the Science Faculty Art Circle. The event which was held online via Zoom on the 17th of August, 2020, was conducted successfully and was attended by the students and staff of both the Faculties of Agriculture and Science.
- The Art Circle of the Faculty conducted a musical programme titled "Gee Mathaka" on the 5th of July, 2020 and on the 26th of July, 2020 from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. through Zoom. The second program was conducted with the participation of Dr. Manoj Alawathukotuwa from the Faculty of Arts.

Strengthening Partnerships with Erasmus+

University of Peradeniya has become partner in 7 Erasmus+ Projects selected for the year 2020 under the scheme "Capacity-Building for Higher Education (CBHE)". These Capacity-Building projects aim to support organizations/institutions and systems in their modernization and internationalization process. It is of significance that University of Peradeniya has participated in preparing the applications of 7 out of 9 projects involving Sri Lankan partners which were selected this year.

The main coordinators from University of Peradeniya of these projects are as follows:

Project Title	Main Coordinator (from UoP)
Enhancing Governance, Management and Reform in Sri Lanka Universities through Non-Academic Staff Training	Prof. A. Abhayaratne (Faculty of Arts)
Graduates for Climate Change Adapted Water Management (CCWater)	Prof. S.B. Weerakoon (Faculty of Engineering)
nEUROcare - A European Initiative for Capacity Building to Meet the Challenges of Caring for People with Neurode generative Disorders in Sri Lanka	Dr. T.D. Dassanayake (Faculty of Allied Health Sciences)
Sport and Physical Education as a Vehicle for Inclusion and Recognition in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka	Dr. W. Senevirathne (Faculty of Arts)
Strategic Support for Accreditation of Programs and Internationalization at South Asian Higher Education Institutes	Prof. A. Abhayaratne (Faculty of Arts)
Strengthening University- Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia	Prof P.B.R. Dissanayake (Faculty of Engineering)
Training Hub of Renewable Energy Technologies for Sri Lanka/THREELANKA	Dr. P. Gunawardane (Faculty of Engineering)

Blooming with Post COVID 19 Challenges in Agriculture and Food Industry

Alumni Association of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya conducted the webinar "Blooming with Post COVID 19 Challenges in Agriculture and Food Industry": Preparedness of Agriculture Graduates", on the 9th of February, 2020 from 4.00 pm. to 6.00 p.m. at the Board Room of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

Indigenous Herbal Tree Planting Ceremony





Indigenous Herbal Tree planting ceremony for commemoration of Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala's Birthday, organized by the University of Peradeniya under the guidance of State Ministry of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development & Community Health was held at the university premises on the 17th of September, 2020. Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University participated as the Chief Guest of this event.

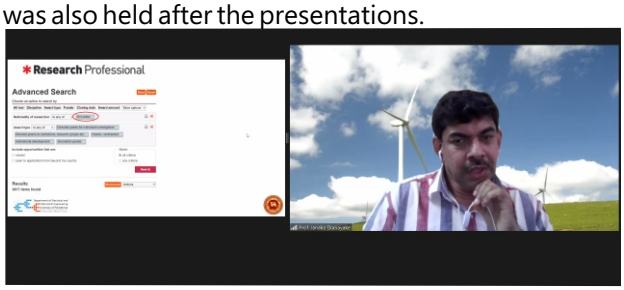
International Collaborations: Future Prospects



The International Relations Office of the University of Peradeniya together with the National Science Foundation, organized a Webinar on 'International Collaborations: Future Prospects' on the 17th of September, 2020 at 2.00 p.m. via the Zoom meeting facility. This webinar targeted the academic and research staff of Universities and other Institutions to discuss new ways of continuing International Collaborative Research after COVID-19. About 60 participants from Sri Lankan and Foreign Universities and R & D institutions joined this online program.

Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, made the welcome address. Prof. Ranjith Senaratne, Chairman/National Science Foundation, made the opening remarks at this session. Well-renowned researchers who conduct international collaborative researches including Prof. Saman Halgamuge/University of Melbourne, Australia, Prof. Janaka Ekanayake/Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Jaya Seneviratne/National Dental Research Institute Singapore, Duke NUS Medical School, and Prof. Stephen Schensul/University of Connecticut, USA, enlightened the participants with their valuable thoughts and experiences. The perspectives of Sri Lankan academics and R & D institutions in relation to the establishment of international collaborations, funding sources and joint higher education programs, opportunities for Sri Lankan researchers to initiate new international collaborations and their advantages and challenges and experiences in international collaborations were some of the themes discussed at the webinar.

An interesting Q&A session moderated by Dr. Nanda Gunawardhana, Director/Research and International Relations, Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), was also held after the presentations.



New Librarian of the University of Peradeniya



R. Maheswaran was appointed the 8th Librarian of the University of Peradeniya.

During his incumbency as the acting Librarian from 2015, he proposed the construction of the new library building and established the Palm-leaf Manuscript Conservation and Preservation Unit and the Digital Resources Development and Staff Training Division. He also initiated the Institutional Repository which contributed to the University's top Webometric rankings.

He is a prolific writer in Tamil and English and has penned 07 Library and Information Science textbooks in English, three Sahithya award-winning Tamil books and many other books and research articles. He is an old boy of St. Sylvester's College, Kandy and played hockey at school and on provincial and national levels as well.

ANSO Scholarships for Young Talents 2020

As a fruitful outcome of the information session on ANSO and UCAS Scholarships: 2020 Call for Applications carried out by the International Relations Office together with the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), held on the 15th of April, 2020, a total of nine students from the University of Peradeniya were selected for the ANSO Scholarships for Young Talents 2020. Two of the selected students opted to follow PhD programs and the rest of the students were chosen for the Master's program at UCAS.

Informative Seminar on Opportunities for Higher Studies in Engineering





The International Relations Office held an informative seminar on Opportunities for Higher Studies in Engineering on the 22nd of September, 2020 at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with AIESEC in the University of Peradeniya and the International Interaction Club.

Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Prof. Roshan Ragel, Dr. Hiran Yapa, Dr. Himal Suraweera, Dr (Mrs.) Nadeeshani Nanayakkara and Dr. Panduka Neluwala were all in attendance as valuable resource persons. After the opening address was delivered by Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, presentations on why students apply for higher studies, opportunities available for higher studies in various countries, choosing universities to apply for and details on the application process were made by Prof. Roshan Regal, Dr. Himal Suraweera, Dr. (Mrs) Nadeeshani Nanayakkara and Dr. Hiran Yapa. Video testimonials from graduates who had completed their higher studies at esteemed global universities were also shown in order to give the student audience a well-rounded and informed idea on what higher studies in Engineering would entail. A panel discussion where students were given the opportunity to raise their queries and concerns was held before the conclusion of the event.

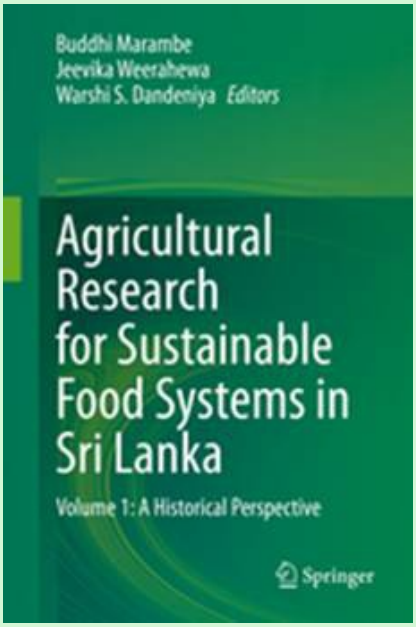
Seminar on Public Speaking



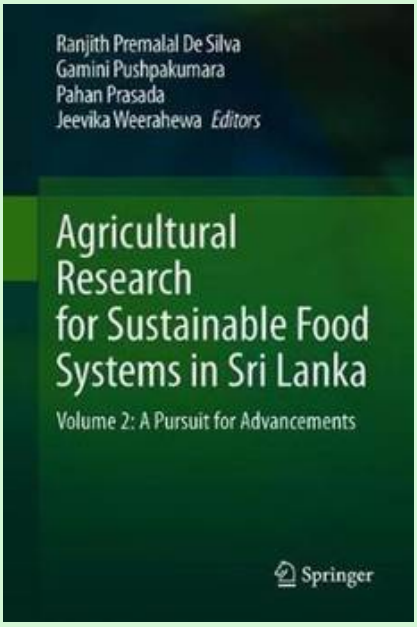
The Department of Human Resource Management of Faculty of Management successfully organized a seminar on "Public Speaking" for final year BBA undergraduates on the 19th of August, 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. at the Faculty of Management. The seminar was hosted by Dr. Jayalath Edirisinge who is a Toastmaster as well as a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya. The aim of this seminar was to raise awareness on how to become a dynamic speaker and presenter and helped the participants to develop their level of confidence and skills in delivering speeches.

The Faculty of Agriculture joined with Springer Nature to Publish Two Books on Agricultural Research for Sustainable Food Systems in Sri Lanka

The Faculty of Agriculture took the initiative to contribute to the world of Agricultural Science as part of the celebration of 70 years of Agricultural Higher Education in Sri Lanka in 2018. Accordingly, the following books are now available at Springer Nature and requests have been made from the University of Peradeniya to order a few copies for its library.



Agricultural Research for Sustainable Food Systems in Sri Lanka. Volume 1: A Historical Perspective. Editors: Buddhi Marambe, Jeevika Weerahewa and Warshi Dandeniya. The Publication Year 2020. Publisher: Springer Nature



Agricultural Research for Sustainable Food Systems in Sri Lanka. Volume 2: A Pursuit for Advancements. Editors: Ranjith Premalal de Silva, Gamini Pushpakumara, Pahan Prasada and Jeevika Weerahewa. The Publication Year 2020. Publisher: Springer Nature

Veterinary Teaching Hospital unveils newly established teaching and service units



Subsequent to the Industry Day programme conducted at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) in September 2018 with the hope of establishing functional corporation between the University and Private Sector Organizations, VTH has been able to refurbish several state of the art functional units to provide conducive environment for student teaching, learning and better patient care. Under this project, a new Clinical Skills Laboratory, a Consultation Room conforming to international standards, a modern Clinical Teaching Area, a Clinician's Room, and a Self-Study Area equipped with Computer Workstations and a well-equipped Intensive Care Unit have been established.



Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium (FAuRS-2019).







The Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium (FAuRS-2019) was held on the 16th of July, 2020 at the Faculty of Agriculture for the sixth consecutive time. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, The Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya was the Chief Guest and the Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. J.K. Vidanarachchi, Coordinator FAuRS-2019, Deans of other Faculties, Heads of Departments, academic staff members, non-academic staff members and the paper presenters and winners from the non-technical completions participated the event adhering all the guidelines issued by the government of Sri Lanka and the UGC in controlling Covid-19 pandemic. The proceedings of the FAuRS-2019 presented the findings of 212 research projects in the form of abstracts. They were organized under four themes, i.e. Agricultural Production & Productivity, Technological Interventions & Applications in Agriculture, Food Quality & Product Development and Community & Environment, depicting key thematic areas of the curricular of the three degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Agriculture.

First Undergraduate Research Symposium of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science



The First Undergraduate Research Symposium of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science was held on the 15th of July, 2020 at the Auditorium, Administrative Building, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya. Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya was the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony which was also attended by Professor Parakrama Karunaratne, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and other dignitaries such as Dr. Ranjini Hettiarachchi, Director General of the Department of Animal Production and Health, and Dr. Madura Munasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

The major highlight of the event was that it was conducted as a 'Virtual Symposium' considering the circumstances surrounding the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. Research findings of 'Animal Production & Health Research Projects' of the students of the batch 2013/2014 were presented at the symposium; as 16 pre-recorded oral presentations and 47 digital posters. The pre-recorded oral presentations were played back in front of a panel of distinguished judges followed by a question and answer session where students joined virtually for a live discussion. The three overall best oral presentations and the best poultry-related presentation were selected based on the judges' scores.

The event was organized by the Veterinary Medical Education Unit (VMEU) and attended by approximately 50 'physical' and 125 'virtual' participants. A digital copy of the Proceedings of the First Undergraduate Research Symposium can be downloaded from the website of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal science, University of Peradeniya on http://vet.pdn.ac.lk/vmeu/Symposium.php











Webinars - Nuclear Medicine Unit

27th July –Contemporary best practices in Assessment



Resource person, Dr. Dujeepa Samarasekera, Director, Centre for Medical Education NUS, Singapore. Time 2.30 to 3.30 p.m.
More than 30 academic staff members from Faculties of Medicine of the Universities of Peradeniya, Colombo, Wayamba, Ruhuna, Ragama, Rajarata, Eastern and Jaffna and Faculties of Dental Sciences, Veterinary Medicine and Animal science and Allied Health Science participated.

27th August - Broadening the scope of assessments: role of assignments, Preliminary session to sensitize participants Time - 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. SL time

Resource person- A/prof. Chinthaka Balasuriya, Director of Medical Education Development, School of Public Health & Community Medicine,
University of New South Wales (UNSW) Australia, Honorary visiting fellow of the Faculty of Medicine. University of Peradeniya.
More than 25 participants were noted. Participants were from faculties of Medicine, Peradeniya, Ragama, Eastern, Rajarata, Colombo, Wayamba and Jaffna, Ministry of Health Colombo and the Faculty of Dental sciences.

The recordings are made available through the Faculty CPD section in the MOODLE platform.

Shade of Nature – Photographic Exhibition



The Biology Guild of the Faculty of Agriculture conducted a "Shade of Nature – Photographic Exhibition" on the 20th of August, 2020 at the Administrative Building of the Faculty. Thirty-seven selected photographs taken by the guilders were displayed in the exhibition and evaluated and awarded.

As part of the activities of the Ethical Clearance Committee of the Faculty of Agriculture, an awareness workshop on ethical clearance for research work was conducted for the academic staff of the Faculty on the topic of "Do We Need Ethical Clearance for Our Research Work and How to Get It" by Prof. I. B. Gawarammana, Chairperson/Ethical Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, on the 15th of September, 2020, at the Board Room of the Faculty.



New Appointments

Dean - Faculty of Management



Professor E.M.A.S.B. Ekanayake, Head, Department of Business Finance, was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, for a period of three (03) years with effect from 21.08.2020. Prof. Ekanayake graduated with a B.Sc. in Business Administration (Special) Degree from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He earned the Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Peradeniya and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. He is also a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

Directors of Centres / Units

- Dr. Chalinda Koshitha Benaragama, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, was appointed as the Director of the Staff Development Centre for a period of three years with effect from 27.07.2020.
- Dr. J.C. Rajagugu, Department of Mechanical Engineering, was appointed as the Director of the Engineering Workshop for a period of two years with effect from 16.07.2020.
- Dr. H.M.V.R. Herath, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, was appointed as the Director of the Centre for Engineering Research & Postgraduate Studies (CERPS), with effect from 10.08.2020.

Heads of Departments

- Dr. K.A.N.M. Kalugampitiya was appointed as the Head of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts with effect from 05.07.2020.
- Prof. A.M. Attygalla was appointed as the Head of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dental Sciences with effect from 01.07.2020.
- Prof. K.N. Marambe was appointed as the Head of the Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine with effect from 03.07.2020.
- Ms. R.M.C. Kumari was appointed as the Head of the Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Management with effect from 01.09.2020.
- Dr. D.H. Edussuriya was appointed as the Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine with effect from 31.07.2020.
- Dr. S. Wijetunge was appointed as the Head of the Department of Pathology with effect from 01.08.2020.
- Dr. H.F.S. Fonseka was appointed as the Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine with effect from 02.07.2020.
- Dr. E.M.P.C.S. Ekanayake was appointed as the Head of the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts with effect from 15.09.2020.
- Mrs. S. Kodithuwakku was appointed as the Head of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management with effect from 22.08.2020.

Nature Explorations and Nature Conservations



University Explorers' Club has been playing a major role in empowering the youth with adventure sports and Nature exploration throughout Sri Lanka. The Legacy of the club lines up with exploring nature, nature conservation, social work and apprehended leadership training.

Perachamps Interfaculty competition, Perachamps Inter School and Inter University competitions are organized every year with the idea of improving the awareness of adventure sports. Litter disposal programmes conducted in Sri paada and "Anuradhapura Pichchamal Poojawa" and Annual Cycle tour and school rehabilitation programme highlights the major social welfare activities done by University Explorers' Club.

One day, two day and three day Explorations earmarks the Nature Explorations and Nature Conservations. Apart from them, Himalayan expeditions done over the past years have landmarked the excellence of the gigantic family. University Explorers' Club is ready to celebrate its Golden jubilee in the next year commemorating the prominent history of itself.





Inauguration Programme of the Laboratory Handling Certificate Level Programme for the New Entrants - 2020



The inauguration ceremony to mark the registration of new students for the Laboratory Handling Certificate Level Programme for the academic year 2019/2020 was held at the Main Hall, CDCE. Prof. S.H.P.P Karunarathne/Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Athula Perera, the Academic Coordinator of the programme and Professor Mallika Pinnawala, the Director of the Centre, were present at the event. The academic staff, administrative staff, students and staff of the CDCE also attended the ceremony.



Annual Research Excellence Awards



The Annual Research Excellence Award, 2018, Category I award for Probationary Lecturers was awarded to Dr. D.M.S.B. Dissanayake of the Department of Crop Science whereas Category II awards for Senior Lecturers were awarded to Dr. K.W.L.K. Weerasinghe of the Department of Crop Science and Dr. P.G.G. Bandaranayake of the Agricultural Biotechnology Centre. These awards were given at the FAuRS-2019 held on the 16th of July, 2020.

Dhamma Discussion

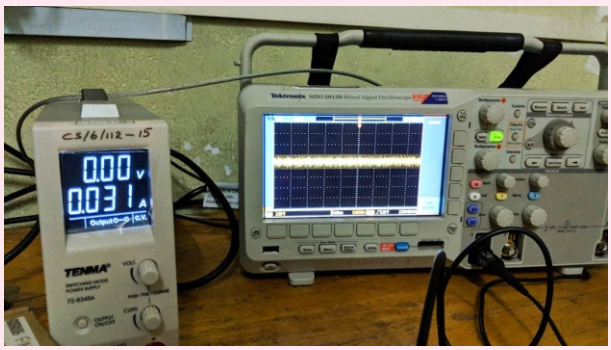
The Buddhist Brotherhood Association of the Faculty of Agriculture organized a "Dhamma Discussion" with Ven. Kahagala Seelarathana on the 5th of June, 2020 from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. via Zoom.

A safer walk through the Information age.





The information age or digital age began in the early 20th century with the rapid development of information technology. Together with that, the necessity of information security rose. Being the science of protecting information, Cryptography is being played a crucial role in the information age. Cryptography Research Laboratory (CRL) is a research group at the Department of Computer Engineering, University of Peradeniya, initiated in 2016 by Dr. Janaka Alawatugoda and Professor Roshan Ragel. The primary focus of CRL is to research cryptographic fundamentals that enable secure communications. CRL continues fruitful collaborations with institutes such as IIT Madras (India), Aalto University (Finland), and the Tun Hussein Onn University of Malaysia. Moreover, CRL has achieved many research grants and made many research publications in indexed journals and international conferences. In the coming years, CRL aims to expand its research directions to facilitate the legal and business sectors in Sri Lanka.



Webinar on Dissemination of Research to the General Public



The International Relations Office (InRO) together with the University Research Council (URC), University of Peradeniya, organized a Webinar on Dissemination of Research to the General Public - 2020, from the workshop series of Hantana Vision, University Research Magazine. The webinar was held on the 20th August, 2020 at 03.00 pm via the Zoom meeting facility. The objective was to encourage academics to write articles to the University Research Magazine, Hantana Vision, and to improve their capacities of disseminating research to the general public.

Dr. Y. A. Illangasekera, Editorial Board Member/Faculty of Medicine, made the opening remarks and moderated the session. Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, made the welcome address. An overview of the Hantana Vision Magazine was given by Prof. Sumedha Madawala, Editor in Chief/Hantana Vision Research Magazine. The webinar was conducted by three eminent academics from the University of Peradeniya, namely, Prof. Nedra Karunaratne/Faculty of Science, Dr. Venura Herath/Faculty of Agriculture, and Prof. Kalana Maduwage/Faculty of Medicine.

The webinar demonstrated how research publications could be converted into articles and notices for a general audience and provided some tips on how to write an article to a magazine or a newspaper, select a catchy title and choose illustrations/photos in an effective manner. A brief Q&A session was also conducted after the online session. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. N.M.T. Anupama, Editorial Board Member/Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

Development of a Web-Based Platform for C.V Writing & Student Placements



The Career Guidance Unit & hSenid Pvt. Ltd launched a job portal for students which will help them in their CV writing and provide an opportunity for them to submit their CVs to a common platform. This online platform is the first of its kind developed in Sri Lanka that helps individuals build their own CVs completely free of charge and allows the staff of the Career Guidance Unit to forward them for internships/jobs. Students of the University of Peradeniya can register with the career building site "Jobs DB.lk "and enjoy this benefit .The platform became active on the 29th of September, 2020 and more than fifty students visited the site on the very first day.



A Study Tour for Library & Information Science Students of the University of Kelaniya.







A group of 32 students who specialized in Library and Information Science of the University of Kelaniya visited the library of the University of Peradeniya for a study tour on the 28th of September, 2020. This experience helped them see the unparalleled capacities, practices and functions of the Peradeniya library. . Mr. A. Dharmarathne, Head/Senior Assistant Librarian of Reader Services, delivered a lecture on the role of an academic library in understanding and responding to different user expectations in the modern information era using the University of Peradeniya as an example. Ms. N.S.Rathnabahu/Senior Lecturer, Ven. Damunnawe Upali and Ms.Thrisala Warnasuriya, Assistant Lecturers of the University of Kelaniya, were part of this tour and Mr. S. Jeewan, Assistant Librarian of Readers Services, coordinated the programme.

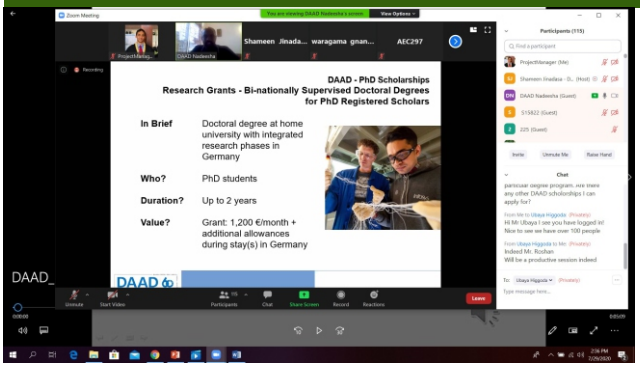
Workshop on Image Building & Personal Development

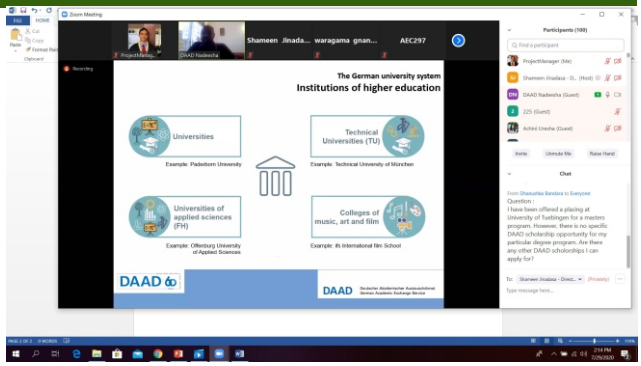


The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) conducted a workshop on Image Building & Personal Development for the final year students in Applied Science in the Faculty of Science. The main purpose of this workshop was to emphasize the importance of personal branding & develop the employability skills needed for their careers. Mr. Shamri Ahafurdeen, Head of Operations & Business Development in the Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (A.P.I.I.T), served as the resource person. The workshop was held on the 28th of August, 2020, from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. with the participation of fifty eight students.



Information Session on Higher Study Opportunities in Germany





The International Relations Office together with the DAAD Information Centre Colombo and the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) organized an Online Information Session on Higher Study Opportunities in Germany via the Zoom meeting facility on the 29th of July, 2020. This session targeted students at the University of Peradeniya who wished to pursue a Masters degree or a PhD in Germany.

Dr. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, made the welcome address. Prof. H. M. T. G. A. Pitawala, Director/Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, also delivered a speech at the online session. Mr. Nadeesha Palliyaguru, Information & Office Manager/DAAD Information Point Colombo, conducted the webinar. During his presentation Mr. Ubaya Higgoda and Mr. Niranjan Fernando of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, who recently finished their PhD studies in Germany, shared their experiences with the participants and motivated students to apply for postgraduate studies in Germany. Ms. Anuroopa Dixit, Programme Officer/DAAD Regional Office New Delhi, also highlighted possible scholarship opportunities in Germany.

Over 120 students from the University of Peradeniya joined this online program. A brief Q&A session was also conducted after the online session.

Appointments made for Academic Posts from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Dr. PGAS Palkumbura	Lecturer (Probationary)	Veterinary Pathobiology	13.08.2020
Mrs. M.M.J.P. Manchanayake	Lecturer (Probationary)	Physiotherapy	16.09.2020
Dr. (Ms.) A Y Wimalasiri	Lecturer (Probationary)	Paediatrics	02.07.2020
Dr. T M Samarasinghe	Lecturer (Probationary)	Surgery	16.07.2020
Dr. C G K Amiyangoda	Lecturer (Probationary)	Pharmacology	10.09.2020
Dr. S V K Gunasekera	Lecturer (Probationary)	Surgery	16.09.2020
Dr. P.A. Hewage	Lecturer (Probationary)	Restorative Dentistry	30.09.2020

Details of Promoted Academic employees from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work
Prof. R.S. Kalupahana	Professor	Vet. Public Health & Pharmacology
Prof. G.S.P. De. S. Gunawardena	Professor	Veterinary Pathobiology
Dr. A.W. Kalupahana	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Veterinary Pathobiology
Dr. H.R.N. Jinadasa	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Veterinary Pathobiology
Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara	Professor	Medical Laboratory Science
Dr. R.P. Illeperuma	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Medical Laboratory Science
Mr. S Mayooran	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Physiotherapy
Dr. B.C.G. Mendis	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Medical Laboratory Science
Prof. W.A.U. Vitharana	Professor	Soil Science
Prof. R.S. Dharmakeerathi	Professor	Soil Science
Dr. V.G.D. Nayanaka	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Soil Science
Ms. H.L.M. De Silva	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Operation Management
Prof. M.M.A.N. Navaratne	Senior Professor	Chemistry
Dr. D.R.A. Mendis	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Physics
Dr. M.P.C.S. Dhanapala	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
Dr. P.G.R.S.Ranasinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Mathematics
Mr. P.M.P.C. Gunathilaka	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Statistics & Computer Science
Dr. J.H.T.A. Jayaweera	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Zoology
Prof. S T Kudagammana	Professor	Paediatrics
Prof. A N Vadysinghe	Professor	Forensic Medicine
Prof. D H Edussuriya	Professor	Forensic Medicine
Dr. W M A S B Wasala	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Anaesthesiology
Dr. C N Rathnatunga	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Microbiology
Dr. WMSNK Navarathna	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Community Medicine
Dr. M C Gihan	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Obs. & Gyn
Dr. T M S H Dharmarathna	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Medical Education
Prof. S.J.S.De Mel	Professor	Economics & Statistics
Prof. H.A.D.S. Jinadasa	Professor	Civil Engineering
Dr. (Mrs.) C.K. Pathirana	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Civil Engineering
Mr. Z. Maraikar	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Computer Engineering
Dr. H.A.D.S. Buddhika	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Civil Engineering
Prof. H.G.L. Weerahewa	Senior Professor	Agri. Econ. & Business Management
Prof. G.L.L.P. Silva	Senior Professor	Animal Science
Prof. P.C.G. Bandaranayake	Professor	Agri. Biotechnology Centre
Prof. D.R.R.M. Fonseka	Professor	Crop Science
Dr. D.V.P. Prasada	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Agri. Econ. & Business Management
Dr. L.M. Rankoth	Transitional Provision	Crop Science
Dr. A.K.J.S. Kumara	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Political Science
Dr. S Sutharsan	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Tamil
Mr. B.A.J. Bogoda	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Philosophy
Ms. D Kawsalya	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Political Science

Resignations Received from Academic Staff from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Prof. GS S R Dias	Professor	Psychiatry	17 Years
Dr. C.D. Senanayake	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering	13 Years
Dr. W.A.R. Manamperi	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering	02 Years
Prof. H.M.C. Herath	Professor of Philosophy	Philosophy	24 Years

Details of Retired Academic Employees from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Dr. H.U.A. Wickramasuriya	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Agricultural Extension	40 Years
Prof. S.D. Pathirana	Professor	Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering	42 Years
Mr. W.R.M.U. Wickramasinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Industial Training & Career Guidence Unit	35 Years
Dr. K Herath	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	English	18 Years

Details of Promoted Academic Support employees form 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work
Mrs. D.A.N.De Silva	Instructor (Computer Technology) Gr. I	Computer Center/ Faculty of Engineering

Details of Retired Executive Employees from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mrs. Y.R. Pathirana	Senior Assistant Bursar	Financial Administration Division	35

Details of Retired Non-Academic Employees from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mr. T.M.P.B. Tennakoon	Driver (Special Grade)	Gen. Admin. Division (Mainten. Division)	27
Mrs. H.M.P. Shirani	Staff Technical Officer Grade I	Department of Prosthetic Dentistry	35
Mr. E.M.S. Ekanayake	Security Guard (Supra Grade)	Security Division	35
Mr. H.M. Nawaratne	Carpenter (Special Grade)	Maintenance Division	34
Mr. N.K.K. Nugaliyadda	Tractor Operator (Special Grade)	Maintenance Division	20
Mr. E.G.S. Senadheera	Works Aide (Grade I)	Maintenance Division	24
Mrs. C. Medagoda	Drawing Office Assistant (Grade II)	Department of Mechanical Engineering	11
Mr. T.S. Matharage	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Centre for Distance & Continuing Education	34
Mr. K. G. Herath Banda	Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade)	Department of Chemistry	37
Mr. P.K.S. Senaratne	Supervisor (Civil) (Grade II)	Maintenance Division	25
Mr. K.A. Sarathchandra	S.S.A. (Telephone Op. cum Receptionist)	Main Telephone Exchange	26
Mr. A.S.L. Weerasinghe	Driver (Special Grade)	General Administration Division	27

Appointments made for the Non-Academic posts from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Mrs. D.R.C.K. Warakanga	Matron	Health Centre	02.09.2020

Resignations received from Non-Academic Staff from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mr. P.G.A. Mithrasena	Pharmacist (Special Grade)	Health Centre	28 years

Details of Deceased Non-Academic Employees from 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Service Year
Mr. S.A.M.G. Rohana Kumara	Driver (Grade II)	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts	09 years
Mr. S.H.M.J. Bandara	Works Aide (Grade III)	University Experimental Station	06 years

Workshop on CV writing & Interview Facing

The Career Guidance Unit conducted a workshop on CV Writing and Interview Facing for the final year students in Applied Science in the Faculty Science. The expected outcome of this workshop was to improve one's employability skills to the satisfaction of the employer's expectations. Fifty-five students participated in the workshop held on the 25th of September, 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Career Guidance Unit.



Training Programme on "SPSS" and "SAS"

The Agriculture Education Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Crop Science, has successfully conducted a two-day training programme on "SPSS and SAS" for 15 Assistant Directors from the Department of Export Agriculture on the 10th and 11th of September, 2020. The resource persons of this programme included Prof. S. Samita, Prof. Prof. T. Sivananthawerl and Dr. L.W.L.K. Weerasinghe. Prof. Samita - from the Dept. of Crop Science - coordinated the programme and the required funds were provided by the Department of Export Agriculture.

The Agriculture Education Unit also collaborated with the Department of Manpower and Employment under the Ministry of Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations to organize a Career Guidance, Employment Creation and Promotion Workshop to graduands of the Faculty. They had, in fact, organized a workshop on the 20th of July, 2020, which was postponed due to the COVID - 19 pandemic. The former Director, Dr. C.K. Beneragama, initiated the discussion and the present Director, Prof. J.K. Vidanarachchi, continued the discussion.

Achievements

The four following academic staff members of the University of Peradeniya Library Network were awarded the Fellowship (FSLLA) at the 60th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) held on the 18th of September, 2020 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute Auditorium, Colombo.

1. Ms P.C.D.S. Gunasekera/ Senior Asst. Librarian of the Digital Resources & Staff Training Division of the Main Library
2. Mr B.N.G.S. Premaratne/ Senior Asst. Librarian of the Dental Faculty Library
3. Ms K.P.N.D. Peiris/ Senior Asst. Librarian of the Engineering Faculty Library
4. Dr. (Ms.) B.M.M.C.B. Hindagolla / Senior Asst. Librarian of the Science Faculty Library was awarded the SLLA Associateship (ASLLA) at the AGM.

Peradeniya Undergrad wins the IDUS Gold Medal





The first ever Inter-University Sports Quiz 2020, in line with the celebration of the International Day of University Sport proclaimed by UNESCO, was held by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA) in an online platform. Navodya Kumari Ekanayake of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, was adjudged the winner of the competition and completed the quiz with an accuracy of 98%. This Sports Quiz organized by the SLUSA saw the participation of 200+ students from all member universities of the SLUSA. There was tough competition amongst the participants as they answered their way towards the finishing line during which their accuracy and speed were both evaluated in the scoring system.

There were 50 questions with 4 responses each, in different areas of sport. These areas covered the topics of Sports in general, University sports and University Sports Movement. The competitors had to respond within a time restriction of 20 seconds per question. Ms. Ekanayake was awarded the gold medal and winner's trophy at the closing ceremony held at the University of Kelaniya on the 20th of September, 2020.

The International Day of University Sport (IDUS) is being organized for the first time in Sri Lanka by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association(SLUSA). This event will take place on 20th of September 2020 at the University of Kelaniya.

The International Day of University Sport (IDUS) was organized for the first time in Sri Lanka by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA). The event took place on the 20th of September, 2020, at the University of Kelaniya from 8.30 onwards. The keynote speech was delivered by the Deputy Chairman of the University Grants Commission and there was a panel discussion by various sports experts followed by recreational games for the participants.

Runner -up of the ACCA Finhack - 2020



A team of five undergraduate students representing the Department of Business Finance of the Faculty of Management were the runners-up of the ACCA Finhack - 2020, the financial hackathon, organized by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Sri Lanka in collaboration with the State Universities.

The competition took place on a virtual platform on the 16th of September, 2020, and the team representing the University of Colombo won first place.