# UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
# NEWS LETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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## Induction Ceremony of the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa assumed duties as the 22nd Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya on the 1st of August 2021.

An induction ceremony was held at the Senate Room of the University on 4th August with the participation of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B Dissanayake, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro. SHPP Karunaratne, the Deans of the Faculties, Council members, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes and a few other distinguished guests following health guidelines. The ceremony was live streamed due to the restriction imposed by Covid -19.

Prof. Lamawansa's induction was preceded by religious observations of the Maha Sangha and three other main religious denominations.









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# Induction Ceremony of the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor

(from Page 01)



Addressing the gathering, Prof. Lamawansa stressed his expectations from the staff of honesty, commitment and professionalism from all categories of staff. Professor Lamawansa is the professor of surgery and former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Founder Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Prior to assuming the office of Vice-Chancellor he served as the Sri Lankan Ambassador to the Russian Federation with concurrent accreditation to five other countries. He is a consultant general surgeon at the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital with specialization in Paediatric Kidney Transplantation.

**His full address is as follows.**

Reverend Sir, the Outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Council Members, the Directors of the PG Institutes, the Registrar, the Bursar, the Librarian, Heads and other academic staff, executive officers, all non-academic staff, students, invitees, media personnel and those joining on Zoom

A very good day to all of you!

First of all, let me thank the Council, the UGC, and HE the President for the trust placed in me by appointing me to lead this great institution. I am honoured to accept the responsibility of serving the University of Peradeniya to the best of my ability.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I return to these blessed premises which has given me many opportunities to develop my career as an academic, a surgeon and a professional. I am aware that I have undertaken to lead a university of global standing, but it is my belief nevertheless that the University of Peradeniya can progress even further if its fullest potential is utilized systematically in the coming years. I have pledged to the Council that during the next three years, I aim to mobilize all available resources to lay the foundation for the accelerated growth of this esteemed and resilient organization.

**Appreciation**

I appreciate the efforts of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and their teams for organizing this event at a short notice under challenging Covid-19 health guidelines and at the expense of their comfort.

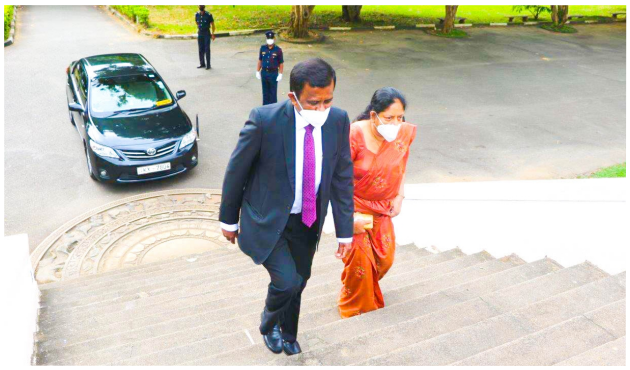
Prof. Upul Dissanayake, outgoing Vice-Chancellor, I appreciate your commitment to the University. Six years at the helm is quite a good share of your professional life, and six years is also a considerable period of the comparatively short history of this university. A Dean who has worked more closely with you in recent years will expand further on your tenure.

**Challenges faced by the university**

As the main function of the University, society expects us to produce competent graduates. Of course, it is our primary duty to ensure that our products are not only competent, but are also well-rounded professionals who contribute to national development and the advancement of global society by finding solutions to the problems we face today as well as tomorrow.

In this regard, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented us with a historical opportunity to demonstrate our resilience in how we respond to this crisis. We can be proud that the University of Peradeniya has responded positively to this challenge through sheer commitment, innovation and creativity. The novel face mask is one leading example. Furthermore, the University has been at the forefront in adapting to 'Emergency remote teaching' and has now moved into arena-online assessments which is one of the most challenging testing methods. Anecdotal evidence from student assessments suggest that learning theory on an online platform may even mean an improvement in their grades.

Such are the benefits we have derived by considering challenges as opportunities. As a wise person once said, if it doesn't challenge you, it does not change you.



Serious challenges posed to University functions by the pandemic include prolonged closures which have delayed a number of processes essential to the University's growth. This includes recruitments and promotions in addition to student admissions, graduation and convocations which have all been delayed. Work restrictions have slowed down routine functions as well. It must also be noted that the psychological stressors that students and staff go through may not have received due attention. It is true that these prevailing conditions have created new work norms; however, an effort must be made to improve efficiency while we are coming out of the current work norms, rather than allowing the creation of a 'new abnormal'. As a resilient organization, I am optimistic of UoP's ability to find positive solutions to these problems.

Let me briefly outline today to a wider audience what I pledged in front of the August council of this University a few weeks ago. I pledged for reforms and interventions in 6 key areas:

A. Central administration
B. Institutional management
C. Academic and research activities
D. Satisfaction and wellbeing of key stakeholders
E. Natural and built environment
F. Outreach and external relations

**Central Administration**

Strengthening institutional mechanisms through the implementation of policies and procedures has been a successful leadership strategy I have used to achieve institutional goals. I understand that professional behavior improves the morale of workers, enhances the reputation of the institution and minimizes partisan behavior. Accountability needs to echo in all corners of the University, including the VC's office.

In line with the University's vision and strategic directions, action plans are required to be developed for all divisions including faculties, institutes, departments, centers, units and committees. Inherent weaknesses in these systems such as poor dialogue and coordination between the council and those divisions will be addressed through a council sub-committee whose membership can be expanded to include non-council academics.

For sustainability, the optimal management of the University should not be top-down, command/control type, but autocatalytic rather, with the enablement of peripheral divisions. However, I, on behalf of the Council, will not hesitate to maintain some degree of command and control - when required - in the initial phase to reinforce the governance structure and optimum practices.

The backbone of the University is its academic and non-academic administration and giving them the necessary support in order to ensure desired leadership and management skills is a priority.



Financial transparency and management can be optimized to facilitate the growth of the institution. An in-depth analysis of financial management under the guidance of a powerful council sub-committee is an urgent need. New projects, consultation services and academic programs with a high national and international flavor can be initiated to attract additional funding. The University is not spared from the global economic downturn due to the pandemic - finding alternatives to mitigate the effects of economic hardships is a responsibility bestowed upon us.

**Institutional Management**

It is with evidence that I believe human resource development alone can improve institutional outcomes by about 30%. The development of a master plan for human resource management is a timely need. A minimum profile for each category of staff needs to be defined and academics may wish to seek assistance to broaden their profile by acquiring additional skills.

Some staff development programs can be upgraded to certificate and diploma levels. I request that the departments and the Deans nominate to academic administrative positions those who have acquired additional management/leadership skills. This is particularly highlighted as well-groomed Heads of Departments is an absolute necessity to push the University in its desired direction. Lack of adequate time for academic administration is a common complaint, but at the same time some academics may not be comfortable in surrendering the work that they are used to! A policy of reserving adequate time for academic administration is a need.

The culture of long and unproductive procedures adopted in routine activities such as staff recruitments, promotion of staff and processing Provided Funds should be relegated to history.

**Academic and Research Activities**



The improvement of Academic and Research Activities requires staff development, support for educational research, sharing best practices and the establishment of quality assurance as a living culture. The University has already adopted the 2019/09 circular on strengthening quality assurance mechanisms. I consider this a valuable opportunity to ensure that QA is established as a living culture rather than a time-consuming endeavour to achieve a grade on paper.

The University has already been highlighted its presence in combating the Covid-19 pandemic through innovative diagnostic and preventive strategies. However, it needs to ensure that such triumphs are more widespread and common rather than isolated successes. Identifying at least one major research area for each department, and encouraging interdisciplinary research (especially combining natural and social sciences), will be beneficial.

**Satisfaction and wellbeing of key stakeholders**

Ensuring the well-being and satisfaction of both students and staff is a key responsibility of the university administration. Student services cannot be delivered by simply sitting in a central room and discussing their issues. Therefore, the senior management will be expected to engage with students and physically observe the service delivery points. Student surveys, timely provision of students' needs such as transportation and sports facilities are basic requisites. Upgrading curative and preventive health facilities, automating accommodation divisions and revising the canteen system are some key areas that need attention to to improve student well-being. The provision of correct information on all matters, adherence to schedules and time tables, and implementing proper academic mentoring and professional counselling services remain priorities.

A comprehensive program needs to be enacted to prevent all forms of violence and harassment at student and staff level. Measures must be adopted to increase the awareness of the psychology behind harassment and the dangers of such acts and existing laws among all stakeholders. The undivided commitment of the academic staff to this issue is essential for the elimination of all forms of harassment and ragging.

**Natural and built environment**

The natural and built environment of the University of Peradeniya has made us proud inhabitants for generations. The Maintenance Division, which looks after the natural and built environs of the University, should be revamped after a scientific evaluation. Poor human resource management, the lack of professionalism and necessary skills and the absence of a culture of preventive maintenance (vs reactive maintenance) are a few glaring issues that need to be looked at in this process.

The Landscape Division is often criticized for its lack of vision and training, and its poor work commitment. Efforts will be taken to make the Landscape Division a professional outfit; the landscape masterplan needs revision after taking into consideration forest conservation, agro-forestry and the academic requirements of the University in areas such as sustainability, forestry, zoology and environmental studies.

The greening of the University can become a service component of the Centre for Environmental Studies.

**Outreach and External Relations**

From a more local perspective, the University of Peradeniya has the capacity to interact with the community entities at full range. Social responsiveness through the provision of intellectual leadership in areas of community interests will create opportunities for research, extra funding and prospects for students to engage in externships and co-curricular activities. A 'Community Relations Centre (CRC)' is a concept that is worth exploring and all faculties could establish at least one major community relations/outreach program. Establishing an International Centre for Studies on Kandyan Heritage and Culture is a point of interest and will also be considered.

It is important that we take the necessary actions to establish an Alumni-Ambassador program to give back to the Alumni in all possible ways. For example, offers to stay at the University Bungalows, establishing an Alumni Centre, seeking their input for all functions of the University including strategic planning, and requesting their assistance to establish Endowment Chairs are some steps we can take to accomplish this.

**Staff Commitment expected**

The support that I expect from you will come from your approach and adherence to a work ethic. Commitment, honesty, professionalism and accountability are qualities that matter the most in a university setting. We must not forget that each one of us is a part of a chain of responsibility. We have a responsibility in fulfilling our obligations as expected by our superordinate and we are also charged with the responsibility of executing these duties and monitoring our subordinates as best we can for better institutional performance. As the institutional leader, you can expect me to be your guardian provided you fulfil the duties expected from you.

For any delay or poor outcome in University affairs , there is always a reason. It may either be due to a system failure or a personal failure. I am fully aware of the need to address any system failures as well as pinning down those who may behave irresponsibly.

**Who am I?**

Prof. Karunaratne stated a few things about me that you are already familiar with. However, as far as I know, two types of questions have been raised by some staff and students about me vis-à-vis as to how I might function as the Vice-Chancellor. One frequent question has to do with what plans and interventions I would envisage to uplift the standards of the University. This is most encouraging and can lead to a whole heap of constructive ideas and conversations.

Another question was on how strict the new Vice-Chancellor was, will still need, I suppose, some answers. To the best of my knowledge, your new Vice-Chancellor is strict on himself, demanding more and more from himself - and, of course, from others around him as well - but he is also a team player, deeply committed to the institutions that he serves and has demonstrated an intense desire to ensure progressive growth in them. I sincerely hope those characteristics in him will remain unchanged - I do not know whether this is strictness or if it is simply discipline!

Finally, most respected reverend Sirs, Council members and dear University community, I do not hope to find excuses for myself to deviate from my vision of "making the University of Peradeniya the most sought after and world-renowned University in Sri Lanka"; for this purpose, you can expect me to face challenges with optimism and take progressive and positive decisions with your assistance and cooperation.

In summary, establishing a professional workforce and an efficient administration system, improving welfare and the well-being of all stakeholders and building strong community ties and Alumni relations with improved external funding, are some positive strategies I plan to implement to take the University forward.

Thank you very much indeed!

**Prof. M.D. Lamawansa**

# Welcome Ceremony for the Newly Appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor





The welcome ceremony for the newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, was held on the 01st of September, 2021, at the University Senate Building following Covid -19 guidelines.

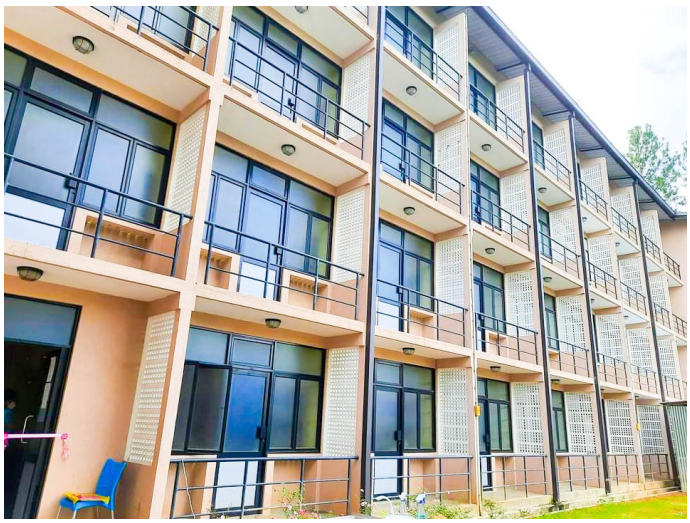
The Vice-Chancellor/Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Acting Registrar, Acting Bursar, Proctor, Chief Security Officer, Chief Marshal, Public Relations Officer and administrative staff officers were present at the event.

Prof. Madhujith has been service as the Chair Professor of Food Science and Technology attached to the Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture. He was the founder Director of the University Research Council and has served as the Deputy Director-Training and Research, Center for Distance and Continuing Education for over Four years and as the Acting Director for nearly one year

# Intermediate Care Centre for Covid-19

An Intermediate Care Centre for Covid-19 positive patients was opened at the University of Peradeniya on the 31st of May, 2021, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Upul B. Dissanayake. The Centre was established at the Mahakanda Hostel which can house more than 100 patients at a time. The Centre allows the admissions of University staff and their family members who have tested positive for Covid-19. Asymptomatic patients and those with mild symptoms are treated here under the supervision of the University Health Centre and with the assistance of the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital. Patient admission and treatment were initiated on the 02nd of June, 2021. The University has a separate Quarantine Center at the Sarasawi Medura Hostel.





# University Staff Vaccination Program





A special vaccination program was conducted to vaccinate the University staff against Covid-19 pandemic on the 25th and 26th of June, 2021 at the premises of the Faculty of Medicine. The programme was conducted under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the Chairman of the Covid Management Committee of the University, Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena. The first dose was administered on these days whilst the second dose was administered on 27.07.2021. Officers of the Army Medical Corps, Government Medical Officers, Staff of the the Faculty of Medicine, Chief Medical Officer of the University Health Center and the entire staff contributed to the successful implementation of the vaccination program. The program was organized with the assistance of the Acting Registrar and her staff.

# Meeting with St. Petersburg University, Russia





In order to discuss future collaborations between St. Petersburg University, Russia, and the University of Peradeniya, an online meeting was held on the 31st of May, 2021 via ZOOM with the cooperation of the Sri Lankan Embassy in Russia.

H.E. Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, welcomed the representatives from St. Petersburg University who briefly introduced their University. The representation discussed opportunities to initiate collaborations within the two universities. Representing the University of Peradeniya, Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/InRO, gave an overview of the University of Peradeniya and International Relations Office.

Prof. S.B. Weerakoon and Dr. Lashitha Rathnayake of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr.Varuni Seneviratne and Dr. Sanjeewa Malaviarachchi of the Faculty of Science, the Management Committee Members from each Faculty, representatives from the Embassy of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, and representatives from the InRO were present at the meeting.

# Georg Forster Research Award




Prof. Rohana Chandrajith from the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, received the prestigious Georg Forster Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany. The nomination was submitted to the Foundation and its selection committee by Prof. Dr. Johannes Barth, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen/Germany. This award is conferred in recognition of the winner's entire academic record to date and the award winners are invited to carry out research projects of their own choice in cooperation with specialist colleagues in Germany.

# Department of Forensic Medicine

- The Sri Lanka Journal of Forensic Medicine, Science and Law, Volume 12, Issue 1 was published on the 25th of May, 2021 (https://sljfmsl.sljol.info/).
- The annual Forensic Medicine debate on "Global Medical Malpractice Laws Do More Harm than Good" was held on the 15th of July, 2021, via Zoom under the guidance of Prof. Dinesh Fernando. The event was organized by medical students of the 2017/18 batch.
- The inauguration ceremony of the 8th Batch of the "Diploma in Forensic Medicine for Lawyers and Judges", organized by the Department of Forensic Medicine, was held on the 31st of July, 2021 via Zoom with the participation of 71 registered students. The inaugural lecture was conducted by Prof. Dinesh Fernando.





# Research seminar: 'Developing a Research Proposal'- 9th of July 2021

This seminar was conducted in order to develop undergraduates' awareness and competencies on research proposals. The students were provided with knowledge and information about formulating a suitable topic, research questions, deriving hypothesis, developing aims and objectives among others. Nevertheless, the format of a research proposal and how a research proposal should be developed were also discussed during this session.The resource person of the programme was Dr. Asanka Bulathwatta from the Department of Psychology, University of Peradeniya.

# Awards Received by the Staff and Students:



Prof. T. Hewawasam received the President's Award for Scientific Publications - 2020; he was also the Ananda Coomaraswamy medal recipient for 2020 which is the highest honor the Geological Society of Sri Lanka bestows on an individual in recognition of the contributions made for the advancement of geological knowledge in Sri Lanka.



Ms. Arularasi Balakrishnan received the award for Best Poster Presentation in 2021 from the Eudoxia Research Centre, India, at the Conference on Research Methodology for Qualitative and Quantitative Research (COM-2021).

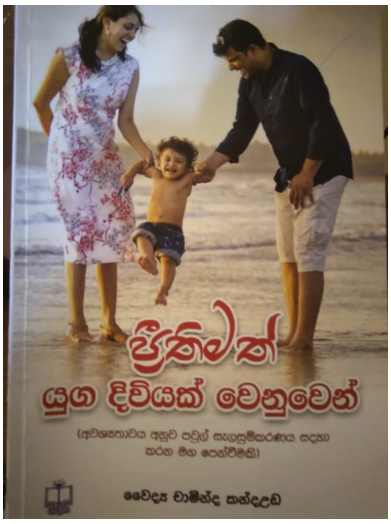
## Research Publications and Presentations:

- Sanooz ARM, Nanayakkara DKK; Difference in outcome of radioactive iodine therapy with the duration of discontinuation of carbimazole among hyperthyroid patients; Abstracts supplement of the 43rd Annual Academic Sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine - 7th to the 9th of April, 2021. (Oral presentation, OPF 4. P 101)

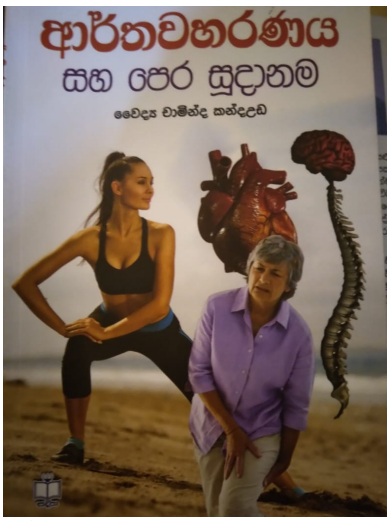
- 2021 - Sanooze Rahim, S.I. Nawaz,, HMPN Herath , Nanayakkara DKK; Does high body mass index protect against osteoporosis? : Abstracts supplement of the 43rd Annual Academic Sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine - 7th to the 9th of April, 2021. (Oral presentation, OPF 5. P 102)

- 2021 - Cole B. Hirschfeld; Leslee J. Shaw; Michelle; C.Williams; Ryan Lahey; Damayanthi Kusum Kumari Nanayakkara et. al; Impact of COVID-19 on Cardiovascular Testing in the United States Versus the Rest of the World: The INCAPS-COVID Study, JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging; Available online from the 16th of June, 2021 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcmg.2021.03.007

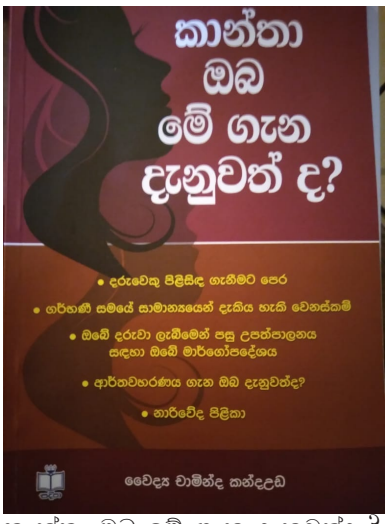
## Publications: The following publications were tabled for information of the Senate.




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- Dr. C. Kandauda




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- Dr. C. Kandauda

# Pera E78 Batch Donation to the Health Centre



The Pera E78 Engineering Association (Faculty of Engineering Batch of 1978) donated Rs. 215,280 worth of items to the University Health Centre as part of a charity project on the 2nd of May, 2021 at the University Health Centre.





# Department Orientation 2021

The Orientation organized by the Department of Psychology for the new incoming students specializing in Psychology was held on the 29th of July 2021 with the participation of second year, academic staff members and Psychology Society representatives of the Department. A detailed introduction to student activities, academics and life at the Department was provided to students along with the opportunity to clear their doubts regarding any matter related to the department as means of preparing them for a successful three years of study.

# Inter-batch Video Competition

An inter-batch video competition was organized by the Psychology Society, University of Peradeniya. The objectives of this competition were to improve relationships between each other within the batch, to reduce the stress caused by social isolation and to enhance creativity. Undergraduates from all three batches of A/16, A/17 and A/18 participated in this competition, which extended from the 12th of July to the 28th of July, 2021. After posting all 3 videos on the official Facebook page of the Psychology Society, the batch who received the most reactions was named as the winners. The winning batch of the competition was A/16 Psychology majors.

# Revision Programme of Chemistry for G.C.E. (A/L) Students (Online)

The Science Education Unit (SEU) of the Faculty of Science organized an online revision programme on Organic Chemistry for G.C.E. (A/L) Science and Mathematics students on 15th of September 2021. The above programme was conducted by Dr. V.N. Seneviratne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science. About 415 students participated in this programme from the Central, Western and North–Western provinces. The participants highly valued the programme.

# Faculty of Agriculture
## Undergraduate Research Symposium (FAuRS) 2020



For the last 72 years since its inception, the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya, has held on to its status as the pioneer and leading agriculture higher education institute in Sri Lanka. It shoulders the responsibility of meeting agricultural and related professional needs of the country to face challenges successfully and is also responsible for leading the sector.. To produce leaders in the agricultural sector, the undergraduate programs at the Faculty encourage holistic, independent and critical thinking in its students. It also encourages the use of innovative and problem-solving approaches through an integration of modern and traditional methods with the added benefits of advanced technological tools. . Conducting a final year research project is a requirement of the B.Sc. degree programs of the Faculty since 1975. The concept of the Undergraduate Research Symposia was first introduced to the university system of Sri Lanka in 1993 by the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, where students presented the findings of their final year research project in a wider forum. Since then, the Annual Student Research Sessions has been traditionally held at the Faculty. In 2014, the Faculty took another step forward by conducting a common Students Research Symposium for the entire Faculty. The FAuRS provides a platform for graduating students to present their valuable final semester research findings and interact with experts in the sector, as well as with peers and prospective employers. This will no doubt enhance the research culture within the Faculty and the university system.

Over the last seven years, the Faculty of Agriculture has made a tremendous contribution by staging FAuRS as the main event to reflect on, and reward, the most significant achievements and innovations of graduands. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FAuRS was conducted as a hybrid event this year. Two invited speakers, Dr. Mariano J. Beillard from the United States Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Prativa Pandey, the Founder & Chief Formulator, Catalyst Technology Pvt. Ltd of Nepal, and the majority of participants joined the event on an online platform. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, graced the closing session as the chief guest. The Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, the Coordinator of FAuRS-2020, Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake, and a few organizing committee members were present in person.




The FAuRS-2020 Proceedings includes 214 edited submissions from all three Degree Programs offered by the Faculty; BSc in Agriculture Technology & Management, BSc in Food Science & Technology, and BSc in Animal Science & Fisheries. The studies cover a wide range of topics related to agriculture and allied areas presented in four themes i.e. Agricultural Production & Productivity Improvement, Technological Interventions & Applications in Agriculture, Food Quality, Safety & Product Development, and Community, Environment & Management. At FAuRS-2020, the top 56 presenters were selected from eight Departments and given the coveted opportunity to compete for the best oral and poster presentations under the four themes in front of an elite panel of judges and audience. The Merit Awards for Undergraduate Research was a new addition to FAuRS-2020 to reward the scientific merit of research projects; a panel of external judges evaluates 28 projects selected from eight Departments under the same four themes. In addition, students had the opportunity to select one or more open competitions based on their interest as there was no limit on the maximum number of competitions a student can participate in. Short research videos prepared on undergraduate projects were submitted under the "Research Video Competition" and the photographs that were submitted based on the projects were evaluated at the "Scientific Eye" research photography competition. The research briefs written for the general public in all three languages were evaluated by a panel of judges, and the best submissions made their way into "Hantana Blossoms''- a magazine dedicated to communicating the research findings to a general audience. The fifth volume of "Hathana Blossoms" was launched online at the closing session of FAuRS-2020. The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition gave centre stage to the most effective communicators using a single slide presentation. As in the previous years, the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission judged the most innovative research projects and inventions.



In addition to the awards, the selected researches were included in national and international competitions. FAuRS-2020 introduced four new competitions to provide more opportunities for students to showcase their different talents within a much broader spectrum. Students visualized their research in a cartoon under the "ResearToon" competition. Digital images captured during project work were compiled into a photo book to be submitted to the "Research Storybook" competition. Students prepared a graphical abstract - a single, concise, pictorial, and visual summary of the main findings of the project and submitted them to the "Graphical Abstract" competition. The best of the best were awarded certificates, prizes, and medals while the others received a certificate of participation.

The Gold Medal for the Overall Best Presenter was sponsored by A. Baur & Co. Ltd for the 6th time. Ms. H.A.I.T Hettiarachchi from the Department of Crop Science won the overall best presenter award at FAuRS-2020 for her presentation titled "Assessing Growing Conditions and Ultrasound-Assisted Technique in Optimizing the Extraction of Antioxidants and Polyphenols from Green Tea". While Prof. S.P. Nissanka from the Department of Crop Science was her major supervisor, Mr. H. Gajadeera from Bestie Beverages Pvt. Ltd., Galathara, Ittapana, and M. Gunawardana from the Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology, Homagama, also co-authored the paper. Their work focused on assessing the extractable total polyphenol contents of green tea produced from different tea types and shade levels in the upcountry tea fields. The study also compared the Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction of tea polyphenols and antioxidants with hot water extraction.

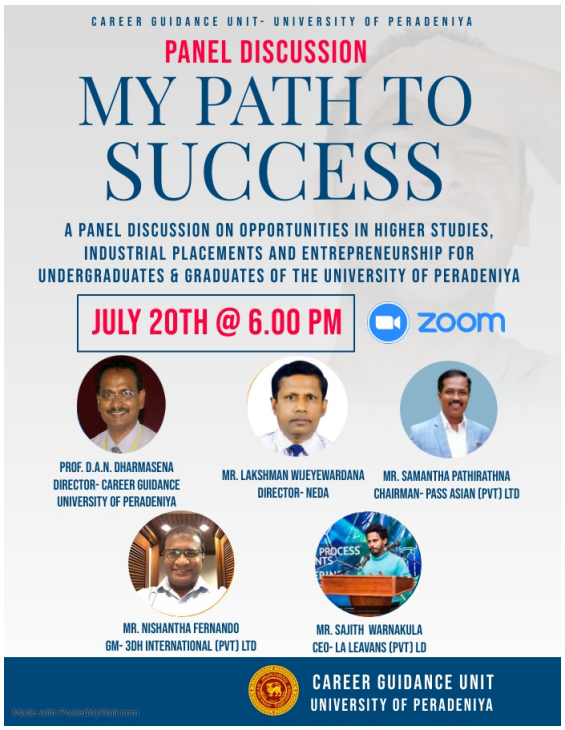



In general, FAuRs is open to graduating students, faculty staff, external supervisors, invited academics and industry personnel. However, since it was an online event, about 900 participants attended the closing session while nearly 1,800 participants joined the program throughout the day. Prospective employers, ministries, research institutions, foreign collaborators, current students, alumni and academia were invited to take part in this one-day program. FAuRS-2020 is the first official event that the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor attended and addressed the students. Prof. Lamawansa highlighted the importance of making use of the wisdom of young undergraduates in the fields of Agricultural Sciences and Allied Sectors since they are capable and enriched with the knowledge and necessary skills in addressing current local and global issues. Prof. Lamawansa also pointed out that as the pioneer in agriculture higher education and research in Sri Lanka, the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya has taken the leadership in driving its human resources in the most striking directions to find viable and effective solutions to many challenges in the agriculture and allied sectors in collaboration with stakeholders at all levels, both locally and internationally. The Vice-Chancellor also introduced FAuRS-2020 as a unique platform for young undergraduates - the torchbearers of future humankind - to present their research findings, share their knowledge & advances in research and development to build networks of professionals, researchers, academia, and policymakers while catering to a wider audience. Moreover, Prof. Lamawansa highlighted the ways in which this unique event would promote forward thinking and encourage insightful and valuable perspectives on the strategic challenges faced by the agriculture and allied sectors. He brought fascinating examples from Nobel Prize winning research, and linked these to the context at hand. "I would like to thank Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya and the Chief Guest, and invited speakers who shared their thoughts and visions at FAuRS-2020. Special tributes are due to the Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, Sub-committee Chairs, the Editorial Committee Members, Activity Coordinators, FAuRS-2020 Committee, the Session Chairs, Evaluators, Session and Audio-visual Coordinators and our generous sponsors; the University of Peradeniya, A. Baur & Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., Ahinsa Tea, Browns Agri Solutions , CIC Agri Businesses, National Savings Bank, Bank of Ceylon, Ceylon Agro Industries Limited, Hayleys Agriculture Holdings, Hatton National Bank, Peradeniya branch, Hayleys Agro Biotech Pvt Ltd., and all those who encouraged and supported this event in numerous ways. It was indeed a pleasure to work with them".

# Online Course on Career Development Conducted by the Career Guidance Unit (CGU)

**The following series of sessions were conducted for the newly developed Career Development Course by the CGU. About 300 students completed the course.**




- Session #1: History and University Culture by Prof. H.M. Herath/Former Head of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, UOP - 15.06.2021
- Session #2: University Organizational Culture, Work Procedures & By-laws by Prof. T.W.M.T. Wijethunga Bandara, Department of Geography, UOP – 16.06.2021
- Session #3: Subsequent World of Work by Mr. Jeewan Premasara, Senior GM - HR & Admin. Hambanthota International Port Group Pvt.- 22.06.2021
- Session #4: The Art of Living with Others & Developing Effective Relationships by Dr. B. M. K Perera, Former Director/CGU, UOP
- Session #5: Expectation of the Industry from Fresh Graduates and How to Deliver them and Thrive in the Corporate World by Kaushal Gunasekara - 29.06.2021
- Session #6: Getting Ready for the Private Sector Employment by Prof. Kapila Goonasekara, former Vice-Chancellor of UOP - 30.06.2021
- Session #7: Webinar on Career Development 'Taking Personal Responsibility for Self-Development' by Ms. Kasturi Chellaraja Wilson, Group CEO, Hemas Holdings PLC - 13.07.2021
- Session #8: Webinar on 'Navigating Challenges in the New Normal World' by Dr. Kishu Gomes, Group CEO, Dremdron Group of Companies - 14.07.2021
- Session #9 Panel Discussion -'My Path to Success - On Opportunities in Higher Studies, Industrial Placement and Entrepreneurship'- 20.07.2021

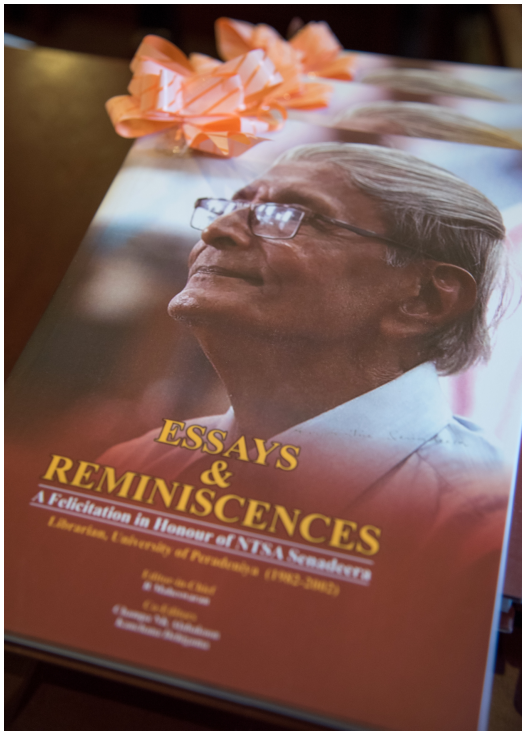
## Orientation Programmes

The two following orientation programmes were conducted.

- Virtual Orientation Programmes - 2020/2021 for new entrants of the Faculty of Management - 07.04.2021
- Orientation programme on Introduction Career Guidance Unit for the Faculty of Science - 08.06.2021

# Library News

## Launch of the Felicitation Volume Honouring Mr. N.T.S.A. Senadeera

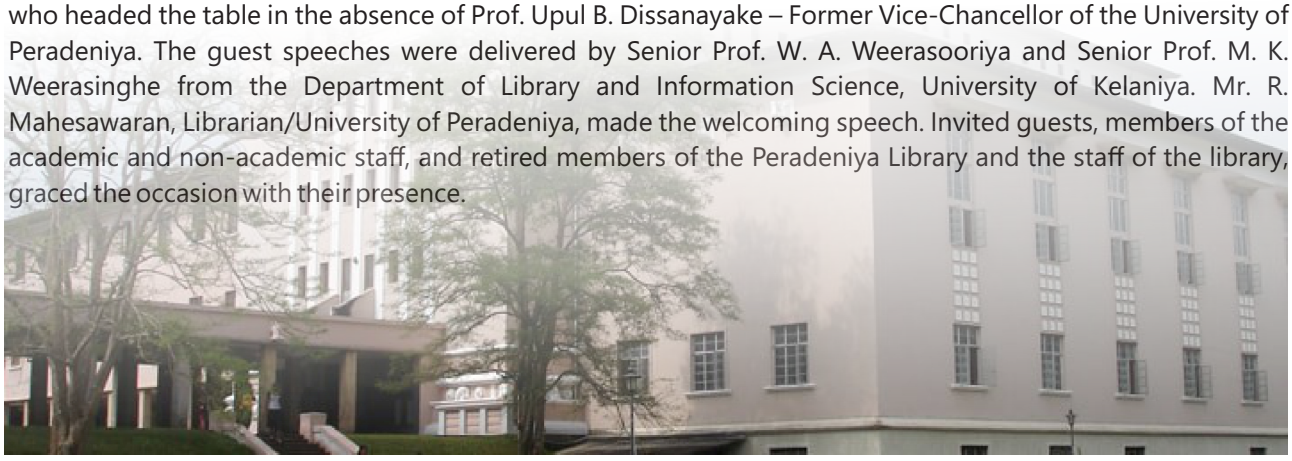



Mr. NTSA Senadeera served the University of Peradeniya for 37 years since 1965. As the 5th Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, Mr. NTSA Senadeera completed a service of 20 years and 9 months until his retirement at the end of September 2002. Mr. NTSA Senadeera is an eminent scholar who contributed immensely to the development of the University of Peradeniya Library as the most comprehensive University Library in Sri Lanka during his term of office.

A Festschrift was presented to Mr. NTSA Senadeera in parallel to the commencement of the Centenary Celebrations of the University of Peradeniya Library on the 08th of April, 2021 (coincidentally the date of the Centennial Anniversary of the Library Collection, University of Peradeniya) in recognition of his contributions to the Field of Library and Information Science and Librarianship. The articles in it touch various ranges of Library and Information Science scholarship. This double blind peer reviewed volume is of two parts; Reminiscences on Mr. Senadeera and Essays written by his colleagues, contemporary academics, students and professionals in the Library and Information Science Field from both local and international arenas. The presentation of this felicitation volume gives admirers, well-wishers, friends, colleagues, students and the rest of the Library Community an opportunity to show their deep gratitude and respect towards Mr. Senadeera. For a scholar, the felicitation work is also a veritable gem of knowledge. Sudharshan Seneviratne, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, Emeritus Professor/University of Peradeniya, a contemporary colleague and a friend of Mr. Senadeera, states in the prelude to his article:

"Academics, researchers, concerned citizens, students and children world over are indebted to the profession of Librarians and Information Sciences. They are entrusted with the task and noble profession of protecting, preserving and sustaining repositories of information and knowledge to humanity. Protecting knowledge indeed is an integral component in our culture. Mr. Senadeera, or Sene, as we popularly knew him, was very much part of that ethos - a tradition he continued from a lineage of dedicated librarians, such as, HAI Goonatillake. Sene had an encyclopedic knowledge on a vast array of subjects and I often depended on him to retrieve references and information on books from his repository of knowledge. We had many conversations in his office and I benefitted tremendously at every visit. I thankfully acknowledge his contribution and for keeping the University of Peradeniya Central Library functioning and alive under much social, political vicissitudes, and above all, in spite of cruel budget cuts."

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University who headed the table in the absence of Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake – Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. The guest speeches were delivered by Senior Prof. W. A. Weerasooriya and Senior Prof. M. K. Weerasinghe from the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya. Mr. R. Mahesawaran, Librarian/University of Peradeniya, made the welcoming speech. Invited guests, members of the academic and non-academic staff, and retired members of the Peradeniya Library and the staff of the library, graced the occasion with their presence.



## Launch of the Inaugural Issue of the Library Newsletter




In parallel to the Centenary Celebrations of the Library/University of Peradeniya, the inaugural issue of the Library Newsletter was officially launched by Prof. Parakrama Karunarathne, Acting Vice-Chancellor on the 8th of April, 2021. Mr. R. Maheswaran/Librarian, was the Editor-in-Chief and Senior Assistant Librarians, Ms. W.H.D.K. Abeyrathne & Ms. S. Weerasinghe, were the co-editors of this newsletter. The graphic and layout designs were done by Mr. Ishan Senevirathne/Technical Officer and Mr. Rivikantha Herath/Computer Programmer. The Library Newsletter - which is published on the Library website - will serve as an effective tool to propagate the usefulness of the Library for learning, teaching, and research purposes while updating the university community on new developments of the Library resources and services.

## Library Centenary Volume



More Open than Usual: "The Unparalleled Repository of Knowledge at the Centre of Excellence in University Education: The Past, the Present and the Future"

The University of Peradeniya Library is planning to publish a Centenary Volume to commemorate its Centennial Anniversary. Scholarly works such as research articles, descriptive articles, literature reviews, dialogues and discussion papers are invited from esteemed research scholars of the country to contribute to this volume. Mr. R. Maheswaran/Librarian, is the Editor-in-Chief, and Ms. C. Gunasekera, Senior Assistant Librarian - Main Library, Mr. W.G.A. Dharmarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian – Main Library, and Dr. (Ms.) B.M.M.C.B. Hindagolla, Senior Assistant Librarian – Science Library, serve as the co-editors of this centenary volume.

## Workshop on Preparation of Detailed Course Content and Teaching Plan for Library Academic Staff

The Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE), University of Peradeniya, organized a one day workshop on 'Preparation of Detailed Course Content and Teaching Plan" for lecturers of the Diploma in Library and Information Services. It was held on the 28th of April, 2021 at the Board Room of the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, University of Peradeniya. The CDCE is planning to start the Diploma in Library & Information Services program for external students as well. Dr. S. Maheshwaran, Deputy Director/Training, Centre for Distance and Continuing Education, was the resource person for the workshop. Prof. (Ms.) M. Pinnawala, Director/CDCE, Mr. R. Maheshwaran/Librarian, and the academic staff of the University of Peradeniya Library participated in this workshop.

## Video Editing Workshop

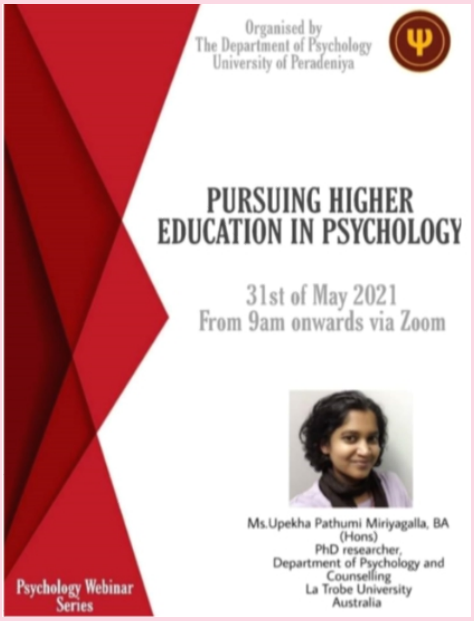
Mr. G. Chamila Priyanka, a temporary lecturer of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Peradeniya, conducted a video editing workshop for the staff of the Geography Department on 07.05.2021 as part of online virtual training. Ms. Isurika Sewwandhi organized the event.

# The inaugural session of the Accounting & Finance Students' Society



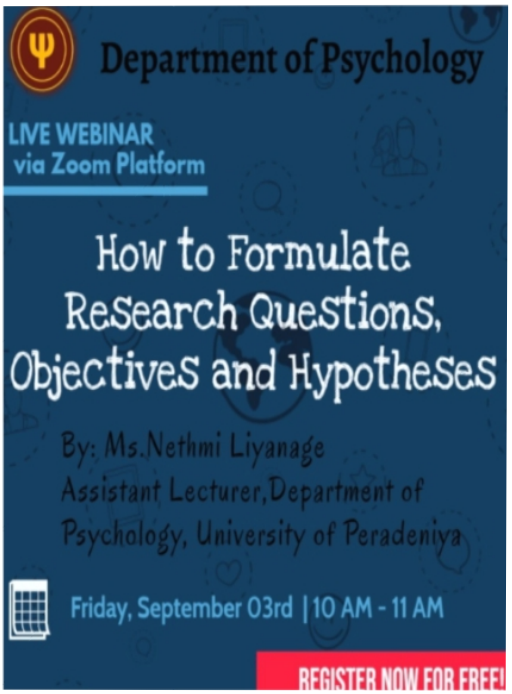

The inaugural session of the Accounting & Finance Students' Society of the Department of Business Finance for the academic year 2020/2021, was held on Friday, the 21st of May, 2021, via Zoom. The session welcomed new members from the 2018 batch of the Faculty of Management to the department based on their specialization scheme of Accounting & Finance. The event was graced with the humble presence of Mr. Shehan Fernando, CEO & Senior Lecturer at Alpha Business School Pvt. Ltd, and Mr. Damian Williams, Assistant Manager/Finance Operations at WNS Global Services Pvt. Ltd., as chief invitees. Dean/Prof. Athula Ekanayake, Head of the Department, Ms. Sujeewa Kodithuwakku along with the Senior Treasurer to the society, and Ms. Nishani Mudalige were the driving forces and the pillars of support that strengthened the Society's attempts at making the event a triumph. The event was well received with the joint attendance of students from all three years of specialization in Accounting & Finance.

# Webinar - 'Pursuing Higher Education in Psychology'




A webinar on 'Pursuing Higher Education in Psychology' was conducted by Miss Upekha Miriyagalla (BA (Hons), PhD researcher, Department of Psychology and Counselling, La Trobe University, Australia, on the 31st of May, 2021 from 9 a.m. onwards. The program was organized by the Department of Psychology and was a huge success. A lot of positive feedback was received from students who participated in the webinar.

# Research seminar: 'Developing Research Objectives'




The Department of Psychology organized a research seminar for undergraduates on formulating research questions, objectives and hypotheses on the 03rd of September 2021 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The seminar was conducted by Miss. Nethmi Liyanage who is an Assistant Lecturer of the Department of Psychology, University of Peradeniya.

# Awards Received by Students



## Winner Award at the Management Internship & Research Symposium - 2020

Ms Vajeesha Edirisinghe, a fourth-year undergraduate of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management won the Winner Award at the Management Internship & Research Symposium - 2020 held on the 18th of June 2021. Her internship provider is HNB General Insurance Limited and did her internship project was titled "Working Capital Management of HNB General Insurance Limited".



## First Runner-up at the Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2020

Ms. M. R. Mahenthi Ukshana Manikrama, a fourth-year undergraduate of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Manageemnt was judged the First Runner-up at the Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2020 held on the 28th of June, 2021. Her research project was titled "Testing the Validity of Capital Asset Pricing Model and Fama-French Three-Factor Model: Evidence from Sri Lanka".

# Meeting with University of Waterloo, Canada

An online meeting was held on the 28th of May, 2021 via Microsoft Teams with the University of Waterloo, Canada, in order to have an open conversation on identifying potential opportunities to initiate collaborations within the two universities.

Representing the University of Waterloo, Dr. Ishari Waduwara-Jayabahu, International Relations Manager at University of Waterloo, made a brief introduction to the University and discussed potential collaborative opportunities. Representing the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/InRO, and the Management Committee members of InRO participated in the discussion.






# Commencement of the Advanced Certificate Course in Counseling Psychology

The Advanced Certificate Course in Counseling Psychology, which is a six month course, accepted its first batch of students on the 13th of June 2021, in Sinhala, English and Tamil mediums. The lectures are conducted every Sunday from 9.00 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is the second step for the Diploma in Counseling program planned to be offered in the future by the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts.

# New Appointments - Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ms. J.S. Madushani | Lecturer (Probationary) | Pharmacy | 21.04.2021 |
| Dr. N.M. Wijesekera | Lecturer (Probationary) | Basic Vet. Science | 06.06.2021 |
| Dr. W.M.T.D. Rathnakumara | Lecturer (Probationary) | Vet. Teaching Farm | 05.07.2021 |
| Ms. MVRUKB Ariyarathna | Lecturer (Probationary) | Business Finance | 19.04.2021 |
| Ms. H.W.R. Niwarthana | Lecturer (Probationary) | Marketing Management | 20.04.2021 |
| Ms. D. G. Rajapaksha | Lecturer (Probationary) | Chemistry | 14.07.2021 |
| Dr. HWMANMB Wijesinghe | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Chemistry | 15.07.2021 |
| Ms. R.M.G.S. Rathnayake | Lecturer (Probationary) | Chemistry | 20.07.2021 |
| Ms. D.M.T.B. Dissanayake | Lecturer (Probationary) | Mathematics | 22.07.2021 |
| Mr. M.D.M.C.P. Weerarathna | Lecturer (Probationary) | Mathematics | 19.07.2021 |
| Ms. D.M.N.K. Dissanayake | Lecturer (Probationary) | Mathematics | 19.07.2021 |
| Dr. U.G. Wijesooriya | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Mathematics | 19.07.2021 |
| Dr. M.T.M. Dewasurendra | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Mathematics | 19.07.2021 |
| Mr. K.H.B. De Silva | Lecturer (Probationary) | Chemistry | 12.07.2021 |
| Dr. D.A. Gunawardana | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Community Medicine | 06.04.2021 |
| Dr. W.D.S.E. Abeykoon | Lecturer (Probationary) | Community Medicine | 18.05.2021 |
| Dr. V.K.I.U. Alwis | Lecturer (Probationary) | Community Medicine | 22.06.2021 |
| Dr. S. Krishnapradeep | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Pediatrics | 01.07.2021 |
| Dr. L.D.S. De Silva | Lecturer (Unconfirmed) | Pathology | 04.05.2021 |
| Dr. T.M.A.H. Tennakoon | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Pathology | 12.05.2021 |
| Dr. H.R.S.D. Sumanasekera | Lecturer (Probationary) | Pathology | 10.08.2021 |
| Ms. I.D.K.S.D. Ariyawansa | Lecturer (Probationary) | Agricultural Extension | 31.08.2021 |
| Dr. N.G.S. Nawarathna | Lecturer (Probationary) | Basic Science | 01.07.2021 |
| Dr. D.S. Thalakiriyawa | Lecturer (Probationary) | Basic Science | 01.07.2021 |
| Dr. V. Dissanayake | Lecturer (Probationary) | Basic Science | 01.07.2021 |
| Dr. R. P. Illeperuma | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Oral Pathology | 01.05.2021 |
| Ms. H.M.U Iranjani | Lecturer (Probationary) | Geography | 06.05.2021 |
| Rev. W. Amitharathana | Lecturer (Probationary) | History | 23.04.2021 |
| Ms. H.T.C.N. De Silva | Assistant Librarian | Library | 21.04.2021 |
| Mr. H.M.I. Herath | Assistant Librarian | Library | 21.04.2021 |
| Mr. E.K.P.S. Epa | Assistant Librarian | Library | 21.04.2021 |

# Promotions - Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. S.S.S. De S Jagoda | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Department of Veterinary Pathobiology |
| Dr. K.A.N. Wijeardhana | Professor | Department of Veterinary Clinical Science |
| Prof. R.M.D.B. Herath | Associate Professor | Department of Sociology |
| Prof. P.G.R. Sarathchandra | Professor | Department of Sociology |
| Prof. D.D.K.S. Karunanayake | Professor | Department of Psychology |
| Prof. H.R.N.P.K. Handagama | Professor | Department of Philosophy |
| Prof. H.M.M Herath | Professor | Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies |
| Dr. K.P.G.C. Kumari | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Department of Sinhala |
| Dr. L.M. Rankoth | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Crop Science |
| Prof. L.H.P. Gunarathna | Snr. Professor | Department of Agricultural Economics & Business Mgt. |
| Dr. C.N.K. Alahakoon | Deputy Librarian | Department of Library |
| Dr. M.G.P.D. Menike | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Department of Business Finance |
| Dr. H.R.O.E. Dayarathna | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Statistics & Computer Science |
| Dr. P. K. Perera | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Zoology |
| Dr. B.S. Nanayakkara | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Botany |
| Prof. S. R. Kodithuwakku | Snr. Professor | Department of Statistics & Computer Science |

# Promotions - Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. D.M.D.K. Herath | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Computer Engineering |
| Dr. W.R.S.M.U.A. Higgoda | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Mechanical Engineering |
| Prof. D.A.A.C. Rathnaweera | Professor | Department of Mechanical Engineering |
| Prof. S.D.G.S.P. Gunawardane | Professor | Department of Mechanical Engineering |
| Prof. K.G.N. Nanayakkara | Professor | Department of Civil Engineering |
| Prof. A.U.A.W. Gunawardena | Professor | Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering |
| Prof. B.G.L.T. Samaranayake | Professor | Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering |
| Prof. S. Abeygunawardane | Professor | Department of Medicine |
| Dr. D.W.P. Dahanayake | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Department of Physiology |
| Dr. B.M.G.D. Yasarathna | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Medicine |
| Dr. R.A. Abeysekera | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Medicine |
| Dr. F. Sitheeque | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Department of Radiology |
| Prof. H.M.V.G. Herath | Professor | Department of Agriculture Biology |
| Prof. E.A.P.D. Amarathunga | Senior Professor | Department of Oral Pathology |
| Prof. Upul B Dissanayake | Senior Professor | Department of Oral Pathology |
| Dr. B.K.G. Thilakarathna | Lecturer (Transitional) | Department of Community Dental Health |
| Prof. T.M.S.S.K.Y. Yatigammana | Professor | Department of Education |

# Resignations - Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | No. of Service Years |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. R.A.D.E. Indrajith | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Vet. Clinical Science | 14 years |
| Prof. S.D.S.S. Sooriyapathirana | Professor | Molecular Biology & Biotechnology | 19 years |
| Mr. G.A.C.T. Bandara | Lecturer (Probationary) | Mechanical Engineering | 10 months |

# Retirements - Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | No. of Service Years |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. D.D.N. De Silva | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Vet. Clinical Science | 39 years |
| Prof. H.B.S. Ariyarathna | Snr. Professor | Basic Vet. Science | 38 years |
| Prof. V. Maheshwaran | Professor (Chair) | Tamil | 29 years |
| Ms. M. Rajarathnam | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Philosophy | 39 years |
| Prof. S.W. Perera | Snr. Professor | English | 38 years |
| Prof. E.R.N. Gunawardena | Snr. Professor | Agri. Engineering | 41 years |
| Dr. M Alfred | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Business Finance | 39 years |
| Mr. V. Tharmathasan | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Management Studies | 31 years |
| Ms. KHMAR Kolongahapitiya | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Marketing Management | 20 years |
| Prof. D. N. Karunarathna | Senior Professor | Chemistry | 17 years |
| Dr. A. M. Karunarathna | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Botany | 31 years |
| Prof. P. Samaraweera | Professor | Molecular Biology & Biotechnology | 20 years |
| Prof. S.L. Ekanayake | Senior Professor | Community Dental Health | 42 years |
| Dr. V. Vijayakumaran | Snr. Lecturer Gr. II | Community Dental Health | 37 years |
| Dr. C. R. Abeysekera | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Econ & Statistics | 39 years |
| Dr. E.K.S.K. Embekke | Snr. Lecturer Gr. I | Education | 21 years |

# New Appointments - Academic Support Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ms. A.M.K.W.K. Abeykoon | Instructor (Computer Technology) Gr. II | IT Centre | 04-05-2021 |
| Mr. K.L.P.P. Liyanaarachchi | Computer Programmer | Deans Office/ Engineering | 03-05-2021 |
| Mr. S.A.S. Dasun | Career Guidance Counselor | Career Guidance Unit | 01-07-2021 |

# New Appointments - Non-Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ms. D.M.N.D. Thennakoon | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 20.04.2021 |
| Ms. B.P.G.T.L. Cooray | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 20.04.2021 |
| Ms. S.N. Priyadarshani | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 20.04.2021 |
| Ms. M.I.M. Wijesinghe | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 20.04.2021 |
| Ms. J.M.U.D. Sampath | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 20.04.2021 |
| Ms. S.T.M.T. Seneviratne | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 28.04.2021 |
| Ms. R.G.Ratnayake | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 06.05.2021 |
| Mr. P.K.G.C.J.K. Somasiri | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 06.05.2021 |
| Mr. I.R.J.C. Ihalagama | Management Assi. (Book-Keeping) (Gr. III) | Financial Administration Division | 17.05.2021 |
| Dr. H.A. Rathnayake | Medical OfficerProject | Health Centre | 02.09.2021 |
| Dr. K.A.S.G.S. Karunanayake | Manager (Capital Works) | Capital Works Division | 10.09.2021 |

# Retirements - Non-Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | No. of. Service Years |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. A.N. Siriwardana | Director/ Student Accommodation | Student Accommodation Division | 30 years |
| Mr. E.A.R.M. Edirisinghe | Bursar | Financial Administration Division | 22 years |
| Mr. T.W. Gunasekara | Health Services Labourer (Special Grade I) | University Unit, Mahailuppallama | 34 years |
| Mr. W.W.U.B. Weebedde | Office Aide | Department of Computer Engineering | 36 years |
| Mr. W.M.G.S. Bandara | Storeman (Special Grade) | Landscape Division | 28 years |
| Mr. K.A. Ariyawansha | Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade) | Department of Soil Science | 34 years |
| Mr. K.L.S. Silva | Staff Technical Officer (Grade I) | Department of Agricultural Biology | 37 years |
| Mr. K.G. Ilangaratne Banda | Cleaner (Grade III) | General Services Division | 35 years |
| Ms. D. D. A. Dissabandara | Senior Staff Management Assistant | Financial Administration Division | 38 years |
| Mr.M.R. Karunaratne | Works Superintendent (Electrical) (Sp. Gr.) | Maintenance Division | 19 years |
| Mr. B.G. G. Wijesuriya | Laboratory Attendant (SUPRA) | Department of Crop Science | 29 years |
| Ms. W.H.M. Pushpakumari | Staff Technical Officer (Grade I) | Department Biochemistry | 37 years |
| Mr. U. G. U. Gunawardane | Works Aide (Special Grade) | Department of Agricultural Biology | 32 years |
| Mr. R.D. Serasinghe | Staff Technical Officer (Grade II) | Works Department | 32 years |
| Mr. U.H.T. Wijesiri | Security Guard (SUPRA) | Security Division | 36 years |
| Mr. E.G.N. Susil Kumara | Carpenter (Special Grade) | Maintenance Division | 27 years |
| Mr. S.G. Balabanda | Works Aide (Special Grade) | Dodangolla Uni. Experimental Station | 37 years |
| Ms. L.M.M. Silva | Senior Staff Management Assistant | Dean's Office | 32 years |
| Mr. W.G.C. Amarasinghe | Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade) | Department of Physiology | 35 years |
| Ms. V.M. Pakyanadan | Senior Staff Management Assistant | Wijewardane Hostel | 35 years |
| Ms. D.S.S. Perera | Senior Staff Management Assistant | Physical Education Division | 37 years |
| Mr. D.B.W. Dharmasena | Works Aide (Special Grade) | Landscape Division | 31 years |
| Ms. E.K.D.D.D. Siriwardane | Senior Staff Management Assistant | Non-academic Establishments Division | 26 years |
| Mr. K. Kiribanda | Driver (Grade II) | Mahailluppallama University Unit | 31 years |
| Mr. H.M.A. Herath | Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade) | Dpt. of Oral and maxillofacial Surgery | 37 years |
| Mr. A.M.S.B. Abesinghe | Works Aide ( Grade I) | Department of Sinhala | 30 years |
| Mr. T.W.Gunasekara | Health Services Labourer (Special Grade I) | Mahailluppallama Teaching Unit | 34 years |

# Deaths - Non-Academic Staff

| Name | Designation | Place of Work | No. of. Service Years |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. M.A.A.P. Karunarathne | Works Aide III | Landscape Division | 27 years |
| Ms. D.P.N.P. Karunarathne | Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade) | Dep. Of Physiology | 30 years |
| Mr. N.S. Edirideera | Works Aide I | Capital Works Unit | 29 years |
| Ms. S.N. Weerasinghe | Staff Assistant (Library Service) | Main Library | 22 years |

## Donation of essential items to the Intermediate Care Centre for Covid-19 by the AAUP Colombo Chapter






The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya - Colombo Chapter donated more than Rs. 300,000 worth of items to the University Covid-19 Treatment Centre on the 23rd of June, 2021 at the University Health Centre premises. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Upul B. Dissayanayake, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor S.H.P.P Karunaratne, Acting CMO Dr. Chandima Herath , Professor Namal Priyantha, Secretary/AAUP Colombo Chapter, Mr. L.H. Priyath Cabral, Treasurer, Mr. S.M. Gnanarathna, and Mr. Nimal Gunawardena were present at the event.

## Welcome ceremony of the New Entrants (2019/2020) of the Faculty of Dental Sciences



The welcome ceremony for 2019/2020 batch of dental students was held on 12.07.2021 virtually under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake

## "Stepping in to New Normal" Guest Lecture Series 2021 - Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology conducted a Guest Lecture Series 2021 "Stepping into the New Normal" during 3rd of June 2021 to 9th September 2021 for the undergraduates of the Department. The main purpose of these workshops was to emphasize the importance of personal branding & developing the employability skills needed for careers with the new normal business environment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These professional career development sessions were conducted by industry practitioners and leading professionals from the National Child Protection Authority, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka Social Security Board, Ministry of Justice, Institution of Incorporated Engineers Sri Lanka, Dialog Axiata PLC and John Keells PVT Ltd. Moreover, the academic experts from the University of Sydney, Australia, the University of Colombo, and the Open University Sri Lanka were also collaborators in the guest lecture series 2021.

# Peradeniya Undergrads Shine at the IDUS




FISU International day of University Sports 2021 was successfully celebrated by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association, commonly known as SLUSA on 20th of September 2021 on virtual platform in a grand scale. Prof. Chandana P. Udawatte Vice Chairman, University Grant Commission added glamour to the event as the chief guest and this global event was graced by the special guest Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawarathne, the Director General of National Institute of Education, delivering his key note speech, The SLUSA introduced Football Juggling competition open for both gender, Article competition for all three main languages, and Sports Quiz competition for the university undergraduate students.

The International Day of University Sports (IDUS) is an important landmark in the global university calendar. It was recently proclaimed by UNESCO as a day of global celebration of university sports. Since 2016, the whole idea of celebrating such an important occasion has been to provide a platform to exchange ideas, challenges, practices and opportunities within and through university sports worldwide.

# IDUS Football Challenge




More than 200 competitors male & female participated for the first round and only 09 competitors were selected for the final round. In the first round of the competition, the number of touches within a minute was counted. At the final round the overall football skills, number of touches, balance, variety of skills, and competency to use both legs were evaluated. Tharika liyanage, a 02nd year Engineering student won the IDUS inaugural Football Juggling Challenge trophy 2021.

# 2nd IDUS Sports Quiz Competition



For the second time, Inter University Quiz was held in line with the celebration of the International Day of University Sports (IDUS) by the SLUSA in an online platform. Sachith Keragala, a student of the Faculty of Medicine was adjudged as the third place winner out of hundreds of participants. At school, level he has participated in mainly public speaking and debating and led the English debate team. At University, he was the former Vice President of the International Interaction Club and at present, he is the Vice President of the University Gavel Club and have won numerous Inter University Public Speaking Competitions.

- Nimsara Senevirathne - University of Moratuwa
- Mandapa Pandithage - University of Moratuwa
- Sachith Keragala - University of Peradeniya



#LetsIDUS
Let's do this
FISU INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITY SPORT Proclaimed by UNESCO 20 September

# Article Challenge

IDUS organizing committee organized Article Writing completion for the universities undergraduates and the SLUSA observed tremendous enthusiasm among students regarding this off field activity. The following were the topics to write article and the competition went on in all 03 major languages.

**Topics**

- Highlights and unforgettable experiences from this year's Tokyo Olympics/Sri Lankan History at the Olympics
- Healthy fitness and lifestyle in the middle of a pandemic. (What does it mean to keep fit at home/ Challenges and thoughts about what this time period means for sports)
- A post-COVID era (What lessons have you learnt now, which you will take forward the university sports resumes again? / what are the major changes you expect to see then?)

## English Category!



- 1st Place - Verosha Abeygoonewardena - Universityof Kelaniya
- 2nd Place - Navodya Ekanayake - University of Peradeniya
- 3rd Place - Rahul Jeyanthan - University of Moratuwa

E. M. Navodya Kumari Ekanayake, Faculty of Medicine won the second place in the English category. Throughout her school and university carreer she engaged in lots of extra-curricular activities. she has many talents in sports and writing and she is the Women's Scrabble Captain of the university of Peradeniya for the year 2021.

## Tamil Category!

- 1st Place -Prathushan Inparaj - University of Moratuwa
- 2nd Place -Arulananthathevan Viyasan - University of Jaffna
- 3rd Place -Thivaharan Rajenthiram - University of Peradeniya.



In the IDUS Article competition Tamil category, Mr. Rajenthiram Thivaharan, from the Faculty of Dental Sciences, emerged as the 02nd runner-up.

Mr. Rajenthiram is a 3rd year undergraduate in the Faculty of Dental Sciences and a team member of the University table tennis team. He is very interested in writing and for the IDUS article challenge he wrote regarding Olympics in the Tamil language. In his writing, he has mainly mentioned the history of the Olympic, 2020 Tokyo Olympics medal, bouquet, motto, and standings in the medal table.