



University of Peradeniya

NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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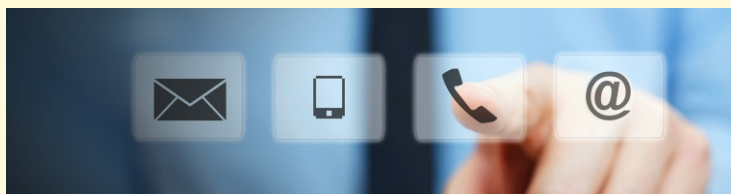
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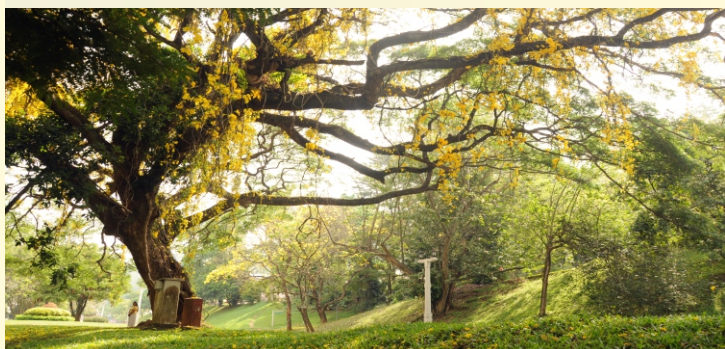
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Commencement of the New Year – 2024



Commencement of the New Year 2024 was celebrated with blessings from all three religions at the Senate of the University of Peradeniya.

The inaugural meeting with the distinguished Alumni of the University of Peradeniya

The University of Peradeniya's distinguished alumni came together for a memorable inaugural meeting at the Conference Hall of the Sri Lanka Institute of Developmental Administration (SLIDA) on February 27, 2024. Our incredible alumni, holding key positions in various Ministries, CEOs, GMs, Directors, Diplomats, and more, joined forces for a fruitful discussion on three crucial topics: the university's centenary development plan, multi-disciplinary AI research, and university-industry collaborations.

It was an honor to have the university representatives, including the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Deans, actively participating in this engaging session. The insights shared by our accomplished alumni, based on their diverse experiences, are shaping the exciting future of our Alma Mater.

The meeting concluded on a high note, filled with optimism and a shared vision to elevate the University of Peradeniya to even greater heights.



Visit of Prof. Anna Förster from the Sustainable Communication Networks



Professor Anna Förster from the Sustainable Communication Networks, Faculty of Physics and Electrical Engineering, University of Bremen, Germany recently visited the university and met with Professor Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and a team of academics, including Professors Lilantha Samaranayake, Sanath Amaratunge, Vijith Herath, Mahinda Herath, Drs. Usoof and Nawarathna.

The purpose of the brief meeting was to explore the possibilities of developing collaborations in research and academic work. Specifically, there was a discussion on getting students of the University of Peradeniya in the development of innovative products/services as well as seeking technical assistance from Bremen to further develop the best innovations. Professor Anna, whose expertise lies in computer applications for sustainability, expressed her willingness to provide the assistance required in her area of expertise.

University of Peradeniya recognizes its' employees Excellence Award Ceremony - 2023

The excellence award ceremony for nonacademic staff members was held on January 1st with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Acting Registrar, Mr. Mahinda Ekanayake, Deans of Faculties, Directors, and administrative officers. Employees eligible for the excellence awards were nominated by faculties and the central administration based on predetermined criteria.

Subsequently, an interview was held to choose the finalists under the chairmanship of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Selection was based on their contribution to the university, achievements, and other criteria. Forty-five staff members under the categories of Technical and Allied, Management Assistants and Allied, and Primary grades, 15 from each received awards on this day. The best employee from each category was awarded a cash prize of Rs.10,000/- along with a certificate while others were awarded certificates of excellence.



The Closing Ceremony of the JICA CHAIR Programme 2023

The Closing Ceremony of the Japan's Modernization Studies – JICA CHAIR Programme of the year 2023 was held in full splendor on the 12th of February 2024 from 11 am onwards at the Oak Ray Regency, Kandy. The JICA CHAIR is an approximately six-month Certificate Course hosted by the Sri Lanka-Japan Study Center of the University of Peradeniya, and offered and sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Over 1000 candidates from all over Sri Lanka and across various study disciplines registered for the programme which commenced in October 2023. The programme was open to any interested person living in Sri Lanka and was not limited to undergraduate or postgraduate students from the University of Peradeniya. The programme consisted of eight lectures on Japan's journey from rags to riches delivered by eminent Professors and Professionals from Japanese Universities and Institutes. These lectures were complemented by Sri Lankan Professors who are currently working in Japanese Universities benevolently offering their views on Japan's modernization process. The talks were moderated and coordinated by Lecturers from the University of Peradeniya who have completed their postgraduate degrees in Japan.

Lectures were conducted in hybrid mode, allowing students flexibility to attend lectures from any convenient location. The setup provided a perfect opportunity, especially for candidates from other areas or universities, to visit the Garden University of Sri Lanka, meet new people, and learn about the secrets of Japan's modernization.

Nearly 500 candidates had successfully completed the programme and qualified to receive the certificate of

completion, representative and certificates were symbolically awarded to ten students. The SLJSC also organized an essay competition for participants of the JICA Chair programme. More than 150 entries were received from enthusiastic participants and after careful perusal, five winners were selected to be awarded certificates at the Closing Ceremony.



The ceremony was graced by the Deputy Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka, Mr. Katsuki Kotaro, the Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office, Mr. Tetsuya Yamada and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa. Several other Officials from the Embassy of Japan and the JICA-Sri Lanka Office also joined the ceremony.

The Kick-off event of the CAPAGE project co-funded by ERASMUS + 2024



The Kick-Off event of the CAPAGE project, titled 'Promoting academic and professional excellence in healthcare to meet the challenges of aging in Sri Lanka,' co-funded by the ERASMUS+, was held from 19th to 23rd February 2024 at the Oak Regency Hotel, Gatambe. Hosted by the University of Peradeniya, the inauguration ceremony was held in grandeur. The ceremony was graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Terrance Madhujith, Vice Chancellor, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Prof. V. Kanagasingam, Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara, Dean Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Prof. S. Sathananthan, Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Kotelawala Defense University, Sur Capt. N.R.P. Perera, the Main Coordinator for the project, Prof. Monica Christova, FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences, Austria, project members from JAMK, University of Applied Sciences, Finland, University of Coruna, Spain, Santa Maria Health School, Portugal and project members from partner Universities in Sri Lanka - University of Peradeniya, University of Colombo, Kotelawala Defense University, University of Jaffna, University of Ruhuna and Eastern University of Sri Lanka. The welcome address was delivered by the Project Manager for the University of Peradeniya, Dr. Esther Liyanage. Prof. Terrance Madhujith, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, and Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara, Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya addressed the gathering. Prof. Monica Christova presented an introduction to the project.

The five days were eventful, filled with official meetings and social events. During one such social event, the project members from Europe and Sri Lanka dedicated time to clean a section of the Botanical Garden, Peradeniya to promote a Green Environment. The kick-off event concluded successfully on the 23rd of February 2024. This three-year project has now commenced and will progress through various milestones to achieve its objectives of enhancing active and healthy aging for the elderly in Sri Lanka.

The stunning photography capturing the inauguration ceremony was provided by Perabeats Photography, University of Peradeniya.



Promising Pathway to Develop the Nation through ICSD-2024



The first International Conference on University-industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD) 2024 was successfully held from March 15th to 17th in Colombo. The conference brought together a diverse group of experts, visionaries, and leaders to explore sustainable solutions, innovative technologies, and entrepreneurial strategies in agro-industries.

At the heart of this transformative movement are two groundbreaking projects: FOUNTAIN and SECRA. These initiatives delve into the challenges and opportunities of University-Industry partnerships in the Sri Lankan Government, private sector, and international Universities, highlighting gaps in research, innovation outcomes, and collaborations while fostering stronger bonds between academia and industry.

The International Conference was graced by esteemed participants: Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, as the chief guest, and Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga, University of Huddersfield, UK, as the Guest of Honor. Dr. Ravi Liyanage, co-founder, chairman, and CEO of Raigam Group and Prof. Evangelia Petridou from Mid-Sweden University, also participated as keynote speakers, emphasizing the alignment of industrial interests with national public interests, particularly in industries.

The FOUNTAIN and SECRA projects represent a holistic approach to advancing sustainable industries through innovation and collaboration. By addressing the diverse needs of graduates, academics, and industries, these initiatives pave way for a more resilient, prosperous, and sustainable future for all.

Blood Donation Programme

The Blood donation programme, organized by the Buddhist Brotherhood Society, Faculty of Agriculture, was successfully held on 15th February 2024, on the ground floor of the administrative building. Over a hundred people selflessly donated blood, reflecting the community's commitment to saving lives and spreading love.

This programme was conceptualized and brought to life under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Lalith Rankoth and Prof. Janak Vidanarachchi, with the help of the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, guaranteeing its success. Local healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and medical technicians, provided essential support throughout the donation process, ensuring the safety and well-being of donors and the proper handling of blood donations. The collective efforts of many individuals who dedicated time, energy, and resources made the blood donation program a meaningful and impactful endeavor.



One major highlight of the programme was the distribution of a rose to each individual who donated blood. This event was the first event organized by the newly appointed committee of the Buddhist Brotherhood Society, Faculty of Agriculture for the year 2024, and it was marked as a great success. This initiative not only contributed to replenishing blood supplies but also fostered a sense of unity and empathy among participants, embodying the true essence of Valentine's Day.

Partnership between Career Guidance Unit and Sarvodaya



We are pleased to share a momentous occasion at the University of Peradeniya as the Career Guidance Unit formalized a collaborative partnership with the Sarvodaya Institute of Higher Learning through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The signing ceremony, graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. D. Lamawansha, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Director of Career Guidance, and Registrar, signifies our commitment to enhancing the educational experience for our undergraduates. The collaboration aims to provide valuable internship opportunities that bridge academia and practical experience.

In attendance were esteemed individuals, including Dr. Vinya Ariyaratna, President of Sarvodaya, the Director of SIHL, and other officials, collectively embracing the prospects this partnership presents.

This strategic alliance opens avenues for meaningful student development and contributes to their professional growth. We anticipate the positive impact this collaboration will have on both institutions and the broader community.

University of Peradeniya stepped forward to conserve Mahaweli River Bank



Zero Plastic Society of University of Peradeniya in collaboration with Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority and Bank of Ceylon Peradeniya Branch launched a Bamboo Tree Planting Program intending to conserve the river Mahaweli and its ecosystem on 1st May 2024.

First-Aid Training Programme

In a proactive move towards ensuring the safety and well-being of its academic community, the Faculty of Science at the University of Peradeniya recently organized a comprehensive First-Aid Training programme in collaboration with the renowned St. John Ambulance Association & Brigade in Sri Lanka. The programme was conducted on the 20th and 21st of January 2024 at the faculty premises. Five safety officers and twenty-six selected students from the S21 batch attended the programme.



The primary objective of the programme was to equip faculty members and students with essential First-aid skills, fostering a culture of preparedness and quick response to emergencies.

The training programme covered a tailored curriculum, addressing the specific needs and potential risks within a scientific and academic context.

Colours' Awards Ceremony 2023



The Annual Colours' Award Ceremony of the University of Peradeniya, held on 12th January 2024, at the E.O.E. Pereira Theater, was a splendid event dedicated to recognizing the outstanding achievements of undergraduate sportsmen and sportswomen who excelled in sports during 2023. A total of 170 sportsmen and 79 sportswomen were honored with university colours, including 124 half colours for men and 71 for women. The ceremony celebrated exceptional performances at Inter-University, National, and International Competitions representing the University of Peradeniya.

In addition to the university colours, special awards were presented to athletes who demonstrated remarkable performances in national and international representations. The sportsmen and sportswomen were offered 19 special awards for national-level competitions. Furthermore, four swimming and one weightlifting record at Sri Lanka University Games were also honoured. Moreover, athletes who set six new university athletic records at the SLUG Track & Field Championships 2023 were felicitated.

Ms. Y.M.C.S. Yapabandara was recognized as the Most Outstanding first Year Sportswoman of the Year, while Ms. W.M.S.K. Wijekoon and Mr. I.M. Abeyrathne were honored as the Most Outstanding Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year 2023, respectively.

The Chief Guest at the Colours' Award Ceremony was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madujith. Dr. D.M.U. I. Dissanayake, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. R.H. Kuruppuge, the Dean of the Faculty of Management, Prof. A. Manjula Atiyagala, the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Prof. R.G.S.C. Rajapakse, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Prof. K.A.S.S. Kodithuwakku, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture attended as Guests of Honor. Prof. Neil Alles and Prof. Walter Senevirathne represented the Deans of Faculties of Medicine and Arts, respectively. Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, Director of HRDU, University of Peradeniya, also graced the occasion.

The Acting Director of Physical Education, Prof. Nanda Balasooriya, and Chief Guest Prof. Terrence Madhujith delivered speeches, adding significance to the event. The University Cultural Centre's dancing group presented stunning performances, enhancing the grandeur of the ceremony.

Following the Colours' Awards Ceremony, a glamorous Colours Night 2023, organized by the Sports Council was held at the Gymnasium.

The Colours' Awards Ceremony was telecast, and the weblink <https://fb.watch/pxWKmk8qtq/> provides access to further details about this remarkable event.

New Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences



Prof. Wasantha Athukorala holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Queensland University of Technology in Australia and an MPhil and a B.A. (Honours) in Economics from the University of Peradeniya, where he served as a Professor in Economics.

He has completed over 20 short courses in various countries, including the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Australia, Thailand, India, Nepal, and Bhutan. While his research interests are broad, he is particularly focused on empirical work concerning development issues and has made significant contributions in this field. He has published over 50 research papers in prestigious national and international journals. Additionally, he is the author of two textbooks and a co-author of five, and he has written eight book chapters. He has also presented more than 45 research papers at national and international conferences. Furthermore, his work has had a profound impact on policy decisions in Sri Lanka.

Prof. Athukorala has served on several committees responsible for preparing various policy documents in Sri Lanka, with some committee appointments made directly by the Sri Lankan Presidential Office. He has also worked as a consultant on various projects funded by the ILO, UNDP, and the World Bank.

Prof. Athukorala has been recognized as the best Environmental Economist in Sri Lanka by the Global AD Scientific Index in 2022, and the University of Peradeniya categorized him in the topmost research category (Tier 4*), the highest lifetime award given to a scholar in the country after evaluating their research contributions. Additionally, he received two presidential awards for scientific publication in 2023.

First CTHE Programme 2024 – Staff Development Centre (SDC), University of Peradeniya



The first session of the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education in 2024 commenced on 05th February 2024. This group comprised of thirty academic staff members from different Faculties of the university, including library staff. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. W.D. Chandrasena, the Director of the Staff Development Centre, Prof. Rasnayake Mudiyanse and Prof. Chalinda Beneragama, the former Directors, Dr. Chandana Jayawardhana, the Director of Human Resource Development Unit, Dr. Priyanga Wijesinghe, a former Acting Director of the Staff Development Centre, Dr. Chandima Herath, the Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Kapila Wijerathne, a resource person of the programme. This programme, spanning ten weeks and encompassing ten modules, aims to empower and enrich young academics, enabling them to serve as exemplary role models at the university.

The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series- April 2024

The fifth session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully conducted on 17th April 2024, at 1.00 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Samidi Navaratna, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Peradeniya. Dr. Navaratna delivered an insightful speech on "Balancing Act: Nurturing Mental and Physical Wellness in a Fast-Paced World".



The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series is an initiative of the Vice-Chancellor, aiming to provide the University community with a distinctive opportunity to engage with and learn from eminent scholars in their respective fields of expertise. It serves as a platform for intellectual enrichment, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge within the academic community.

Ceremony of Unveiling the JRDC Name Plate



The China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre (JRDC) for water technology hosted a ceremony to mark the unveiling of its name board on 25th March 2024. This occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Yaping Zhang, the Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. L.K.S.U. Dharmakeerthi, the Additional Secretary (Development), Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development, and

numerous other distinguished guests. Following the ceremony the first meeting of the JRDC Research and Academic Council (RAC) was convened, co-chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and the Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

University of peradeniya Launches 14th Himalayan Expedition

A group of scientists embarked on their 14th Himalayan expedition on 8th April 2024, organized by the Peradeniya University Explorers Association. Before their departure, a Seth Pirith ceremony was held at the Sanatana Mandira to invoke blessings for the team. Professor Bamunugama Shantawimala Nayaka Thero, the chief monk of the University Temple, led the religious ceremony.

To mark the occasion, an official team photograph was taken, and the University extended its best wishes to the expedition members.



The event was graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Dr. Jagath Gunathilaka, Senior Treasurer of the Explorers Association, and other distinguished academics.

The expedition is scheduled to conclude on May 9th. We wish the team all the best for a successful and safe journey.

University of Peradeniya Unveils University Calendar 2023/24 A



The University of Peradeniya took a significant step forward on April 9, 2024, as it presented the University Calendar 2023/24 to the Vice-Chancellor. The event, held at 8:30 AM in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, gathered esteemed members of the University's leadership, including Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anoma Perera, Editor-in-Chief of the Editorial Board,

Mr. E.M.G.M.B Ekananayake, Acting Registrar, Mr. A.M.N.B. Arampath, Bursar of the University, members of the Editorial Board and Ms. Kanchana Athapattu, the Statistical Officer of the University.

The University Calendar stands as a cornerstone document, encapsulating the rich tapestry of the university's history, its structural framework, academic offerings, By-Laws, rules, and regulations, and alumni engagement initiatives. Noteworthy in this edition is the inclusion of a newly developed digitalized map, aimed at facilitating access to vital information.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor shed light on the meticulous preparation process that commenced in March 2022 underscoring the arduous tasks of data collation, updating, editing, and visualization undertaken by the Editorial Board. Prof. Anoma Perera, serving as the Editor-in-Chief, extended gratitude to all members of the Editorial Board for their unwavering dedication and commendable efforts that culminated in the successful creation of the Calendar.

In response to the presentation, the Vice-Chancellor lauded the Editorial Board for their commitment and professionalism, offering constructive feedback to further enhance the utility of the publication. He acknowledged the collective endeavor of all involved stakeholders and expressed profound appreciation for their indispensable contributions towards crafting this essential university resource.

The University Calendar 2023/24 has been uploaded onto the University of Peradeniya's official website, making it accessible to staff, faculty, and stakeholders. Interested parties can access and download the Calendar through the provided link below:

[Link to the University Calendar 2023/24](#)

The Statistics and Information Division of the University coordinated the preparation process.

The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series - January, February, March 2024



The Second session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully conducted on January 17, 2024, at 1.00 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The guest speaker for the event was Senior Professor Buddhi Marambe from the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya. Professor Marambe delivered an insightful speech on "Climate Change and Climate Negotiations: The Science and Politics".



The third session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully conducted on February 21, 2024, at 1.00 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The guest speaker for the event was Professor Dileep De Silva from the Department of Community Dental Health, Faculty of Dental Sciences at the University of Peradeniya. Professor De Silva delivered an insightful speech on "Healthcare System in Sri Lanka".



The fourth session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully conducted on March 20th 2024, at 1.00 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. R.H.S. Samaratunga, Senior advisor to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka on Economic Affairs and former Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Dr. Samaratunga delivered an insightful speech on the 'Ongoing Economic Crisis of Sri Lanka: Origin, Remedial Actions, and the Way Forward'.

The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series is an initiative of the Vice-Chancellor, aiming to provide the University community with a distinctive opportunity to engage with and learn from eminent scholars in their respective fields of expertise. It serves as a platform for intellectual enrichment, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge within the academic community.

Successful Partnership Discussion with British Council

Ms. Viji Thiyagarajan, Director of Libraries South Asia at the British Council, and Ms. shiroma Benaragama, Manager of Library & Information Services, British Council Sri Lanka visited the University on January 16th and had a discussion with Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Dileep de Silva, the Director of the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) to explore potential partnership opportunities, with a focus on internships, learning initiatives, and resource sharing.



Career Counselors, Ms. Sumudu Lankathilake and Mr. Suchinthana Dasun also took part in the discussion representing the CGU. Their valuable insights contributed significantly to the constructive dialogue that unfolded during the meeting. The focus of the discussion centered around fostering internship opportunities and enhancing learning experiences, reflecting a shared commitment to the continual development of our academic community.

University of Peradeniya External Convocation 2023



The University of Peradeniya's Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) held its 2023 Convocation for External Graduates on 25th April 2024, at the Mahinda Rajapaksa Auditorium of the Polgolla National Cooperative Development Institute.

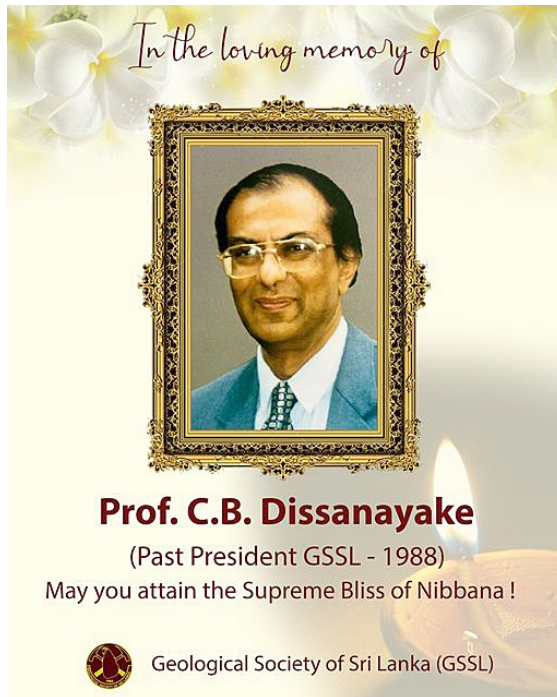
The ceremony marked a momentous occasion for over 1200 graduates, with 1139 receiving Bachelor of Arts and 38 receiving Bachelor of Business Administration degrees.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. Abhayaratnayake, Director of the CDCE. Deans from various faculties, the Acting Registrar, Librarian, and Treasurer of the University of Peradeniya also joined the celebration. Distinguished academic and non-academic members of the university, along with proud parents and well-wishers, created a supportive and festive atmosphere.

Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the ceremony acknowledged the dedication and accomplishments of the graduating class. With a large number of enthusiastic attendees, the event served as a testament to the collective effort and perseverance of students embarking on a new chapter in their academic journey.



Professor C.B. Dissanayake Passed Away



Professor C.B. Dissanayake was born on January 8, 1944, in Sri Lanka and received his secondary education at Trinity College, Kandy (1953-1964). He entered the University of Ceylon (Peradeniya) in 1964 and earned a B.Sc Honours degree in Chemistry in 1968. Prof Dissanayake then worked as an Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry and later joined the Department of Geology. In 1971, he had the distinction of being the first student ever to obtain a First Class Honours in Geology at the B.Sc Special Degree Examination of the University of Ceylon. Prof Dissanayake later became the Head and an Emeritus Professor of the Department of Geology of the University of Peradeniya, mentoring many of Sri Lanka's earth scientists.

For his outstanding contributions to research in environmental geology and geochemistry, he was awarded a D.Sc. from Oxford University, the highest rated science degree offered by the institution. In April 1998, the President of Sri Lanka, H.E Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunge awarded him the Vidya Jyothi, the highest National Award for Science in Sri Lanka. In November 1991, Prof Dissanayake was

appointed to the post of Director of the Institute of Fundamental Studies, Sri Lanka, succeeding Prof. Cyril Ponnampereuma. He held this position until January 1996. In May 2009, he assumed duties once again as the Director of the Institute until September 2015.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany awarded Prof Dissanayake the prestigious Humboldt Fellowship on two occasions. He received a Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) degree in 2009, from the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, and from University of Peradeniya in 2022. Prof Dissanayake served as the President of the Geological Society of Sri Lanka in 1988, President of Alliance Francaise de Kandy and President of the Lion's Club, Kandy. He has published over 175 research papers in reputed international journals, five books, over 100 research communications, and has edited 4 books. Beyond his scientific activities, he has shown considerable interests in popularizing science and has written several articles and delivered many public lectures on topics of scientific interest.

Medura Night – 2024



Sarasavi Medura Hall at the University of Peradeniya is delighted to share the success of its first hall night, held on the 2nd of February 2024. This historic event unfolded in the vibrant garden, nestled on the right bank of the Mahaweli River, adding an extra layer of glamour to the celebration.

During this memorable evening, the residents of Sarasavi Medura Hall unveiled a showcase of their diverse talents. From soulful singing to lively dancing and more, a vibrant tapestry of skills was revealed, creating a rich and dynamic display. The atmosphere came alive with a harmonious blend of musical and rhythmic expressions, making the night truly extraordinary.

Filled with vibrant colors, laughter, and unforgettable moments, the night will stay in the memories of all who were present. Sarasavi Medura Hall extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this inaugural celebration a resounding success.

Air Rifle Shooting Individual Qualifying Competition - 2024

The Air Rifle Shooting Competition – 2024 organized with the Academic Air Arms Association affiliated to the Sri Lanka Schools Shooting Sports Association, was held on 28th March 2024, at the Air Gun Shooting Range of the Ports Authority Security Training School on Q Point Road, Colombo. Seven male students and one female from the University of Peradeniya participated in the event, with two of them recognized as sharp shooters with over 80.5% accuracy.



Field Visit to Tea Research Institute, Talawakele



On 3rd April 2024, the Statistical Circle organized its Annual Field Visit to the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka (TRISL) in Talawakelle. The group consisting of 44 students from 3000 level and final year Honors students in Statistics and Data Science, immersed themselves in the world of tea research. The purpose of the field visit was to gain insights into the role of statistical methods in tea research and to observe practical applications of statistical principles in experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation within the context of TRISL.

The field visit commenced with a brief introduction to the role and functions of the Tea Research Institute, providing an overview of its significance in the tea industry. Students were introduced to various research and development activities and an exploration of experimental designs used in tea research. Students visited research laboratories and experimental fields to observe the application of experimental designs, sampling techniques, data collection methods, and data analysis in tea research. A visit to the Plant Breeding Division and Nursery provided valuable information on the breeding programs and cultivation techniques aimed at improving tea varieties. Information on diseases affecting tea plants and methods for disease management was provided at the Plant Pathology Division. Overall, the visit provided students with practical exposure to statistical methods in tea research, from design to analysis, highlighting TRISL's contributions to the industry and the nation.

Library News

Merit Promotion to the Post of Deputy Librarian

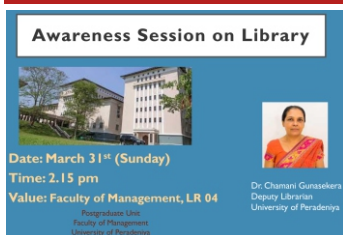
Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Senior Assistant Librarian (Grade I), was promoted to the post of Deputy Librarian in the Main Library, University of Peradeniya, effective from September 2, 2022, and the letter confirming the promotion was issued on January 30, 2024.

(from page 15)

Guest Lecture for Final Year Education Students

Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the Main Library, conducted a guest lecture on "Effective Use of Library Facilities for Research and Literature Reviewing Purposes" on January 24, 2024, for the final year students of the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts. The faculty and students who participated in the program appreciated and commended the guidance and immense support rendered to the students of the Bachelor of Education (Hons.) degree program, as it is an essential requirement for their research activities related to literature survey and dissertation writing.

Awareness Session for Management Postgraduates



Dr. Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian of the Main Library, conducted an awareness session on library services for postgraduate students of the Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, on March 31, 2024, at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Management. More than 75 students participated in the session, and both the participants and the faculty appreciated her support in enhancing the knowledge of postgraduate students of the faculty.

Felicitation for contributions to enhancing Faculty of Dental Sciences library facilities

Mr. B.N.G.S. Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian/ Acquisitions at the Main Library, and Mr. Neil Nandasiri, Senior Staff Assistant at the Dental Library, were felicitated by the Dean and staff of the Faculty of Dental Sciences for their tremendous contributions to improving the library facilities at the Dental Sciences Library.



Paper Presentations by Pera People at the INTSYM 2024-1

Six academic staff members in the library system of the University of Peradeniya presented papers at the 12th International Symposium of South Eastern University - 2024 (INTSYM-2024) held at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka on 29th February 2024. The names, designations, and topics of the papers presented are given below:

1. Mr. R. Maheshwaran, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, presented a paper on 'Global Perspectives on Subject Gateways in Engineering and Technology Exploration.'
2. Dr. (Ms.) C. N. K. Alahakoon, Deputy Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, presented a paper on 'Journal of Sri Lanka Library Review: a Bibliometric Analysis.'
3. Dr. (Ms.) C. Gunasekare, Deputy Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, presented a paper on 'Exploring Disparities in School Library Development and Administrative Support received from Authorities.'
4. Mr. B. N. G. S. Premaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, presented a paper on 'Information retrieval practices in dissertation writing: a Study among the Post Graduate Diploma Students in the Department of Education, University of Peradeniya.'
5. Mr. A. Dharmaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, presented a paper on 'Using Social Media for Learning Purposes during the COVID-19 Pandemic: a gender-based analysis among Dental Science Undergraduates at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.'
6. Mr. B. E. S. Bandara, Assistant Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, and Dr. (Ms.) B. M. M. C. B. Hindagolla, Librarian, Art, Design & Architecture, Arts, Education, Monash University of Australia, presented a paper on 'User Perspectives on Digital Reference Services (DRS): a Study of State University Libraries in Sri Lanka.'

World-Renowned Violin Virtuoso Enchants Sri Lanka



World-renowned violinist Dr. Ambi Subramaniam captivated Sri Lankan audiences with a mesmerizing performance on January 18, 2024, at the University of Peradeniya Gymnasium. Accompanied by the rhythmic brilliance of Akshay Anantapadmanabhan on Mridangam and Vaadhya Nipun Upula Madushanka on Thabla, the concert was a truly unforgettable experience.



Dr. Subramaniam's visit to Sri Lanka, from January 17 to 22, extended beyond the concert stage. He shared his vast knowledge with aspiring musicians through a musical workshop on Hindustani and Karnataka music, held on January 18 at 1.30 pm. Additionally, a panel discussion organized by Koushalya Wickremasinghe of Siddhivinayak Cine Arts on January 19 offered a platform for insightful conversations about music and culture.

Indeewari - 2024

The undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture annually organize the musical extravaganza, 'Indeewari' with the support of the university and the faculty community. It is organized with the aim of raising funds for the Needy Students' Scholarship which benefits over 100 faculty students in need of financial assistance. In addition, funds are allocated for 'Reli Bimen Sama Bimata' educational programme, which assists school children in rural areas. Indeewari 2024 was held on 20th March 2024 featuring performances by Wayo, T.M Jayarathna, Indrachapa Liyanage and Raini Gunathilaka. The show took place in the University Gymnasium from 7 pm onwards.

