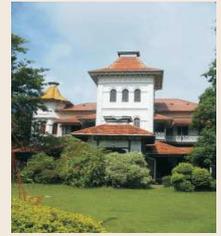




UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Number 1. January 2009

New Year message from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama

First & foremost, I wish you a very happy, prosperous and peaceful 2009. I very sincerely hope that peace and harmony would be restored in all parts of mother Lanka during the year 2009. We as the staff members of the University of Colombo, together with our students, should make every effort to contribute towards nation building, promote peace and harmony and work for socio-economic & cultural development. Nearly three decades ago, mother Lanka was a model for development in Asia. Unfortunately, we were faced with internal conflicts that made our country deteriorate in every aspect including the research culture in universities. With the dawn of the Year 2009, let us be determined to regain our position in Asia through human resource, technological, cultural and socio-economic improvements by involving directly in national development. The beneficiaries will be our next generation.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to those who have rendered committed services to the University of Colombo, and especially for their contribution during my first year in Office as the Vice Chancellor. I wish to solicit your fullest co-operation for the development of our university towards achieving the goal of becoming one of the best higher educational institutions in our region. This goal is to be achieved through best management practices, i.e. fair governance that is transparent, and recognizing the skills and competencies with output oriented performance of the staff and treating them accordingly. Since we are dependant on public funds for management of the university, we have a great responsibility to be committed to our work as a team with a common vision for national development.

Editorial

It is the dawn of a brand new year, 2009! All of us at the University of Colombo, all Sri Lankans and the whole world want to look ahead to a better future. Regardless of the experiences we went through during the previous year, we all need a fresh start. To be able to do this we need to concentrate on experiences that give us a sense of joy and lead to contentment in life. Can we find solace in Mother Nature?

Give us permission to take you back to 1804 to remind you and ourselves of how the poet William Wordsworth enjoyed viewing a field of that pretty yellow flower, the daffodil. According to commentaries about the writing of this poem, it was inspired after a walk with his sister Dorothy and the vision of "a host of golden daffodils/[...] fluttering and dancing in the breeze". In her diary Dorothy wrote with reference to this walk, "I never saw daffodils so beautiful they grew among the mossy stones about and about them, some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow for weariness and the rest tossed and reeled and danced and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them over the lake, they looked so gay ever glancing ever changing".

It is common in analyses of the poem to relate the "host of golden daffodils" to a crowd of people and Dorothy in her own words quoted above seems to endorse it. Isn't this what is happening around us as well? Some of us face success and glory while others go through difficult times. The positive side to this is that in society we take turns to be happy or sad depending on our experiences and surroundings. Fortunately these feelings are not permanent or static and keep changing like the dancing daffodils. Perhaps, like the daffodils resting on the stones for weariness, we too can lean on someone when we are exhausted and that respite may help us to move on rejuvenated.

The last stanza really means a lot to us in this sense. Although we may not appreciate the beauty of nature as and when we see and experience it, the mental picture that is created might bring joy to us later on and provide us with comfort in times of need and hardship.

The world has gone through an immense financial crisis during the latter part of 2008. Our war torn island has seen the meaning of "misery" in the fullest sense over the last few decades. As individuals, life has not been trouble-free or easy for most of us and it never will be. However, despite our problems and difficulties we all have at least one memory that we can hold on to and cherish. Even if we have none, there is no hindrance to enjoy the beauty of a natural flower, a butterfly, a magnificent tree, a wild animal, a water-fall or the beaches around us. We are sure that Mother Nature has wonderful remedies to cheer us when we are disheartened. The pleasant feelings gleaned from our contact with nature can hopefully create a lot of positive energy within us to better serve the society that we live in.

We wish all our readers a very happy and peaceful 2009!

THE DAFFODILS



William Wordsworth 1770-1850

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:-
A Poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company!
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.

HISTORY OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The Faculty of Science of the University of Colombo is located between the two roads Reid Avenue and Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha (formerly, Thurstan Road named after Rev. Thurstan at the Education Ministry). This is one of the oldest Faculties which dates back to the very inception of the University of Ceylon in 1942 with four other faculties, Arts, Science, Medicine and Oriental Studies.

In 1920, the Government of Ceylon purchased 'Regina Walauwe', now known as 'College House', to establish the Ceylon University College. The University College, affiliated to the University of London, was formally opened on 21 January 1921. The Central Administrative Office of the University was located in this building and lectures in Arts and Oriental Studies were held at College House.

The "Tower Building", which catches the eye of a person looking in the direction of the University from the Reid Avenue and Thurstan Road junction is now occupied by the Department of Mathematics. This is the oldest building in the Faculty, dating back to 1911. This was first occupied by Royal College (1913-1923) and subsequently given over to the University by the Government of Ceylon in 1923 when Royal College shifted to its present premises.



The "Tower Building" and The plaque at the entrance

The Science Departments initially functioned in the Technical School at Maradana. The 'New Laboratories' at the then Thurstan Road, were opened on 1 October 1921 and the teaching of science subjects was transferred from the Technical School to the new University College Laboratories. This very first building which housed all the Departments and the Science Laboratories is the majestic old building now referred to as the "Old Chemistry Building". It was built especially for the Ceylon University College during 1920/1921 and is said to have been designed by Father Morris Jaques Legoc, a Frenchman, who was the first Botany Teacher at the Ceylon University College. Looking at the architecture of this beautiful building, it is not difficult to recognize the church-like features in its structure with a pedestal base on the upper left-hand corner of the building, probably for a religious icon. In 1922, Honours Courses in Classics, History, Mathematics and Chemistry were conducted.



The "Old Chemistry Building" and The pedestal base

In the late 1920s an additional Physics Laboratory and the "Garden Lab" for Biology (1927) were added. In 1931 a brick building with three rooms was constructed for the Heads of Departments of Botany and Zoology and for the Botany Library. King George's Hall was built in 1936 as a lecture theater which was at that time a popular venue for cultural activities of both the university and non-university communities. More one-storied buildings were constructed in 1941 for the teaching of Biology.

To begin with, the students of the Ceylon University College read for the B.Sc. General Degree examinations of the University of London. The British academics who were sent to Sri Lanka during the early period were appointed as Professors of Chemistry or Physics at the Ceylon Medical College and the Ceylon Technical College. Among them three prominent names are K.C. Browning (1904 -1906), A.F. Joseph (1908 -1916) and W.N. Rae (1916-1920). When the Ceylon University College was established in 1921, Rae was appointed as Professor of Chemistry in 1923.

Prof. Suntheralingham was appointed as the first Professor of Mathematics in 1922. In 1924, Prof. Nigel Ball was appointed as the first Professor of Botany and Director of the Biology Laboratories. Mr. Burt, first appointed as a Lecturer in Zoology was later promoted to Professor of Zoology in 1942. The first Sri Lankan Professor of Physics was Prof. A.W. Mailvaganam and he was appointed to the Chair in 1939. The founder Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Ceylon was Prof. A.Kandiah, Professor of Chemistry.

Although the University moved to Peradeniya in stages, commencing in 1952, the Science Faculty in Colombo remained behind and a second Faculty was established at Peradeniya in 1961.

The Radio Isotope Centre was established in 1961 to provide training and services in Atomic Energy and to offer advice and assist in research and development using nuclear technology. Prof. P.P.G.L. Siriwardena was the founder Director of this centre. Later in 2001 it became the Department of Nuclear Science.

The 1970s and 1980s saw an expansion of the University's teaching accommodation. Some older departmental and faculty buildings were expanded; for instance, the two storied Biology building in front of the "open canteen", the five storied New Chemistry building and the four storied Physics building were opened in 1975, 1984 and 1989 respectively.

More revolutionary steps were taken much later when the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) was established. The Statistical Unit was created within the Department of Mathematics in 1968. Later, in 1981 a Computer Centre was established within the same Department. The Statistical Unit and the Computer Centre jointly formed the Department of Statistics and Computer Science in 1985. However, the Department of Statistics separated from the Department of Computer Science in 2001 and the Department of Computer Science left the Faculty of Science to form the UCSC together with the Institute of Computer Technology in 2002.

The Biology complex phase one was completed in 2000 and the Department of Botany occupied the building. Year 2003 was a special year for the Department of Botany as its name was changed to the "Department of Plant Sciences".

In order to cater to the current demands in different fields, different Departments introduced many four-year degree programs (Special Degree Programs). The Department of Chemistry introduced Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (1998), Pharmacy (2000) and Computational Chemistry (2004); the Department of Plant Sciences started the Plant Sciences, Plant Biotechnology (2002) and Bioinformatics (2003); the Department of Physics established the Engineering Physics (2001) and Computational Physics (2003) programmes; the Department of Mathematics commenced the Finance, Business & Computational Mathematics (2001) course, the Mathematics & Statistics with Computer Science programme (2003) and Mathematical Finance (2008); the Department of Statistics launched Statistics (1994) and Statistics with Computer Science (2003).

In addition to the intake for physical and biological sciences, the faculty undertook to have two new direct intakes to the faculty in 2006 namely, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Industrial Statistics and Mathematical Finance.

The Faculty of Science has taken an active interest in postgraduate education in Sri Lanka and the first ever taught MSc program in the country, the MSc in Analytical Chemistry, commenced in November 1975; the Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Applied Statistics was launched in 1974; the Environmental Science MSc was introduced in 1981 by the Department of Zoology; the MSc in Nuclear Science commenced in 1982 at the then Radio Isotope Centre. Today the faculty offers more than a dozen of masters programs in many fields serving the current diverse interests of the nation.

OUR STRENGTHS

Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology

The Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB) was established as an independent Institute of the University of Colombo with a view to providing human resource training in Molecular Life Sciences at Postgraduate level. The establishment of the IBMBB was the culmination of a very successful research programme in Molecular Biology led by Prof. Eric H. Karunanayake and supported by the Swedish International Development Agency / Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SIDA/ SAREC).



Her Excellency Mrs. Ann-Marie Fallenius, Swedish Ambassador for Sri Lanka, Professor Rune Liminga (former Director, International Programme in Chemical Sciences (IPICS), University of Uppsala, Prof. Eric Karunanayake, Founder Director, IBMBB, Prof. Ulf Pettersson, Vice Rector and Professor of Medical Genetics, University of Uppsala, Prof. Malin Akerblom, Director, IPICS at the Opening Ceremony.

Two full-time Master of Science courses are conducted at the IBMBB, one in Molecular Life Sciences and the other in Cellular and Molecular Immunology. These courses commenced in 2005 and three batches of students have now completed the degree programme. Visiting Faculty at the IBMBB also include international experts. A certificate course in Molecular Biological Techniques which runs for 5 full days is conducted at the IBMBB twice a year. In addition, workshops on Bioinformatics are also conducted with extensive hands on experience



2007 Graduates of IBMBB with Senior academic staff



Dr. Maire Allen, Swedish Forensic DNA expert, in conversation with law enforcement officers during a lecture she delivered at the IBMBB. She was recently responsible for the genetic identification of the remains of Nicolaus Copernicus.

International recognition for research

The IBMBB researchers won an excellent poster award at the 9th International Congress on Cell Biology and the 20th Annual meeting of the Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology held in Seoul, South Korea in October 2008 for the paper titled “The – 2548 G/A polymorphism in the human leptin gene promoter region is associated with plasma leptin levels; Interaction with pre-eclampsia/pregnancy induced hypertension” authored by B.H.K.R.Sugathadasa, K.H.Tennekoon, E.H.Karunanayake, J.M.Kumarasiri and A.P.D.S Wijesundera. Poster was presented by Mr. Rohan Sugathadasa MPhil/PhD student of the IBMBB.

The IBMBB is fully equipped with state of the art instruments and facilities to carry out advanced research in molecular life sciences. Current research areas at the IBMBB include molecular genetics of cancer, parasite and vector molecular biology, reproductive and developmental molecular biology, human DNA variation, plant molecular biology including research on rice, rubber, tea, mustard and other crops and medicinal plants. Most of the research programmes are conducted in collaboration with health and agricultural sector Institutes such as the National Cancer Institute, Maharagama, Castle Street Hospital for Women, Colombo, Tea Research Institute, Plant Genetic Resource Centre etc. A number of MPhil and PhD students pursue their studies at the IBMBB based on these research programmes.



Megabase DNA Sequencer

The IBMBB was elected as the National Node for the European Molecular Biology Network (EMBnet) in 2007 and is designated as a Resource Centre for Molecular Life Sciences, by the International Programme in Chemical Sciences, University of Uppsala, Sweden. With the assistance of EMBnet mirrors of Biological Databases are to be installed at the IBMBB and the university community and other researchers will be informed when these are available for access. The IBMBB also provides a fee levying DNA sequencing service for other researchers.

For more details visit the website www.ibmbb.lk

INAUGURAL ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The University of Colombo Annual Research Symposium was held during 23-25 October, 2008 under the theme “The Knowledge Economy: The Role of Universities”. Five faculties namely Arts, Education, Medicine, Science and Graduate Studies had their technical sessions during these days. Over one hundred papers were presented. Parallel sessions were held in the Senate Hall as well as in the auditoriums of the respective faculties.

Technical Sessions

Faculty of Arts



The Faculty of Arts held its research sessions at the Senate Hall during 24-25 October 2008. Advisor to the President and former Sri Lankan Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mr. Nihal Rodrigo delivered the keynote address on “Continuity and Change in China”.

The research papers covered the themes, 'Community and Cultures in Transition', 'Knowledge Production: Institution and Practices', 'Water Resource and Climate Change' and 'Public Policy'. The sixteen papers presented highlighted research on topics such as Gender and Free Trade Zones, Sri Lankan Diasporas, Religiosity in Transition, The Role of Humanities Education, Sinhala and English Sociolinguistics, Rainfall Events and Climate Change, Ground water quality following the Tsunami, Bio-diversity and Environmental Conservation, Sri Lanka's Labour Market in the context of an Ageing Population and the Discourse around the building of the Sethu Samudram Canal.

Faculty of Education



The Faculty of Education held its technical sessions at the Faculty Auditorium on 24 October 2008. The Chief Guest was Dr. P.S.M. Gunaratne, the Dean of the Faculty of Management & Finance. The Faculty of Education and the National Education Research and Evaluation Centre (NEREC) have been at the forefront of Education Research. The theme was “Quality Improvement of School Education in the Nation”. The papers presented covered in-depth studies on English Language Education, School Based Management, Computer Education and Child Friendly Schools. The papers were based on research that will contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in local schools.

Faculty of Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine conducted its 5th Scientific Sessions at the Faculty Auditorium during 23-24 October 2008. The series of events organized during this time included plenary lectures and English and Sinhala debate competitions. Prof. Janaka de Silva, Professor of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, was the Chief Guest. The Plenary session was conducted by Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Ruwan Ekanayake, Consultant Cardiologist, delivered a Guest Lecture on “Environment and Cardiology”. Prof. Harendra de Silva, Professor of Paediatrics, University of Kelaniya, delivered a Guest Lecture on “Social Aspects of Child Abuse”. The sixty papers presented covered the specialties of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Clinical Medicine, Paediatrics, Public Health, Oncology and Surgery.

Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science Technical Sessions were held on the 24th October 2008. A wide range of subjects were covered and the high level of participation indicates a significant contribution towards further developing collaborative research activities in the Faculty of Science. The keynote address “Science, Creativity and Development” was delivered by Prof. D.A. Tantrigoda, Senior Professor of Physics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Three parallel sessions were held focusing on different areas and a total of 40 papers were presented. The symposium provided a great opportunity for researchers to share and discuss research findings and to explore the potential for collaborative work. Such exchanges of information and ideas would no doubt encourage interdisciplinary discourse allowing researchers to learn from each other in an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies research sessions held on 24 October 2008 reflected the specific multi-disciplinary nature of its study programmes. Prof. A. D. V. de S. Indraratne, Emeritus Professor of Economics, delivered the keynote address on “The Role of Postgraduate Education in a Modern Knowledge Based Economy”. Six papers were presented on topics such as Understanding Child Mental Health in Sri Lanka, Transformational Leadership, The Impact of the Weather in the City of Colombo on Stock Returns, e-service Quality determinants of University Library Websites, Ethnic Resource Utilization of Sri Lankan Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Japan, and Openness, Good Governance and Economic Growth in Sri Lanka.

60th Anniversary Celebrations of the Faculty of Law



The Faculty of Law held its 60th Anniversary with a series of events during 24-25 October, 2008 at the Faculty Auditorium. Professor Gamini Samaranyake, the Chairman, University Grants Commission, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Invited guests, Honourable Judges, lawyers, presenters, academia, alumni, staff and undergraduates joined the event to celebrate the diamond jubilee year of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. The two-day celebrations commenced with an Oration, delivered by Deshamanya Dr. RKW Goonesekere, on “Arm of the Law”. The thematic technical sessions held on 24th October, under the theme of “Law in Context: An Agenda for Reforms”, included Commercial Law, Family and Labour Law, Intellectual Property Law, Information Technology and Criminal Law, Public Law and Public International Law. The Law Faculty undergraduates presented a talent show on “In Search of Inner Moralities” at the John de Silva Theatre. The Celebration activities included, an Exhibition, under the theme of “Access to Law and Legal Aid: Dissemination of Knowledge and Services”, Legal Literacy Programme, Academic Publications and a TV documentary about the Faculty of Law.

APPOINTMENT

Appointment of a New Dean



Professor Indralal De Silva, BDevS (Col.), MA (ANU), PhD (ANU) was elected as the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo on 23 December 2008. He was a student of the University of Colombo from 1973 to 1977 and joined the Department of Demography as a lecturer in 1979. Prof. De Silva has been Head of the Department of Demography since 1999 and is the 12th Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Dictionary of Environmental Science

This dictionary authored by Mr. H.K.N. Karunaratna, Senior Lecturer in Geography and Prof K.A.P. Siddhisena, Professor in the Department of Demography, is a valuable book published by Godage Publishers. The dictionary contains about 1000 terms with substantial interpretation on environment and allied fields.

Galaxies and Stellar Diversity

Galaxies and Stellar Diversity by Mr. H.K.N. Karunaratna, Senior Lecturer in Geography, deals with the field of Astronomy and comprises five chapters on Big-Bang Theory, Nebulae, Galaxies, Stellar diversity and Black Holes. The book was published by Godage Publishers.

Teaching of English

Teaching of English – A Sociological Study by Iresha Madhavi Karunaratne, (New Delhi: APH Publishing Corporation, 2009). The book addresses the social, psychological and pedagogical factors that affect second language acquisition, focusing on the case of learning English as a second language in Sri Lanka. The study is based on quantitative and qualitative empirical research carried out in four prestigious government schools in the city of Colombo. This book is based on Dr. Karunaratne's PhD research at Monash University, Melbourne and would be of particular interest to those involved in planning and implementing English Language programmes.

Commonwealth Accolade for Sri Lankan Author

Professor Neluka Silva has been announced as one of the highly commended winners in this years' Commonwealth Short Story Competition.

This competition sponsored by the Commonwealth Association and administered by the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) selects 25 winning stories each year from thousands of submissions by authors throughout the Commonwealth. This year 1700 stories were submitted. The competition aims to increase an understanding and appreciation for Commonwealth cultures by showcasing the rich diversity of its societies and supporting rising literary talents.

NEWS & EVENTS

International Research Conference on Management & Finance (IRCMF 2008)

The International Research Conference on Management & Finance (IRCMF 2008) was held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on 11 December 2008. This is the third consecutive international conference organized by the Faculty of Management & Finance. The Faculty is proud of walking along the path lit by the University's Motto "*Buddhi Sarvathra Bhrajate*" (Wisdom Enlightens). The conference proved beyond doubt that it has been an academically rewarding initiative for the faculty, particularly because it gave an opportunity to demonstrate the faculty's leading role in the sphere of management education.

Given the diversity of the issues and the interdisciplinary nature of research in Management & Finance, the conference covered a wide range of topics within the general theme "International Research on Management & Finance". It focused on issues ranging from "Labour union management cooperation" to "Neural network based predictions of the direction of stock markets" and many papers were presented in three parallel sessions.

The Inaugural session was chaired by Mr. N. Selvakkumaran, Acting Vice-Chancellor. Mr. W. A. Wijewardena, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka delivered the Keynote Speech titled "Scientific Research: What Researchers Should Do and Should Not". Some of the international presenters were from Bangladesh and India. Several papers were presented by researchers from Sri Lankan Universities.

Donation for the Sri Lankan Army



Troops in the Sri Lankan Army are marching forward to liberate the wanni area amidst a lot of difficulties. The Colombo University Trade Unions Federation took steps to help them out by donating biscuits, chocolates and drinking water bottles. These items were purchased from the funds collected from the University of Colombo staff and handed over to Col. Harendra Ranasinghe, 58th division of the SL Army on November 25 2008.

Collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine and the University of Moratuwa on research

The staff at the Faculty of Medicine is collaborating with the University of Moratuwa to conduct medically related research and several research projects of interdisciplinary nature have been started already.

International Ph. D Course in Political Science

The Department of Political Science and Public Policy recently held a residential short course for Ph. D students in Political Science. The course was held from November 10- 12, 2008 in Negombo. The theme of the course was "Nationalism, Democracy and Citizenship."

This course is a part of the tripartite collaboration between the University of Colombo, the University of Oslo, Norway, and the University of Gajah Mada, Indonesia. This collaboration, supported by the NOMA and NUFU of Norway, promotes post-graduate training, research and academic exchange in the three universities.

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

University of Colombo will receive a Grant of Rs. 30 m to establish a Pharmaceutical Analytical Laboratory

The Vice Chancellor signed a MOU with the Ministry of Industrial Development, in the presence of the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development, Mr. Kumar Welgama, on 18 November 2008 at the Ministry to establish a Reference Pharmaceutical Analytical Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry. The Sri Lanka Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association was also a signatory to the MOU. The University of Colombo will receive a grant of Rs. 30M approved by the Ministry of Industrial Development and the Sri Lanka Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association to establish this laboratory. The funds received will be utilized to procure pharmaceutical analytical equipment. The implementation of the project will be a positive step towards fulfilling a much awaited university-industry interaction for the benefit of the country.

The beneficiaries of the established Reference Pharmaceutical Analytical Laboratory are the Sri Lanka Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry and the University of Colombo. Once fully established with accreditation, the pharmaceutical industry will have access to an independent reference laboratory to assess the quality of the manufactured products. This laboratory will enhance and expand the analytical services that are already being conducted by the Department of Chemistry for the pharmaceutical industry. The other main benefactor will be the students of the University of Colombo, especially the students following the B.Sc. Pharmacy programme. The students will have more opportunities to interact with the pharmaceutical industry and thereby help the industry to find solutions to the problems in the industry through appropriate research intercourse.

“SHRAMADANA” campaign, organized by the Faculty of Science.



The “SHRAMADANA” campaign, organized by the Students' Council of the Faculty of Science was held on the 11 November 2008 at the faculty premises. The campaign was started off with the Vice Chancellor Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama and the Dean, Prof. T.R. Ariyaratne, both planting saplings. The other activities that took place were, the colour-washing of the canteen, cleaning of the University and faculty name boards, landscaping activities etc. Lunch and other refreshments were provided by the Students' Council of the Faculty of Science.

Portrait of Dr. CWW Kannangara

Portrait of Dr. CWW Kannangara was unveiled at the Education Lecture Hall, Faculty of Education at a function organized by the students following the Postgraduate Diploma in Education – 2008.

Building Complex for the Faculty of Medicine University of Colombo



After a long spell, a project to construct a new building for the Faculty of Medicine has been launched. The proposed Building will have 14 floors, excluding the ground floor, lower and upper basements. The site is located at the premises of the Faculty of Medicine facing the Maradana Road, Colombo 10. Cabinet approval has been obtained for the construction project with a total cost estimate of Rs.1,139 M. Nawaloka Piling (Private) Limited has undertaken the piling work of the Building and the formal inauguration ceremony was held on 10 November 2008.

Professor Gamini Samaranyake, Chairman/UGC who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest hoisted the National flag and Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor and Desamanya H.K. Dharmadasa, Chairman, Nawaloka Group of Companies, gracing the occasion, hoisted flags of the University of Colombo and the Nawaloka Group of Companies respectively.

One Day Workshop for A/L Physics Teachers-2008

The above workshop was held at the Department of Physics on the 14 November 2008. About 50 teachers from various parts of the country participated in the workshop which was mainly devoted to Electronics Laboratory work. The event was organized by the Department of Physics jointly with the section E1 of the SLAAS.

Christmas Carols 2008

Christmas Carols 2008 was presented by the staff and students of the University of Colombo in the V.K. Samaranyake Auditorium at 4.00 p.m. on 17 December 2008. The Catholic Students' Movement of the University organized the event. Rt. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, the Chancellor of the University was the Chief Guest. Professor Gamini Samaranyake, Chairman/UGC, Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor and members of the Council also attended the function.

Sujatha Jayawardena Memorial Oration

The fifth Annual Sujatha Jayawardena Memorial Oration on the theme “Universities, Doctors and Society” was delivered by Vidya Jyothi Professor A.P.R. Aluvihare, Emeritus Professor of Surgery and formerly Chairman UGC at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI) on 4 December 2008. The Oration was organized by the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo.

Workshop for Mentors organized by the Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education conducted a workshop for Mentors who were appointed to advise and supervise teaching practice sessions of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education internal courses. One hundred and twenty mentors for Sinhala and Tamil medium schools where teaching practice takes place attended this workshop.

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

English Language Teaching Unit Self Access Centre



The English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) of the University of Colombo recently launched a Self Access Centre (SAC) to develop the English Language Skills of undergraduates of all faculties through a variety of learning activities which promote autonomous learning. The SAC has a fully equipped computer aided language learning station with internet facilities, a reading section where students have access to self study packs and a mini library, an audio station with a variety of listening study tools and a discussion/chat corner where learners are able to interact with their peers and a facilitator. SAC also aims at enhancing the acquisition of soft skills of undergraduates through a spectrum of award winning movies.

- ✍ Location: Room 109 (1st Floor, New Arts Building)
- ✍ Opening hours: Monday-Friday 0900-1200 & 1300-1500 hrs
- ✍ Reservations: English Language Teaching Unit

Certificate Award Ceremony of the Diploma in Journalism

The ceremony for awarding the Diploma in Journalism for the 2006/07 batch was held on 15 November 2008 at the New Arts Theatre, University of Colombo. H. E. Choi Ki Chul, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea graced the occasion as the chief guest and a total of 181 candidates were awarded the diploma. This program is conducted by the Journalism Unit of the University of Colombo.

University Milk Sales Outlet



The University Milk Bar has been providing its service to the University Community since 13th November 2008. The sales outlet is located in front of the Planetarium adjacent to the staff Development Centre (SDC). Milco (Private) Limited provides milk and other dairy products at concessional sales rates to the University Community.

Diploma in Information Technology

The award ceremony for the awarding of the Diploma in Information Technology was held on 22nd December 2008 at the Dr. Wimala de Silva Auditorium, Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo 8. A total of 604 Diplomates received their certificates. This ceremony was organized by the Director and the Board of Management of the University of Colombo School of Computing.

Colombo Cricfest 2008



The students of the batch of 2007/2008 with the able assistance of the Science Faculty Students' Council and fellow faculty members organized 'Colombo Cricfest 2008' on 8 - 9 November 2008, at the University grounds. This was a six-a-side softball cricket tournament held between teams from state universities as well as private higher education institutes. The tournament was a roaring success with 64 teams taking part. The purpose of this tournament was to raise funds to temporarily provide hostel facilities for students of the faculty from outstation areas, with financial difficulties.

The Main Sponsor of the tournament was Sri Lanka Telecom and electronic media sponsorship was provided by Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and City FM (SLBC) while ANCL (Lake House) provided the print media sponsorship. Many other companies as well as individuals contributed to this event in different ways.

Field Visit by the Staff of the University of Colombo



The staff of the University of Colombo visited the Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences on December 20th 2008. They visited the Hambantota Harbour which is presently under construction and the Madunagala hot springs. The banana plantation which was cultivated using novel agro-technology was a special attraction for the staff. This field visit was organized by the Sports and Welfare Society of the University of Colombo.

Call for papers

Ceylon Journal of Medical Science published by the University of Colombo- Now ONLINE

The journal is now published online, through the INASP project Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL).
Visit our website: <http://www.sljol.info/index.php/CJMS>
Online submission is now possible.

University of Colombo Review

Articles should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, University of Colombo Review, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mw, Colombo 3.

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