



Volume 2, Number 2. April 2009

Exchange programs with Universities the world over are now a reality



The value of student exchange programs is incalculable. Through these programs, our students are exposed to other cultures, histories and backgrounds, and learn a lifelong appreciation of other environments. The University of Colombo has formed links with the La Trobe University to provide our undergraduates with this experience. Four Students from the Faculties of Arts, Medicine, Science and Sri Palee Campus were selected to spend one semester of study at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia under its DEEWR student mobility program. The four students are shown in the picture on right, with a statue at La Trobe on left.



Students at La Trobe University

Editorial

It is April! The sound of the “Koha” and the smell of traditional sweets are in the air. The greenery of the trees and the scent of blossoming flowers refresh us. This, in fact, is the beginning of a new year for Sri Lankans according to the traditional Hindu and Buddhist calendars in Sri Lanka. During this festive season where culture and heritage are being valued, we decided to write about something that has become commonplace and is therefore not thought about but is part of our heritage and is of great significance to us at the University of Colombo: the emblem or the coat of arms of the University of Colombo that graces all our letterheads and other important documents.

The coat of arms consists of a lighted lamp with a palm leaf manuscript in front as its central motif. It is surrounded by a circle of swans carrying lotus buds in their beaks. The perimeter is decorated with a traditional design called *palapeti* --lotus petals in a decorative design. The circular emblem is surmounted by the figure of a scroll containing the University motto. The lamp is the hence of wisdom. The luster of the lamp radiates all round leaf manuscript also symbolizes knowledge or learning. beaks is a decorative motif in Sinhala art and stands for lotus itself is a symbol of purity in Sinhala art. The identity. Hence, the coat of Arms taken in its cultural and national origin. As a whole it stands Sanskrit script which reads as “*Buddhi Sarvatra* everywhere.” The term “Buddhi” has a religious Enlightenment or Perfect understanding.



a lion bearing a sword in its right hand and at the bottom traditional symbol of light, illumination, enlightenment, symbolizing the spread of the light of learning. The palm The line of swans depicted carrying lotus buds in their discernment, purity and strength of character. The lion with the sword represents the Sri Lankan entirety depicts socio-cultural concepts of to champion **wisdom and virtue**. The motto in *Bhrajate*” means “Wisdom shines forth significance in Buddhism. It denotes

An analysis of the university emblem needs to This is a philosophical question that has ages. Is it obtaining higher educational and that all our readers would agree that wisdom of degrees and diplomas. Employing knowledge and prudence in a way that benefits the society that we live in be thought of as paths that lead us to wisdom. Thus, wisdom seems to operate at a level not just of knowledge and ability but also denotes a heightened sensibility and morality working together with intellect. Since the university motto refers to wisdom and not just education or knowledge, we perhaps need to keep these ideals in mind and this seems to be an apt moment to remind ourselves of what each of us has undertaken and committed ourselves to as students, academics and academic support staff within this institution. What then is virtue? It is the practice of tolerance, forgiveness and kindness? Do we inculcate wisdom and virtue within the university community? These are important questions we perhaps need to ask ourselves periodically.

begin with the question, “What is wisdom?” occupied many thinkers throughout the professional qualifications? We are sure cannot be limited to mean the acquisition experiences judiciously, with discernment and learning to look at life critically and analytically may

We wish all our readers peace, prosperity and good health during this festive season.

HISTORY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS

The Faculty of Arts, located between Reid Avenue and Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, is currently the largest faculty in the University with the highest student enrolment. The faculty has eight academic Departments and several Teaching Units offering courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This is also one of the oldest faculties in the University, tracing its history back to the Ceylon University College formally opened in 1921 and the University of Ceylon, established in 1942.

In the early stages of the Ceylon University College, the Arts subjects that were taught were English, Western Classics, Oriental Languages (Sanskrit, Pali and Sinhala), Tamil, French and German, History, Geography and Philosophy. In 1933, Economics was introduced as a new discipline and was part of the History and Economics Department thus re-named to better reflect its new identity. Subsequently, Economics became a separate department in 1938. During this period, the Arts syllabi were those of the University of London, as students were trained to sit for the University of London BA examination. All subjects (inclusive, strangely enough, of even Sinhala and Tamil) were taught in the English medium.

The central administrative office of the University College was located in "Regina Walawwa", purchased by the Government of Ceylon in 1920 and handed over to the University College in 1921. Both the first Principals of the University College, Mr. Robert Marrs and Sir Ivor Jennings (who took over from him, and then went on to become the founder Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon) had their office in this majestic edifice now known as College House. Originally, lectures for the Arts courses were held in College House, pending the completion and handing over of the Royal College buildings on Reid Avenue. In 1923 the lecture halls of the Arts Faculty were shifted to Reid Avenue when Royal College, which had occupied these buildings originally, moved to its current location and the Government of Ceylon handed over the buildings to the University College.

The first Annual Report of the University of Ceylon in 1942 asserts that the following departments of study were functioning in the Arts stream in the University College: the Indo-Aryan Department (with Sanskrit, Pali and Sinhala), the Department of Tamil, the Department of Western Classics, the Department of English, the Department of History, the Department of Geography and the Department of Economics. Several important changes were made when the University of Ceylon was established. Chief among these changes was the distribution of Arts subjects between two different faculties: The Faculty of Oriental Studies and the Faculty of Arts.

The Faculty of Oriental Studies comprised the Departments of Sanskrit, Pali, Sinhala, Tamil and Arabic and the other Arts subjects, namely, English, Western Classics, Philosophy, Geography, History and Economics were part of the Faculty of Arts. The Departments of Sociology and Education were added to the Arts Faculty in 1949. The Department of Law was also part of the Faculty of Arts at this time. However, despite the fact that these two faculties had separate and distinctive identities, according to a mutual arrangement between them, the Faculties of Arts and Oriental Studies functioned in close association, enabling students to offer subjects from both faculties for their degree.

The earliest Professors in several Arts subjects were eminent academics from foreign universities. Thus, the first Professor of Sanskrit was Prof. Betty Heimann, the first Professors of Economics were Prof. B.D. Das Guuptha and Sir Frederic Rees; Prof. J.H.G. Lebon was Professor of Geography and Prof. Francis Soertz was Professor of Law; the first Professor of Sociology was Prof. Bryce Ryan and the first Professor of Western Classics was Prof. S. Whitley.

When the University of Ceylon was first mooted in the Legislative Council in 1926 and the State Council in 1938, the new University was envisaged to be residential and sited in Peradeniya.

The buildings at Peradeniya came up during the 1940s and steps were taken in 1950-52 to shift the University to its specially constructed campus. Thus, the Faculties of Oriental Studies and Arts moved to Peradeniya in 1952.

The Needham Commission of 1958 had predicted that more universities would be required and that at least one could be established in Colombo on the site of the old University College. This was not accomplished immediately. However, when the pressure for accommodation in Peradeniya could not be satisfied in 1963, due to a drastic increase in the intake of students in the Arts disciplines, a decision was made to admit the surplus students to a second Faculty of Arts located in the former University of Ceylon premises on Thurstan Road, using, in addition, the vacant premises of the old Race Course on Reid Avenue. Consequently, the present Faculty of Arts of the University of Colombo commenced by offering courses in Arts and the Social Sciences, mostly in the Sinhala medium. During this time, the teaching faculty of the Faculty of Arts commuted between the two Arts Faculties at Colombo and Peradeniya. When, through the Higher Education Act of 1966 and the establishment of a National Council of Higher Education, a separate university was instituted in Colombo in 1967, amalgamating the faculties of Arts, Science and Medicine, the academics of the Faculty of Arts in Peradeniya were given the choice of joining the University of Ceylon, Colombo.

1967 saw a period of innovation and rejuvenation in the Arts field with the Faculty at Colombo introducing new disciplines. For instance, the formal study of linguistics was introduced for the first time in the history of university education in Sri Lanka with the establishment of a Department of Linguistics at Colombo. In 1968, the Sub-Department of English introduced on-going proficiency courses in English and English as a subject for the degree. 1969 saw the establishment of a new Department of Sociology.

The next significant event in the rather tumultuous history of the Faculty was the "university reorganization" based on the Jayaratne Committee Report of 1972. Upon the recommendations of the report, many of the traditional Arts subjects from all the universities were transferred to Vidyalandara (Kelaniya) University. The University of Ceylon, Colombo was also re-named the Colombo Campus of the University of Sri Lanka in 1972 and continued to function in this manner until the 1978 university reorganization saw the establishment of the University of Colombo. Thus, in 1978, almost all the Arts subjects and departments of study were reinstated to the newly independent University of Colombo.

The Faculty of Arts, which had previously occupied lecture halls and office space at Thurstan Road (King George's Hall, Sampson's Bungalow etc.) shifted to Reid Avenue, first to the buildings now occupied by the Law Faculty, and then upon completion of the specially designed building (in two stages), the Faculty moved to its current location and premises in the early 1990s. New Departments of Study and Teaching Units have been established in the faculty right throughout its history: The Department of Demography, originally established as the Demographic Training and Research Unit (DTRU) in 1974 gained departmental status in 1997. The Journalism Unit was established in early 1980 under the Dean of the Faculty of Arts. The ELTU was formally established in 1986 as part of the Department of English and in 2005 the Department of English and the ELTU were bifurcated; since then, the ELTU functions as an independent Unit. The Department of Political Science and Public Policy was created in 2001 with the bifurcation of the Department of History and Political Science. The Department of History was renamed the Department of History and International Relations.



KG Hall was the venue for some of the lectures. There was a time when the Colombo racecourse was used to conduct lectures and the lecturer had to stand in a cubicle in front of the Grandstand and teach.

OUR STRENGTHS

Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA) (Formerly IWE)

The history in brief

The Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA) is one of the 07 Institutes attached to the University of Colombo. The IHRA is affiliated to the University in Academic and Human Resource matters save for the provision of financial and physical resources. The IHRA is a statutory body established by an Ordinance, headed by a Director, like other University Institutes.

This Institute was established in mid 1970 as the Institute of Workers' Education (IWE) and in 2006 it was transformed into the Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA) to face the local changes and global challenges, by the Ordinance No 01 of 2006. Prof V. K. Samaranayake was the first Director of the IWE in 1976, and the present Director Dr W. K. Hirimburegama was appointed to the then IWE in 2005.

During a time when the concept of "Knowledge-Worker" was not in use, the University of Colombo had a vision in the early 1970's to establish a separate Institute to cater to the employed worker category, which is now called "Knowledge-Worker", in the modern "Knowledge-Economy".

The present status



The concept of the "Advancement of Human Resources" extends beyond the HRM and HRD, and the modern "Knowledge Workers" consist of all the employed work-groups including professionals and self-employed entrepreneurs. The IHRA provides its services to all these categories, especially in fields not particularly targeted by other service providers for the national development.

The present management structure

The total Staff of the IHRA is about 45. The Director, two University Teachers, and a Senior Assistant Librarian comprise the academic staff. The administrative staff includes a Deputy Bursar, a Senior Assistant Registrar, and an Assistant Registrar (Examinations). There are 03 Academic Coordinators and other office staff and some of them are paid from generated funds.

State funding is sufficient only for the payment of the permanent staff and to pay for visiting lecturers of the Bachelor of Labor Education (BLE) program. The maintenance and development of the Institute are carried out through generated funds from fee-levying courses. The Institute has about 750 BLE undergraduates in the current academic year.

The BLE Degree program is funded by the state while being partially supported by the other Certificate, Diploma and Postgraduate Courses. Paid Courses have become essential for the maintenance and development of the Institute.

The BLE Degree has been designed to provide University undergraduate education to already employed categories who are keen to advance their knowledge and apply it in their work places. Qualified candidates are selected directly from an IQ and EQ based open test. Already employed BLE students and all the BLE graduates contribute directly to the national economy.

Infrastructure

The Institute has only one building with a total floor area of 1400 m2, and the library is temporarily housed in another faculty. The IHRA has only one lecture hall that can accommodate about 75 students. All the programs are conducted in the Faculties of Arts, Law and Science.

The Institute uses the available space to the optimum level. Thus, the IHRA Boardroom is a computer laboratory and is also a lecture room in addition to its normal use. Further, a fully ICT based modern Geoinformatics Laboratory has been established through generated funds.

Courses

The BLE Degree program is public funded, and all other paid courses are provided at subsidized rates and these courses have been designed according to the needs of the country. The English Language Certificate Course has been conducted for the past 15 years, and very large numbers have benefitted from it.

The Tamil Language Certificate Course has a special significance to the nation, and it is conducted in collaboration with the Department of Official Languages and the Commission of Official Languages. One of the Tamil Courses was recently completed at the Police College, Kalutara for Police officers in executive grades.

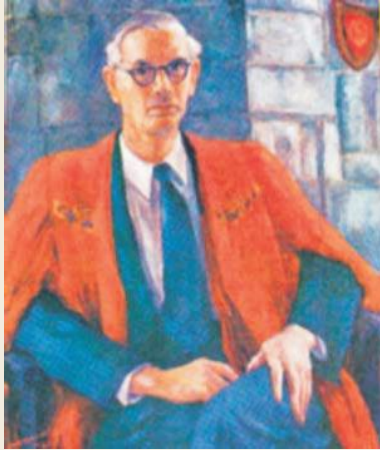
The Diploma in Drugs Abuse Management Studies (DDAMS) is conducted in collaboration with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, and the Health Promotion Diploma Course has the collaboration of the Medical Faculty and the Ministry of Health. Specific field projects are conducted in rural areas, and the most recent one was held at the Villachchiya and Thanthirimale terrorism affected areas.

The IHRA has taken over the responsibility of establishing the GIS based edutourism digital map of Anuradhapura and Pollonnaruwa of the North Central Provincial Council. The IHRA is also involved in several other National Projects.

The DDAMS Course of the IHRA, University of Colombo has been developed for the SAARC region and has been accepted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as the only such Diploma Course available in South and South-East Asia.

SIR IVOR JENNINGS

The first Vice-Chancellor, University of Ceylon



Sir William Ivor Jennings QC, Litt D (Cantab) LLD (Lond), the first Vice Chancellor of the University of Ceylon, was born in Bristol on 16 May 1903. He was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol Grammar School and St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. He started his academic career in 1925 as Lecturer in Law at Leeds University and as Holt Scholar of Gray's Inn. Jennings was called to the Bar in 1928, but he continued his academic career and joined the London School of Economics as Lecturer in Law (1929).

By the time he accepted the post of Principal of the Ceylon University College in October 1940, he had already earned an academic reputation as a constitutional expert. He had taught law and political science at several prestigious universities in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Besides numerous contributions to international journals, he had also produced eleven major books before he came to Sri Lanka at the age of 37. Considering the fact that Jennings lived only 62 years, he spent some of the best years of his life in Sri Lanka (1940-54). Jennings recalls in his autobiography that even though there were moments when he regretted the books that could have been written had he stayed in England, he was finally convinced that he made the right decision to "take the road to Peradeniya". He was proud that he was able to help to build "one of the finest small universities in the world."

After the retirement of Robert Marrs who was the Principal of Ceylon University College (1922-39), Jennings was appointed to that position with an added responsibility of creating a new university for the country. The University of Ceylon was established in April 1942 by amalgamating the Ceylon Medical College (established in 1870) and the Ceylon University College (established in 1921). Jennings hoisted the flag on 1 July 1942 at "College House" which continues to be the administrative centre of the Colombo University.

What is striking is the meticulous care with which Jennings planned out the new university scheme. Besides drafting the University of Ceylon Ordinance No.20 of 1942, he had also written a large number of memoranda dealing with many aspects of university life. Referring to the last stages of establishing the new university, he says: "I had to enact more legislation in that month than the State Council did in a year." When the shifting of the university from Colombo to Peradeniya was underway, Jennings supervised the entire project, including the construction of buildings. He insisted: "This university has to last a thousand years, and we do not want shoddy work."

It is clear that Jennings' views on education were influenced by the British notion of "the well-rounded gentleman-scholar with a background in liberal arts." He considered undergraduates who do not

read books other than textbooks as "illiterate." "Such illiteracy, unfortunately becomes cumulative, and standards generally will be lowered for several generations."

He always emphasized the importance of general education, a long process which begins from one's childhood. He said: "So far as examination standards are concerned you may rest assured that a graduate of the University of Ceylon is as good as a graduate of any Western university. His deficiency, if he has any, lies in his general education, his ability to do things as distinct from his ability to pass examinations. That deficiency arises from home and school environment, and therefore varies from person to person." In order to produce men and women of high caliber, the university ought to give them not only a "useful knowledge" (the kind of knowledge required for vocational needs) but also what is lacking in their general education.

How can the university help those students who did not have opportunities to acquire a sound general education due to the defective home and school environment. Jennings thought that the university should be equipped to provide them with a "belated education." On the subject of Communism in Peradeniya, he insisted that "it is not my business to put down communism as such, but I have to see that surplus energy is drained off and not used for rioting." He placed great emphasis on cultural, sports, and recreational activities. According to Jennings, he was wrongly alleged to have said that Ceylon was a "cultural desert"; however, if that was the reality, he thought that the university would constitute an "oasis" in that desert.

Apart from his pioneering contributions to university life in this country, he also exerted considerable influence on the construction of a new constitutional order for independent Sri Lanka. He was the most trusted advisor to Mr. D.S. Senanayake on constitutional affairs. Jennings, together with Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, helped Senanayake to evolve a strategy in his negotiations with the British for the transfer of political power. He drafted the first constitution of independent Sri Lanka. He also maintained a very close relationship with the Prime Ministers Dudley Senanayake and Sir John Kotelawala.



"My judgement of the capacity of a person does not necessarily depend on his doing what I think he ought to do; quite often it depends on his doing something different for a reason which I recognise as valid but which had not occurred to me."

In the midst of his administrative and other responsibilities, Jennings continued his vocation of writing books. He wrote seven new books while several new editions of his old books were also published. He was knighted in 1948, made a QC in 1949, and awarded the KBE in 1955. After leaving Sri Lanka, he became Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1954 and Downing Professor of the Laws of England in 1962. Jennings passed away in Cambridge on 19 December 1965 at the age of 62.

Despite some criticisms leveled against "Jennings' model" of university education, one could still be inspired by the kind of intellectual discourse that he was engaged in when discussing university problems.

Article prepared by Prof Amal Jayawardane, Executive Director, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies & former Dean, Faculty of Arts.

APPOINTMENTS

Rector, Sri Palee Campus



Dr. Liyanage Tudor Weerasinghe, BA(Moscow), MA (Philosophy- Moscow), MA (Journalism-Moscow), PhD (Moscow), was appointed Rector of the Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo with effect from 28.01.2009.

He was the Acting Head of the Department of Performing Arts, Head of the Department of Mass Media and the Acting Rector of Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo prior to this new appointment. He also held the positions of Director / National Film Corporation and is presently a member of the Drama Preview Committee SLRC, a member of the committee for the formulation of a state media policy by the Information and Media Ministry and the Coordinator of the Diploma course in Film Making conducted by the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka. Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe is the first academic to have been appointed to this post from the academic staff of the Sri Palee Campus.

Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies



Professor Sunil Chandrasiri, BA Econ. Hons. (Col), MA Econ (Col), MBA (Hartford, USA), PhD (La Trobe) the newly elected Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies is a graduate in Economics from the University of Colombo. After a brief academic career in the university he joined the business sector and served in

Many positions until he decided to join the University as a senior academic. Before he joined the Faculty of Graduate Studies he served as the Head of the Department of Economics.

Director, Colombo University Community Extension Centre (CUCEC)



Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena, BA, BPhil. in Economics (Colombo), PG.Dip. Social Statistics (SriJ'pura), MA (ANU), MS, PhD (Michigan) was appointed as the new Director of the Colombo University Community Extension Center (CUCEC), University of Colombo from March 2009.

He was a student of the University of Colombo from 1968 to 1972 and specialized in Economics and joined the Department of Demography as a Lecturer in 1975. Professor Siddhisena served as the founder Head of the Department of Demography, and former Director of the then Demographic Training & Research Unit (DTRU), University of Colombo.

Director, Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SPARC)



Siri Hettige, Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka was the honorary Director of the Centre for Social Policy Analysis and Research from 2005 to 2008. He has been appointed as the Director of the Centre from February 2009 for another three years.

He had his undergraduate education in sociology from the University of Colombo, while his Ph.D is from Monash University, Australia.

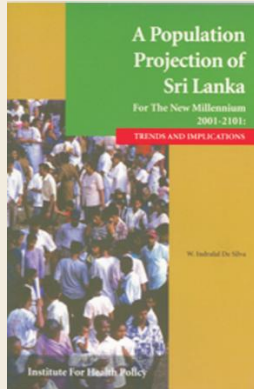
Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies



Professor Amal Jayawardane, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS). Established in 1993 and based in Colombo, RCSS is a regional think-tank in South Asia. RCSS sponsors, coordinates, and supports research on security issues.

PUBLICATIONS

Future Population of Sri Lanka



"A Population Projection of Sri Lanka –For The New Millennium 2001-2101: Trends and Implications" by Prof. W. Indralal De Silva, is both a timely and important publication by the Institute for Health Policy. Indralal De Silva is the Senior Professor of Demography (Chair), and the current Dean of the Faculty of Arts. This book provides long term projections of Sri Lanka's population based on standard, high and low assumptions of future trends in fertility, mortality and migration.

This publication extrapolates future changes in the size, the age-sex structure and the composition of the Sri Lankan population.



Sri Lanka Journal of Critical Care - Call for papers

This is a new peer-reviewed online journal published by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine. The first issue will be published in April 2009. The journal publishes original research, reviews and case reports related to the field of critical care medicine.

Submissions are invited for publication in the inaugural issue.

Manuscripts could be submitted online at <http://www.sljol.info/index.php/SLJCC>

NEWS & EVENTS

Total Voice Communication solution for the University

The University of Colombo entered into an agreement with the SLT-Mobitel for the installation of a PABX Systems with total communication facilities for the University of Colombo on 12 February 2009 at a simple ceremony held at the Senate Hall of the University where the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama and the Chairman, Sri Lanka Telecom, Mrs. Leisha de Silva Chandrasena signed on behalf of the University of Colombo, and the Sri Lanka Telecom, respectively. Through the provisions of the agreement free communication facilities would be provided for the University of Colombo for exclusive use within a Calling circle and inter communication facilities would be improved with the new installations by the SLT. Project work commenced on 16 February 2009 and it is envisaged that the first phase of the Project will be completed within three months.

Welfare Shop



The Welfare Shop of the University of Colombo was opened at the New Administration Building of the College House on 25th February 2009 under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor. The Recreation and Welfare Society of the University of Colombo with the assistance of the Student & Staff Welfare Branch conduct this concessionary sale shop for the benefit of the staff & students.

International Conference on Frontiers in Molecular Life Sciences: Sailing Towards New Horizons 17 - 18 September 2009, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology is pleased to announce the International Conference on Frontiers in Molecular Life Sciences: Sailing towards New Horizons. This will be the first of its kind in Sri Lanka and is expected to attract a wide range of researchers and students working in diverse fields using tools of Molecular Life Sciences. Key Note Lectures, Plenary Lectures and Symposia on topics such as Cancer Genetics, Genome Diversity, RNA Biology, Reproduction and Development, Vector Born Diseases and Plant Genomes are being organized. Distinguished Foreign Faculty include Prof. Ulf Pettersson, Professor of Medical Genetics, University of Uppsala, Sweden; Prof. Janet Hemingway, Director, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom; Prof Dr. L Gortner, Professor of Paediatrics and Director Department of Paediatrics and Neonatology, Saarland University Hospital, Germany; Dr. Marie Allen, Forensic DNA Expert, Rudbeck Laboratory, University of Uppsala, Sweden and Dr. Erik Bongcam-Rudloff, Chairman, European Molecular Biology Network. For further details please visit our conference website www.ibmbb.lk/conference2009

Report of Managing University Records

The Report on Managing University Records has been handed over by the Council University of Colombo to Mr. Upali Amarasiri, Director, National Institutes of library Information Science (NILIS) recently. The report deals with the challenges and procedures in organizing a modern university record room. A committee comprising the Director, NILIS (Chairman), Director, Department of National Archives, Director, UCSC and the University Librarian was appointed by the Council to study and make recommendations on the reorganization and digitization of the record room of the university. The necessity of a proper record appraisal procedure, importance of record management policy and guideline, suitable building, special furniture and equipment, trained man power, importance of following national and international standards, digitization and microfilming of records, disaster management and other aspects of university record management have been dealt in the report.

Inauguration of the First Geoinformatics Postgraduate program and the GeoCenter Laboratory of IHRA

To commemorate the inauguration of the First Geoinformatics Postgraduate program and the GeoCenter Laboratory of the Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA), University of Colombo, the Surveyor General Mr Mahesh Fernando presented the **Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch United East India Company - Volume IV (Ceylon), Published by Holland National Atlas Institute** in November 2008, to the Vice Chancellor on 21 March 2009 at a function held at the IHRA. This book was published in a limited, single edition of 1600 copies, and this is the copy No. 0007. This copy will be available in the Ceylon-room of the main library.

Plea to improve the Early Childhood Education cum Daycare Centre of the University of Colombo



At present the Early Childhood Education cum Daycare centre of the University of Colombo serves around 20 full time youngsters with two daycare teachers and two daycare assistants. The service is provided primarily to the children of the staff of the University of Colombo at a nominal cost.

The demand for the service has grown over the past three years and some effort has been taken to improve the existing facilities. However, at present, our daycare does not have adequate infrastructure facilities to provide our young children with good quality services. We write to seek your support to upgrade the infrastructure facilities before June 2009, in order to serve the new recruits better.

Please Contact Senior Assistant Registrar (Student & Staff Welfare Branch): 011-2582336

General Convocation – 2009

The General Convocation of the University of Colombo will be held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on 27 and 28 May 2009. 1512 Graduands will receive their degrees on 27 May and 1015 Graduands on 28 May. All graduands have been informed of the procession and the formalities associated with the Ceremony. For further information please contact Senior Assistant Registrar/Examinations.

Human Resource Management Day 2009

“One family; different personalities; together for a better tomorrow.”



HR day 2009 was held on 7 January at the Faculty of Management & Finance, for the first time.

Two guest lectures were held to add value to this event. One was conducted by Mr. Kumara Galhenage, of Dialog Telecom PLC on body language and the other by Visharadha Edward Jayakodi, the famous musician.

The Charity Program which was held to appreciate the services of the non-academic staff of the Faculty added more color to the day and the students got a chance to show their talents as well, through various performances.

NILIS Research Symposium – 2009

NILIS Research Symposium 2009 was held on 20 and 21 March 2009 at the National Institutes of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo. Professor Gamini Samaranayake, Chairman, University Grants Commission was the Chief Guest at the inauguration and Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, was the Guest of Honour.

Visit of Dr. Nina Fedoroff

At the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Dr. Nina Fedoroff, Science Advisor to the Secretary of State in the United States of America, visited the University of Colombo on 21 February 2008 and delivered a lecture on 'Modern Biotechnology for Developing Countries' at the Senate Hall of the University. The Deans of Faculties, Senior Professors and Researchers and postgraduate students attended the lecture. A discussion took place at the question and answer session immediately after the lecture where Dr. Fedoroff offered interesting and useful comments.

A Book Exhibition at the Faculty of Education

A Book Exhibition was held in the Faculty of Education premises on 24 and 25 January, 2009 to raise funds for the Welfare Society of the Faculty.

The Alumni Association of the University of Colombo will be celebrating 27 years of active service to the University of Colombo at its Annual General Meeting on 22 May 2009 at the '80 Club, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7. The Meeting will be Followed by dinner. The Association requests all members to attend and any inquiries can be made to Tel 0777607772.

The Alumni Association is currently organizing a series of development programmes to support university undergraduates to prepare for a competitive job market. This series of projects have been made possible with funds received from Deutsche Bank, Asia Foundation, as a CSR initiative. The first in this series was a Career Guidance Seminar titled **“Opening doors- Path to Success”** and organized in association with the Career Guidance Unit. The full day seminar was conducted by five eminent persons from the private sector, and catered to 250 undergraduates. Two more follow-up workshops were conducted in the Following two weeks by expert volunteers from Deutsche Bank, Colombo Branch.

An Outward Bound-Course **“Eco Adventure Exploration”**, was organized by the Alumni Association on 4 April in Bandaragama, for 100 Undergraduates representing all the faculties of the University of Colombo. This Professional development programme was organized with a view to developing leadership, team-work skills, encouraging creative thinking and building inter-personal relationships and will include mental exercises and strenuous outdoor exercises.

In keeping with the year 2009 being declared **“The Year of IT and English”** by the Government of Sri Lanka, the Alumni Association is presently conducting and intensive 6 month English Communication Programme for 100 undergraduates. These classes, started in February, are conducted every Saturday.

Postgraduate Diploma in Community Development and Postgraduate Diploma in Education

Postgraduate Diploma in Community Development and Postgraduate Diploma in Education (English Medium-Part Time) courses were commenced on 18 January 2009 and 22 February 2009 respectively.

Sarasavi Mithuro

The eleventh (11) Annual General Meeting of the *Sarasavi Mithuro*, an Alumni organization of the University of Colombo was held on 15 February 2009 at the Student Centre of the University of Colombo. New Office Bearers were elected.

Freshers Welcome

The Freshers Welcome organized by the student of the Faculty of Law to welcome the new intake (GCE A/L 2007/2008) was held at the Gymnasium of the University of Colombo in a colorful ceremony on 25, 27 February 2009.

Avurudu Pola

An Avurudu Pola was organized by the Department of Chemistry Welfare Society on 7 & 8 April 2009 at the University Grounds.

Visit www.cmb.ac.lk/newsletter to download pdf versions of the previous issues.

Faculty of Arts

Department of Demography	011-2586111
Department of English	011-2500438
Department of Economics	011-2582666
Department of Geography	011-2500458
Department of History & International Relations	011-2500433
Department of Journalism Unit	011-2500431
Department of Political Science & Public Policy	011-2554262
Department of Sinhala	011-2500453
Department of Sociology	011-2500452

Faculty of Education

Department of Educational Psychology	011-2504734
Department of Humanities Education	011-2586516
Department of Science & technology Education	011-2503147
Department of Social Science Education	011-2596887

Faculty of Management & Finance

Department of Accounting	011-2552362
Department of Business Economics	011-2552363
Department of Management & Organization Studies	011-2501293
Department of Finance	011-2501294
Department of Human Resource Management	011-2552364
Department of Marketing	011-2552365
Mid Career Development Unit	011-2596030

Faculty of Science

Department of Plant Science	011-2585038
Department of Chemistry	011-2503367
Department of Mathematics	011-2501731
Department of Physics	011-2584777
Department of Statistics	011-2590111
Department of Zoology	011-2503399
Department of Nuclear Science	011-2502525

Faculty of Law

Department of Law	011-2509570
-------------------	-------------

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Anatomy	011-2688748
Department of Biochemistry	011-2697485
Department of Community Medicine	011-2677765
Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology	011-2694016
Department of Clinical Medicine	011-2689188
Department of Microbiology	011-2697513
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology	011-5349567
Department of Parasitology	011-2699284
Department of Pathology	011-2695300
Department of Pharmacology	011-5677244
Department of Pediatrics	011-2695300
Department of Physiology	011-2699640
Department of Physiological Medicine	011-2691688
Department of Surgery	011-2671846

Faculty of Graduate Studies

011 2502127

Inquiries.....

Academic & Publications Branch
University of Colombo,
Cumarathunge Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo-03

e-mail : editor@newsletter.cmb.ac.lk
Telephone : 011-2586712
Fax : 0115- 5355957

Editors: Dr. Senaka Rajapakse Department of Clinical Medicine
Prof. Thusitha Abeytungga Department of Chemistry
Ms. Dinithi Karunanayake Department of English
Mr. Lal Nanayakkara Registrar's office

Legal Adviser : Mr. N. Selvakkumaran Dean, Faculty of Law

Type Setting & Art Work : Thiresha Prasanthini / Amila Liyanage

DISCLAIMER

While every effort is taken to ensure that the information provided in this newsletter is correct and accurate, the Editors wish to inform the readers that neither they nor the publisher is responsible for any inaccuracy or lack of correctness in the information provided. The Editors also wish to inform the readers that this is not an official document which creates any rights or obligation, legal or otherwise, binding the University of Colombo. Any one who wishes to act on the basis of information provided in this newsletter is advised hereby to contact the relevant authority for obtaining binding official information.