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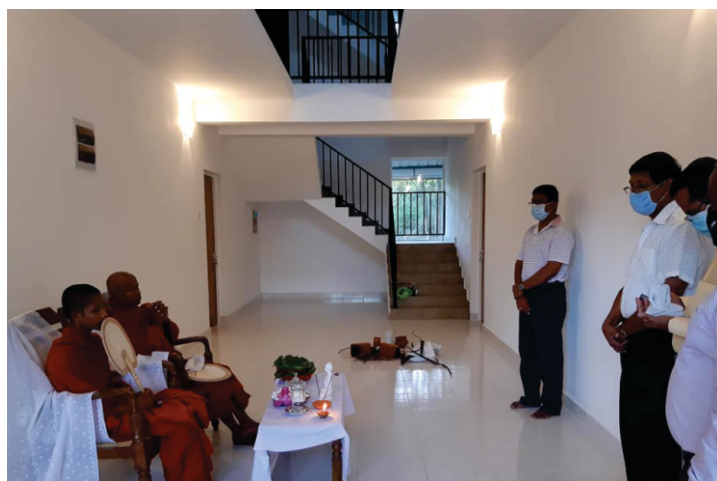
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Opening Ceremony of the Residential Facility for Academic staff, Faculty of Agriculture

The Opening Ceremony of Residential Facility for academic staff of Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL was held on 15th June 2020 at Block 03, Faculty of Agriculture, Puliyankuama. Prof. AMJB Adikari, Dean and the academic staff of the Faculty of Agriculture were present during the event. Two family quarters and one bachelor quarters which accommodate 12 academic staff members were officially and ceremonially opened in the newly built residential complex. This remarks another milestone of the Faculty of Agriculture. The administration including Vice Chancellor of RUSL, Dean of the faculty and other parties who contributed to this project are highly appreciated.



Farmer Training Programs

A one-day farmer training program was conducted by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture on 20th August 2019 on **"Alternative feed sources for dairy cattle"**. This event was funded by UNESCO to strengthen the partnership between Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the farming



A farmer training programme on **"Minimizing postharvest losses of crop products in Anuradhapura area"** was conducted by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences under the UNESCO project. It was held on 18th of September 2019 at the faculty auditorium with the participation of paddy farmers in the Anuradhapura area.



A farmer training programme was conducted for the farmers in Anuradhapura area by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences with the support of Outreach Centre, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 20th December 2019 to encourage on **"Rearing and management of small scale miscellaneous"**



CV, Resume and Interview Facing workshop

Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has successfully conducted a workshop on CV, Resume and Interview facing for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies on 21st January 2020 from 08.30 am to 11.30 am at Career Guidance Unit's mini auditorium. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake, Career Guidance Counselor, Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



The Workshop on Public Speaking

Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has been successfully conducted workshop series on public speaking skills at CGU mini auditorium. Students representing from all faculties actively participated to the workshop series. The workshop series were facilitated by Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake, Career Guidance Counselor, Career Guidance Unit, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Leadership Development Program for the new Entrants of the Faculty of Technology

Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka successfully conducted two days leadership development training for new entrants of Faculty of Technology on 12th and 13th March 2020 at in the University premises. Participants actively engaged in many leadership and team work activities. Proff. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Director, Career Guidance, Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake and Mrs. A. Mangalika Dissanayake, Career Guidance Counselors of the Career Guidance Unit conducted the program.



The workshop on “Kanimadala” for Inter University Security Officer's Union

Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka conducted training for the Inter University Officer's Union on the topic of “Career Development” on 25th January 2020 from 02.00 pm to 05.30 pm at Career Guidance Unit's mini auditorium. The training was conducted by Mrs. A. Mangalika Dissanayaka, Career Guidance Counselor, and Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



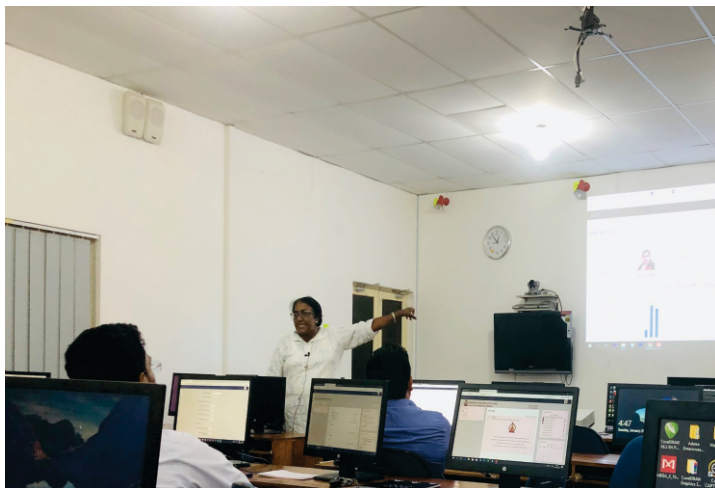
Hostel programs “Life skills for Undergraduates”

Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is conducting a program on “Life skills for life for undergraduates” with the hope of improving undergraduates' attributes and building coping skills. These programs were conducted continuously from 06.00 pm to 09.00 pm throughout the three months of January to March 2020 in the hostel premises itself. Mrs. A. Mangalika Dissanayaka, Career Guidance Counselors of the Career Guidance Unit has conducted the programs.



LMS (Learning Management System) Training Workshop for all Academic staff, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

LMS (Learning Management System) training workshop for all academic staff organized by the AHEAD project activity 04 (Enriching Digital Based Teaching), activity coordinator Dr. J.M.S.B. Jayasundara and the members of the activity 04 was held on 29th of January 2020 at the university main computer center. The training was conducted by Ms. Vishaka Nanayakkara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Moratuwa. All the academic staff of the faculty of social sciences and Humanities participated in the workshop. The main purpose of this workshop was to train the academic staff to smoothly run LMS based teaching on their courses.



Endurance Development Workshop for 1st Year Students of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

An endurance development workshop for 1st year students of the faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) was organized by Dr. B.M.S. Bandara, the career guidance coordinator, FSSH, under the guidance of the Dean, Prof. Chandana Rohana Withanachchi, faculty of social sciences and Humanities with the participation of 450 1st year students. Prof. Sanjeevani Ginigaddara, the director of career guidance unit financially facilitated the workshop. The workshop was conducted by the National Youth Corps Training Center – Naula. The workshop was consisting of 30 outbound training(OBT) activities to develop students discipline, leadership and personality.



An awareness program on Waste Management Practices

Sarasavi Nature Club, Department of Environmental Management organized an awareness program on Waste Management Practices for the undergraduates on 6th of January 2020.



Two Day Workshop on Qualitative Research at Faculty of Management Studies

Workshop on "NVivo 11 – Qualitative Research Analytical Software" for the academic staff was successfully completed on 31st July 2020 and 1st August 2020 at Computer Center, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Mr. Manoj Samarathunga, Lecturer, Faculty of Management Studies was the resource person of the workshop and Senior Lecturer Mrs. S.N.S. Dahanayake, Coordinator – Staff Development organized the activity.



Tree Planting Program in Rajarata University Premises

Sarasavi Nature Club, administered by the Department of Environmental Management organized a tree planting program in Rajarata University premises in collaboration with Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka on 1st of December 2019. In this event, over 100 trees including jack, Mee, Mango, Kubuk, Kaju and Karanda were planted.



“Haritha Poorna” in Rathmalgahawewa Maha Vidyalaya situated in Kahatagasdigiliya

Sarasavi Nature Club organized a school programme, “Haritha Poorna” in Rathmalgahawewa Maha Vidyalaya situated in Kahatagasdigiliya. Program was conducted with the advice and support received from Dr. J.M.S.B. Jayasundara, Head of the Department and Dr.P.S.K. Rajapakshe, Senior Treasurer of the Sarasavi Nature Club, This event mainly included tree planting programme with the support from Mahaweli Authority, awareness programme, leadership programme, exhibition of creative items made out of waste material, book donation, etc. Guest Lecturer on Climate Change was conducted by the Dr. J.M.S.B. Jayasundara and Leadership programme was conducted by the Mr. Jaliya Rathnayaka of the Carrier Guidance Unit of RUSL.

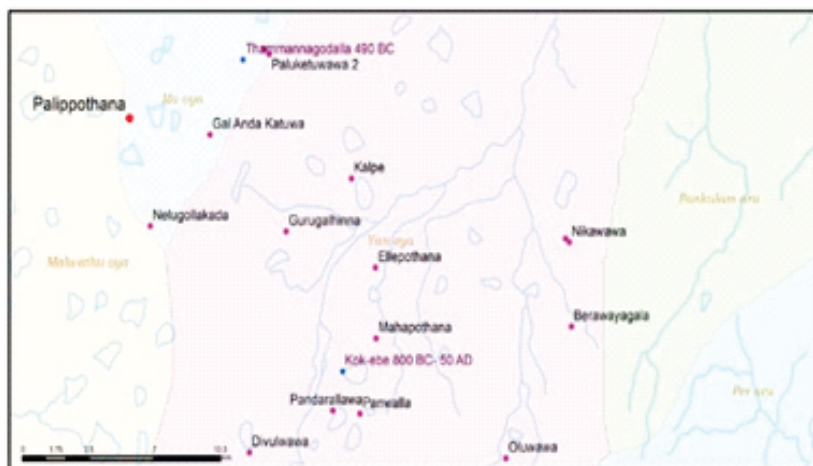


Palippothana Megalithic Burial exploration – 2020

by Prof. Thusitha Mendis, Thilanka Siriwardana (lecturer), Nadeera Harshajith (asst. lecturer), Indika Jayasekara (asst. lecturer), Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management has conducted an extensive exploration at the Palippothana Megalithic burial complex in Kahatagasdigiliya, Anuradhapura during January 2020. Seventy-two burials were recorded from an area of ca. 20,000 sqm.

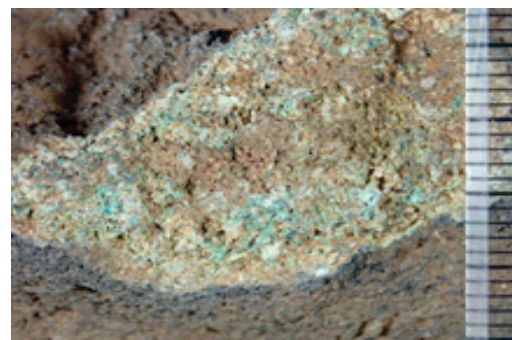
Burials of square and rectangle types, as well as menhir type, were recorded. With the Black and Red ware potsherds and fragments of iron objects recovered from the robber pits, the burial complex could relatively assign into 490-350 BC. As the tableland (MSL 161 m) locates in the upper regions of Ma Oya and Malvathu Oya basins, the present study will provide path to understand the colonisation of the river basins during the protohistoric period. The burials hold unique pieces of evidence, and the research team is currently working on further research questions as the funerary rituals, astronomy and the burial architecture, geology of the rock outcrops and the constructions. It hopes the results will provide answer for some complex issues of the protohistoric cultural transitions of the country.



Map 1 - Location of Palippothana Megalithic burial complex. Red dots = other megalithic burials in the region, colored regions = river basins

Lower Malwathuoya Basin Archaeology (LMBA) Project: Yodhawewa Archaeological Excavation Conducted by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The archaeological study carried out in the first quarter of 2018 at the Yodhawewa area near Mannar has provided many unique facts based on 'Round-bottom extraction furnaces' for the first time in Sri Lanka. More than 3500 wide range of artefacts and nature-facts represented, many types of slags, crucible fragments, various types of grinding stones, Turbinella pyrum sea-shells, local and foreign earthenware, some metal fragments, and wooden charcoal by this premises. The beta-analytic institute of America determined that premises to 1st to 9th centuries AD. In particular, the discovery of carnelian beads, rouletted ware and some of the porcelain in this site indicates that Yodhawewa, not an isolated production centre, and it has long existed as a sub-productive place for the international productions near the Mannar port of Sri Lanka. The research and publication committee of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka contributed financially to the field work and basic analysis of this research. The project Director, Senior Lecturer WMTB Wijepala is carrying out the geological analysis of LMBA project at the Department of Earth science Laboratories of Shimane University, Japan.



1st Undergraduate Research Symposium (URSSSH), Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The 1st undergraduate Research Symposium (URSSSH) – 2020, organized by the faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was held on 03rd of March 2020 at the faculty premises. The theme of the Research Symposium was “Promoting Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research”. A total of 113 innovative research findings under the areas of Economics, Languages, Environmental Management, Sociology, Tourism Management, Mass Communication, History, Archeology and Heritage Management were presented. All the accepted abstracts on original research work were published in the Proceedings of the Undergraduate Research Symposium (URSSSH -2020).

The Chief Guest of the symposium was Dr. B.A. Karunaratne, the Vice-Chancellor Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Sarath Wijesooriya, Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo and Prof. S.W.G.K Bulankulama, Head of the Department, Social Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Chaired the Symposium.



BIT Undergraduates Participated ACES Coders v8.0 Competition at University of Peradeniya

Undergraduates of BSc. (Business Information Technology) Special Degree participated in a computer programming competition “ACES Coders v8.0” held on 29th February 2020 and 1st March 2020 at Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya organized by the Association of Computer Engineering Students (ACES), Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya.



Full Paper Publications

Faculty of Agriculture

1. Srimali, S. V. H., W. V. V. R. Weerasingha, W A. D. Nayananjali. 2019. Development of Drinking Yogurt Using Citrus Fiber as A Stabilizer, *Annals. Food Science and Technology*, 20: 420 - 426.
2. Kaushalya, U. P., P. D. Kahandage and W. A. D. Nayananjali. 2020. Development of a Manually Operated Hydraulic Cattle Feed Block Making Machine, *Sri Lankan Journal of Agriculture and Ecosystems*, 2: 55 - 65.

Faculty of Applied Sciences

1. Golub-Sedinkin, T., Herath, A. C., West, R., & Becker, J. Y. (2019). Electrochemical Properties of 9, 9'-Spiro-Bifluorenes Containing Group 14 Elements (C, Si, Ge, Sn). *ChemElectroChem*, 6(16), 4252-4256. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/celec.201900233>)
2. Madusanka, H. T. D. S., Herath, H. M. A. M. C., & Fernando, C. A. N. (2019). High photoresponse performance of self-powered n-Cu₂O/p-CuI heterojunction based UV-Visible photodetector. *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical*, 296, 61-69. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sna.2019.07.008>)
3. Muthuthanthirige, D. L., Wijetunga, W. A. S., & Jayasuriya, K. G. Epicotyl morphophysiological dormancy and storage behaviour of seeds of *Strychnos nux-vomica*, *Strychnos potatorum* and *Strychnos benthamii* (Loganiaceae). *Seed Science Research*, 1 - 9. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960258520000203>)
4. Guruge, G. G. N., Perera, K. M. N., & Kandegedara, K. G. P. H. (2020). Assessment of the Existing School Health Promotion Program in a Selected Educational Zone, Sri Lanka-Cross-Sectional Study. *International Journal for Research in Applied Sciences and Biotechnology*. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.31033/ijrasb.7.1.3>)
5. Reyal, H. P., Perera, K. M. N., & Guruge, G. N. D. (2020). Knowledge and Attitude Towards Intimate Partner Violence Among Ever-Married Women. *Advanced Journal of Social Science*, 7(1), 1-13. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.21467/ajss.7.1.1-13>)
6. Reyal, H. P., N Perera, K. M., & Guruge, G. N. (2020). Prevalence of Different Types of Intimate Partner Violence among Ever-Married Women: A Sri Lankan Study. *International Journal for Research in Applied Sciences and Biotechnology*. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.31033/ijrasb.7.1.4>)
7. Knipe, D. W., Bandara, P., Senarathna, L., Kidger, J., López-López, J., & Rajapakse, T. (2019). Childhood adversity and deliberate self-poisoning in Sri Lanka: a protocol for a hospital-based case-control study. *BMJ open*, 9(8), e027766. (Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-027766>)
8. Rathnayake, N., Welianage, S. D. S., & Guruge, G. N. D. Engaging a Disadvantaged Community in Identifying Determinants of Child Neglect using Health Promotion Approach: An Experience from a Sri Lankan Study. (Doi: <https://doi.org/10.21276/apjhs.2020.7.2.1>)

Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences

1. Rathish D, Senavirathna I, Jayasumana C, Agampodi S, Siribaddana S. A low GLP-1 response among patients treated for acute organophosphate and carbamate poisoning: a comparative cross-sectional study from an agrarian region of Sri Lanka. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int*. 2019; 26(3): 2864-2872. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-018-3818-9>
2. Rathish D, Hemachandra R, Premadasa T, Ramanayake S, Rasangika C, Roshiban R, Jayasumana C. Comparison of medication adherence between type 2 diabetes mellitus patients who pay for their medications and those who receive it free: a rural Asian experience. *J Health Popul Nutr* 2019; 38:4. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1186/s41043-019-0161-9>.
3. Rathish D, Jayasumana C, Agampodi S. Comparison of biochemical parameters among DPP4 inhibitor users and other oral hypoglycaemic drug users: a cross-sectional study from Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. *J Health Popul Nutr* 2019; 38:3. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1186/s41043-019-0160-x>.
4. Rathish D, Karalliyadda S. Concurrent presentation of thyroid storm and diabetic ketoacidosis: a systematic review of previously reported cases. *BMCE ndocrine Disorders*. 2019; 19:49. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1186/s12902-019-0374-3>.

5. Rathish D, Agampodi S, Jayasumana C. In vivo, ex vivo and in vitro evidence for atropine-mediated attenuation of glucagon-like peptide-1 secretion: findings from a systematic review. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int*. 2019; 26(29):29597-29605. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-019-06227-2>.
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7. Fernando S, Sivagnanam F, Rathish D. A compulsive act of excess water intake leading to hyponatraemia and rhabdomyolysis: a case report. *International Journal of Emergency Medicine*. 2019; 19:34. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1186/s12245-019-0255-6>.
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11. Illapperuma, S., Corea, E. and Agampodi, S., 2019. Baseline titres of O, H and AH agglutinins to *Salmonella* Typhi and Paratyphi A in blood donors in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 9(1), pp.32–41. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/sljid.v9i1.8230>.
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Travelling University 2020

This program is a signature seminar course of the International Material Flow Management (IMAT) master degree program offered by the Institute for Applied Material Flow Management (IfaS) of the Trier University of Applied Sciences, Germany. In this seminar course, it deploys its expertise in tangible projects that allows the students to put their acquired theoretical knowledge into practice. Having completed projects in over 25 countries on five continents, on its 16th year the TU came back to Sri Lanka for the fourth time. The TU'20 was hosted by the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) from **26th February to 5th March**. The focus of TU'20 is to assess the resource and efficiency potentials of the Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Mihintale.

A team of 22 students from **Germany**, the **USA**, **Japan**, **Vietnam**, **Morocco**, **Nepal**, **Brazil**, **Thailand**, and **Russia**, and another 15 students from RUSL along with expert faculty of IfaS/HT and RUSL to guide them undertook the regional-Material-Flow-Management-based (r-MFM) resource planning for a couple of regional SMEs including MAS Mihintale, Samson Rajarata Tiles.



Twelve Farmer Handbooks to the Community

Farmers have intensified their existing practices and diversified their enterprises in an attempt to meet the changes in the climate, market and other related environmental factors. Having identified the knowledge dissemination gap between the university and the community, the faculty of Agriculture produced twelve handbooks aimed at helping the farmers with technical know-how. The twelve handbooks were produced by the relevant subject matter specialists of the faculty in simple, native language and are full of pictorial illustrations to help the beneficiaries to easily understand the concepts. The books were on micro-irrigation techniques and soil moisture conservation, integrated nutrient management, pest management, mushroom production, commercial floricultural nursery management, maintenance and usage of agro-chemicals, establishment and maintenance of small livestock farms, applied climate smart agricultural practices, low input agriculture, application of traditional techniques in modern farming, sprayer handling and calibration, and agricultural marketing. Publication of the handbooks was funded by the UNESCO participation program.



Sri Lankan journal of Agriculture and Ecosystem published by Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL launched its 3rd issue 15 June 2020 with 10 manuscripts. Visit the site <http://www.rjt.ac.lk/agri/sljae/>

Prof. D.T. Mendis published the abstract on "Geochemical and Archaeological evidence in proto historic Iron age Sri Lanka" at RIRC 2019 (Rajarata International Research conference 2019-November) organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Also he published the full paper of "New light to proto historic Iron Age excavation of cist burial site at Galgamuwa Andarawewa" in October 2019 at the first Archaeological Museum of Sri Lanka Felicitation Volume Department of Archaeology Sri Lanka.

The abstract on "Archaeological and geochemical analysis of a proto historic burial site at Galgamuwa in Andarawewa" was publish at the Annual Research Symposium of Colombo university in November 2019.



Senior Lecturer, W.M.T.B. Wijepala published the abstract on "Early glass in the Anuradhapura period: The Yodhawewa archaeological investigation in Manna, Sri Lanka" at the Annual Research Symposium of Colombo university in November 2019.

A one day workshop for the Undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL

A one-day Workshop was conducted by Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, University of Colombo on "**Note taking and note making for academic studies and research**" for the 2014/2015 batch, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata university of Sri Lanka on 20th December 2019 at Auditorium of the Agriculture Faculty. The Agriculture Library was organized the event under the AHEAD project of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



User Awareness Session for the Undergraduates Students of the Faculty of Management Studies, RUSL

A user awareness session was conducted by the Library, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for 2014/2015 batch, Faculty of Management studies on 06th of February 2020 at Audio visual unit of the Main Library. The theme of the session was "**SEARCHING INFORMATION THROUGH INTERNET**". Mrs. W. P.T. Dilrukshi Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka served as the resource person.



User Awareness Session for the Undergraduates of Faculty of Management Studies and Applied Sciences

The library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka offered series of library awareness programme for the students of faculty of management studies and faculty of applied sciences during the period from January to March 2020. The sessions covered the **library OPAC, searching patterns of the e-resources and Institutional Repository**. Mrs. A.S. Siriwardana, Librarian of the university and Mrs. K.R.N. Harshani, Senior Assistant librarian, Library of Faculty of Applied Sciences conducted the programme.



Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Donated Library Books to the Under Privileged School Libraries in North Central Province

Commemorating the Technology Library Day which falls 11th January 2020, the RUSL donated over 800 library books to the underprivileged schools in the North Central Province area. This project was launched by the Technology Library, RUSL with the collaboration of Faculty of Technology and all those donated books were collected from the students, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and outside communities. A/Parangiyawadiya, the school received the first donation with 500 library books, 1 bookshelf and renovation of the library building was also a part of the project. The official event of the book donation was held on 04th March 2020 at the Vice-chancellor office with the participation of Dr. B.A. Karunaratne, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Buddhika Jayathilake, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Dr. S.K. Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, Technology Library, and Mr. A.M.G.B. Abeysinghe, Registrar.



Awareness on Financial Securities and Capital Market' Seminar Series

A seminar series on Financial Securities & Capital Market were organized by Third year students (batch 2015/2016) of Accountancy & Finance for the students of G.C.E (Advanced Level) examination (2020 and 2021). This was organized with the aim of enhancing the knowledge on the 'Capital Market and different financial securities' among the students of the selected thirteen schools and encouraging undergraduate students to learn educational topics through self-learning. The series of the seminar was successfully held in months of February and March 2020 with the participation of more than 1200 A/L students. The seminars were conducted for students in 12 schools in the Anuradhapura District as Kekirawa Central College, Anuradhapura Central College, Mihintale Maha Vidyalaya, Swarnapali Girls' College, Walisingha Harischandra College, Niwanthakachiya Maha Vidyalaya, Galenbidunuwewa Central College, Shahira College, Padikaramaduwa Maha Vidyalaya, Pusiyankulama Maha Vidyalaya, Madawachiya Central College and Rajanganaya Mahasen Vidyalaya. This created a great opportunity for the undergraduates and school students to enhance their soft skills.



New Appointments



Dr. H.M.B.P. Ranaweera, Senior Lecturer, Head of Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management Studies was appointed as the Director to the Computer Centre of the University with effect from 1st November 2019.



Dr. H.R.M.G.C. Thilakarathna assumed duties as a Lecturer (Prob.) in Food and Postharvest Technology in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences with effect from 1st June 2020. He earned his BSc and PhD in Food Sci. & Tech. from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura.



Mr. H.K.G.M.N. Karunaratne, Senior Lecturer Gr. II, attached to the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, appointed as a Coordinator of the Business Information Technology Unit of the Faculty of Management Studies with effect from 01.01.2020.



Mr. P.G. Munasinghe, Senior Lecturer Gr. I, attached to the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, was appointed as the Head of the Department of the newly established Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies with effect from 01.05.2020.



Mr. H. Rajakaruna, Assistant Network Manager of the Computer Centre resumed duties from 2020.05.01 after successfully completing of two years of study leave.

Achievements



Mr. K.V. Aruna Shantha, Senior Lecturer Gr. II attached to the Department of Accountancy & Finance, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has won the Chinese government PhD scholarship to study in China. Accordingly, He successfully completed his studies, earned his PhD at Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, People's Republic of China.



Dr. (Mrs) C.T. Gamage, Senior Lecturer Gr. I attached to the Department of Accountancy & Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka successfully completed her studies, earned her PhD at Management and Science University in Malaysia.



Dr. G.P.H. Kandambi, Lecturer, attached to the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka completed and earned his PhD at University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

New SDS Director: Dr. Lalith Senarathne

Dr. Lalith Senarathne, Senior lecturer in Department of Health Promotion was appointed as the Director of Staff Development Center in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka from 2nd January 2020.



Promotion to Professor

Dr.(Mrs.) Sriyani Wickramasinghe who is the Dean of Faculty of Applied Sciences has been promoted as Professor in Conservation Biology with the effect from 10th October 2018. Prof. Wickramasinghe involved in research leading to sustainability such as biodiversity, population ecology, and avian biology, and ecology



Training of the Members of the SANASA Civil Society on Health Promotional Approach to Prevent NCD and its Risk Factors

The event was a collaborative project between World Health Organization and Colombo District SANASA Union and Department of Health Promotion in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The aim of the project was to train fifty members of the SANASA Civil Society on health promotion approach to prevent NCD and its risk factors and the duration of the project was 04 months from June to September 2019. The training was conducted by Prof. Diyanath Samarasinghe and Dr. G.N.Duminda Guruge as the key resource persons and the training comprised, one preliminary session and two follow up trainings.

Telephone Survey Conducted by the World Health Organization on Current COVID-19 Situation in the Country

A survey on perceptions of the current COVID-19 situation and health, social and economic impact of the current scenario among a rural setting in Anuradhapura district was Jointly conducted by Epidemiology unit in Ministry of Health and World Health Organization in May 2020. The telephone interviews were conducted and 46 students from Department of Health promotion were joined as data collectors. The students were trained through Zoom on data collection and entering on the dates of 17th and 19th May 2020 by Dr. Pubudu Chulasiri- Consultant Community Physician (Planning), Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services, Southern Province.

Enterprise Sri Lanka national exhibition -2019

The enterprise Sri Lanka exhibition organized by the Ministry of Finance was held in Jaffna fort from the 07th to the 10th of September in 2019. With the request of presidential task force on drug prevention, students in Department of Health Promotion actively engaged in drug prevention with the community gather round in to exhibition.

Qualitative Research on Effectiveness of Mother Support Groups with Save the Children, Sri Lanka

A qualitative study on the status of the existing network of Mother Support Groups (MSGs) and their potential to effectively mobilize Pregnant and Lactating Women, and catalyze change for improved nutrition status in the tea estate communities was conducted by the Department of Health promotion as an independent, external evaluation for the Save the children Sri Lanka Non-Governmental Organization . The final evaluation report was launched on 12th of October 2019.

Dr. Wolly Wijayaratne Receives Norman E. Borlaug Fellowship

Dr. Wolly Wijayaratne, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka received prestigious Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship administered by the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA FAS). Dr. Wijayaratne followed his training as a Borlaug fellow at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Parlier, California, USA from July 8-September 28, 2019 (12 weeks).

During the fellowship training, Dr. Wijayaratne worked one-on-one with Dr. Charles Burks, Research Entomologist at USDA ARS, on pheromone-based pest management strategies in stored-product protection with emphasis on mating disruption of Indianmeal moth *Plodia interpunctella*.



Erasmus+ project - Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education (CBHE) Curriculum Development in Agroecology/CDAE

The joint proposal submitted by the Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka collaboration with eight partner universities to Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education programme of Erasmus+ project has been selected by European Commission for implementation in the next three years 2019-2022, and the grant agreement was signed with EU commission. The proposed project is a joint project with eight partners universities in Asian and European region: Hue University and Vietnam National University of Agriculture from Vietnam, Benguet State University and Central Luzon State University from Philippines, Mendel University from Czech Republic, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra from Portugal, University of Peradeniya and Rajarata University of Sri Lanka from Sri Lanka. The general goal of this project is to promote sustainable agricultural and food systems, as it designs, develops, and promotes the transition towards biodiversity and low external input-based, socially sound farming and food systems. The total value of grant is EUR 919,728.00 and allocation for the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is EUR 96,394.00.

First meeting (Kick-Off meeting -KOM) of implementation of this project was held on 5th to 7th February 2020 at Hue University, Vietnam. Dr. A.M.K.R. Bandara, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara and Mr. S.P. Dissanayake were participated to the Kick-Off meeting representing the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Establishment of Department of Information Systems

Department of Information Systems was established on 30th January 2020 as the 6th department of the Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale by replacing former Business Information Technology (BIT) Unit. The BIT Unit was founded in 2003 to manage Bsc (Business Information Technology) Special degree.

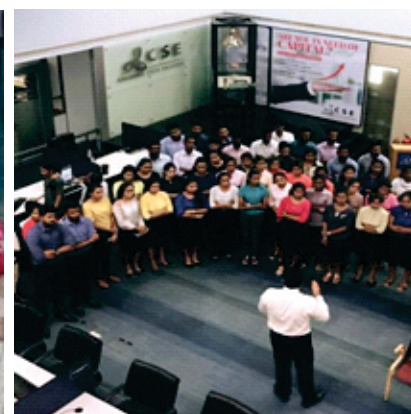
Renamed the Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Management Studies

All the internal special bachelor degree programmes of the Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale has been renamed as follows;

Previous Name of the Degree Programme	New Name of the Degree Programme
Bsc (Accountancy and Finance) Special	Bsc Honours in Accountancy and Finance
Bsc (Business Information Technology) Special	Bsc Honours in Information Systems
Bsc (Business Management) Special	Bsc Honours in Business Management
Bsc (Tourism and Hospitality Management) Special	Bsc Honours in Tourism and Hospitality Management

Academic Field Visit to Colombo Stock Exchange

The field visit for third year students in Department of the Accountancy & Finance was organized to observe operations of the Colombo Stock Exchange. The objective was to enhance knowledge on the basic operations and practice of the functions at Colombo Stock Exchange. 120 Students and four staff members of Department of Accountancy & Finance participated.



Tree Planting Programme- CSR Project

Global warming is one of the most common problems in today's entire world. Parallel to the 24th anniversary of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, the Students' Association of the Department of Accountancy & Finance launched a tree plantation program under the theme of "Green World". Program was successfully completed by planting around 150 Kubuk and Mee trees in the university premises on 29th January 2020. This event was organized with aim of creating and maintaining green environment in the University and encouraging students to have a green University environment in the future. For this event, Vice Chancellor, Dr. BA Karunaratna, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Prof. W.P. Wijewardena, Head of Department of Accountancy & Finance, Dr. C.T. Gamage and Deans & Heads of other faculties, Academics and students of all years of department of Accountancy & Finance actively participated to witness this event



Best Contribution to Diabetes Prevention in Sri Lanka – Dr. Manoj Fernando

Dr. Manoj Fernando, Senior lecturer in Health Promotion in Department of Health promotion was awarded for his best contribution for the diabetes prevention programme in Sri Lanka conducted by the Ministry of Health, World diabetes foundation, Sri Lanka diabetes & cardiovascular disease initiative and Sri Lanka college of Endocrinologist. Dr. Manoj Fernando received the award in 08th November 2019 at Sapphire Banquet Hall, BMICH.



"Insects and Societies" Special Lecture by Dr. Rizana Mahroof

Dr. Rizana Mahroof of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences at South Carolina State University, SC, USA delivered a talk titled "Insects and Society" to Biology students who are interested in the Entomology field on 12th February 2020. Dr. Rizana Mahroof is a professor in biological sciences and an entomologist. Her interest is mainly on management of stored product insects using non-chemical alternative techniques. The seminar was organized through Department of Biological Sciences to encourage students to engage in entomological studies. About seventy students participated in the seminar and students learned some fun facts about insects too. Dr. Dilani Hettiarachchi, the lecturer in charge of General and Economic Entomology thanked the resource person Dr. Rizana Mahroof, Head of the Department Dr. R. Vandercone and all the participants. She also appreciated the support given by two third year Biology students Ms. W.D.S. Fernando and Ms. H.A.I.M. Perera, in organizing the event.

"After Graduation; Higher Studies Abroad" Seminar

A Seminar was organized by Dr. Dilani Hettiarachchi on 03rd March 2020 inviting two alumni who secured positions for higher studies in USA universities. Resource persons were Mr. M.K.A. Madushanka and Mr. M.K.M. Sulochana. The main purpose of this seminar was to share the experiences of the resource person in their journey of finding higher study opportunities abroad and by doing that to increase the enthusiasm of current students to engage in higher studies. This was an open seminar and students from all the disciplines participated. Faculty Career Guidance coordinator Dr. H.O. Wijewardane also participated in the event. Dr. Dilani Hettiarachchi thanked the two resource persons, Dean and Career Guidance Coordinator at the end of the event.

Establishment of Department of Chemical Sciences in Faculty of Applied Sciences

The gazette notification had been received on 30th January 2020 to establish of new Department of Chemical Sciences. Dr. Ranjith Edirisinghe has been appointed as Head of the Department.

The Department of chemical sciences offers courses in-depth knowledge of conventional areas of chemistry and application in the relevant field and hence provide structured and tailored service to the industry and other institutions.

The Department of chemical sciences is committed to fostering a respectful workplace culture. We strive to cultivate a safe, inclusive and fair environment where our staff, researchers and students can collaborate as they advance new chemical frontiers through research and innovation.

Capacity Development Program in Mathematics for G.C.E. (A/L) Teachers in the North Central Province – Phase I

In response to the request made by the Ministry of Education on 28th September 2019 to conduct a program on Capacity building in Mathematics of G.C.E. (A/L) teachers in the North Central Province, the Faculty of Applied Sciences organized their first Teacher Training Program in Mathematics from 02nd to 05th of December 2019 at the faculty premises. The program was conducted by Mr. E.M.U.S.B. Ekanayake, Mr. Ranjan Dissanayake, and Mr. Anura Gunarathne, three Senior Lecturers in Mathematics attached to the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The workshop covered Calculus and Integration Techniques, Probability and Statistics, and Complex Numbers.

Internship of Ms. Melissa Mjöberg

Ms. Melissa Mjöberg from the Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden joined the Department of Health Promotion for a practical training on public health during 5th November 2019 to 20th December 2020.

Grants Received by the Faculty of Applied Sciences

Source: AHEAD – Development Oriented Research Grants (DOR) LKR 40,000,000

Title: Project on "Heavy Metal Contamination of Soil, Water Resources and Food in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka – Development of Cost Effective Remediation Techniques".

Team: Dr. Ranjith Edirisinghe , Prof. Ajith C Herath, Dr. T V Sundarabarathi, Mrs. P N Yapa, Dr. Keerthi Bandara

Source: AHEAD – Development Oriented Research Grants (DOR) LKR 40,000,000

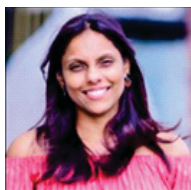
Title: Encapsulation of Omega -3 fish oil from Sri Lankan Fishes and Development of Omega -3 Fortified Foods

Team: Prof. Sanath Hettiarachchi, Prof. R A U J Marapana, Dr. Ranjith Edirisinghe , Dr. Suchithra Senevirathne , Dr. D L P Senarathne

Source: AHEAD – Development Oriented Research Grants (DOR) LKR 40,000,000

Title: Proteomic and Machine Learning approach to early detection of proteins involved in Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu)

Team: Dr. Eustace Fernando, Dr. Ajith Rajapaksha, Dr. Kaushalya Premachandra and Mr. Ranjan Dissanayake



Source: National Research Council-(2015/20) NRC TO GRANT 16-015: SLR 40 Millions

Development of a Model Treatment Facility for Remediation of Total Dissolved Solids and Fluoride in Groundwater – A Sustainable Solution for Dry Zone Drinking Water Problems".

A model water treatment plant was designed and constructed for providing safe water to school children at Natiyagma Primary School, Mihintale. In the initial phase, the water treatment plant was housed at the Faculty of Applied Sciences and optimized for the ground water at the Faculty of Applied Sciences and subsequently transferred to school. Now it is fully operated under three channels for drinking, gardening



and washing. It is also look ahead to extend the water supply for the village community. A new treatment plant 'Electrodialysis reversal'(EDR) will be housed at the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Once the conditions optimized, EDR will be ready for the faculty usage.

Team: Prof. Rohan Weerasooriya (Principal Investigator), Dr. Atula Bandara (Project Leader, Material Characterization, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Gamini Kumarasinghe (Project Leader, Material Fabrication, University of Sri Jayawardenapura), DR. Sujatha Weragoda (Chief Engineer NWSDB/ Project Leader, Water Treatment), Prof. Ajith C. Herath (Project leader: Electrochemical water Treatment, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka)



Source: Alcohol and Drug Information Center

Four students from 2014/2015 batch and two students group from 2015/2016 batch from the Department of Health Promotion have received competitive grants summing up to the total of Rs 220000 offered by the Alcohol and Drug Information Center (ADIC) for a short-term (3-4 months) pilot project on reducing drug use in 21st of May 2020. Details of grants receivers and amount of the grant as follows,

Source: AHEAD Funded Research project on "Heavy Metal Contamination of Soil, Water Resources and Food in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka – Development of Cost Effective Remediation Techniques"

Project Team :

Prof. E.M.R.K.B. Edirisinghe (Team Leader / Coordinator) Professor in Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Prof. H.M.A.M.C. Herath Professor in Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Dr. (Mrs.) T.V. Sundarabarathy Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Mrs. P.N. Yapa Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Dr. A.M.K.R. Bandara Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture

Ms. Sathsara Senarathne Research Assistant, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Ms. Dilani Chandima Research Assistant, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Mr. Bimal Herath Research Assistant, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Two Day Educational Outreach Program at Padavi Mahasenpura School

A successful two-day outreach educational program was held on 30th and 31st October, 2019 at Padavi Mahasenpura School in Anuradhapura district. The program aimed to foster science enthusiasm among year 11 students. The science program was delivered by the Faculty demonstrators on different subject disciplines Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics followed by a spectacular chemistry demonstration "Curiosity-Driven Science"



Chemistry Workshop at Natiyagma Primary School

Students of the Society of Chemistry, Department of Chemical Sciences demonstrated an awareness and social programme with school children at Natiyagma Primary School on the imperative of water management and the facility they do have with the introduction of the new water treatment model plant. Students were educated on this aspect and asked to come up with their anxiety through paintings.



National contribution - Visit of Ms. Elaine Hill, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom

Three delegates from University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom and Kothalawala Defense University (KDU) visited the Department of Health Promotion on 21st and 22nd October, 2019. Ms. Elaine Hill conducted a guest lecture on Patient Public Involvement and Engagement and qualitative studies. They participated in a field visit as well to identify the community level changes following health promotion programs in the area.

Deputy Registrar is Departing from the Faculty of Applied Sciences.



The welfare society of the Faculty of Applied Sciences organized a farewell on 21.01.2020 at 10.00am in the Faculty of Applied Sciences to express their sincere gratitude for the valuable services through the guidance plus sincerity and built up good relationships with the students as well as staff of Faculty during the last 4 years given by Mr. N.C.S. Senaka, Deputy Registrar who was transferred to the Academic Establishment Division of RUSL with the effect from 14.01.2020.

Further Society wished him for his healthy wealthy life in terms of both personal and professional front.

Strategic Plan on Home Based ECCD

In early 2019 the Department of Health Promotion earned the opportunity from the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to prepare a National Strategy for Home Based Early Childhood Care Development. To complete the mission the Department of Health Promotion appointed a technical task force under the leadership of the Children's Secretariat. A consultation workshop with technical task force was facilitated by the University to arrive at a consensus regarding the scale and the scope of the National Strategy. The following resource personal participated as consultants in the work shop.

- Dr. Nayana Senarathna, Mrs. Lakmi Saubhagya, Mrs. Abhisheka - Children's secretariat
- Dr. R.P.M Sandamali- Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
- Dr. Amara Amarathunga- An ECCD specialist
- Dr. Elsy Kothalawala- An ECCD specialist
- Professor Diyanath Samarasinghe -
- Dr. Duminda Guruge- Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
- Dr. Manoj Fernando- Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
- Ms. Darshani Ranasinghe-ECCD officer
- Mrs. W.D.P. Kumari- District secretariat, Colombo
- Dr. Kalana Pieris- Plan Sri Lanka
- Ms. Shyamalee Gunasena- Save the children Sri Lanka
- Ms. Sandamali Rajapaksha- Child fund Sri Lanka
- Mr. Suresh Gnnanapragasam- World Vision Lanka
- Dr. Chithramali De Silva - Family Health Bureau
- Undergraduates of B.Sc. (special) in Health Promotion (P.K. N.D. Karunarathne, W.M.D. Ranasinghe, W.G. Nadeesha Seuwand, W.M. Asinsala Madhumali)

As final output from the workshop a national strategy for home based early childhood care and development(ECCD) and a five year Action Plan were submitted to the Ministry in November 2019. This national strategic plan for ECCD is the first national level strategic plan developed by the university.

Daily Mirror Editorial on Health Promotion in a Post-Corona Virus World

The Daily Mirror national newspaper published an editorial on 8th April 2020 recognizing the importance of health promotion in a post-COVID-19 world. The editorial has analyzed the key concepts and strategies likely to be emerged in the global agenda in a post-corona world and detailed the measures to be adopted at both government and community levels. The editorial emphasizes that health promotion is to be a central focus of global development agenda thus making it a mandatory key responsibility of the government and a focus of the communities. The editorial appraises the establishment of the Department of Health Promotion at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to support the country's mission in health promotion and recommends an expansion of the department in view of the future demands in the sector. It further proposes the introduction of health promotion as a subject of school curriculum and also stresses the need to encourage more students to pursue higher studies in this field.

National Contribution - Compilation of National Guidelines on Gender Base Violence for Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

In 2019 Dr. Manoj Fernando, Senior lecturer in Health Promotion in Department of Health promotion contributed as one of the two authors who compiled "National Guideline" and "Standard Operating procedures" for first contact point Health Care Providers on Health Sector Response to Gender Based Violence, Sri Lanka. This was the first national guideline for health care workers on Gender Based Violence developed by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.



Curriculum revision of Department of Health Promotion

In 2019 The Department of Health Promotion has initiated the process of revising the existing curriculum of the B.Sc. (General) degree in Health Promotion and B.Sc. (Special) degree in Health Promotion. The Faculty appointed Prof. Diyanath Samarasinghe, as the consultant of the curriculum revision with a panel of experts in the relevant subject areas. The department adopted a participatory approach inclusive of academic staff, visiting staff, students, alumni, employers and communities to collect data and information for the curriculum revision process.

Student Support System of the Department of Health Promotion

In 2019 The Department of Health Promotion has initiated a student support system to strengthen the existing mentoring procedure in the faculty. This is implemented as an internal student support system managed by the department itself. The objective of this student support system is to operate a closer mentoring body using the existing student groups to create a milieu that recognizes issues related to academic or personal matter including financial needs of a student without a delay. The Department of Health Promotion identifies the potential human resource capacity within the department and provides training to the demonstrators on counseling and psychological wellbeing.

FAS Rises to the Digital Sun : Registration of Freshman Students (2018/2019 batch) via Online to Faculty of Applied Sciences

The newly enrolled students to Faculty of Applied Sciences were registered through the newly launched Examination Information System developed through the valuable effort given by Mr. N.S. Weerakoon, Head of Department of Computing and Mr. P.S. Palliyaguru, Lecturer, Department of Computing as per the direction of Mr. Uwais Ulkarni, Deputy Registrar/Examination Division, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka..

This is the first time, Rajarata University registered the students via online. Faculty of Applied Sciences expresses its sincere gratitude to the aforesaid staff for their immense and dedicated support hence Faculty of Applied Science is the First Faculty in Rajarata University registered the students via online using the Examination Information System.

Survey conducted by the World Health Organization on salt consumption

The World Health Organization (WHO) project on knowledge, attitudes and practices related to dietary salt of adolescents aged 15-18 years, adults and owners and cooks of food premises in ten selected districts in Sri Lanka was conducted with the involvement of Department of Health promotion in August - September 2019. Students of Department of health promotion were trained on data collection and entering by Prof. Nalika Gunawardena, National Professional Officer, WHO, Country Office, Sri Lanka and Dr. Achala Jayathilake, National Consultant, WHO, Country Office, Sri Lanka.

Chemistry Workshop at Padawi Yaya Pahekanuwa Maha Vidyalaya

A workshop conducted by the Department of Chemical Sciences of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka targeting to enhance the practical knowledge of the GCE Ordinary Level students of Anuradhaphura/ Padawi Yaya Pahekanuwa Maha Vidyalaya was held from 30th to 31st of October 2019 at the college premises. This two-day event comprised of several teaching sessions of biology, mathematics, physics and chemistry together with a magic show providing the students an opportunity to explore the state-of-the-art expertise in science.



Chemistry Workshop at Mihintale Vidyalaya

The Society of Chemistry of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a program to awaken the science interest among the college students in the neighboring schools. As the inaugurating step, a practical chemistry session coinciding with the school curriculum of GCE ordinary level was held at the Mihintale Vidyalaya on 12th March 2020 at the college premises, with the participation of the third year students of the Department of Chemical Sciences.



World Health Organization Funded School Project on Addressing Commercial Determinants of Health

A WHO funded project was implemented by the Department of Health Promotion in 2019 to enable and empower students to identify and address negative commercial influences on food choices and substance usage. The project aimed at 'empowering students to address commercial determinants of health using health promotion approach. The project was implemented for eight months in eight selected educational institutions in Anuradhapura district.



Training for Development of Innovative Youth Programs on Adolescent and Youth Health

This training programme was conducted by Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine was conducted a training programme on development of innovative youth programs on Adolescent and Youth Health in 12th & 26th February and 13th March 2020 at Family Health Bureau. Youth representatives from several institutions in Sri Lanka were participated for the training including five students from Department of Health Promotion. The main objectives of the training were to strengthen available programmes with youth participation and to develop innovative island wide projects to be implemented with the assistance of youth leadership.

Rajarata University International Research Conference

A highlight of the 2019 Faculty of Applied Sciences calendar was the successful completion of the annual University research conference. The Rajarata International Research Conference (RIRC) 2019 commenced on the 6th of November 2019 and drew to a close on the 7th of November 2019. The Faculty of Applied Sciences had the privilege of shouldering the responsibility of organizing the RUSL research conference of 2019. An international conference of multidisciplinary nature, RIRC 2019 drew research from both local and international academic institutions. RIRC 2019 showcased in excess of 200 original works of research spanning from natural sciences to social sciences and humanities. RIRC 2019 carried the theme "Expanding horizons through research, innovation and communication". The overarching aim of RIRC 2019 was to provide a platform for local scholars, industries, students and international participants from a wide range of disciplines ranging from the sciences to humanities, to disseminate their research findings to the general public and academics alike.



The conference week was under-way on the 4th of November with several pre-conference workshops on data sciences and epidemic modelling, conducted by international experts. Inauguration ceremony of RIRC was held on the 6th of November 2019, at the main auditorium of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Highlights of the inaugural session were the speeches made by distinguished keynote speakers Professor Maithree Wickramasinge (University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka) and Dr. Harshana Liyanage (University of Oxford, UK) and Professor Alun Lloyd (North Carolina University, USA). All sessions of the inaugural day featured oral and poster presentations of Natural Sciences, Technology and Medical and Health Sciences tracks of RIRC 2019. The opening day of RIRC 2019 drew to a close with the official conference dinner held at the Lakeside Nuwarawewa hotel, Anuradhapura.

The second and the final day of RIRC 2019 was opened at the Faculty main auditorium with speeches made by the two distinguished keynote speakers Dr. Herath Manthrithillake (International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka) and Dr. Dirk Kindermann (University of Vienna). Sessions on the final conference day featured oral and poster presentations from Social Sciences and Humanities and Business and Economics studies. Final session of the day featured a ceremony for distributing certificates and awards for the most outstanding works of research under all disciplines of the conference. With the successful completion of the conference through an excellent concerted effort from the RIRC 2019 organizing committee, Applied Sciences Faculty members and other Faculty coordinators, it marks the high watermark in research dissemination for the Rajarata University Faculty of Applied Sciences.

The 50th World Conference on Lung Health

Two final year (4th year) students (W.G. Nadeesha Seuwandi (2014/2015 batch), W.M. Asinsala Madhumali (2014/2015 batch) and two academic support staff members (S.D.S.R. Karunarathne (Temporary Demonstrator), W.M.N.U.K. Rathnayake (Temporary Demonstrator)) from the Department of Health Promotion were participated and presented abstracts at the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health. This conference was held in Hyderabad, India from 30th October to 2nd November 2019 under the theme "Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action". Two students out of four were selected for students-late breaker session and awarded full scholarships. Including these students, only six students around the world was given these opportunities. All four students from DHP volunteered to support conference organizing committee.



Under the Moon Musical Programme

"Under the moon", the musical and cultural event organized annually by the Department of Health Promotion and Health Promotion Society was successfully held on December 2019 with the participation of Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.A. Karunaratne and Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Sriyani Wickramasinghe.



I-talk programme

"I-talk", an innovative student centered programme conducted by the Department of Health promotion with the aim of improving public English speaking skills in students was held on 05th of March 2020.



Workshop on Artificial Intelligence

An Artificial Intelligence full day workshop was successfully conducted for the third year and second year students of the Department of ICT on 8th of January 2020 by the resource person Mr. Darshana Abeyrathna, a PhD student at University of Agder (UiA), Norway at the Faculty of Technology premises. A very informative theoretical session on Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), advanced forms of ANNs and Tsetlin Machine was conducted in the morning and the students were given the opportunity to get a hands-on experience about the above mentioned theories in the evening session.



Charity Shop

A charity shop was organized and conducted by the Health Promotion Society on 3rd of March 2020 with the aim of raising fund for the student aid programme conducted by the society.



1st South East Asia Regional Group Meeting of the International Epidemiological Association

A final year (4th year) student (W.G. Nadeesha Seuwandhi (2014/2015 batch)) from the department of health Promotion participated and presented an oral abstract presentation with the title "Developing a project, using health promotion approach for addressing determinants affect for school performances of children in a rural village called Welankulama, Sri Lanka". The conference was held at Cinnamon Grand, Colombo from 19th to 21st September, 2019.



Innovative Ideas on Sustainable Technologies put in to Action by the Students: Department of Materials Technology

Students from the first batch (2015/2016) of the Department of Materials Technology, Faculty of Technology have taken the initiative to demonstrate environmentally friendly sustainable applications of Materials technology. Students carried out seven projects (Namely; Converting waste plastics to paving bricks, Crayons with natural pigments, 100% Natural rubber products, Paddy husk ceiling boards, Natural bamboo flooring, Water purification by solar distillation and Neem seed oil extractor for laboratory use) as part of their 3rd year Workshop Technology II course. The course was designed to provide students hands-on experience in utilizing engineering workshop skills in a completely student-centered activity-based learning environment. The projects were supervised by Mr. J.W.K.S.J Jayasundara. This project The Department of Materials Technology has taken steps to develop the ideas further and incorporate them into final year student research. The department has also submitted several research proposals for grants concurrently with the projects.



Project: Paving bricks from waste plastic



Project: Crayons with natural pigments



Project: Natural Bamboo Flooring



Project: 100% Natural rubber products



Project: Neem seed oil extractor for laboratory use



Project: Low cost water purification



Project: Paddy husk building materials

Workshop on Advanced Power and Telecommunication Technology by OREL Pvt. Ltd

A workshop on advanced power and telecommunication technologies had been organized by OREL cooperation Sri Lanka for the lecturers in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Technology, Faculty of Technology on 6th of June 2020. Mr. Ronald Humeh an engineer from Lucal Nulle, Germany, shared different aspects which are important to be covered and delivered during laboratory demonstration for the undergraduate students.

Eng. Priyashantha Premarathna coordinated the session and provided model subject delivery methods that are being accepted and practiced in German universities. Workshop was held at Physics laboratory, Faculty of Technology. Entire workshop was sponsored by OREL cooperation, Sri Lanka.



Workshop for Students Organized by ASEET

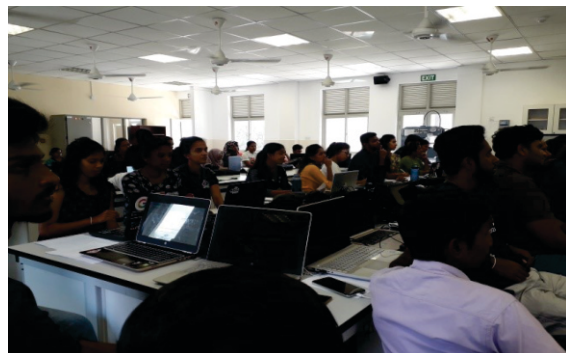
A workshop on PCB Design and Arduino was organized and conducted by ASEET (Association of Students of Electrical and Electronic Technology) on January 2020. This workshop was conducted by the senior students to the students in their junior batch to make them aware of the new technologies and trends in the field.

Staff of Electrical and Electronic Technology also took part and guided the ASEET club in their training sessions.



Workshop on Software Quality Assurance

A full day workshop on software quality assurance was held in the Faculty of Technology on 29th February 2020. All the students who are interested in software quality assurance were given an opportunity to attend the workshop.



The resource person who conducted the session was Mr. Vikum Sugathadasa, who is an experienced



Senior Software Engineer in Quality assurance in Apigate Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. Practical and Theoretical aspects on Manual Testing, Testing Tool Management, Automation Testing in software products were successfully covered during the day.

New Appointment - Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences

Dean



Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya was appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. He is a Senior Lecturer of Department of Medicine and a board certified Consultant Physician. He is one of the initial academics who joined FMAS and immensely contributed for uplifting the standards of the faculty. His academic contribution extends to wide disciplines of medicine including complementary and alternative medicine. He is a former Director of the Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute, Gampaha. The faculty board of FMAS warmly welcomed the new dean while appreciating the tremendous work by the former dean Prof. Sisira Siribaddana.



Dr. TKP Kaluarchchi
Head – Department of
Pharmacology



Dr. KGAD Weerakoon
Head – Department of
Parasitology



Dr. HTW Weerakoon
Head – Department of Bio
Chemistry



Dr. S Srishankar
Head – Department of
Surgery



Prof. NKA Silva
Para- Clinical
Coordinator



Dr. SPB Thalaspitiya
Clinical
Coordinator



Dr. SMA Jayawardena
Pre- Clinical
Coordinator



Dr. MRP Weerawansa
Deputy Proctor

13th Anniversary of FMAS

Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is the 7th state medical faculty of Sri Lanka. The faculty celebrated its 13th anniversary on September 11th 2019. Students union with the support of staff organized the anniversary celebrations according to the Buddhist customs. The annual blood donation camp was held on September 10th at the faculty premises. On the next day (11th September) the annual all night Pirith chanting ceremony was conducted. Then concluding the event, the morning alms were offered to Maha Sangha on following day. The aim of these events is to invoke blessings on the faculty and the ones who died related to the faculty



Rajarata University *Leptospira* isolates are Recognized as the Global Reference Strains

The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Genome database (part of the United States National Library of Medicine [NLM]), has listed the *Leptospira interrogans* strain FMAS_AW1, the first complete, circularized genome of *Leptospira* from Sri Lanka as the Reference Genome for *Leptospira interrogans*.

This organism is the most important species causing human leptospirosis, commonly known as "Mee Una" in Sri Lanka. Until April 2020, the reference genome was from China, and the genome was published in the Journal Nature in 2003.

The Leptospirosis research team from the Rajarata University in collaboration with the Yale University researchers published the whole genome sequence in March 2020. Leptospirosis research team of Rajarata University is involved in leptospirosis research since 2009. The ongoing research work on the leptospirosis genome by the team will expand the global understanding on *Leptospira* and Leptospirosis.



Department of Physiology; First Sri Lankan Department Equipped Impulse Oscillometry

The department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, is the first Sri Lankan department to be equipped with a Rs.4.9 mil impulse Oscillometry, courtesy of the Accelerating Higher Education and Development grant. This state-of-the-art lung function assessment system enables assessment of airway resistance and impedance in addition to routine spirometry. This would deliver a hands-on experience on cutting-edge technology in the field of lung function assessment for undergraduate medical students and facilitate novel research on this ever-expanding field of research.

Program Review 2020, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences

The program review, Site Visit was held from 27th to 30th January 2020. The review team reported that our SER was written in the required format and the pieces of evidence were presented with the appropriate labeling. Further, it was reported that the documentary evidence was presented suitably during the site visits. The Faculty has been scored above **the weighted minimum score for all the eight criteria** and has obtained the **overall score of 74.84 with the final grade B for its MBBS program**. This indicates that the programs are at a good level of accomplishment but also it requires to be improved to reach an excellent level which the review team felt can be easily achieved by the Faculty. All the staff of the departments (including both academic and non-academic) needs to be commended and congratulated for their commitment to maintaining high quality and standards of the MBBS program.

Dr Wasana Jayarathne
IQAC Chairperson/FMAS

Professorship

Dr. Anjana Silva (*MBBS, M.Phil, PhD (Monash), FRSPH (UK)*), Senior lecturer and Head of the Department of Parasitology was promoted as Professor in Parasitology with effect from February 2019. Prof. Anjana Silva joined the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences in October 2008 as a Lecturer (Probationary) in Parasitology. Being trained as a medical doctor in Sri Lanka, Prof. Silva witnessed the enormous suffering associated with snakebite. With his backgrounds in herpetology and medicine, he developed a passion in researching on snakebite. Over the last decade, Prof. Silva investigates the pathophysiology of snake envenoming and the role of antivenom as treatment, combining clinical studies, classical experimental and molecular pharmacological studies. He has published over 40 research papers in reputed journals and also delivered invited talks and key-note addresses in several international conferences. He recently delivered three prestigious orations based on his contributions for clinical toxinology, herpetology and ichthyology. Prof. Silva has won several



local and international awards in recognition of his work including the 'young scientist in the field of biology', by The World Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation, best oral presentation awards at all three major global clinical toxicology conferences (European, North American and Asia-Pacific), and Sri Lankan Presidential awards. He is currently serving as an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow of Monash Venom Group, Monash University, Australia.

FMAS Welcomes the New Batch

The 14th batch with 181 medical students for the academic year 2018/2019, were warmly welcomed to the Faculty of Medicine and Allied sciences by the staff and the senior students. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Vice chancellor of Rajarata University and three eminent pioneer professors in the FMAS history namely, Prof. Malini Udupihille, Prof. P A J Perera and Prof. Sarath Edirisinghe. The students and their parents were warmly welcomed by Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya, Dean of FMAS while Prof. Malini Udupihille delivered a reflective and enlightening speech as a guest of honour.



Undergraduate Research Symposium of FMAS 2019

2nd Undergraduate Research Symposium of FMAS was held in the faculty for the academic year 2019. 32 student groups presented their research work during the session. Department of Community Medicine coordinated the event. The academic staff members representing all departments of the faculty supervised researches. Among the presented abstracts 16 groups were selected to Sri Lanka Medical association International Medical Congress, the premier medical congress in Sri Lanka.



New office bearers for Higher Degrees Research and Publication Committee of FMAS

A new chairperson and a secretary were appointed to the Higher Degrees, Research and Publication Committee of FMAS at the 93rd HDRPC meeting held on 4th March 2020. According to a unanimous decision, Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya was elected as the new president and Dr. Subhashinie Senadheera was elected as the new secretary. The committee highly appreciated the tremendous work done throughout the past years by former chairperson, Prof. Sisira Siribaddana and the secretary, Prof. Anjana Silva. Currently twenty two post graduate candidates who have registered in HDRPC, FMAS are reading for their M.Phils and PhDs.



Niroga Radio Sayanaya

Department of Community Medicine started a new radio programme in collaboration with Rajarata Sevaya of Sri Lanka broadcasting cooperation. This programme is named as "Niroga radio sayanaya" which focuses on sharing information in relation to major health issues of general public. The programme broadcasts at 6.30 pm on every Saturday through FM 107.3 MHz.

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Appointing New Office-Bearers to Ethics Review Committee (ERC), Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences.

ERC provides independent guidance, advice and decision on health research or other specific research protocols involving human subjects. ERC has been a recognized ethics review committee by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka, since 2013. In May 2017, it was accredited by the Subcommittee on Clinical Trials (SCOCT) of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA), Sri Lanka as the seventh ERC in Sri Lanka which can review and approve clinical trials. Further, ERC received SIDCER-FERCAP recognition in 2017. ERC is an institutional member of Forum of Ethics Review Committees in Sri Lanka (FERCSL). And, it is registered at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as an institutional review board.

Following new office bears were elected for ERC in December 2019

Chairperson – Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Family Medicine

Vice Chairperson: Dr. T.V. Sundarabarathy, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology.

CoSecretaries:

Dr. S.M.A. Jayawardana, Senior Lecturer & Head, Department of Anatomy

Dr. Y.P.J.N. Warnasekera, lecturer waiting for senior lecturer appointment



ECLIPSE (Empowering Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Patients: an Intervention Programme to Reduce Time to Treatment and Stigma via Community Education).

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has been awarded a prestigious UK, NIHR competitive research grant of £874,102, one of the largest competitive international research grants ever received by Sri Lankan universities.

The aims of this project are to improve the patient journey for people living with cutaneous leishmaniasis and empower communities to deal with the devastating effects of stigma that it causes. The ECLIPSE is a multi country (UK, Brazil, Ethiopia) collaborative project and the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, Rajarata University will be leading the project, while the University of Colombo and the Provincial Ministry of Health are also partners. Academics from the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, trainees and supervisors from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the faculty of Applied Sciences are also involved in this project. Extensive capacity building and training opportunities will be available for RUSL within this project.



Two Prestigious Orations by Dr. Kosala Weerakoon

Dr. Kosala Weerakoon (MBBS, PGDipApStat, MPhil, PhD, FRSPH (UK)), Senior Lecturer, Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences delivered two prestigious Orations recently:

Dr. S. Ramachandran Memorial Oration 2019: Delivered at the 132nd Anniversary International Medical Congress of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) on 26th July 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka. *The title of the oration was "Diagnosis of tropical infections: beyond the borders".*

Anuradhapura Clinical Society Oration 2019: Delivered at the 13th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Anuradhapura Clinical

Society on 23rd September 2019, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. *The title of the oration was "Detection of Cell free DNA: Changing diagnostic paradigms for tropical infections"*



Professor Anjana Silva Won the Health Research Prize 2019 by the Kandy Society of Medicine

Professor Anjana Silva of the Department of Parasitology of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences won the Health Research Prize 2019 awarded by the Kandy Society of Medicine at the annual Foundation sessions of the society held in the Hotel Amaya Hills, Kandy on 9th August 2019. Health Research Prize is awarded annually for health researchers for their lifetime achievements in research. Upon receiving the award, Professor Silva delivered the Health Research Prize Oration 2019 titled "Combining experimental and clinical studies towards a deeper understanding of snake envenoming in humans."

Janith Warnasekara and Indika Senavirathna Received "Early Career Research Award"

Mr. Indika Senavirathna a senior lecturer of department of Biochemistry and Dr. Janith Warnasekara of department of Community Medicine (DoCM), received the International Leptospirosis Society "Early Career Research Award" in the ILS 2019 held in Vancouver, Canada.

Dr. Warnasekara presented two papers; "Microgeographical difference of leptospirosis in Sri Lanka" and "Use of Quantitative PCR to Detect Lower Level of Leptospiraemia: Improving the Sensitivity and Validity". The latter was a paper on improving a long practiced misinterpretation of realtime polymerase chain reactions on leptospirosis diagnosis. Using experimental and clinical approaches, change of diagnosis from "not detected" to "probable" was suggested under certain conditions, changing the widely accepted "possible, probable and confirmed" case definitions for leptospirosis. Mr. Senavirathna presented a paper

titled "cytokine storm of leptospirosis". This paper established an explanation for the diversity of clinical parameters of leptospirosis patients.

These research works were components of ICIDR research project on DoCM; a collaborative project with Yale University, USA funded by National Institute of Health, USA. DoCM received five years funding for leptospirosis research from this grant.

International Leptospirosis Meeting Vancouver 2019 @ILS2019 · Jul 12
Early career researchers and ILS President Ben Adler, after networking event this morning at [#Lepto2019](#). Thanks to [@BCCDCFoundation](#) for supporting this opportunity! [#Lepto](#) [#zoonoses](#) [@CDCofBC](#)



Dr. H.E.C.S. Kumara Won Two Research Awards at Physiological Society of Sri Lanka and Kandy Society of Medicine

Dr. H.E.C.S Kumara won the award for the best oral presentation at the 32nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Physiological Society of Sri Lanka held on 30th November 2019. The title of the presentation was **"Are siblings of dementia patients poor in cognitive performance?"**. The authors were Kumara H.E.C.S, Wickramasinghe A, Caldera M, Dassanayake T L. This research work was funded by Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The research team in which Dr H.E.C.S Kumara is a member, won the award for the third place - oral presentation at the free paper sessions of the 42nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine held on 6-7 February 2020 at the Grand Kandyan Hotel Kandy. The title of the presentation was **Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT): Age, Sex, and Education-Adjusted Normative Data for the Sri Lankan Population**. The authors were Baminiwatta A.K.A.B., Ariyasinghe D.I., Kumara H.E.C.S, Dassanayake T.L.



Dr. (Mrs.) W.G.S.S. Waiddyanatha Won the Best Oral Presentation Award at Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology

Dr. (Mrs.) W.G.S.S. Waiddyanatha, Lecturer, Department of Parasitology of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences won the Best Oral Presentation (Clinical) award at the 18th International Scientific Conference of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT) held on 7th November 2019 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Her research presentation titled "Long-term effects of snakebite after four years: a cohort study from rural Sri Lanka" was based on the findings of her M.Phil study.



Battle against COVID-19; Role of Rajarata FMAS Academics

In the battle against COVID-19 outbreak at North Central province, academic staff members of FMAS played key roles at different levels. Covid-19 control task force was established in March at Teaching hospital Anuradhapura to combat prevailing COVID 19 threat. Director of teaching hospital Anuradhapura appointed Dr Hemal Senanayake Senior Lecturer and Consultant Physician from Department of Medicine as the clinical lead for COVID 19 task force. Additionally, Dr Prasanna Weerawansa and Dr Chamara Sarathchandra, Senior lecturers and Consultant Physicians from Department of Medicine were also appointed as committee members for COVID-19 task force. Dr Senanayake prepared Anuradhapura hospital guidelines for COVID-19 programme with the help of other specialists from the hospital. Dr Weerawansa established of buffer-zone at hospital front door where all COVID-19 suspected patients were tested. Dr Sarathchandra established a 24-hour COVID-19 hotline for North Central province to aid public and doctors to get COVID-19 related instructions. Other members gave their contribution by providing funds and PPEs to the hospital and involving care of COVID-19 suspected patients. The contribution of members of department of Medicine, FMAS towards the success of COVID-19 combat programme was highly appreciated.



FMAS Wins All Three Best Oral Presentation Awards at 13th Anuradhapura Clinical Society Scientific Sessions

Anuradhapura clinical society: a prestigious academic establishment of the country known for its engagement in broad range of educational activities for doctors, students, and healthcare professionals, updating their knowledge and skills through continuous professional development held its 13th Annual scientific sessions on 23rd- 25th of September 2019 at Golden Mango Resort, Anuradhapura.

The FMAS students and staff secured all 3 places of research papers presented.

Award winners

Best oral presentation: first place

Emotional intelligence (EI) among prisoners of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka; Does low EI play a role as a risk factor for imprisonment: cross sectional comparative study by Mawilmada H.M.C.E.B, Manike R.M.I.M, Marasinghe M.A.D.N, Maryam A.Z.A, Malindi K.G.K, Muthuhari P.M.A.N, supervised by Dr Warnasekara Y.P.J.N.

Best oral presentation: second place

A study to assess the prevalence, etiology and associated factors of dandruff and the in-vitro effects of antidandruff preparations by K.A.R.K. Keragala, D. M. T. D. Kasunsiri, K. S. Kempitiya, S.K. Kumara, K. A.

N. N. Kumarapeli, supervised by Dr M. G. R. S. S. Gunathilaka.

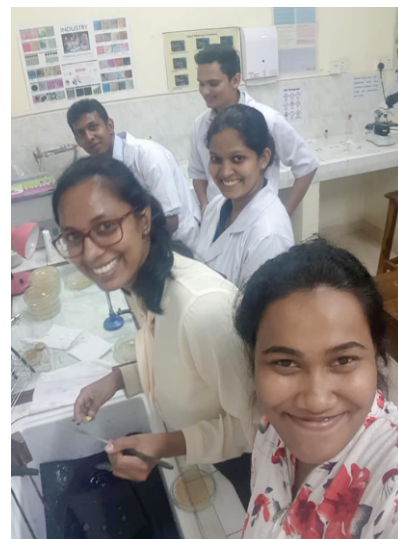
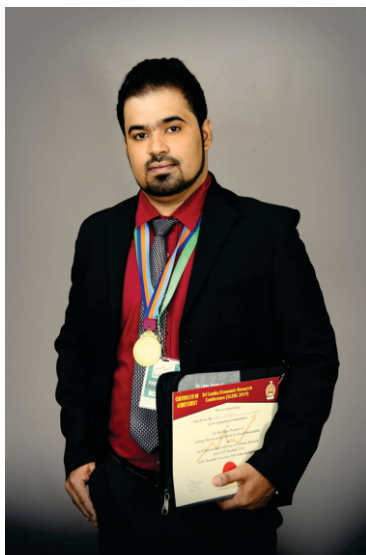
Best oral presentation: Third place

How pregnant mothers in Anuradhapura intended to seek Help for peripartum depression by Gayani Amarasinghe, Agampodi S.B.



Best Presenter Award

Mr. Sajaan Praveen, postgraduate trainee of Department of Community Medicine received the Best Presenter award of 'Framing Macro-Economic Policies' in the 8th International Economic Research Conference of Sri Lanka forum of University Economist, December 2019. Mr. Sajaan currently working on the Economic cost of pregnancy and childbirth including productivity cost of minor morbidities



The Dean's Award

The Dean's Award is a great honour bestowed upon a student who excels, not just academically, but also in extracurricular activities. It is awarded to a student who proves to be an outstanding undergraduate in all aspects. The Dean's Award was presented at the inauguration ceremony for the batch of 2018/2019, and it was awarded to the best student in each of the following categories, 2nd MBBS and 3rd MBBS Part 2. The students received a gold medal, a certificate and a cash prize in recognition of their achievement. Sanura Hapuarachchi received the dean's award of the 2nd MBBS category and Isuru Anjana Hemachandra received the dean's award of 3rd MBBS category.



Student Exchange Programme with Ben Gurion University

Department of Community Medicine has offered many scholarships for students with exceptional performances in the academic stream over the past few years. This time again 2 full scholarships were offered to 2 students namely Mr. Tharindu Najanajith and Mr. Joel Jeevethan for 3 weeks Clerkship training in Israel, for their academic achievements in the 3rd MBBS Part 2 exam that was held in July 2018. These scholarships were granted due to the collaboration that prevailed with Professor. Suneth Agampodi, and the University of Ben Gurion University, Israel.



Three Students Participated in the Global Health Training at University of Copenhagen

As a part of the MoU signed between Department of Community Medicine (DoCM), Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences and the Division of global health, University of Copenhagen Denmark, the first group of medical students participated the student exchange programme. Sandeepani Millawana, Guwani Nawarathna and Dinithi Herath participated for the programme. The students were selected based on academic and clinical performance of Community Medicine and through series of interviews. Dr. Janith Warnasekara accompanied the students as the coordinator of Global Health summer School for year 2019. All four participants were fully funded by the Maternal and Child Health Research Unit of DoCM.



The students engaged in a 7 day programme with international students of Global Health at the Department of Public Health at Copenhagen University under the supervision of Prof. Siri Tellier, Prof. Flemming Konradsen, Prof. Signild Vallgarda, Dr. Jonathan Somer, Prof. Martin Roursgaard and Prof. Marie Norredam. Sri Lankan public health system is a special case discussion of the public health curriculum of University of Copenhagen. During the case discussion, Sri Lankan students had the opportunity share experience with the international students regarding Sri Lankan healthcare system.

Department of Community Medicine and Dialog Sustainability Academy Join Hands to Promote Mental Health During COVID-19 Pandemic

A group of academics and researchers from FMAS has been developing mindfulness based interventions since 2012. These interventions were focusing on pregnant mothers, students as well as general public. Some of these interventions are already published in peer reviewed international journals.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for mental health promotion was highlighted and as a results, the Department of Community medicine (DoCM) has created a series of videos for general public on mindfulness in interventions.

Based on the response received, Dialog Atxia had partnered with FMAS to expand these mental health services and the Mindfulness video series of DoCM, FMAS, RUSL is now featured in the "Dialog Sustainable Academy at <https://sustainabilityacademy.net/category/health/mindfulness/>.

Dr. Janith Warnasekara Delivered a Lecture at University of Copenhagen

Dr. Janith Warnasekara a lecturer of department of Community Medicine, delivered an invited lecture titled "Leptospirosis in Sri Lanka" at the Department of Global Health of University of Copenhagen. He conducted his lecture during the visit to University of Copenhagen as the summer school coordinator of 2019. Dr. Warnasekara expanded his lecture towards future threats of leptospirosis to European countries due to global warming".



Series of Lectures for Medical Officers Preparing for the Post Graduates

Department of Community Medicine conducted a series of lectures on basic statistics, epidemiology, evidence based medicine, research methodology for the medical officers preparing for selection examinations of various disciplines including medicine, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, radiology and sexually transmitted diseases.

Association of predictive values with disease Prevalence



A	B
C	D



Dr Harshi Weerakoon Completed the PhD



Dr Harshi Weerakoon (MBBS, PGDipAppStat, MPhil, PhD) successfully completed her PhD on Human Immunity and Proteomics, at the University of Queensland, and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia. (Thesis: Integrated Proteomic and Transcriptomic Analysis of Human T-cell Function)

Workshop on "Introduction to Bioinformatics and R Programming"

An online workshop on "Introduction to Bioinformatics and R programming" was successfully held on 18th and 19th June 2020. The Higher Degrees, Research and Publication Committee of FMAS organized the workshop with the help of Dr. Harshi Weerakoon. Dr. Bhagya Senadheera, Bioinformatician, University of Colombo served as the resource person.



SIZZLING SIXERS 2K20 Friendly Cricket Encounter

"SIZZLING SIXERS", seven a side cricket tournament organized by Medical Students' Union, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences was held on 1st of February 2020. The tournament was held at the faculty ground. The main purpose of this tournament was to improve the interactions and the friendship between students and staff. Eight teams attended the tournament representing all the batches studying in the faculty and the staff of FMAS. Teams from 11th and 13th batches were selected for the finals and match was tied after a nail biting finish. At last, 13th Batch won the match after super over round. The student interaction was greatly achieved at the end.



APACPH 2019

51st APACPH conference for 2019 with the theme SDG in reality was held on 20th- 22nd November 2019 in Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand; the leading public health research conference of the region with 81 member institutes over 23 countries of the region including Rajarata university of Sri Lanka.

A team consists of students and staff representing faculty of Medicine of Rajarata University participated the conference. Alcohol, substance use and depression among schooling adolescents in Anuradhapura; Prevalence of cardiovascular risk predictive symptoms and signs among first trimester of pregnant mothers in Anuradhapura; Life expectations, reasons for school dropout and health problems among adolescents and youth not on Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Anuradhapura district were the papers presented in the conference.



Online Academic Mentoring System / FMAS /RUSL

During the online learning environments, students make decisions regarding when to study, how to study, and the approach for their learning process. Therefore, the ability of the learners to self-regulate their learning becomes a crucial factor. In this scenario, the academic support system is extremely essential. The Online Academic Mentoring Program was planned based on the evaluations conducted on the emotional status of the learners and also based on the WFME standards. Thus, academic mentoring is not only to help those who are academically weak but also to stimulate high achievers to even greater heights. This program was planned and developed via LMS guarding the confidentiality of each mentee and mentor.

The induction session was conducted via online mentoring system and mentors were instructed to organize a zoom meeting with each group. Each mentor possesses 3- 4 groups. Dr. Wasana Jayarathna, Head, Senior Lecturer of Medical Education unit of FMAS designed the project and implemented the mentoring system at FMAS. The extended support given by the Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya, Dean of FMAS is highly appreciated.

Monthly Dharma Deshana of FMAS

The Student Union, Faculty of medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka conducts a monthly damma deshana session, with the participation of all the academic staff members and students.

This meritorious deed has been done continuously for many years now with the guidance of most venerable Assaji thero of Mahamevnawa Dhammachethiya Buddhist Monastery, Anuradhapura.

The main intension behind this is training student minds to respond to stress and conflicts they face in a healthy manner, so they can maintain a fine balance between academic and social life especially when they face challenging situations. Not only that this programme is an opportunity for them to resolve problems they have encountered in Buddhist concepts.

This has been a worthwhile attempt till now and so forth in framing many students mind set.



Blood and Organ Donation Campaign

A Blood & Organ Donation Campaign was successfully held on 14-02-2020 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm at Cultural Center, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka by reminding the pass away of Isuru Fernando 14/15 batch. Approximately 170 blood donators and over 500 were registered for organ donation. The event was organized by academic year 2014/2015 batch of students of Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale



Fund Raising Programme

Undergraduates of Department of Information Systems successfully organized two car wash services on 31st January 2020 and 7th February 2020 for fund raising for their Business Information Technology Students' Association (BITSA).



Helping mothers and newborn babies in rural Anuradhapura - RaPCo "Kapakaru Ma-Piya" Programme

The Department of Community Medicine, FMAS, with the help of faculty staff members has initiated a programme of helping hand on financial assistance to the needy pregnant mothers in Anuradhapura.

During the Maternal Care Programme the department come across many mothers who are living with utmost difficulty and having a pessimistic view on the future on how to bear the cost for survival, delivery and rearing of the newborn. At times when things are going on top of them, they even tend to think of circumstances such as giving away the child or intentional self-harm.

Despite all these, they fight hard, thinking of their own children. We believe that it would be propitious if someone could lend a helping hand for these mothers at least for a short time period. We welcome donors who are willing to do so and DoCM will facilitate this process with utmost love and compassion to protect lives of these innocent mothers and their newborns.

The recipients are selected through a rigorous process by an economic evaluation, interviewing and observations made at their residence.

If you are interested in helping these mothers and newborns please contact Dr. Subhashinie Senadheera. subhasenadheera@gmail.com

Outreach Programmes of Department of Family Medicine in 2019-2020



Department of Family Medicine have successfully conducted 27 community based clinics in 24 different locations (most are rural villages) in Anuradhapura district, in 2019. In average, 130 adults and 40 children were offered following services free of charge at each clinic.

- Health Education
- Screening for metabolic disorders (Blood glucose level, Blood pressure, Anthropometric measurements and BMI calculation)
- Screening for substance use disorders
- Screening for depressive disorder
- Medical examination by doctors
- Counselling
- Brief intervention
- Physiotherapy for selected conditions
- Treatments for acute illnesses
- Referrals for specialist care and follow-up care

Community clinic programme of Department of Family Medicine conducts in collaboration with University of Sydney, Australia, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, University of Edinburgh, England, George Institute for Global Health and University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, as a component of 'Village alcohol education study' which is funded by Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

FMAS Participation for SLUG 2019

13th Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) was held at the University of Ruhuna with the participation of 14 universities and facilitated 22 games. The event was a great opportunity for the students of to perform their charisma and sportsmanship. 28 student sportsmen and sportswomen from the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences participated in the games chess, table tennis, badminton, swimming, basketball, rugby, cricket, karate, football and carrom.

Among the notable performances by the players, Ms. Tharanga Mannapperuma winning 2 bronze medals in swimming, Mr. Sanura Hapuarachchi, Mr. Imesh Ekanayake and Mr. Lahiru Pathiraja winning bronze medals in badminton and Mr. Shamika De Zoysa's performance in the 3rd place winning cricket team were sensational and they are an encouragement for the other sportsmen and sportswomen of the faculty.

Furthermore, the above players were awarded certificates by the faculty for their notable performances on the 17th February 2020 at the inauguration ceremony of the 2018/2019 batch of the faculty.



Christmas carols of FMAS

Gloria Eterna 2019, an evening of Christmas carols organized by the Medical Students' Union, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, was held on 6th January 2020, with the participation of medical students and members of the academic and non-academic staff. Several batches of the FMAS fraternity took part in singing along with several members of the academic staff. A masterfully-acted Christmas drama themed on the importance of family



struck a chord with everyone present on the true meaning of Christmas. A merry Santa Claus made a surprise appearance at the end to shower gifts on the gathering.

The event was a joyous occasion to commemorate the birth of Christ, amid the strains of old and new hymns to praise the coming of the Saviour.

FMAS supports Exhibition Stalls at Rural Schools.

Annually, island wide educational exhibitions are organized at schools to improve the quality of education for rural students. We as Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences able to participate in four such exhibitions this time which were held at, Anuradhapura Central College, Padikaramaduwa Maha Vidyalaya, Sri Revatha Maha Vidyalaya Madatugama, and Harangala Secondary School Kotmale. FMAS conducted awareness programmes for the students and the general public on major public health issues such as Diabetes,



Cirrhosis, Coronary Heart Disease. Also demonstrations were done using human specimens like liver, heart and kidney and some cadaveric specimens as well as charts in order to explain them in an interactive way.

Jeewaka Yathra 2019

“Jeewaka Yathra” the largest outreach health programme organized by the Medical students union of faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was held successfully in 2019 for the 9th consecutive year, under the motto “to take you to a healthy future”. Jeewaka yathra was organized to serve thousands of people who are visiting the sacred the Ruwanwali Saya premises. The programme held for 2 health consecutive days benefited more than 2000 pilgrims.



“Classical Music is the Best, and Cheapest, Mind-Altering Drug in the World”

Kamathe Padura 2020, an acoustic cultural and musical evening organized by the medical students union, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences was held on the 06th February, 2020 at faculty premises with the enthusiastic participation of medical students, members of the academic and non-academic staff.

With the aim of promoting and enhancing the entertainment of classical



music within the medical students and other faculty community, the evening was filled with a variety of songs and various dances including a remarkable dancing of Wijaya and Kuweni. Sokari amma undoubtedly became the character of the evening with his stunning performance. The evening's performances left the audience mesmerized by the rare selection of songs that included highlights of Sri Lankan cultural music.

BIT Teambuilding Programme

The Business Information Technology Unit of Department of Business Management organized a Teambuilding Programme for the undergraduates of BSc (Business Information Technology) Special Programme on 04.07.2019 with the participation of 218 undergraduates of the unit and its academic staff. The event was successfully completed and the programme was coordinated by Mrs RMMD Premarathna and Mr DMT Madhushanka.



Commencement of BBA Intake VII

Bachelor of Business Administration (General) (BBA) External Degree Programme of Faculty of Management Studies commenced its 7th Intake with 760 students for 4 study centres namely, Mihintale, Kurunegala, Kandy, and Polonnaruwa. This BBA external degree programme has become a most popular external degree programme among students because of following reasons; a world recognized degree, all the study material (modules) are provided, convenient study locations, affordable course fees & easy payment schemes, all the lecturers are conducted by an excellent panel of lecturers, and completed the degree within three years. BBA intake I,II, & III were passed out, and intake IV will be ready to award degrees in forthcoming conversation, and they were completed their degrees within three years. BBA intake V, VI, and VII are presently going on their studies. Present undergraduate population of the BBA programme is 2308.

Curriculum Development Workshop

By considering industry and quality assurance requirements, the Faculty of Management Studies revises their curriculum of all the degree programmes once in every five years. This year, the Faculty successfully organized the Curriculum Development Workshop to revise the curricula on 28th-29th Nov 2019 at Paradise Beach Hotel, Negombo with the participation of all the academic members of the faculty, selected academic members from state and private sector universities, industry experts from public and private sector organizations in Sri Lanka. The workshop was funded by the AHEAD project.

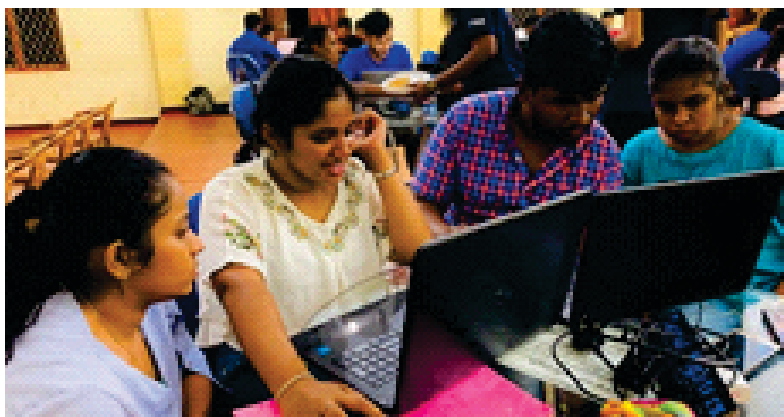
Enrolment of 2019 Batch

466 undergraduates for the following six degree programmes has enrolled to the Faculty of Management Studies of its 2019 batch. Inauguration ceremony was held on 22nd June 2020 through zoom application. Keynote address was done by professor Gamini de Alwis, Faculty of Management & Finance, University of Colombo. Selected of students for the degree programmes were done as follows;

BSc Honors in Accountancy & Finance - 133
BSc Honors in Business Management - 127
BSc Honors in Human Resource Management - 51
BSc Honors in Information Systems - 60
BSc Honors in Marketing Management - 50
Bsc Honors in Tourism and Hospitality Management - 45

BITCODE V2.0 Software Competition

Business Information Technology Students' Association (BITSA) organized BITCODE V2.0 Software Competition on 04th March 2020 at Cultural Center, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale. Ten (10) groups were selected for the final round out of 22 four-member groups in the online qualification round. At the awarding ceremony for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th place winners were awarded 10,000/=, 7,500/=, 5,000/=, & 2,000/= rupees respectively.



Inter Faculty Sports Tournament

As a major sports event in the University the Inter Faculty Sports Tournament for the year 2020 was started month of March 2020. But couldn't finish the tournament, because the University was closed to students due to the spread of the corona virus.



Inter Faculty Fresher's Sports Tournament

Inter Faculty Fresher's Sports Tournament conducted on February 2020 and including 13 games. First year students (2017/2018) participated for the tournament represented all 6 faculties and the faculty of Management Studies won the championship of the tournament.



Anuradhapura District Division iii Cricket Tournament

University cricket team has played Anuradhapura District Division iii Cricket Tournament which was organized by Sri Lanka Cricket and our team won championship at the tournament.



Colours Awards Ceremony -2020

The Colours Award Ceremony for the Colour winners of 2018 and 2019 was held on 19th February 2020, under the patronage of **Dr. B.A. Karunaratna**, Vice Chancellor Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. 104 Merit Awards and 222 Colours were awarded at the ceremony.



Sri Lanka University Games – 2019

Sri Lanka University Games were held successfully in University of Ruhuna and it is considered as the most important and valuable sport event to the University students. 25 sport teams participated for the Sri Lanka University Games representing Rajarata University. Following teams performed well.

Hockey Men Team
Athletic Teams
Road Race Team
Cricket Team
Badminton Men Team
Swimming Team
Karate Team



Mr. S.U.Wijesinghe, Director of Physical Education was appointed as a Vice President of Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association for the year 2020.

