



Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

NEWSLETTER

2022

Volume 05

Issue 01

ISSN 2465-6437



**Appointment of
First Lady
Vice Chancellor to
Rajarata University
of
Sri Lanka**

**ENACT
Masaryk University
Brno
Czech Republic**





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Acknowledgement

Deans of the six faculties, Librarian, and all Heads of units are greatly acknowledged for their support in this endeavour.

Published by

Statistics and Information Division
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

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Enhancing Governance, Management and Reform in Sri Lankan Universities through Non -Academic Staff Training (ENACT) - Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

A team of Rajarata University comprised of the Vice Chancellor participated in the first transitional training on internationalization under the ENACT project at Masaryk University, Brno. The four-day program discussed the trends in internationalization of higher education in the world, approaches, strategic implementation and practices at the European Universities. This consisted of an exposure to a well-functioning international office of the Masaryk University. Rajarata University of Sri Lanka- ENACT Team comprised of following officers in the capacity of Coordinator, Researcher and Master Trainers.

Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara (Researcher)

Mr. N.C.S. Senaka (Coordinator)

Mrs. H.P. Gunawardhane (Trainer)

Mr. Heshan Wijayathunga (Trainer)

Mrs. Krishanthika Jayasinghe (Trainer)



Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara Assumed Duties as the New Vice-Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka by His Excellency the President, Gotabhaya Rajapaksha, on 13th December 2021. Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara assumed duties as the Vice-Chancellor on the same day, at the Vice Chancellor's office of the university amidst the invoking of blessings by the Maha Sangha.

Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara is a member of the Department of the Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and became the first Vice-Chancellor elected from the Faculty of Agriculture.

Extending her caliber as a member of academic, she served in several key positions in the university such as Head of the Department of the Agricultural Systems, Director of the Career Guidance Unit and Director of the University Business Linkage Cell. In addition, she is a prominent scholar who has published a large number of articles in indexed and refereed journals. She has actively involved in national and international level consultancies in her expertise.

Her professional network is a well - connected sphere as she is an active life member of many associations, such as National Agricultural Society of Sri Lanka, National Statistical Society of Sri Lanka, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya, Alumni Association (Rajarata Chapter) of Faculty of Agriculture of University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka Association of the Advancement of Science, Alumni Association of the Asian Institute of Technology of Thailand and Toastmasters International.



Launching Ceremony of the New Website

Launching ceremony of the new website of Rajarata University (<https://www.rjt.ac.lk/>) took place on 30th of May 2022 at 2:00pm at the Main Auditorium, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The website was launched by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. G.A.S. Ginigaddara in the presence of Council members, Deans and Administrative Heads of the University.

Development of the website was coordinated by Dr. Pubudu Kumarage, Director of the IT Center, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka along with the support from Mr. P.S.P. Palliyaguruge, Lecturer, Department of ICT, Faculty of Applied Sciences. Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor thanked all the individuals for the efforts in this endeavor and she emphasized the importance of maintaining the website with a good quality to improve the visibility of Rajarata University to the national and international community.



Launching of the New Website for Rajarata University Alumni Association

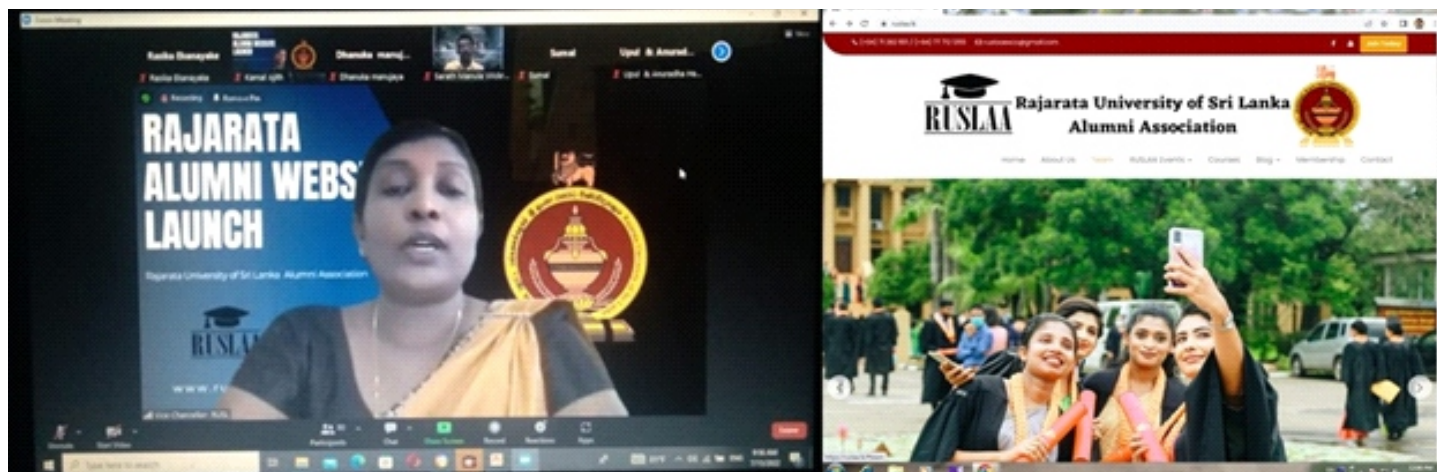
The Alumni Association of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka launched its official website on the 15th of July, 2022.

The website was created with the intention of bringing scholars from Rajarata University from around the world into its association, promoting the welfare activities carried out by the association, promoting the actions undertaken for the betterment of the university, and expanding the privileges that can be offered to its members.

Members of this association have the option to sign up for membership online through this website. Additionally, a system has been set up here to deliver information for its members that needs to be circulated immediately. As a result, programs have already been launched on the website to provide guidance to people looking for foreign education and employment, provide guidance and supportive systems for various courses, implement income-generating projects of the association, direct members to institutional training and employment opportunities, and bring members together in challenging circumstances.

The website was launched through Zoom technology by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara on 15.07.2022. In paying attention to the suggestions made by the alumni, both for the Association's and university's future initiatives, the Vice-Chancellor promised to take action to acknowledge the association and obtain their contribution.

Participants at this event were the Deans of the faculties, the Librarian, the Heads of the Academic and Non-Academic departments and units, alumni association representatives from each and every Faculty, and officers from the Mother Union of the Alumni Association. Following the launch of the website, plans were made to meet with the Vice-Chancellor specifically to explore how the association might help the university find solutions to its timely challenges.



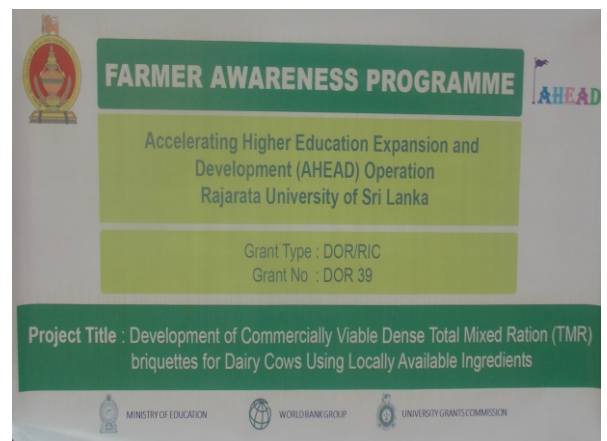
Awareness Programme on Commercializable TMR Briquettes

A one-day workshop for dairy farmers on commercializable TMR briquettes was organized under AHEAD DOR-39, on the 8th of June 2022 at the farm premises of the Faculty of Agriculture, of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The training session was mainly focused on enhancing awareness of the importance of continuous feeding of quality feed in order to obtain continuous and higher milk production. Farmers were educated on the importance of animal nutrition, preparation of TMR briquettes and potential market for commercialization. The resource persons for the programme were Prof. W. A. D. Nayananjalie, Prof. A. M. J. B. Adikari, Prof. S. C. Somasiri, Mrs. M. A. A. P. Kumari and Mr. W.V.V.R. Weerasinghe of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Farmer Awareness Programme on TMR Briquettes

A one-day workshop for the dairy farmers in Mahaweli System L on commercializable TMR briquettes was organized under AHEAD DOR-39 on the 1st of November 2021 at the Mahaweli Training Center, Sampathnuwara. The training session mainly focused on enhancing farmers' awareness of the importance of feeding management in order to obtain continuous and higher milk production. Farmers were educated on the importance of animal nutrition, forage conservation and feed supplements. A TMR briquette was introduced to the farmers as a feed conservation method. Prof. W. A. D. Nayananjalie, Dr. S. C. Somasiri, Mrs. M. A. A. P. Kumari and Mr. W.V.V.R. Weerasinghe served as the resource persons of the programme.



Mindfulness Program for Undergraduates

Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture has successfully conducted **"The Mindfulness Programme"** on 23rd of March 2022 for the undergraduates' of 2017/2018 batch with the participation of Ven. Athurugiriye Dhamma Vihari Thero of Sathi Pasala Foundation as the resource person. The aim of the session was to inculcate the mindfulness among undergraduates to enhance their capacity to concentrate the mind and function effectively for better learning process.



Short Course on Postharvest Technology of Agricultural Food Crops

The Department of Animal and Food Sciences of the Faculty of Agriculture has taken the initiative in organizing short courses on various aspects of food and animal sciences. Our first short course, "Short Course on Postharvest Technology of Agricultural Food Crops" was successfully conducted from 13th March to 03rd April 2022 with the participation of 17 candidates for 30 hours which included theory and practical aspects of postharvest technology of agricultural food crops. The short course was coordinated by Mrs. C.A.K. Dissanayake, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.



Appointments



Dr. Isuri Jayawardana was appointed as the Head of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences of the Faculty of Agriculture with effect from the 6th of January, 2022. Dr. Jayawardana joined Rajarata University in 2011 as a Lecturer (Probationary) and currently serving as a Senior Lecturer in Food and Nutritional Sciences.



Dr. N.S. Abeysingha was appointed as a Professor in the Department of Agriculture Engineering, and Soil Science of the faculty of Agriculture, RUSL with effect from 15 October



Dr. MKN Kumari was appointed as a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Soil Science of the faculty of Agriculture, RUSL with effect 16 February 2021.

Awards



Dr. Isuri Jayawardana has earned the honour of inclusion in the Dean's List of Exceptional Theses for her PhD thesis titled "Effect of kiwifruit actinidin on the digestion of gluten proteins". She did her PhD research at Massey University, New Zealand.



Achievements of Ms. Jayaruwani Fernando



Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Engineering and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Attended conferences:

1. Fernando, A. J., Amaratunga, K. S. P., Dharmasena, D. A. N., Abeyrathna, R. M. R. D., Gajasinghe, I. L., Weerakoon, H. S. T., Ekanayake, E. M. A. C., and Bandara, D. M. S. P. (2021) Pulse-Width-Modulation control of heat pump drying through cascade evaporators and parallel flow condensers. In 33rd PGIA Annual Congress. Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
2. Fernando, A. J., Amaratunga, K. S. P., Weerakoon, S., Gajasinghe, I., and DeSilva, R. (2021). Algorithm for calculating design parameters of batch type heat pump dryer. In 5th International Conference of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR), Canada.
3. Fernando, J. and Rosentrater, K. (2021). Overview of heat pump drying of agricultural products. ASABE Annual International Meeting, USA.

Full paper publications:

1. **Fernando, A. J.** and Amaratunga, K. S. P. (2021). Application of far-infrared radiation for sun-dried chili pepper (*Capsicum annum* L.): drying characteristics and color during roasting. *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*, 102(9):3781–3787
2. **Fernando, A. J.**, Amaratunga, K. S. P., Madushanka, H. T. N., and Jayaweera, H. R. Y. S. (2021). Drying performance of coffee in a batch-type heat pump dryer. *Transactions of the ASABE*, 64(4):1237–1245
3. **Fernando, A. J.**, Gunathunga, C., Brumm, T., and Amaratunga, S. (2021). Drying turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) using far-infrared radiation: Drying characteristics and process optimization. *Journal of Food Process Engineering*, 44(9):e13780
4. Galappaththi, G. M. A. S., Weerasooriya, G. V. T. V., **Fernando, A. J.**, and Senanayaka, D. P. (2021). Development of solar assisted multi-crop dryer. *Sri Lankan Journal of Agriculture and Ecosystems*, 3(1):17–29

Dr. Dinarzarde C. Raheem, Senior Lecturer (Grade II), Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Dr. Raheem is a graduate of Imperial College London, UK and completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK. Her doctoral research focused on the effects of habitat fragmentation on the land-snail diversity of fragmented rainforests in Southwestern Sri Lanka. Her ongoing research is broad-based, cutting across systematics, taxonomy, community ecology and palaeoecology, with the land-snail fauna of South Asia (particularly that of Sri Lanka and India's Western Ghats) being a specific focus. She has a wide-ranging interest in natural history collections, and this includes collections-based research, capacity building, collections development and curation.



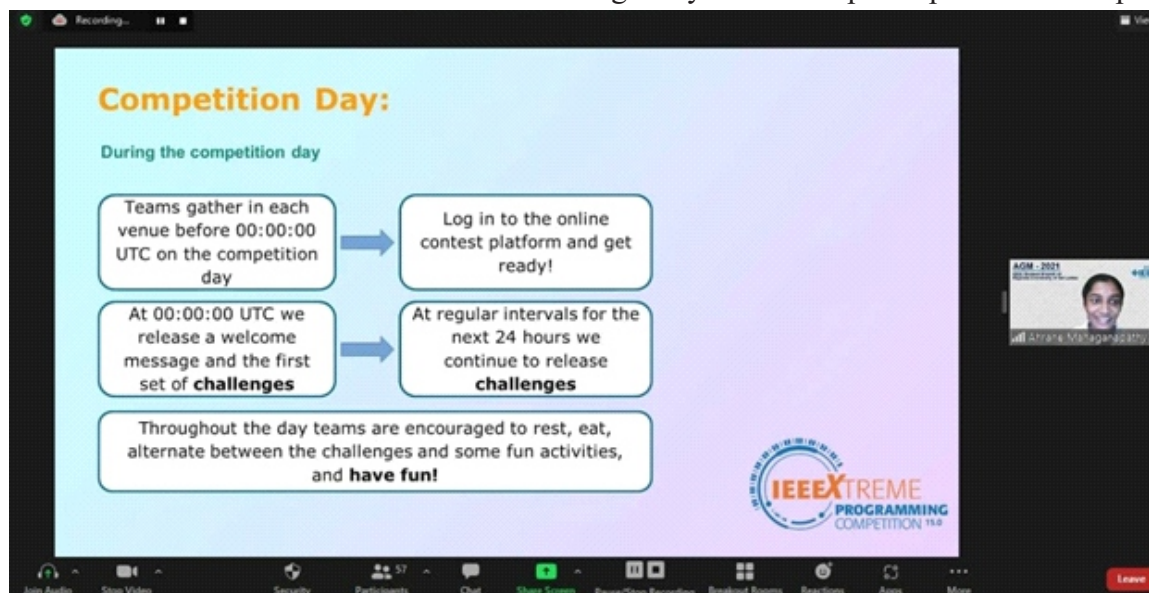
Appointments of the Department of Health Promotion

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka appointed Prof. Diyanath Samarasinghe, as the **Honorary Visiting Professor** of the Department of Health Promotion from September 2021. Prof. Samarasinghe, was a former Professor at the Department of Psychological Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Prof. Samarasinghe also serves as an Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. He was the Consultant of the Health Promotion study program during the initial five years after the commencement of the study program.

- Dr. Manoj Fernando has been appointed as the Chief Student Counselor of the University from May 2022.
- Dr. Manoj Fernando has been appointed as a member of the Standing Committee on Gender Equity/Equality of the University Grants Commission from 22nd July 2021.
- Dr. Manoj Fernando, Senior Lecturer in Health Promotion has been appointed as the new Head of the Department from 1st August 2021. He has been serving the department since 2008.
- Dr. Duminda Guruge, Senior Lecturer in Health Promotion has been appointed as the Chairman of the Covid control committee of the University by the Vice Chancellor.

IEEEEXTREME 15.0 Awareness Session

Awareness session on IEEEEXTREME 15.0, Global Programming Competition was conducted by IEEE Student Branch of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 4th of September 2021 from 5 pm onwards following the Annual AGM. Ms. Ahrane Mahaganapathy, IEEEEXTREME 15.0 Student Ambassador of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka offered her insights about the competition, its objectives, rules, registration guidelines, practice platform, and so on. Then participants from previous years: Ms. Ishini Daraniyagala, Ms. Prabhazhini Kallirajah, and Ms. Mathurantha Kanthakumar shared their experiences in the competition and the issues that they had faced during the competition. At last, from the Q and A session, participants clarified their doubts regarding IEEEEXTREME. The awareness session concluded with immense success allowing many students to participate in the competition.



Written by - Miss. Ahrane Mahaganapathy, (Former Secretary of IEEE Student Branch of Sri Lanka)

IEEE Adaharaya- IEEE Student Branch of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

IEEE Student Branch of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with IEEE Sri Lanka Section SAC, conducted the IEEE Adaharaya on 7th August 2021 from 6 pm to 8 pm via Zoom. The program was conducted parallelly at all the IEEE Student Branches of the Sri Lanka Section. The main track was conducted parallelly in English and Sinhala by Mr. Kulunu Chakshana, Co-chair at IEEE SLSYW Congress 2021, and Mr. Manodya Nabadawewa, Chairman of IEEE INSL 2021. A session on the importance of IEEE membership and volunteering was delivered by Mr. Wiraj Wickramaarachchi, Lecturer, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. As an entertainment segment, a song was recited by Hiruni Ishara. The events organized by the Student Branch were presented by K. Mathurantha, Logistics Team Lead at the Student Branch. Finally, the vote of thanks was proposed by P. Vithurshana, Assistant Secretary. The program was concluded successfully with enthusiastic participants.



Written by - Miss. Ahrane Mahaganapathy, Former Secretary of IEEE Student Branch of Sri Lanka

Association of Young Biologists Volunteered for an O/L Science Seminar as a Part of “නැණ දිරි සන්කාර - 2022”

“නැණ දිරි සන්කාර-2022” is annually organized by the undergraduates of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Science seminar series of “නැණ දිරි සන්කාර -2022” was conducted by the Association of Young Biologists for O/L students at Pallegama National School, Deniyaya St. Matthew's Bilingual National School and Deniyaya Rajapaksha National School in Matara on 2nd and 3rd of May under the theme of “නැණ දිරි සන්කාර”. A science model paper for O/L examination (2022) was discussed with the participation of eighteen members of the Association of Young Biologists.

Seminar at Pallegama Maha Vidyalaya, Matara

The seminar was held on the 2nd of May 2022 at Matara / Pallegama Maha Vidyalaya from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. with the participation of sixty students.



Seminar at Deniyaya St. Matthew's Bilingual Maha Vidyalaya, Matara

A seminar was held on 3rd of May 2022 at Matara / Deniyaya St. Matthew's Bilingual Maha Vidyalaya from 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. with the participation of thirty five students.



Seminar at Deniyaya Rajapaksha Maha Vidyalaya, Matara

The seminar was held on 03rd of May 2022 at Matara / Deniyaya Rajapaksha Maha Vidyalaya from 08.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. with participation of thirty school students.



“නැණ දිරි සන්කාර-2022”

“නැණ දිරි සන්කාර-2022” G.C.E Ordinary Level science seminar series was successfully completed with the dedication of all participants even under the current situation of the country.

Student Project

Mr. P.R.B. Wimukthi Dhananjaya, a student of the Department of Health Promotion and Mr. T.M.Y. P. Thennakon, a student of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities representing Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has submitted a proposal under theme section of Urban Solid Waste Management. The project proposal was titled as “*kasala mithuru suwa piwithuru*”. This proposal has been selected to the top ten finalists of National Science Projects 2021 organized by the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation.

Research Achievements of Department of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Department of Chemical Sciences of Faculty of applied Sciences received several awards recently due to the excellence in research. The department shows an exponential growth in the number of students and staff engagement in research and publications. Even though the Covid pandemic drastically hampered all the activities, the department was able to manage successfully to execute research activities at optimal level resulting a fair enough number of research publications, national awards and research grants.

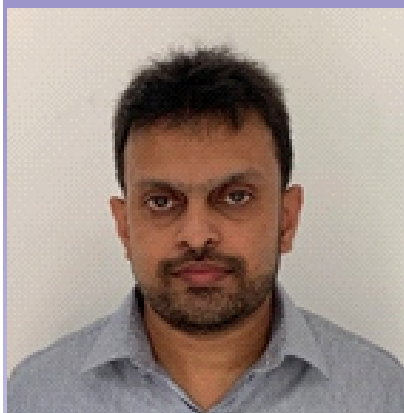
- No. of publications in refereed indexed Journals: 05
- No. of abstract publications: 16

The Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences Received the Recognition at the RUSL Awards 2021 Organized and Hosted by Faculty of Technology

Vice Chancellor's Award

- Department having the highest average H-index in the Faculty of Applied Sciences
- Department having the highest average citations in the Faculty of Applied Sciences

Dr. N.B. Jayarathne



Researcher who has published the highest number of research in indexed journals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences-3rd place-Dr. N.B. Jayarathne

Prof. H.M.A.M.C. Herath



- Researcher having the highest average H-index in the Faculty of Applied Sciences -1st place-Prof. HMAMC Herath
- Researcher with the highest citations in the Faculty of Applied Sciences -1st place-Prof. HMAMC Herath
- Researcher who has published the highest number of research in indexed journals in the Faculty of Applied Sciences-1st place-Prof. HMAMC Herath
- Most outstanding senior researcher in the Faculty of Applied Sciences-Prof. HMAMC Herath

Research Excellence Awards, Faculty of Applied Sciences for 2019 Dean's Award



Gold Medal for the most outstanding junior researcher in the Faculty of Applied Sciences was awarded to Dr. N. B. Jayaratna.



Gold Medal for the most outstanding senior researcher in the Faculty of Applied Sciences was awarded to Prof. H.M.A.M.C. Herath.

Excellence Awards

Research Grants Received

Investigator Driven Grants –NRC Grant No. 20-028

Project titled: Fabrication of smart printable sensors for detection of toxicants in the environment

Approved funding: Rs. 5,000,000.00

Principal Investigator: Prof. HMAMC Herath

Investigator Driven Grants –NRC Grant No. 20-039

Project titled: Tunable biodegradable polymers and polymeric nanocomposites from locally available renewable sources

Approved funding: Rs. 4,000,000.00

Principal Investigator: Dr. Suchithra A. Senevirathne

Applied Sciences Undergraduate Research Sessions (ASURS 2022)

- Research Sessions were held in -person on 16th June 2022 with the intention of providing a platform for undergraduate students of the faculty to showcase the breadth and a variety of intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary research findings and promote a vibrant research culture within the Faculty.
- Approximately 45 student researchers presented their work in Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Health Promotion, Mathematics and Physics. In addition to honing their communication skills, the symposium allowed them to grow their research through questions and feedback from the evaluation panel, and audience members.

The chief guest of the session was Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Prof. Ranjith Edirisinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Prof. Ajith C. Herath, the Symposium Chair also addressed the gathering. The keynote address was delivered by Senior Prof. Gamini Rajapakse, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya on “Complexity in Economics and Harnessing Power of Science and Technology in Economic Development.”



Project on Capacity Building of Field Officers of the Ministry of Women and Child Development

The Department of Health Promotion submitted a bid and earned the opportunity to conduct a project on Capacity Building of Field Officers of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-school and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services. The project title is “Capacity building of field officers in women and child development units in selected districts and divisional secretariats to empower the communities to improve their well-being.” The project aimed to enable families and communities to implement actions to improve their well-being through trained field officers in selected 25 villages (separate districts) within a period of six months from January to June 2022. The initial training of field officers was conducted face to face mode separately in Colombo and Anuradhapura. Subsequent training were conducted via online platform and the project has been extended for another six months up to December, 2022.



Project with the The Foundation for Health Promotion

The Department of Health Promotion in collaboration with the Foundation for Health Promotion supported a project aiming to evaluate the benefits of a community-based health promotion intervention on improving nutrition and selected nutrition related aspects of community members in areas of Moneragala, Mannar, Batticola, Matale and Mulaitivu by providing field facilitators from October 2020 to March 2022.

“Prana” 2021 – Creation Competition Conducted by the Health Promotion Society, Department of Health Promotion



"Prana" was a competition organized by the Health Promotion Society of the Faculty of Applied Sciences focusing “World Suicide Prevention” day. It was an online competition aimed to increase the public awareness on suicide prevention and the theme of this year was “හුස්ම ජේලෙන්ගනුව”. The competition was held in three types as writing poems, inspirational quotes and drawing arts under the given themes: ලැබිය හැකි හොඳම සතුට හිමි සතුටයි, අනියෝග වලට අනියෝගයක් වෙමු, සමාජ මාධ්‍ය වලට බිලි නොවී ඔබේ දිවියේ තීරණ ගන්නේ කෙසේද? The competition mainly targeted, school students and social media users under two categories; school category and open category. A total of 125 creations were received from both categories and the best six creations were selected. The winners were awarded an e-certificate and a book.

Swedish Linnaeus-Palme Grant 2021

The Department of Health Promotion with the Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg applied for Swedish Linnaeus-Palme Grant 2021. It is a competitive grant and won a sum of LKR 1.7 Million. This grant aims to support exchange programs between Gothenburg University and the Department of Health Promotion, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



University Research Grant

Mr. CP Senevirathne, and Mrs. KGPH Kandegedara, of the Department of Health Promotion have received university research grants for the year 2021 for the following two research project.

- Mr. CP Senevirathne - Health promotion intervention to improve the physical and mental health condition of bus drivers in Anuradhapura: A pilot study.
- Mrs. KGPH Kandegedara - Academic engagement of school children during the COVID – 19 pandemic situation: Cross-sectional study in the Anuradhapura District.

National Research Council Merit Awards for Scientific Publications

- Dr. Manoj Fernando received Merit Award for scientific publication in August 2021 from National Research Council for a research publication in the year 2018.
- Dr. Lalith Senarathna received Merit Awards for scientific publications in August 2021 from National Research Council for two research publications in the year 2018.

Awards at the Annual Scientific Sessions of the Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka

Ms. Dilini Ranasinghe, former undergraduate and present demonstrator at the Health Promotion study program has won the best flash talk presenter at the Annual Scientific Sessions of the Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka held on 23rd and 24th of January 2021. The title of the presentation was “Empowering caregivers to provide proper nutrition for children during early childhood: A health promotion intervention.”

Awards at the 14th Annual Scientific Session of the Anuradhapura Clinical Society

Ms. S. P. Senevirathne, an undergraduate of the B. Sc. (Hons) in Health Promotion study program has the second place in the poster presentation session at the 14th Annual Scientific Session of the Anuradhapura Clinical Society, held on 24th and 25th March, 2022. The title of the poster presentation was “Promoting sexual and reproductive health among youth at Technical College Anuradhapura using health promotion principles.” This research project was conducted by Ms. S. P. Senevirathne, carried out under the supervision of Dr. G.N.D. Guruge and Dr. S.M. Young as the undergraduate research project of the Health Promotion study program.

Photosynthetic Microbial Fuel Cells for Sustainable Biogenic Electricity Production

Researchers in the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences have developed fully sustainable photosynthetic microbial fuel cells (PMFCs) that could convert solar energy into a small amount of electrical energy using only microorganisms. MFCs are a sustainable concept of electricity generation that uses microorganisms' metabolic activity to convert chemical energy into electrical energy. The main aim of the research was to replace the abiotic chemical cathode of a conventional MFC with a biotic photosynthetic cathode. Normally, in a microbial fuel cell, expensive metals like platinum are coated on the cathode for catalyzing oxygen reduction

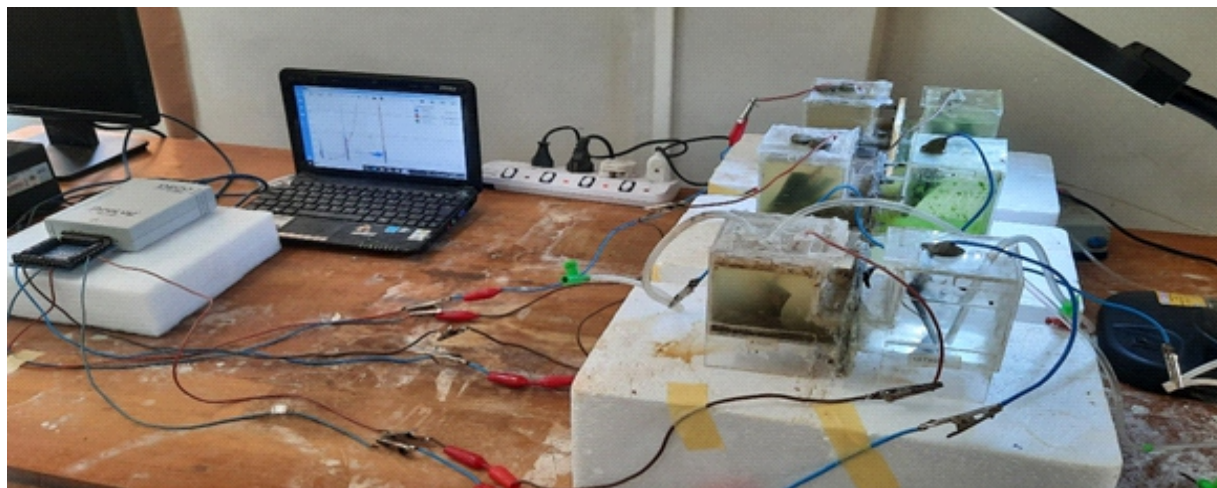
Reaction and constant aeration is compulsory for stable supply of oxygen. But in this study, as cyanobacteria could produce their own oxygen through photosynthesis, expensive metal catalysts and constant aeration were not required, making PMFCs cheaper. The special microorganisms in the anode compartment should be fed with a refined substrate such as glucose for the continuous performance of the cells. But to ensure a carbon-neutral energy generation system, a non-refined (cheap) feedstock is preferred. This was prepared from the cyanobacterial biomass obtained from the cathode compartment, which was capable of producing the highest voltage compared to the other methods. Accordingly, this photosynthetic microbial fuel cell can be considered as a cyclic system which is fully self-sustainable and also it can be operated on a long-term basis. This work was conducted by Dr. Eustace Fernando and the fourth year microbiology undergraduate student Ms. Gayani Piyumika.



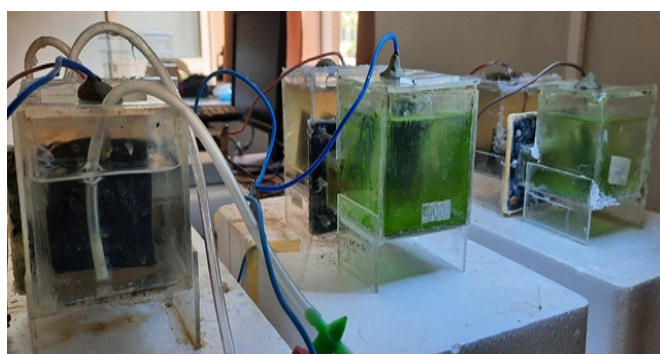
Sample collection for anode and cathode compartments



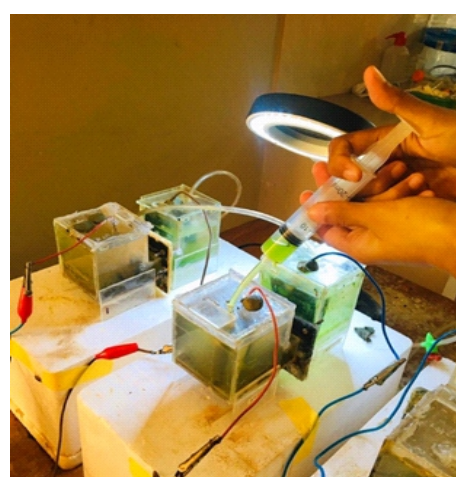
Cyanobacteria cultures in BG11 medium



Photosynthetic microbial fuel cell setup at work

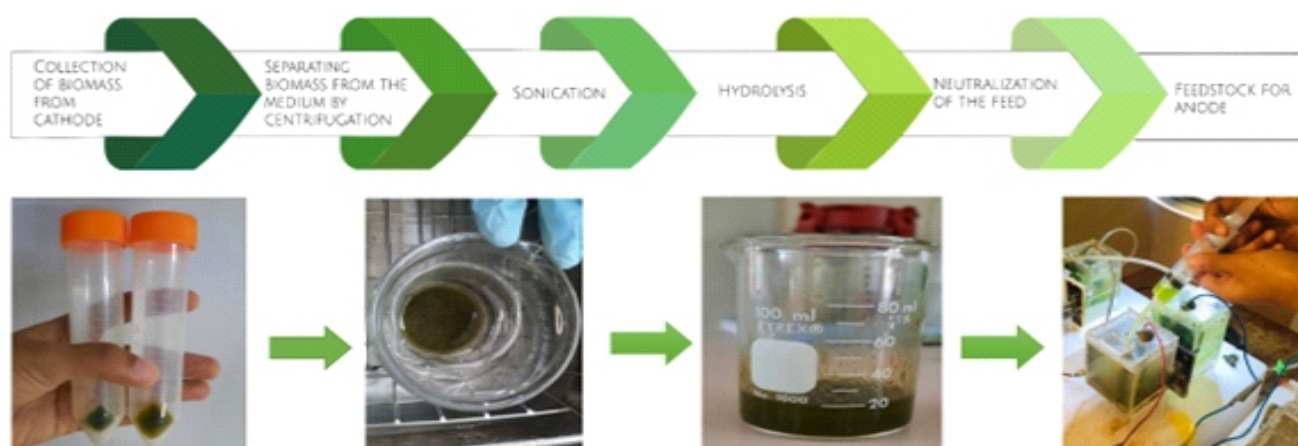


Successfully inoculated cyanobacterial cultures in cathode compartment, producing electricity in PMFCs



Feeding the non-refined cyanobacterial feedstock for exoelectrogens in the anode compartment

Preparation of feed from biomass extracted from cathode



International Students Attached to the Department of Health Promotion

Under the internship programs of the Department of Health Promotion, Faculty of Applied Sciences, two students from Sweden and Australia have completed their internships in 2021 and 2022. Ms. Satu Susanna Lättilä, from the Master of Global Health program at the Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, completed a ten weeks' internship. Initially the programme was delivered through online mode from 3rd to 30th November, and then she joined the faculty from 1st December, 2021 to 16th January, 2022.

Ms. Christine Joyce Awuor, from the Master of Global Health Program of the School of Public Health of the University of Sydney, completed a 08 week placement attached to the Department of Health Promotion from 1st June to 01st August 2021.



Workshops

During the year 2021, the Department of Health Promotion conducted the following three workshops to health care staff, community and students of other faculties through workshops and via mass media.

1. Gender based violence
2. Tobacco and alcohol prevention
3. Workplace health

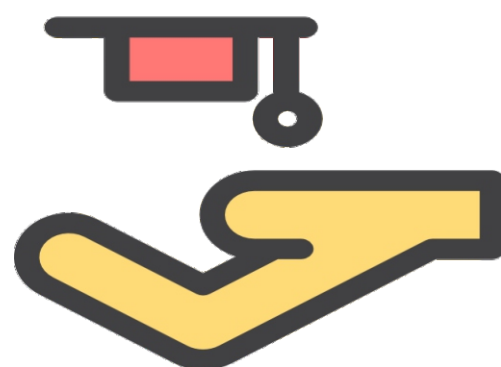
Further, following three training programs were conducted.

1. Health promotion
2. Substance use prevention
3. Community health.



“Vishwa Parami” Scholarship Program of the Department of Health Promotion

“Vishwa Parami” Foundation is a charity organization established in Sri Lanka for supporting individuals with financial difficulties. This foundation agreed to offer scholarships to students who are following the BSc in Health Promotion with economic hardships. By-laws for the scholarship program has been approved by the Faculty Board. Minimum of two students will be selected and will be provided a monetary value per month until the completion of the degree program. The initial round of scholarship was offered to two students in February, 2022.



Two Foreign Students Completed their Theses at the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management

Alex Stackegård and Ragna Ivarsson, two undergraduate students from Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, in Stockholm, Sweden visited Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 20th February 2022 for a period of two months, to complete their undergraduate thesis at the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka under the supervision of Dr. Manoj Samarathunga attached to the same Department. The main objective of their thesis was to examine the sustainability work in the hotel industry, mainly focusing on the hotels routines, attitudes and knowledge regarding waste sorting management.

At the end of their study, the students presented their findings to the Vice-chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the academic members of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management. Further, the two foreign students interacted with the undergraduate students of the Department and earned community experience by visiting students' villages and homes.

Ms. AMDD Jayasri (Temporary lecturer) coordinated these students' activities in Sri Lanka under the supervision of Mrs. KTNP Abewickrama, Head of the Department, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management. The present Dean of Faculty of Management Studies, Professor PMB Jayathilake, and the former Dean Professor WP Wijewardena supported the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management to initiate and complete this international students' research project successfully.

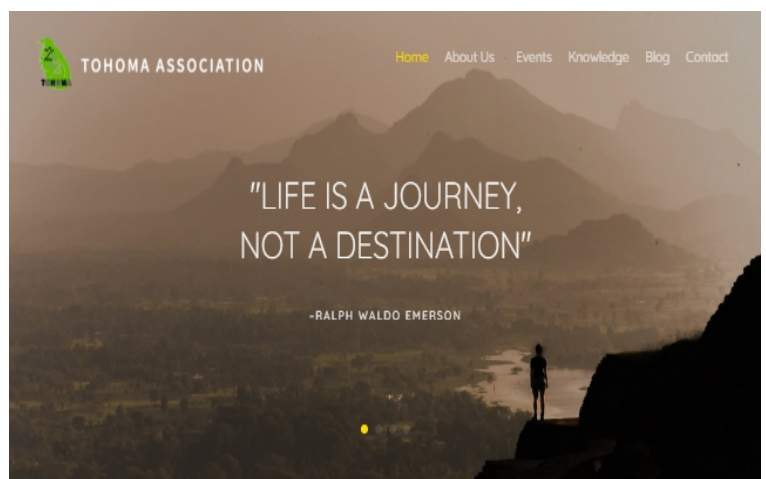


New Website Launch: Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management Association (TOHOMA Association)

Technology is not just a tool. It can give learners a voice that they may not have had before. Having a positive digital footprint is essential for anyone old enough to be online. Creating a website can be the first step in maintaining the undergraduates' powerful and positive digital masterpieces.

Tourism and Hospitality Management Association launched its website on 15th October 2021 in line with the World Tourism Day Celebration 2021. This website was developed by Mr. JAPM Jayasinghe, Lecturer attached to Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies. This website provides a platform for undergraduates/association members to showcase and manage their events, activities, blogs, articles, and talents in an online presence.

This Website Includes, **Home Page**; *Introduction and Summary of all pages.* **About Us**; *Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Association, existing details of the office bearers, committee members, Past office bearers and committee members, constitution of the Association, etc.* **Events**; *details and images of all events organized by the Association.* **Blogs**; *blog/travel articles written by the TOHOMA members.* **News**; *News articles, industry trends and travel news.* **Knowledge**; *new knowledge for travel and tourism.* **Contact Us**; *location details, contact information, links to other pages, feedback forms.* Website URL: <http://www.rjt.ac.lk/mgt/tohoma/index.html>



New Appointments



Ms. KPSM Bandara has been appointed as a Lecturer (Temp.) in the Department of Information Systems with effect from 1st November, 2021. She earned BSc. (Business Information Technology) Special Degree from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Mr. GSR Gunathunga has been appointed as an Instructor in Computer Technology in the Department of information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka since 02.03.2022. He obtained his BSc in Computer Science from

University of Jaffna, and . MSc in Computer Science from University of Peradeniya.



Ms. SAHS Sudasinghe was appointed as an Instructor in Computer Technology in the Department of information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka since 02 .03.2022. She obtained her BSc Computing & Information

Systems Special degree, and Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology from University of Colombo.



Mr. KMPGAJ Bandara was appointed as a Lecturer (Prob.) in the Department of information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka from 15.03.2022. He obtained his BSc (Business Information Technology) Special degrees from Rajarata University of

Sri Lanka. Before joining the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, he served as a Software Engineer at the itechro (Pvt.) Ltd.

Assumption of Duties as the Head of the Department of Accountancy & Finance



Dr. (Mrs.) RMNC Swarnapali assumed duties as the new Head of the Department of Accountancy & Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 08th of January 2022. She was a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Accountancy & Finance prior to her appointment as the Head of the Department. She graduated from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with a first class in B.Sc. (Accountancy & Finance) Special Degree in 2007 and received her MBA degree from the same University in 2014. Further, she received her PhD degree from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) in P.R. China in 2018. Further, she successfully completed the Certificate in Teaching for Higher Education (CTHE) from the University of Colombo in 2011 which was also awarded by the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA), London. Professor PMB Jayathilake, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Prof. WP

Wijewardena, Former Dean of the Faculty, Heads of the departments, academic staff members, and non-academic staff members participated in the event of duty assumption.



“Mathaka” Book Donation Program 2022

Accountancy & Finance Students Association (ACFA) successfully conducted a book donation program with the purpose of helping school children in the rural villages having financial difficulties for their education. It was the very first outbound experience for the association (ACFA), named Mathaka 2022 which was held on 10th January 2022 with the support of academic staff of the Faculty, all students of the Faculty, and others. They fulfilled mandates to 43 students from Kokawiddawewa, Wilachchiya, and Thanthirimale villages in the Anuradhapura district by collecting those students' information. All those benefitted school children were in the range of primary and secondary education levels. This project was conducted with the objectives of encouraging students to go forward with education, promoting the value of education, sharing the message that the undergraduates have the responsibility to make the value of education and making sense for the students that they have to come up the way in education to overcome their difficulties.



QUIZ FIEZTA 2022 – Inter Department Quiz Competition

QUIZ FIEZTA 2022, the first ever Inter-department quiz competition was organized by the Department of Accountancy & Finance of the Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies, to strengthen the inter-departmental bond, further assess their IQ level, and encourage them to become knowledge seekers and bringing all the undergraduates in all departments into one platform.

The preliminary round of the competition was successfully conducted on the 03rd of June 2022 at the Management Faculty premises. Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management - 2018 Batch, Department of Marketing Management - 2020 Batch, Department of Business Management - 2018 Batch have qualified for the Grand Finale, which was held on 20th July 2022. Professor PMB Jayathilake, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Dr. (Mrs.) RMNC Swarnapali, Head of the Department of Accountancy and Finance, Heads of other departments, academic staff members of the Faculty, and non-academic staff members participated in this event.



CSR Programme - 2021

Undergraduates of Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka annually organize CSR programme for patients in the Apeksha Hospital at Maharagama. Its 4th programme was organized by BBA Kurunegala Centre undergraduates and the event was held on 25th December 2021. The programme included several events such as, donating foods, toys for children, etc. The theme of the programme was named as “Kaatath Kalin Naththal” (“Christmas before others”).



Celebrating World Tourism Day 2021

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a series of events with the participation of the undergraduates, lecturers, and the other stakeholders in parallel to the UNWTO World Tourism Day 2021.

Tourism Catchy Pixel in beautiful Sri Lanka - Facebook Photography Competition and the Seekers of the Hidden Attractions - Video Competition were conducted from 1st September to 15th October, 2021 with the participation of the undergraduates of the Sri Lankan universities and it was expected to encourage youths to use their creativity to promote the tourism industry in Sri Lanka.

Grow Green, Go Green - Tree Planting Program was conducted with the objective of encouraging youths to raise awareness in society about the importance of protecting nature. The undergraduates of the department have also got together and created a group song, which showcases the teamwork and harmony among the undergraduates. Live in Colours: Online Art Exhibition is another colourful event, which encouraged youths to use their creativity to promote the tourism industry in Sri Lanka.

The Ceremonial Event of the World Tourism Day 2021 was conducted successfully on 15th October, 2021. Through these programs, it was expected to enhance the knowledge, competencies, and soft skills of the undergraduates of the department and to strengthen the existing relationship with the industry further to open more avenues to accomplish the career objectives of the graduates. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation, these events are conducted online.



Awareness of Industrial Training Programme - 2022

Successfully conducted the webinar on “Awareness of Industrial Training Programme - 2022” which was organized by the Department of Accountancy & Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the final year (ACF 4229: Industrial Training and Project Report) undergraduates via Zoom. This webinar was held on 16th March 2022 by Mr. Roshan Jameel, Group Financial Controller, MTD Walkers PLC/ General Manager, Walkers CML Properties (Pvt) Ltd, under the direction of Mrs. TDSH Dissanayake - Industrial Training Coordinator, 2016/17 Batch, Department of Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale.

Promotions



Dr. (Mrs.) CMYSS Bandara attached to the Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I w.e.f. 5th February, 2021.



Ms. NHK Cooray attached to the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Gr. II w.e.f. 19th December, 2019.



Mrs. DMJ Wickramasinghe, Lecturer (Prob.), attached to the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was promoted as Senior Lecturer Gr. II w.e.f. 01st July, 2021.

Workshops Conducted by the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management has successfully conducted seven workshops for the undergraduate of the department from 7th June 2021 to 4th August 2021. The first workshop was conducted by Mr. Chintana Duminduhewa, Consultant - Tourism and Sustainable Development, Director- Responsible Education and Development, Chairman- Yala Adventure Resort on "Sustainable Practices for the Tourism and Hospitality Industry", which showed the importance of adopting sustainable practices for the tourism industry.

The workshop on "Professional skills for a successful career in the Tourism and Hospitality industry" was conducted by Mr. Anuruddha Peiris, Business Development Manager, Authenticities (Travel Service) Pvt. Ltd. with the objective of making students aware of the industry expectation from a graduate.

Further, Mr. Sahan Suranga Wijayagunawardena, B.Ed. M.Ed. PGD in Counseling (Reading), Sri Lanka Teacher Service, has conducted the workshop on "Techniques to Improve Memory and to Overcome Forgetfulness", which is to teach students the effective techniques to overcome forgetfulness.

Since the Tourism industry was severely affected due to the Covid 19, another workshop on "Tourism Industry Trends and Challenges in New Normal" was conducted by Mr. Charith de Alwis, General Manager, Tangerine Tours (Pvt.) Limited, which helped students to learn how the tourism industry adapted to the new situation and which strategies were employed by the industry to overcome the negative impact of Covid 19.

Ms. Danushika Abeyrathna, Attorney- at- Law, Commissioner for Oaths, Lecturer, Department of Private and Comparative Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo conducted a workshop for the students on "self-branding", which helped the students to identify the importance of building their own brand.

Additionally, the workshop on "Career Opportunities in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry" was conducted by Mr. Chaturanga Rajakaruna, Assistant Manager, Sales & Marketing, Colombo Fort Hotels (The Palm Beruwala, Club Palm Bay Marawila, Sigiriya Village), which showed the career opportunities for the students in the industry. Finally, the workshop on "E-commerce for Tourism" was conducted by Mr. Rangika Somarathne, Senior Account Manager – Maldives, Booking.com, which gave insights into the opportunities for tourism students in the industry.

Study Leave



Mr. RMGHN Rathnayake, Lecturer (Prob.) attached to the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies has won the PhD scholarship under the Chinese Government Scholarship - Chinese University programme to

study at School of Computer Science and Technology, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), People's Republic of China. He got study leave for a period of three years.



Senior Lecturer, Mr AADP Bandara attached to the Department of Accountancy and Finance was granted study leave for a period of three years and three months w.e.f. from 01.01.2021 to follow the PhD form IIC University of Technology, Cambodia.



Senior Lecturer, Mr KJS Madhusanka attached to the Department of Accountancy and Finance was granted study leave for a period of four years w.e.f. from 21.02.2021 to follow the PhD form University of British Columbia.



Senior Lecturer, Mrs NHK Cooray attached to the Department of Marketing Management won the PhD scholarship form University of Strathclyde, UK. She got study leave for a period of three years.

Achievements

Mrs DMJ Wickramasinghe, Lecturer (Prob.), attached to the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has achieved her MSc. in Info. Sys. Mgt. from University of Colombo. She earned her BSc. in Computer Science from University of Peradeniya.



New Coordinators for BBA Programme



Three new academic coordinators have been appointed for Bachelor of Business Administration (External) General Degree Programme namely from left, Mr. RKD Randeni – Year I, Dr. WHMS Samarathunga – Year II, and Dr. (Mrs.) JS Kumari – Year III with effect from 01.01.2022 for a period of one year.

Senior Professor Suneth Agampodi

Founder Professor and Chair, Department of Community Medicine; Professor Suneth Buddhika Agampodi was promoted to Senior Professor of Community Medicine.

Senior Professor Suneth Agampodi joined the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in 2009 as a probationary lecturer and confirmed and became a senior lecturer in 2012. He was promoted as a merit professor in 2014 and to the position of Chair Professor in 2018. He obtained his MBBS from the University of Peradeniya in 2001 followed by MSc (PGIM, Colombo), MD (PGIM, Colombo) and MPH (Massey University, New Zealand)

He was listed among the world's top 2% scientists in 2021 and his research interests includes maternal and child health, infectious diseases, molecular epidemiology, health system research, population health and implementation research. He is a visiting research scientist at Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, Yale University, an executive committee member of international leptospirosis society and he is the current Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

We would like to wish him all the very best to continue his esteemed work as a world-renowned scientist and as the Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Prof. Thilini Agampodi (Professor in Social Epidemiology) Delivered the Prestigious Anuradhapura Clinical Society Oration.



Prof. Thilini Agampodi (Professor in Social Epidemiology) delivered the prestigious Anuradhapura Clinical Society oration. It was amazing to see the inclusion of more than 40 research publications in her oration. Some of them have already changed national and international health policies. I was fortunate to witness most of her work during the last 8-9 years. This was her message.

"After giving the treatments, Doctor asks the patient to come back in two weeks for another consultation.

Nevertheless, you never know;

Whether the patient is mentally fit enough to get the treatment.

Whether the patient has adequate family support

That is his daughters' wedding day

He has to accompany his wife to her clinic

Whether the patient has the bus fare to come back

Whether he has small children and no one is there to look after

*Etc. etc. etc., All the social determinants.
The treatment is always the priority for the physician, while it may be something else for the patient despite the disease severity.
It is essential to include social medicine in your plan. to change a correct treatment*



*Into successful management.
Social epidemiology is the primary path to look at all social determinants of health."*



Dr. Janith Warnasekara Becomes the First Ever FMAS Graduate to Become a HoD

Dr. J. Warnasekara is a proud product of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences of RUSL and has become the first FMAS graduate to become an HoD in any academic setting. After his MBBS, he obtained his Master in Public Health from EUCLID University and submitted his PhD thesis this year (defence pending). In addition, he has completed his MSc in Statistics from the University of Peradeniya in which field he is best known among his colleagues. He is also the youngest HoD so far in the department and the youngest HoD in the FMAS.

Dr. J. Warnasekara is a prolific scholar with 17 Pubmed indexed publications within his 6 years of academic career. We congratulate our new HoD representing a new generation of academics in FMAS.



Writing Workshop Organized by the Department of Community Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences



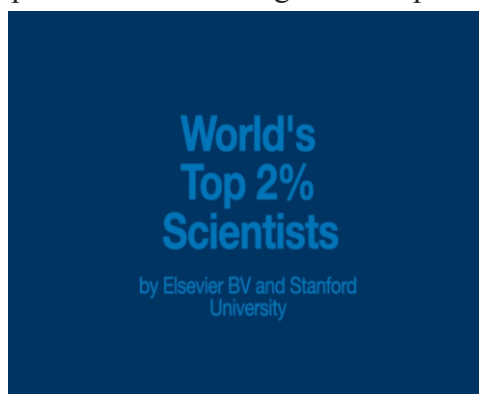
The Department of Community Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a writing workshop from 19th - 22nd of December 2021. This was held at the Habarana Village by cinnamon premises with the participation of the academic staff and the post-graduate students attached to the department who are members of different research projects, conducted by the department (ECLIPSE, RaPCO, Leptospirosis project). Prof. Suneth Agampodi led the workshop, and the academic staff and the PG students participated in a full-day writing workshop working on manuscripts, research proposals, and grant writing. Discussions were later held with the senior researchers on how to improve the written manuscripts.

Prof. Suneth Agampodi is listed among the World's Top 2% Scientists

Chair Professor of the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, has been listed among the World's Top 2% Scientists.



Professor Suneth Agampodi has 107 scientific papers published in journals listed in Web of Science Master's journal list with a Google Scholar H index of 24. Stanford team have created a publicly available database of over 100,000 top scientists. This list provides standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator. Separate data are shown for career-long and single year impact. Scientists are classified into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields. Field- and subfield-specific percentiles are also provided. Career-long data are updated to the end-of-2020.



The selection is based on the top 100,000 by c-score or a percentile rank of 2% or above.” Updated databases of top 2% scientists and code are freely available in Mendeley.

RAPCO Researchers Received Two More Awards

Since its launch, Rajarata Pregnancy Cohort has received many national awards. The most recent addition to this list was for the research paper titled “Do You Know Why She is Worried?”: Fear Inducing Factors as Perceived by Pregnant Women in the First Trimester in Anuradhapura District.

The 26th Annual Academic Sessions of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka (AASCCPSL) is the premier public health conference in Sri Lanka. AASCCPSL was held as a virtual conference this year due to the prevailing pandemic situation. The research paper was based on the diaries written by pregnant women during the first trimester of their pregnancy, describing fear associated with pregnancy. The paper was authored by Kaludewa HN, Gunasekara SD and Agampodi TC.

The paper won the best oral presentation of the session and the prestigious Dr. S D Vidyasagara Award for Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, one of the four main awards of the session.

RAPCO researchers have previously won the prestigious –Sir Nicholas Attygalle Award for the best paper in the 133rd Anniversary International Medical Congress of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, the Best paper award under the “Improving Mental Well-being” category in the 25th Annual Academic Sessions of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka and the Best Research Award in the 53rd Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

New Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Investigation of Anaemia in Pregnancy - New Threshold Values for Anaemia in Second and Third Trimesters of Pregnancy

The most recent circular issued by the Family Health Bureau, Sri Lanka has changed the previous guideline on thresholds for anaemia in pregnancy. The previous guideline recommended a haemoglobin value of 11 g/dl in all three trimesters. The Rajarata Pregnancy Cohort (RaPCo) data clearly showed that this will overestimate the anaemia in the second trimester by almost 80%. The paper calling for global consensus for anaemia threshold were published by the DoCM researchers in 2021 in BMJ Global Health. Based on these data, a national consultative meeting was held and all stakeholders agreed that the threshold for anaemia in the second and third trimesters should be 10.5 g/dl. The new circular issued by the FHB has changed the outdated guidelines.

Screening for thalassemia

The same circular provides the necessary instructions for screening for thalassemia, a condition which seems to be responsible for about one fourth to one fifth of anemia in pregnancy in Sri Lanka. These findings were also a major outcome of the RaPCo.

According to the new circular, all anaemic pregnant women with MCV<80 fl and MCH <27pg should be referred to exclude Thalassemia.

RUSL Researchers Officially Launched the ECLIPSE Project

ECLIPSE is entirely based on the concept of community engagement and involvement (CEI). This local ECLIPSE community involves a wide range of stakeholders. The ECLIPSE launch event was a formal introduction and launch of the project.

Provincial and Regional Directors of Health Services from the North Central Province and Anuradhapura District, together with a range of public health professionals participated in this event.

ECLIPSE will explore the context specific practices, beliefs, stigma, perceptions and practices related to cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL). The project will be initially launched in three selected communities in the NCP. The aim of the first phase is to develop community centered interventions to improve CL patient journey.

ECLIPSE is a four-year healthcare programme which aims to improve the CL patient journey and reduce stigma in the most marginalized and underserved communities in Brazil, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka. Department of Community Medicine is the country lead for this global project.



Dr. Nuwan Darshana Wickramasinghe to Deliver the F. A. Wickramasinghe Oration



Dr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe. MBBS, MSc, (Community Medicine, MSc(Applied Epidemiology, MD (Community Medicine, will deliver the prestigious F. A. Wickramasinghe Oration of the Sri Lanka College of Community Physicians this year.

Dr. Nuwan Darshana Wickramasinghe is a Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine and the current Head of the Department of Community Medicine. He joined the faculty in 2009 as a probationary lecturer and became a senior lecturer in 2014. He obtained his MBBS from the University of Peradeniya in 2008, followed by MSc in Community Medicine (PGIM, Colombo), MSc in Applied Epidemiology (PGIS, Peradeniya), MD (PGIM, Colombo). (Dr. Wickramasinghe is a prolific scholar and published numerous research papers in national and international, high impact journals. His leading work on burnout will be the topic for this year's oration titled "Burnout: A Burning Issue among Sri Lankan Students."

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country, this year's oration was conducted as a virtual event on 23rd February 2021.

Dr. W.A.S.N. Wedasingha Wins the Young Investigator 2022 Award Presented by the European Association of Poison Centers and Clinical Toxicologists

Dr. W.A.S.N. Wedasingha of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, RUSL has won the Young Investigator 2022 award at the 42nd Congress of the European Association of Poison Centers and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) held in Tallinn, Estonia from 24th-27th May 2022. The Young Investigator Award is awarded for the best research presentation by a researcher aged below 40 years at the annual congress of EAPCCT.

Dr. Wedasingha received this prestigious annual competitive award for her research presentation titled "Comparing bedside coagulation assays for detecting venom-induced consumption coagulopathy following viper bites in Sri Lanka", which was based on her PhD research. She is currently reading for her PhD, registered at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Her primary supervisor is Prof. Anjana Silva (Department of Parasitology, FMAS, RUSL), who won the same award in 2015.



An Undergraduate Research Project of Rajarata Medical Students Wins a Major Award at the 134th International Medical Congress 2021 of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

The undergraduate research project presentation titled "Efficacy of Indian and Australian polyvalent antivenoms in neutralizing the pro-coagulant effects of four snake venoms", by Mr. D.P. Madialagan, Ms. J.D.D. Madhushani, Ms. M.M.H. Madhushika, Mr. K.A.D.C. Madushanka, Ms. W.M.Y. Maduwanthi, Ms. M.G.G.N.N. Mahanama of the batch 2015/16 of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, won the award for the best presentation in Pharmacology at the 134th International Medical Congress organized by Sri Lanka Medical Association. This undergraduate research project was supervised by Prof. Anjana Silva, Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences.



Appointing Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara as the FERCAP Local Coordinator (Sri Lanka)

Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara, Chair, Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University Sri Lanka and Chair, Ethics Review Committee, Bandaranayake Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute, Maharagama, has been appointed as the FERCAP (Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific) Local Coordinator for Sri Lanka.

The FERCAP was established in Bangkok, Thailand on January 12, 2000. It was a project initiated by the World Health Organization Special Training and Research Programme in Tropical Diseases to develop capacity building in ethical review. It is a regional forum under the Strategic Initiative in Developing Capacity in Ethical Review.

A FERCAP Local Coordinator is appointed by the FERCAP Secretariat. A FERCAP Local Coordinator is a FERCAP Steering Committee Member representing a country, the representative of the national accreditation institution, and the Representative of the country network of Ethics Review Committees (FERCSL).

New Responsibilities

Department Heads

Dr. Asantha Jayawardana - Anatomy
 Dr. Manori Kumari - Physiology
 Dr. Janith Warnasekara - Community Medicine
 Dr. Chamara Sarathchandra - Medicine
 Dr. Amila Isuru – Psychiatry

Academic Coordinators

Pre-clinical coordinator - Dr. Sampath Paththinige
 Para-clinical coordinator – Dr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe

Promoted

Promoted to Senior lecturer Grade I

Dr. Asantha Jayawardana - Department of Anatomy
 Dr. Harshi Weerakoon - Department of Biochemistry
 Dr. Indika Senevirathne - Department of Biochemistry
 Dr. Subhashini Senadheera - Department of Biochemistry

Promoted to Senior Lecturer

Dr. Janith Warnasekara - Department of Community Medicine
 Dr. Gayani Amarasinghe - Department of Community Medicine
 Dr. Shoba Gunathilaka - Department of Microbiology
 Dr. Dinesha Jayasundara - Department of Microbiology
 Dr. Chandana Hewawasam - Department of Physiology
 Dr. Manori Kumari - Department of Physiology

DoCM Members Received top Awards in the First-Ever RUSL Research Excellence Awards Ceremony ; Most Outstanding Senior Researcher, Researcher with the Highest H-Index and Researcher with the Highest Citations

Prof. Agampodi, chair professor of the department, was awarded the Most Outstanding Researcher (total score 1461), Researcher with the highest H-Index (23) and the Researcher with the highest Citation (2100) with RUSL affiliations. In addition, Prof. Agampodi received the Award for the researcher with the highest number of articles published in the indexed journals (101). Prof. Thilini Agampodi and Dr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe also received awards for being in the top six researchers with highest H-Index and Citations in RUSL.

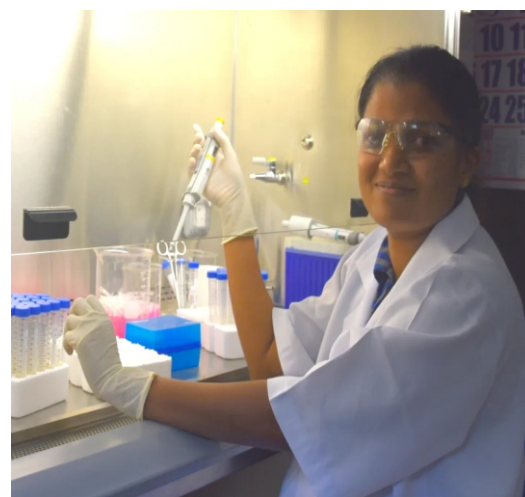


Dr. Dinesha Jayasundara Received the Tissa Vitarana Gold Medal for Microbiology

Dr. Dinesha Jayasundara, MPhil trainee of the DoCM and lecturer, Department of Microbiology, FMAS, RUSL has received the prestigious Tissa Vitarana Gold Medal for Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Microbiology 2021. Previously, she scored the highest aggregate in the selection examination for the same diploma program in 2019.

Dr. Jayasundara is a member of DoCM Leptospirosis research lab since 2016. As a part of her MPhil work, she has successfully isolated 25 new *Leptospira* strains which included 12 novel clonal groups of pathogenic *Leptospira*.

Dr. Jayasundara received the best paper award in ACS 2019 for her work on *Leptospira* isolation. Of the 25 new strains isolated, full genome has been already published for three; the first three fully circularized *Leptospira* genomes from Sri Lanka.



Dr. Guwani Nawarathne Wins the Most Number of Gold Medals at the 21st General Convocation

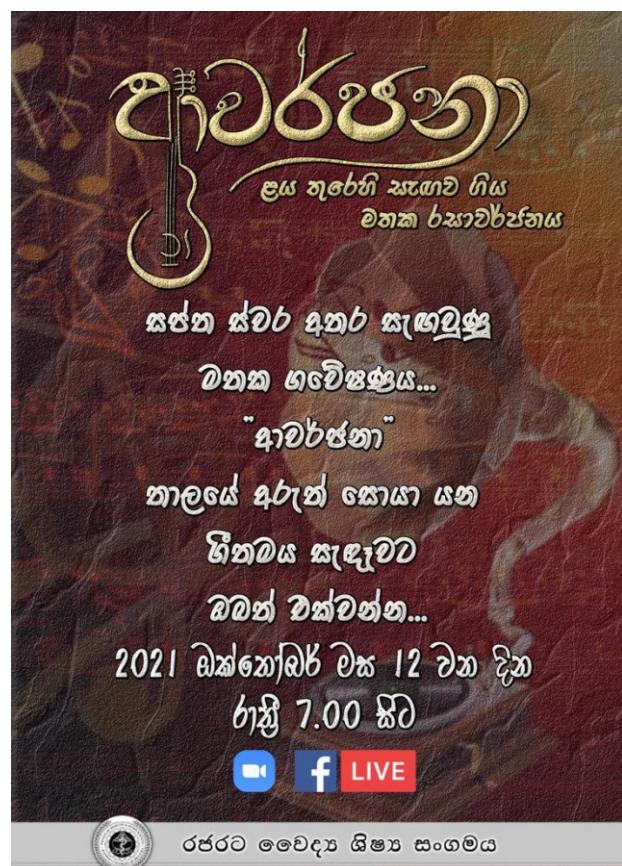
Dr. Guwani Nawarathne graduated from the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences was awarded 8 gold medals at the 21st General convocation of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. It was the highest number of gold medals owned by an undergraduate at the 21st General Convocation.

She was handfull with gold medals in Biochemistry, Community Medicine , Forensic Medicine , paediatrics, Surgery, Psychiatry, overall best performance in 3rd MBBS and Overall best performance in Final MBBS.

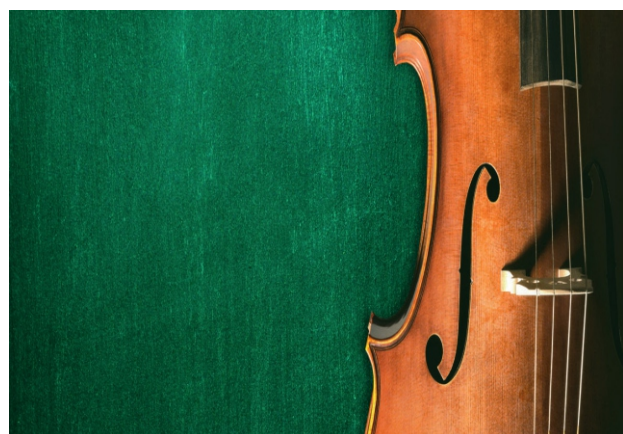
All the best to Dr.Guwani Nawarathne, the big gun from FMAS to hunt down many more great achievements in the field of Medicine.

Functions Organized by the Medical Students' Union - Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

“Awarjana 2021” Musical program



“Awarjana 2021” Musical program was organized online by Medical Students' Union on the 12th of October 2021. This program drove deep into the lyrical excellence of many songs from diverse generations and showed their



“Cantando Con Gloria 2021”

“Cantando Con Gloria 2021” Christmas Carol Program was organized by the Medical Students' Union on the 22nd December 2021 to commemorate the Christmas Day. This musical evening became a great program to celebrate the birth of Christ.



“Pile Padura 2022”

“Pile Padura 2022” annual cultural program was organized by the Medical Students' Union on the 08th of March 2022 in the Para-Clinical premises of the Faculty. This Musical program was attended by the Academic Staff and became a grand hour of musical happiness.



The Eight a Side Inter-Batch Friendly Cricket Tournament

The eight a side inter-batch friendly cricket tournament “Cricket Bashers” organized by the Medical Students' Union was held on 06th March 2022. This tournament was attended by students of the faculty and the past students and became great interactive tournament.



Movie Night

A movie night was arranged by the Medical Students' Union on the 31st of December 2021 to celebrate the refreshing new year. This was attended by the academic staff as well as the students. A countdown to the new year and a fireworks display blasted us to a bright New year.



“Jeewaka Yathra” Annual Medical Camp



The “Jeewaka Yathra” annual Medical camp was conducted by the Medical Students' Union on the Posaon Poya day which was on the 14th of June 2022. This Medical Camp aided over 1500 pilgrims by attending to their medical needs. This event became an immense success due to the efforts of the Students and the Academic Staff of our Faculty.

“Athwala 2022”

“Athwala 2022” academic program was organized online by the Medical Students' Union on the 15th, 16th and 17th January 2022 to benefit students who were to face the 2021 A/Ls from the Science stream. Over 1000 students participated in over the course of 3 days and the program received amazing feedback and became a great success.



Monthly Poya Day Functions

Monthly Poya Day functions were conducted by the Medical Students' Union.



Professor Promotions in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities



Prof. RPIR Prasanna
Professor in Economics
Department of Economics



Prof. DSW Gunawardene
Professor in Sociology
Department of Social Science



Prof. Manjula Ranagalage
Professor in Environmental
Management
Department of Environmental
Management



Ven. Prof. Olganwatte Chandasiri
Thero
Professor in Sinhala
Department of Languages



Prof. SKN Gamage
Professor in Economics
Department of Economics



Prof. EMS Ekanayake
Professor in Sociology &
Criminology
Department of Social Science



Prof. T.G.A. Talwaththa
Professor in History
Department of Humanities



Prof. MKL Irangani
Professor in History
Department of Humanities



Prof. PBN Abeywardana
Professor in Archaeology
Department of Archaeology and
Heritage Management.

Workshop on Educational Challenges Facing the Undergraduates During the Covid-19 Pandemic

By taking into account effects of Covid-19 on the University education, the Department of Economics organized special lecture workshop series to address the educational challenges faced by the undergraduates during the Covid-19. Both internal and external academics contributed voluntarily in conducting the workshops and under the program, the department was able to successfully organize 10 workshops.

General Features of Academic Writing

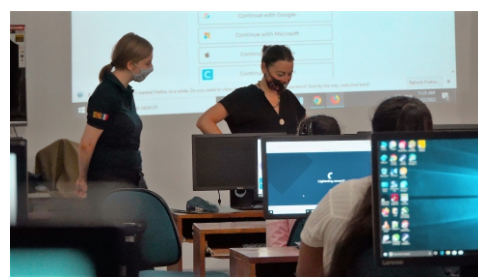
7

1. **Evidence-based**
 - Develop arguments and claims, with evidence from the body of knowledge in the relevant field
 - Knowledge on knowledge, reference to previous work in the field
- Examples:
- Previous studies have shown that ...
 - These sources suggest that ...
 - According to the Central bank annual report (2019), the death of the 960 inhabitants of ...
 - However, as has been shown elsewhere (e.g. Smith, 1992), the increase in ...
- **Reporting writing**
- Examples:
- The figure indicates that.....
 - The interview shows that



Workshops on French Gastronomy

Workshop on French Gastronomy and a French Food Demonstration were organized by Ms. STHP Samarasinghe and Ms. Sewmini Rathnayake; Lecturers in French of the Department of languages of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 22nd of March 2022 under the guidance of the Head of the Department Prof. Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero. These workshops were respectively held at the Main IT center and at the Model Kitchen and Restaurant of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality management studies of Faculty of Management studies of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The workshops were conducted by Ms. Sarah Toucas; Director Alliance Française de Kandy and Ms. Célias Bourhis; teacher in French at Alliance Française de Kandy for the French undergraduates to enhance their awareness on the French gastronomy. Ven.G. Uparathana Thero, Senior lecturer of the Department of Languages donated Rs: 25,000.00 for the event. The Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Deans of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Faculty of Management studies, all the Heads and academic members of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality management studies of Faculty of Management studies including lecturer responsible of the Model Kitchen graced the event to enjoy this cultural experience.



Archaeological Excavation Project- Rambewa Kadahatha Alokapabbatha Temple

Archaeological Excavation Project of Rambewa Kadahatha Alokapabbatha Viharaya was started on 08th February 2022 in Anuradhapura district, at the premises of Kadahatha ancient temple. The archaeological excavation was conducted by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The ancient stupa mound located on the rock head of the Kadahatha Lake, which disturbs a spectacular landscape, has been excavated under the first stage. The "Siwali Foundation" which is operated with the aim of rebuilding the diminishing Buddhist heritage will extend financial sponsorship for this excavation project. Similarly, the contribution of the temple and the villagers also was unforgettable in this regard.

Current excavation has uncovered factors of a Sthupa with distinctive architectural features and is expected to conserve this while safeguarding the archaeological values. All the field work of the project is conducted as a field training program for the undergraduates of Archaeology and Heritage Management. Also, an experiment series is expected to be conducted with a multidisciplinary approach to the peripheral region of the excavation referring to Sthupa.

This project is also a pageant for the development of peace while conserving ancient Buddhist heritage and preserving it to the future generation. Further, giving practical subject knowledge to undergraduates through such archaeological fieldwork will be a future investment for the development of Archaeology in Sri Lanka.

Archaeological Excavation Project - Megalithic Burial Complex in Janakapura

The archaeological excavation of Megalithic Burial Complex in Janakapura of Mullativu district, conducted by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was successfully held from 10th January 2022 to 21st January 2022 and retrieved valuable factors belonging to the proto-historic period of Lower Ma-Oya basin.

The main objectives of this research were to investigate the development of the cultural landscape of the lower Ma-Oya basin before the induction of Buddhism and obtain the practical field training for undergraduates of BA (Honours) in Archaeology and Heritage Management degree program to enhance their practical knowledge. This is the first archaeological excavation of Sri Lanka that is based on Capstone Burials / Cap with Pot Burials and the land of 6 acres covered with approximately 300 burials recorded through the field survey. Hence, it reflects the consumption of a highly-populated area and can be identified that the proto-historic man of the lower Ma-Oya basin had achieved a great development of metallurgy, pottery making and bead technology. The cremated bone samples retrieved from buried pots will be taken to the Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory, the USA for radiocarbon dating and the analytical part of the artefacts is in the ongoing process. The detailed report of this excavation will be published this year.

Weekly Webinars of the Programme “විඤ්ඤාන ජීවිතයකට මගක්”

The Head of the Department of Languages Prof. Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero initiated the programme “විඤ්ඤාන ජීවිතයකට මගක්” during the COVID-19 pandemic period and conducted online webinar series on this programme every week. This programme is still an on-going programme organised by the Department of Languages. The programme spreads a positive reputation regarding the department proving the fact that it does not only conduct intellectual events for its members, but for outsiders too. The purpose of this programme was to enhance public mental health in order to direct people to a stress free life during the pandemic. The Head of the Department was able to introduce very famous psychologist, musicians, singers, music composers, writers, lyricists, music critics and Professors and senior lecturers from different fields of study to educate and entertain the public.

“Diya Keta Pahana” Creation and Literary Criticism Awards – 2022

The award ceremony of the creation and literary criticism competition “Diya Keta Pahana Mangala Diyawara 2022” organized by the Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was successfully held at the Open Air Theatre of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 22nd March 2022, with the honourable participation of Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, all the Deans of the University, all the Heads of the departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, lecturers, students and the invited guests, Mr. Sathischandra Edirisinghe, Mr. Rodney Warnakula and Visharada Thissa Jayawardhene. The live final round of the “Diya Keta Pahana” singing competition was held on this night and Prabhashi Mandheera, an undergraduate of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka won the award while Sahan Aravinda and Saman Jayathunga, undergraduates of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka won the second and third places respectively.



Book Launch of Undergraduates of the Department of Languages – 2022

A book launching program of undergraduates of the Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was successfully held at the Convocation Hall, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 22nd March 2022 with the honourable participation of invited guests Mr. Sathischandra Edirisinghe and Mr. Rodney Warnakula, Dean and lecturers of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The novel “Chelam” and the poetry collection “Ambapalita Pipunu Mal” of Bhavantha Pramod Chandrarathna, an undergraduate of the Department of Languages, and the short stories collection “Kenimandala” of Thilanga Dharshana Dissanayake, an undergraduate of the Department of Languages were launched at this event.

Renovation of the Library of Kahapathwilagama Maha Vidyalaya, Galkulama, Anuradhapura

Under the instructions of the Head of the Department of Languages Prof. Ven. Olganwatte Chandasiri Thero, and the co-ordination of Charuka Weeraratna; Temporary Lecturer in Japanese and all the other members of the Department of Languages plan to renovate a library for the students of Kahapathwilagama Maha Vidyalaya, Galkulama, Anuradhapura under the community service project of the department. This school is located in a remote area in Galenbindunuwewa under Mihinthale educational division. It offers classes from grade 1 to 11 and has reported the best GCE (O/L) examination results of Galenbindunuwewa educational zone. There are about 95 students and 18 teachers in this school. On 27th April 2022, the department members visited the school and discussed about the renovation of the library. Collecting funds and books for the project are in progress. It is expected to buy more books and stationaries for the students of the school when adequate amount of funds received. The Department of Languages hopes to complete the project in August 2022.



The 7th Undergraduate Research Symposium on Archaeology - URSARU 2022, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

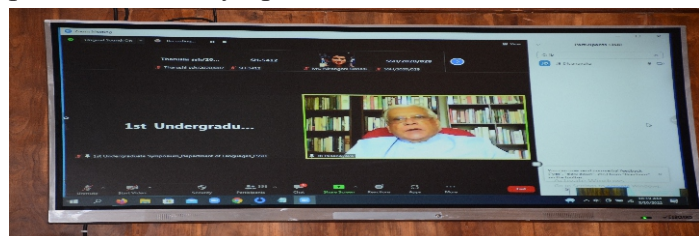
The 7th Undergraduate Research Symposium on Archaeology - URSARU 2022, organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was successfully held on 6th of June 2022 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. as an online event. The Proceedings of the 7th Undergraduate Research Symposium on Archaeology has been launched with 121 abstracts representing the areas of Heritage and Tourism, Industrial and Colonial Archaeology, Art History, Palaeography and Epigraphy, Environmental and Irrigation Archaeology, History, Literature and Miscellaneous, Pandemic Conditions and Traditional Knowledge, Anthropology and Ethno-Archaeology, Ancient Architecture and Built Environment.

The presence of the chief guest, the Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Keynote Speaker Senior Lecturer of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Mr. Chandima Ambanwala, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Prof. D. Thusitha Mendis and the Head of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Dr. Nuwan Abeywardana honored the function with their inspirational thoughts. The enormous support given by all the departments including academic staff, non-academic staff and the students made this event a grand success.

We believe that conducting such Undergraduate Research Symposium on Archaeology will be a great platform to enhance the research skills of the young researchers and the students' community on Sri Lankan Archaeology.

The 1st Undergraduate Research Symposium on Language and Culture

The 1st undergraduate research symposium on language and culture organized by the Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities was held online under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara on 10th February 2022. The theme was “Reach Excellence through Language and Cultural Learning. Emeritus Professor J. B. Dissanayake was the Keynote Speaker and Dr. Nilmini Dayananda was the Symposium Chair. The Coordinator of the symposium was Mr. Bhawantha Pramod Chandrarathna. The tracks of the symposium were language and culture, language and society, language and dialects, language and socio-cultural differences, language and Anthropology, language and Epigraphy, language and Linguistics, Literature and Aesthetics, Folk drama, Drama and Literature, Literature and Criticism, inter-cultural Communication and language and Translation. 55 abstracts out of 181 were selected to be presented at the symposium.



Hindi Scholarships by Government of India

Two undergraduates of BA Degree program; Ms. P.M. Nishani Darshika and Ms. Avya Sandali of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities received the prestigious Hindi scholarship given by Government of India for the first time. In June 2022, both the students have successfully completed their one year Hindi language proficiency course and then joined to continue their studies in the Faculty. This has provided them an opportunity to study at the Central Hindi Institute, Agra, India in a native environment to understand the nuances of culture and language. They were awarded the certificates with Grade A and B+ respectively. This scholarship was given by the Government of India to Department of Languages within one year after initiating Hindi language for the B.A Degree programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Opening of Japanese Language Laboratory

The Japanese language laboratory of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was declared open on 31st January 2022 by Mr Kawakami Takayuki the Councillor of embassy of Japan to Sri Lanka together with Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara; the Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in the presence of Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities; Prof D.T.Mendis, Head of the Department of Languages, Prof. Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero.

The Japanese language lab was established with the grant offered by the Embassy of Japan to Sri Lanka, under the grant assistance for cultural grassroots project of Japan and the total amount of grant received was of 70, 139 USD (Rs. 12,211,146.00) for the project.

The Language Laboratory facility will be used to create a future - ensured Arts graduates, promote Japanese language education under the concept of “Japanese for All”, facilitate all the language learners with modern technological tools to improve their language skills and abilities, attract more Japanese language learners from outside, develop more international opportunities and exposures to the entire University.



Research Grants for the Students of the Department of Languages

Sasana Ladies Section of Buddhist Maha Vihara, Brickfields, Malaysia has decided to donate funds for the research grants to the students who do the final research at the Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The research grants will be awarded to few selected talented students who are facing financial difficulties in completing their final research by way of project paper or thesis due to the current situation in the country by Ladies Section of Sasana Abiwurduhiwardhan Society at Buddhist Maha Vihara. RM3000 in Malaysian currency which is similar to Rs.200000.00 will be donated to the Department of Languages. The Department will launch a call for the applications to select the suitable students next month. The program will run in accordance with the instructions by Prof. Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero, the Head of the Department of Languages.



Book Launching Ceremony

Sustainability of Agriculture Settlement Schemes in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka: Issues, Challenges, and Path ahead – A Collection of Empirical Works, Sustainability of Agriculture Settlement Schemes in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka: Issues, Challenges, and Path ahead – A Collection of Empirical Works Book Launching Ceremony was held at Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on 22nd March 2022, which was organized by Dept. of Economics, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice-Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Prof. Aminda Methsila Perera, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, delivered a review speech on the edited book. Prof. D.T. Mendis, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, was present at the occasion. This book contains a collection of empirical works on various issues and challenges facing the agriculture settlement schemes in Dry zone of Sri Lanka. It also discusses the alternative solutions existed in the empirical ground with appropriate theoretical illustrations.



Lighting up the Future of the Undergraduates

Memorandum of Understanding between Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on behalf of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and VOICE Area Federation, Sri Lanka was signed on 27th of April, 2022 to establish a collaborative link between the two institutions to promote the areas of research, development, and training relevant to the subject fields of Sociology and Social Sciences as the main objective of this effort to offer an internship for six months for Bachelor of Arts Honors in Sociology Degree undergraduates and the Bachelor of Arts undergraduates of the Department of Social Science. MOU was signed with the participation of Honorable Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University.



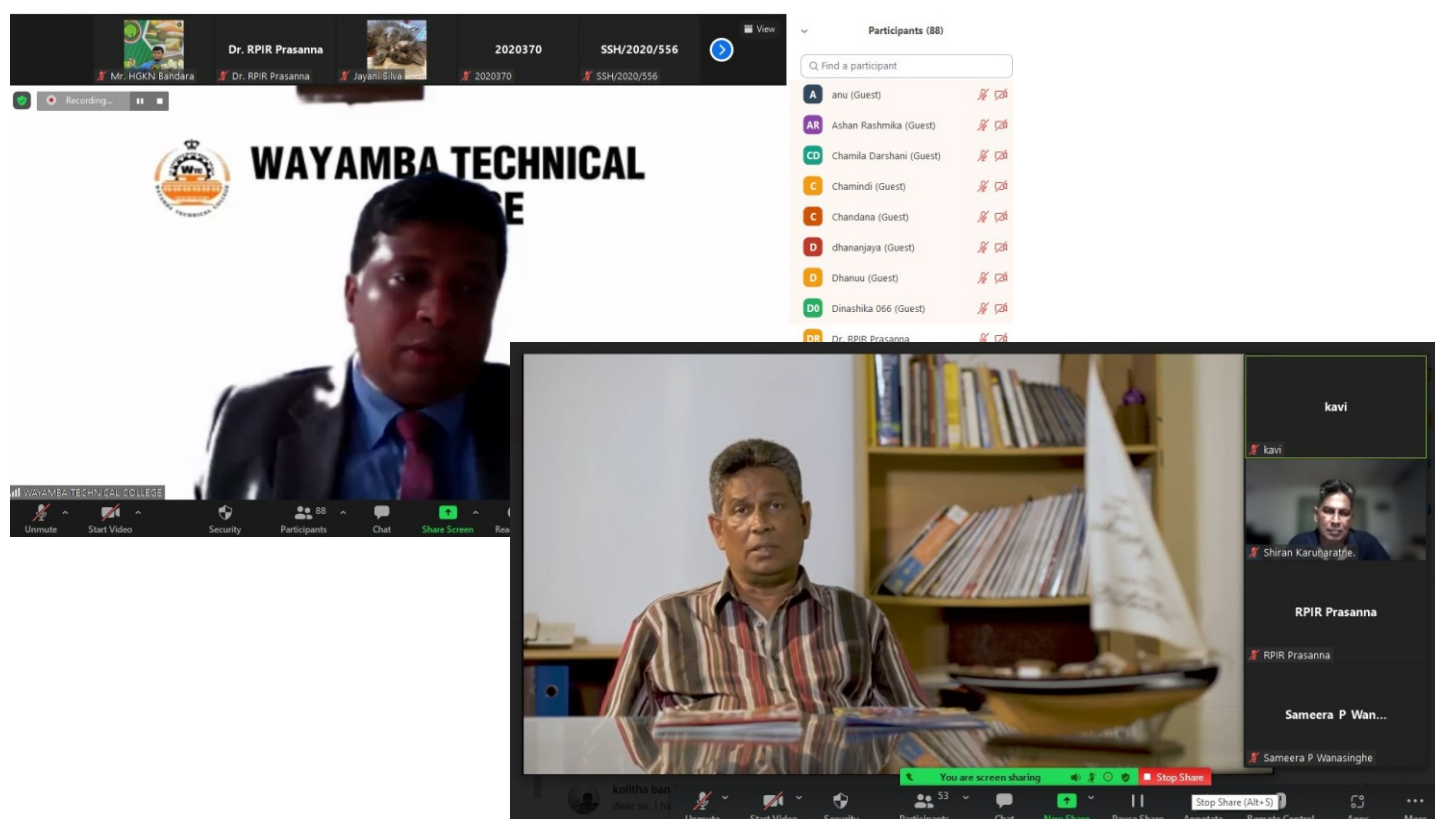
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. D. Thusitha Mendis, Head, Department of Social Sciences, Professor E.M.S. Ekanayaka, on behalf of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and on behalf of VOICE Area Federation Sri Lanka, Mr. Wasantha Pushpakumara, CEO and other officers were present at the occasion. In addition Department of Social Sciences has signed MOUs between Sri Lanka International Development Organization (SLIDO), Badulla, Adithya Hospital, Anuradhapura and Sigiriya Resort by Thilanka, Sirigiya.

Awards

Mrs. AMP Adikari, senior lecturer in Economics won the "Academic excellence Award in 2021" offered by Huazhong University of Science and Technology. Also, Prof. SKN Gamage was able to secure the 3rd place of the Vice Chancellor award in terms of researcher of the highest citations, researcher having the highest H-index, and researcher with the highest number of indexed journal articles

Establishment of Business Incubator Unit

The Department of Economics established the Business Incubator Unit at the Faculty with the objective of inspiring the interest among final year (both BA Honsors and B.A. Degree Programs) undergraduates of the Faculty to take their first steps as entrepreneurs or start-up new business ventures upon graduation. In the long-run, this incubator will lead to develop and cultivate an entrepreneurial culture where Rajarata University of Sri Lanka can produce Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the regional economy and at the national level. Also, the unit closely works with the University Business Linkage (UBL) cell as well. During last year of period, the unit organized a series of workshops for the undergraduates under different themes with the support of leading economists and businessmen in the country.



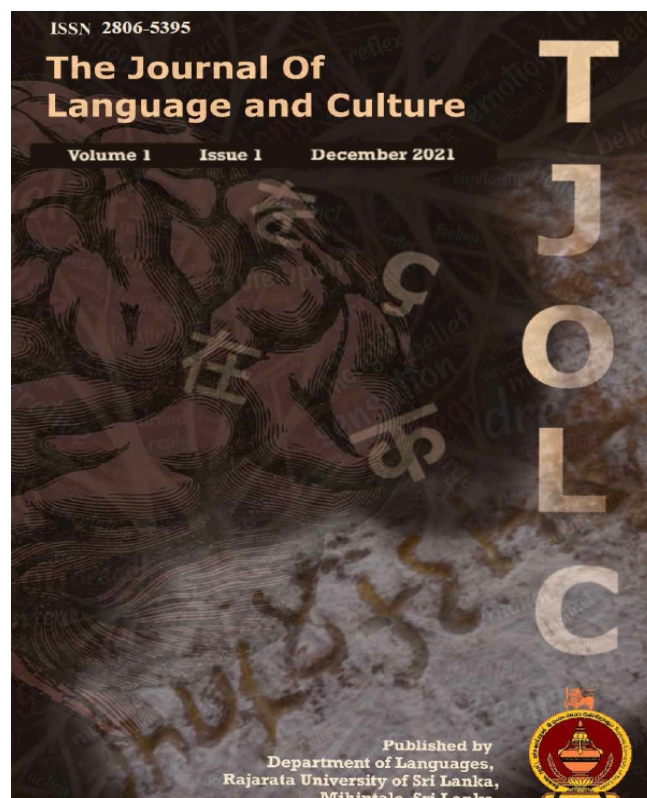
New IT Department in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The Department of Information Technology is the newest Department in the Faculty, which was established in May 2022 and gradually progressing and improving. Considering the fact that, imparting IT skills to complement the undergraduate study programs for students in Arts streams is important to improve the employability of Arts graduates, the department wishes to facilitate all the undergraduates in the faculty to obtain a Diploma in IT (DIT, UCSC). The students who obtain Diploma in IT will be able to serve in a wide range of occupations where their IT skills can be put into good use.

The main aim of the establishment of IT department in the faculty is to enhance the employability of the undergraduates studying at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Students will also be able to obtain a Diploma in IT in addition to their chosen specialization in Humanities/ Social Sciences. This additional qualification and gained IT skills will definitely make an improvement on the percentage of graduates who are employed, as well as their median salary. The establishment of IT department will also strengthen the IT infrastructure in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Department Journal of Language and Culture-TJOLC

The Department of Languages published the Volume I, issue I and II of the Department Journal of Language and Culture in December 2021 under the guidance of the editor-in-chief of the journal Prof. Wasantha K. Dissanayake. This journal is a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed, bi-annual journal of the Department. The aims and scopes of the journal are to publish academic researches on language and culture for the benefit of national development and international collaboration as well as to promote and support the conservation, development and revitalization of language and culture. The Vice chancellor of the University Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Dean of the Faculty of Social sciences and Humanities, the Head of the Languages supported immensely for the success of the journal. The panel reviewers, all authors, members of the administrative staff, the non-academic staff and all staff of the Department supported to make this journal a success.



Comprehensive Proposal for the Development of the Department of Languages

The Department has identified the timely needed potentials and prepared a detailed proposal to provide a service driven with the aims of opening up both national and international opportunities to the undergraduates and contributing to the economic growth of Sri Lanka. The objective of this proposal is to discuss at length, the strengths and opportunities already at the Department, the human and physical resources that are yet to be acquired, the sectors that require further progress, and the problems and challenges that are confronted on the road to success. Further, the expansion of both the Department of Languages and the extension of the services provided by it, rendering its support to the tourism industry by modifying the tourism based courses and thereby contributing to the economic growth of the country, building partnerships with the tourism industry and foreign universities, increasing the employability of students by improving the communication skills along with other skills of the students, enhancing the quality of the staff, enhancing the research capacity of the department, and placing the university at a higher rank as far as university ranking is concerned and also the activity plan which is divided into short term, middle term and long term to serve these purposes are extensively discussed in the proposal. The Department of Languages of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka aims to achieve these goals within a period of five years.

On-going Department Research on Feasibility Study on the Implementation of Hybrid Learning for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Due to the immense spread of the COVID-19 virus, many educational institutions adopted blended learning method to limit the disruption of the education. Nevertheless, switching from traditional classroom and face-to face instructor training to computer-based training in a virtual classroom that makes the learning experience entirely different for students is vital. . Therefore, to overcome the difficulties encounters by teachers and students during this online teaching method, the Department started to conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of hybrid learning for the faculty to facilitate the learning and the teaching process. The objective of this study is to synthesize the available evidence and suggestions in literature to understand emerging issues and challenges in implementing such frameworks and to offer a combination of recommendations or lessons learnt from the blended learning experience. The data collection process is being still continuing to find accurate data to support the data analysis and the discussion. The Head of the Department and all the academic members of the Department actively participate in the research to make this a success.

The Journal of Tropical Environment Volume 2 Issue I 2022

The Journal of Tropical Environment, the official journal of the Department of Environmental Management was launched on the 1st of June 2022 at the Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities premises. The Environmental Management discipline covers contemporary environmental issues and problems and their management strategies. In view of that, the discipline encompasses natural sciences, social sciences, management, and philosophy when these disciplines address issues related to environmental management in addition to articles addressing directly environmental management issues. Accordingly, the Journal of Tropical Environment considers research articles that come under the above scope with a focus on the tropical environment. A broad range of research papers is presented in volume 2 issue I of 2022. Articles resemble a collection of issues related to the management of the Tropical Environment and it is expected to incorporate the findings into sustainable development efforts of relevant state and private sector development agencies.



Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Environmental Management and Industrial Partner Organizations

“Lighting up the future of the Undergraduates”

The Department of Environmental Management of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka National Cleaner Production Centre, Janathakshan GTE Ltd, and Industrial Development Authority – North Central Province on 1st of July 2022.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the Department of Environmental Management and partner organizations desire to establish a collaborative link to promote the areas of research, development, and training relevant to the field of Environmental Management and related areas. The main objective of this effort is to offer a six months industrial training for the final year students who follow Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree in Environmental Management in the Department of Environmental Management. In addition to that, the industrial training programme aims to integrate the students' theoretical and conceptual knowledge with the world of work experience in Environmental Studies to improve their skills, positive attitudes, and mindset. The signing of MoUs with the industrial partners was coordinated by Dr. PSK.Rajapakshe, Head of the Department of Environmental Management.



Awards Received by Prof. R.M. Mahinda



1. NRC Merit Awards for Scientific Publication, in 2018.
2. RUSL Excellence Awards for Researchers having the highest H-index, Rajarata University Awards Ceremony, 2021.
3. RUSL Excellence Awards for Researchers having the highest Citations, Rajarata University Awards Ceremony, 2021.
4. Vice-Chancellors Awards for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University Awards Ceremony, 2021.
5. Vice-Chancellors Awards for Researchers (1st) with the highest citations of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University Awards Ceremony, 2021.
6. Vice-Chancellors Awards for Researchers (1st) having the highest H-index of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University Awards Ceremony, 2021.
7. Vice-Chancellors Awards for Award for researchers (1st) who have published the highest number of indexed journal articles of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University Awards Ceremony, 2021.

“Sanhitha” Magazine - Launched Online

Volume II of the “Sanhitha” Magazine of the Department of Humanities of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka of the Communication and Media studies was launched online on 6th of June 2022. The magazine was published as part of theoretical and practical work related to teaching and learning of Mass Communication. University lecturers, eminent artists, media professionals and undergraduates of universities in the field of Media and Mass Communication contributed to the above. The magazine consists of 64 pages. Chathurika Umeshi, Chintana Udara and Haritha Dabarera contributed as assistant editors while Shanika Thennakoon and Nikini Amarajith were the chief editors. Layout and the graphics were made by Rev. Ratnapura Rathana Thera.



New Appointments



Dr. Asha Wijegunawardana assumed her duties as a Senior Lecturer Gr. II in Animal Biotechnology attached to the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, with effect from 15th October 2021. She holds a four-year B.Sc. degree in Agriculture with Biotechnology specialization, from the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and has two postgraduate degrees; a Ph.D. from the University of Kelaniya and a MPhil Degree in Molecular Biology from the same university.



Dr. Neelaka Molagoda assumed his duties as a Lecturer (Prob.) in the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology with the effect from 12th November 2021. He holds a four-year B.Sc. degree in Agriculture Technology and Management, from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and he earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Life Sciences at Jeju National University, Jeju, Republic of South Korea.



Mrs. M. Harthika has been appointed as a Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Food Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with effect from 9th August 2021.



Mrs. V. T Anushan has been appointed as a Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Food Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with effect from 18th August 2021.

IET Introduction Session

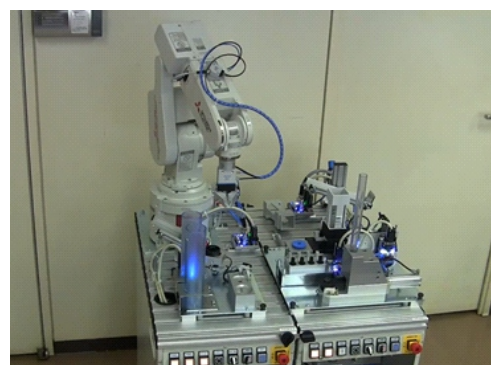
The Electrical and Electronic Technology Department together with the IET Sri Lankan network organized a zoom session for introducing the IET (The Institution of Engineering & Technology) on 2nd of June, 2022. The IET is a leading professional body for Engineering & Technology which is based in UK and spread around the world.

The speakers of the session were Eng. Thilini Wasundara, the former IET YP chairperson and secretary and appointed member of South Asian region of the young professionals committee of IET and Eng. Priyanga Ambanwala, the former IET YP chairman and IET young professional ambassador. Students mentioned that it was a beneficial online introductory session for them.

One Step Forward in Technology - "Robot Arm"

This industry scale trainer kit which is valued at sixteen million LKR was funded via Asian Development bank in 2021, and presently exposed for the scholars who specialize in automation technology under the Department of Electrical and Electronic Technology, Faculty of Technology.

The brand-new robotic arm is predicted to play a chief role in growing sensible exposure of RUSL students on robotics. We're among one in the universities which have this form of robot arm in Sri Lanka. Especially students' programming and controlling competencies are advanced through usage of this Robot Arm, namely on Automation Technology II course in the Faculty of Technology.



“A Need For Action - Community And Scientists Working Together Towards Controlling Infectious Diseases” Virtual Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Summit

Dr. Asha Wijegunawardana, from the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka delivered an invited speech at the Virtual Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Summit which took place on the 17th of May 2022 at 13:30 (BST) / 14:30 (CEST) time via zoom platform. The summit has been organized by the SelectScience networks to help ensure that effective and reliable communication between scientists and healthcare professionals continues even in the current economic crisis situation.

Dr. Asha Wijegunawardana delivered her speech based on the experience gathered from the WHO/TDR Crowd funding Challenge Grant 2019 research project under the topic of "A need for action - community and scientists working together towards controlling infectious diseases." As her presentation was such a hit with the summit audience, summit organizers added it to The Scientists' Channel, where her own profile, and her work have been shared with the global audience hereafter. <https://www.thescientistschannel.com/>



Gesture of Goodwill – Poson Dansala by EET

Apart from the glitter of the pandals and lanterns, another popular and highly venerated aspect of Poson is the act of giving, or daana, which take the form of the popular dansala or free food stall, during the Poson season especially at Mihintale.

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Technology, celebrated Poson by organizing a beverage dansala at the Faculty of Technology entrance for the first time in 2022. There were massive crowd and this event was successfully held with the collaboration of EET staff and students. A total of nearly Rs. 20,000 was spent to make the dansala a success, and despite the current financial difficulties faced by a lot of people, the EET Department somehow managed to put it together.



Million USD Competitive Research Grant of Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project Awarded by ADB

Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology has been awarded a research grant by the Asian Development Bank. Total worth of the project is Rs. 100 Million and time duration of the project is two years. The project is aiming to sustainable development of North Central Province through establishing a functional framework on selected underutilized wild fruit plants in Sri Lanka. This competitive research grant was funded by ADB to encourage collaborative research partnerships between the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, RUSL and the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, in order to strengthen research collaborations to formulate products, process and services in related commercial applications such as nutraceutical, pharmaceutical and cosmeceutical developments using the advanced bioprocess technology, nanotechnology, polymer technology and engineering technology. Principle investigator of this project is Dr. Prasad Jayasooriya from the Department of Bioprocess Technology and Dr. Kalpa Samarakoon is the coordinator from the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

Introducing Turnitin Plagiarism Software

The library system of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka introduced Turnitin Plagiarism Checking Software to the university community by considering its extreme role in the knowledge market and advantages to the academic community.

The subscribed Turnitin package includes 3038 accounts and 9000 annual document submission benchmark. At the initial stage library decided to create Instructor accounts for every permanent and temporary academic staff member, Administrative staff and Postgraduate Students of the University.

Library system is encouraging all the account holders to acquire the maximum benefit from this newly introduced service.



Orientation and User Awareness Session for the Undergraduate Students of the Faculty of Management Studies, RUSL

Orientation and User awareness sessions were conducted by the Library, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the 4th year students of Faculty of Management studies in the year 2022. The sessions covered the **library OPAC, searching e-resources, and library repository and newly introduced library services**. Mrs. A.S Siriwardana, Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Mrs.K.R.N.Harshani, former Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Applied Sciences served as the resource persons.

Newly Introduced Online Library Services

With the purpose of distributing knowledge and information to the university community, the library system of Rajarata University initiated new service delivery platforms during the Covid 19 pandemic. As students are away from university premises, the library introduced an online resource request and delivery service via emails so that students could maintain their reading habits even in the midst of the pandemic. Students can send resource requests to the librarian's email and scanned copies of the requested documents will be forwarded to the students by the library.

Since the Rajarata University library system is still implementing the remote access facility for past papers server, the library system provided the open-access facility for past papers via Moodle, the Learning Management System (LMS) of the university. Further, an online library registration service and online clearance service were introduced.

The Library system is continuing these services and all the patrons are invited to take maximum benefit from the newly introduced services.

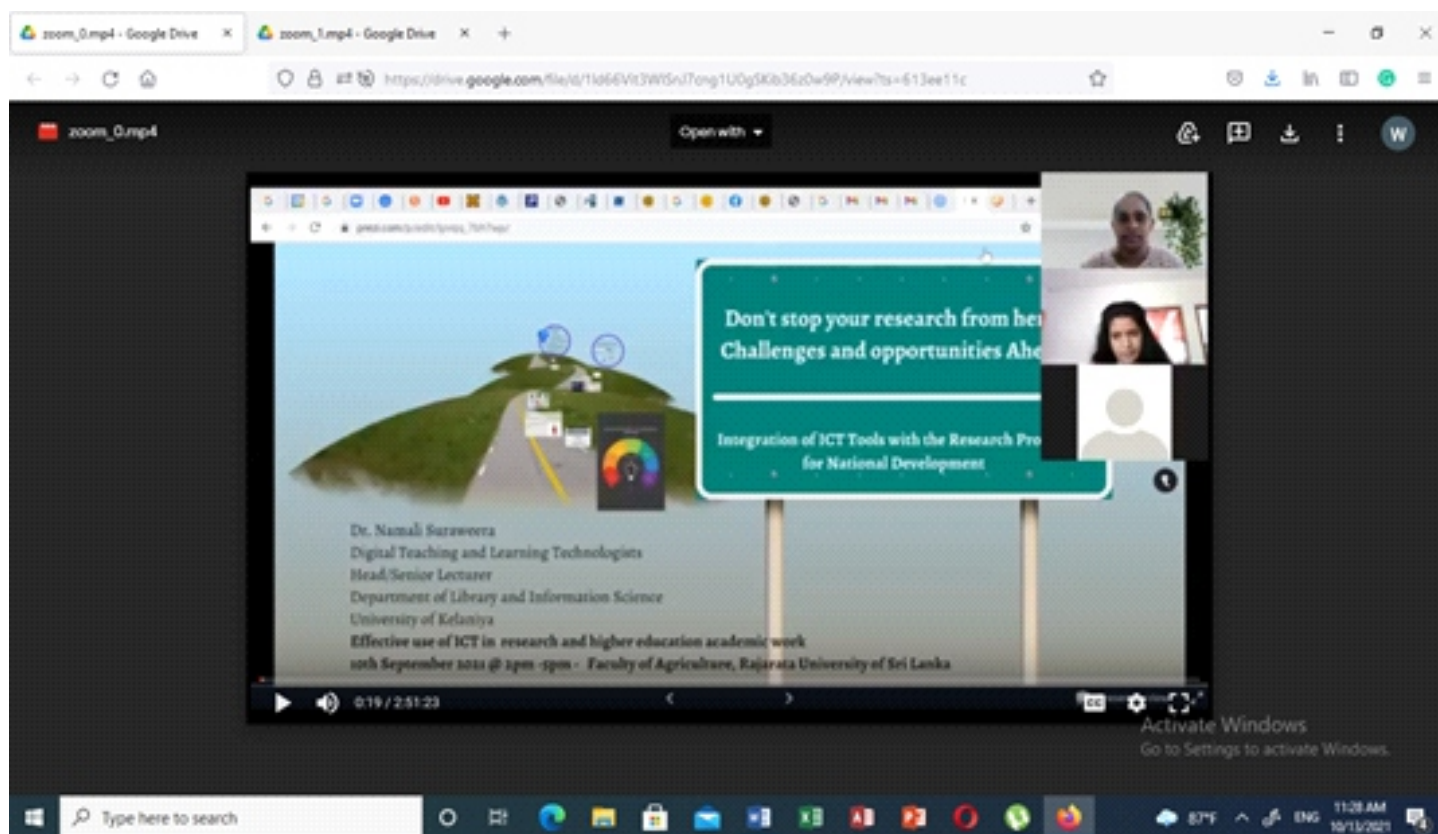
Workshop for the Undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

A workshop on “CREATING SELF-ATTRACTION FOR BETTER EMPLOYABILITY” was held on July 14, 2021, from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. using the Zoom platform for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Dr. Nishani Ekanayake (Senior Lecturer), and Dr. Mayuri Athapattu (Senior Lecturer) from the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo were the resource persons for the event. This workshop was organized by the Agriculture Library, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The image shows a workshop poster on the left and a Zoom video conference interface on the right. The poster has a light blue background and features the text "Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University, Sri Lanka" on the left. In the center, it says "CREATING SELF-ATTRACTION FOR BETTER EMPLOYABILITY" above an illustration of people climbing a ladder towards a rocket. Below the illustration, it lists two speakers: "Dr. Nishani Ekanayake, Department of Finance, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo" and "Dr. Mayuri Athapattu, Department of HRM, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo". The Zoom interface on the right shows a grid of participants, with three visible faces at the top and a placeholder icon below.

Webinar on “Effective use of ICT in Research and Higher Education Academic Work” for the Undergraduates Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

As per the AHEAD project, the Agriculture Library has successfully conducted a workshop for the final year students of the Agriculture Faculty, the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on the topic “Effective use of ICT in research and higher education academic work.” It was held on Friday, 10th September 2021 using the Zoom platform. The main objectives of the workshop were to introduce ICT tools that students can use in their research process and promote students to use different and freely available ICT tools in their research process. Dr. Namali Suraweera, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Faculty of the Social Sciences University of Kelaniya was the resource person of the workshop.

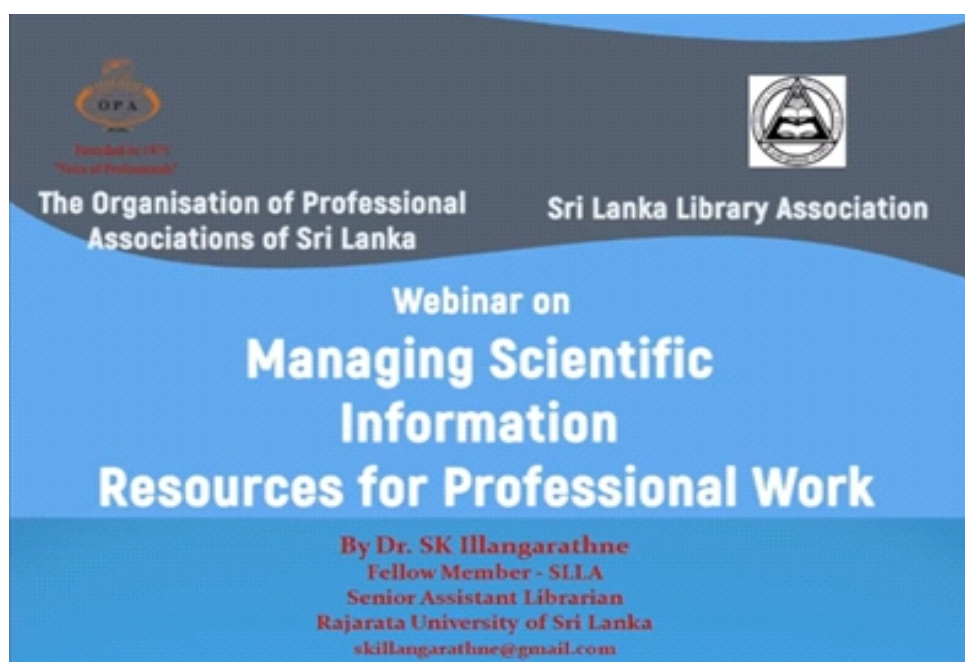


Webinar on Managing Scientific Information Resources for Professional Work

Webinar on Managing Scientific Information Resources for Professional Work jointly organized by the OPA and Sri Lanka Library Association was held on the 29th of March 2022 from 6 p.m. onwards via Zoom. The speaker for this webinar was Senior Assistant Librarian of the Technology Faculty Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Dr. S.K. Illangarathne.

Full Video Link:

<https://opasrilanka.org/webinar-on-managing-scientific-information-resources-for-professional-work-2/>



Program For the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) Completed for Year 2021

The Staff Development Center successfully completed academic staff induction program leading to the Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education in October 2021. Thirty participants received the certificate including three members from Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka and one from IDM International Campus.



Program To Workplace Productivity Enhancement For Staff Members

The Staff Development Center introduced a training program for all staff members on how to improve workplace productivity and career development. The program was designed to conduct sessions on career development, maintaining work life balance, workplace productivity and having right attitude, and improving interpersonal skills. 280 non-academic staff members and 28 executive officers have completed the training successfully by May 2022. This program is to be delivered to all academic staff by the end of 2022 and will be continued annually.



Training Program on University Financial and Administrative Procedures



The staff development center introduced an annual training program on university administrative and financial procedures for academic and university administrative officers. This program consists of 08 modules and with sessions conducted on 05 full days. Twenty four academic department heads and administrative officers participated for training in 2021.

RUSL Innovations

The University Business Linkage Cell (UBLC), Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, acts as the industry's gateway to innovations at RUSL. The Centre aims to collaborate with government and private sector to commercialize RUSL innovative research outcomes.

Following innovations are available as RUSL research outcomes and the UBLC is currently searching for suitable commercial partners to commercialize them.

Kindly forward your suggestions/partners details to ruslublc@gmail.com / biz.rusl@gmail.com or reach us through 025-2266269 / 071-2929987.

Thebu Biscuits

Technical Problem

Increasing issue with diabetes all over the world

Technical Solution

Develop healthy biscuits/snack enriched with thebu leaf powder using the ability to decreasing blood glucose levels in the human body by antioxidant property of thebu leaves.

Advantageous Effect

Biscuits comes under a baked food category. Most of diabetic peoples can't consume biscuits due to its high sugar content. But this new product has low sugar content (13%) compare to other biscuits (20%) and it has ability to decrease blood glucose levels in the human body due to antioxidant property of thebu leaves.



Background

Chronic diseases like diabetes is considered the major concern health issues in Sri Lanka. Intake of antioxidants have been related to the maintenance of health and protection from degenerative diseases like diabetes. Thebu (Costus speciosus) leaves contain considerable number of antioxidants. The study was conducted to develop thebu leaf powder (TLP) incorporated healthy biscuits using antioxidant property of Thebu (Costus speciosus) leaves.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Vegetarian sausage substitute

Technical Problem

Harmful chemicals added in sausages and less healthy effects

Technical Solution

Develop healthy Sausage using vegetables - Seaweed and Oyster mushroom

Advantageous Effect

Helps to preserve quality of sausage with high nutrients and unique taste. Since this is a vegetarian option it match for a healthy life styles oriented consumers too.



Background

Meat preservers and flavoring agents used in current meat are not healthy ingredients. And they do not carry any healthy benefits.

Currently many people try to reduce consumption of meat based on above reasons. Rather than avoiding meat it is possible to provide meat substitutions.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Whey protein incorporated cereal

Technical Problem

Underutilization of whey cheese in food products in Sri Lanka.

Technical Solution

Value addition and effective use of cheese whey to develop a nutritious cereal



Background

The cheese whey which is a healthy and nutritious liquid resulting as a byproduct of cheese manufacturing.

But it is not utilized in food products of Sri Lanka. Developing a cereal incorporating whey cheese was the idea here.

UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Passion fruit flavored whey beverage

Technical Problem

Underutilization of whey cheese in food products in Sri Lanka.

Technical Solution

Value addition and effective use of cheese whey to develop a nutritious beverage



Background

The cheese whey which is a healthy and nutritious liquid resulting as a byproduct of cheese manufacturing.

But it is not utilized in food products of Sri Lanka. Developing a beverage protecting passion fruit flavor incorporating whey cheese was the idea here.

UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Jackfruit incorporated frozen yoghurt

Technical Problem

Lack of value added food products of jackfruit in Sri Lankan market

Technical Solution

Develop healthy frozen yoghurt using Jack fruit and other natural ingredients
Value addition to jackfruit by developing an innovative, trendy dairy product



Background

Utilizing of jack fruit is limited in Sri Lanka and it is available in all over the country.

Using qualities of jackfruit and developing a frozen yoghurt emphasizing that flavour was the main idea here



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Citri Fib Yoghurt Drink

Technical Problem

Using chemically derived stabilizers in fermented dairy products

Technical Solution

Incorporation of naturally derived citrus fiber as a food additive, stabilizing agent in a yoghurt drink

Naturally derived citrus fiber :

Rich in Vitamins
Good Source of Fiber
Low in Calories
They May Reduce Your Risk of Kidney Stones
Fight Against Cancer
Good for the heart



Background

Natural fiber extracts are in increasing demand from both food manufacturers and consumers as they help to minimize the usage of synthetically manufactured food additives that are widely used at present.

For healthy beverage concerns, this is a great solution.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Cream Cheese enriched with curry leaves powder

Technical Problem

Using chemically derived flavoring agents and colorants in fermented dairy products

Technical Solution

Usage of sundried curry leaves powder as a food additive, flavoring agent in a fresh cream cheese base, addition of curry leaves powder significantly increase the antioxidants, also they helps to: Combat Heart Disease, Fight neurological and mood disorders, Boost your body's natural defenses, Combat the mental effects of aging, Improve Vision.



Background

Novel fermented dairy product is developed incorporating dried curry leaves powder (CLP) into a cream cheese base to increase the sensory qualities as well as microbiological qualities during its general shelf life (10 days). Addition of CLP significantly increased antioxidants in the product



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

An Effective Method of Zirconia Production from Zircon Sand Found in Sri Lanka

Technical Problem

Annually 5 500 tons of zircon raw sand is exported from Pulmoddai plant without doing any value addition because of the lack of knowledge and the high cost.

Technical Solution

Using the present method high purity zirconia can be synthesized from natural zircon raw sand at a low cost. There is a high demand for zirconia for the use of high technological applications and the excess amount can be exported.



Background

There is a valuable mineral sand deposit in Pulmoddai, north of the city of Trincomalee. The beach sand at Pulmoddai consists of minerals as 90% heavy minerals of which 65% ilmenite, 10% zircon and 10% rutile. After excavating the coastal belt of about four kilometers, the previous excavated places are naturally refilled with mineral sands. This deposit is replenished during the northeast monsoon and the influence of the ocean currents.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Portable, height adjustable and safe smoker for bees

Technical Problem

Less mechanical assistance for bee hunting and collecting

Technical Solution

Develop a portable, height adjustable and safe smoker for bees

Advantageous Effect

Low cost of production and efficiency



Background

For commercial bee hive hunting and collecting of honey needs more technical assistance with less risks,



Path finder

Technical Problem

Less of Career and personality test in a form of a web application

Technical Solution

Develop a web application including various career test to generate most efficient and effective results

Advantageous Effect

Since this is a web application, it is easy to include many candidates without arranging a meeting as well as analysis measures also new



Background

Using career guidance web application helps to reduce workload include with the analysis part as well as even without having a meeting with the candidate this can conduct.

UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

G - SMART

Technical Problem

Modifications of motor bikes and three-wheelers are very high and they does not come with autopilot system to control all functions

Technical Solution

Develop a device that can remotely control all the functions of any vehicle without internet connection

Advantageous Effect

Helps to control all the functions without internet connection or smart phone / device. As additional services it provide GPS trackers, Electronic Key and Remote Controlling



Background

Compared to other vehicles, three-wheelers and motor bikes get modified from time to time. It would be easier to have autopilot system for them too.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Temperature controlling and soldering mini iron device

Technical Problem

Turning on and off the element of other sealing irons makes it difficult to maintain a constant temperature during use.

Technical Solution

Mini iron control temperature without on and off element, subtly maintained at a constant temperature

Advantageous Effect

Parts of this sealing iron product can be easily found in Sri Lanka and are cost effective



Background

Isolation gown were in great demand during the Covid Pandemic. Various sealing irons were used to manufacture personal protection equipment's. Current devices used to solder polythene are high in cost, low efficiency, and lack of production parts in Sri Lanka. It was difficult for the workers who made the isolation gowns to use old sealing irons.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

Pull type single row maize seeder

Technical Problem

Less availability of machinery technology in small scale farming industry of Sri Lanka

Technical Solution

Develop a mechanical seeder with components such as seed hopper, seed metering mechanism, seed tube, furrow opener, furrow closer, ground wheels, power transmission system, frame, and handle

Advantageous Effect

Low cost of production



Background

This machine was designed and fabricated to promote maize cultivation at the level of small-scale farming by introducing an efficient, affordable, and convenient mechanical seeder.



UBL RUSL - Page 01 of 01

University Business Linkage Cell signs MoU's with Industry Partners for Research, Development and Commercialization - *Signing an MoU with Gunawardhana Ayurveda Holdings*

Department of Bioprocess Technology from Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Gunawardhana Ayurveda Holdings and Adhitya Ayurveda signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through University Business Linkage Cell - Rajarata University of Sri Lanka at the Gunawardhana Ayurveda Holdings (Pvt) Ltd premises with the objective of developing close relationship of goodwill and fellowship with the aim of mutual development of the capacities of both the organization towards developing commercializable research outcomes.

This understanding focus mainly on sharing the knowledge between both the parties in crafting a better future along with the view of strong industry research collaboration which would also facilitate in sharing expertise, laboratory facilities and exposure.

The MoU was ratified by Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor – RUSL, Dr. Manoj Samarathunga Director, University Business Linkage Cell, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Dr. T.C Bamunuarachchige, Head of the Department of Bioprocess Technology Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Dr.(Mrs.) N. D. A. D. Wijegunawardana Bioprocess Technology Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, and Dr. Sarath Somasiri Gunawardhana, Chairman, Gunawardhana Ayurveda Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, Dr. Sandun Sri Gunawardhana, CEO / Director of Gunawardhana Ayurveda Holdings (Pvt) Ltd and Dr. Kasun Sri Gunawardhana Director / Doctor in Charge of Gunawardhana Ayurveda Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.



Formation of RUSL Business Club

The University Business Linkage Cell, along with the Faculty Incubator Cells, formed “RUSL Business Club” to promote an entrepreneurial culture among the undergraduates. Further, it is intended to motivate the students to start new businesses and to further develop existing businesses, if they have any. The UBL Cell also aims at increasing students' practical knowledge on different business-related functions including, but not limited to, business/company registration, accountancy & finance, human resource management, taxation, marketing, strategic management, e-commerce etc.

Career Guidance Activities

Career guidance Unit (CGU) of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has successfully conducted many programs for the undergraduates of the University with the hope of improving employability skills and inspiring youths to pursue their dream career. Due to the COVID -19 situation in the country, most of the programs were conducted via virtual platform. Industry expert webinar series, establishment of Gavel, Rotaract, AISEC and Foss clubs are some of the activities which were conducted successfully by the CGU. Among the physically conducted activities, the program “Kani Madala” which was conducted for the non-academic staff of the University for the development of their career was one of the highlighted activities of the year.



“Kanimadala” Programs

Amidst the COVID-19, CGU successfully conducted “Hostel Programs” to gear the students towards studying, relaxing and for the adopting back again for University life (Figure 2). A fruitful discussion on higher education and funding on Germany conducted by DAAD also facilitated by the CGU (Figure 3).



Higher Education and Research Funding by Germany



Hostel Programs

International Day of University Sports – 2021

International Day of University Sport, was officially proclaimed by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization since 2016. Second time in Sri Lanka the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association organized an event to celebrate the International day of University Sports on 19th & 20th of September 2021 virtually.

The event was conducted under the patronage of Senior Prof. Chandana Udawaththa (Vice Chairman-University Grants Commission) Keynote Speech was conducted by Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawarathna. There were 70 members (men & women) participated in the programme representing Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The Introduction Programme about the Physical Education and Sports of the University was conducted to the first year students of the Faculty of Management Studies, Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Agriculture by the online platform.

Mr. M.V.S. Subashana (Faculty of Management Studies) and Ms. E.W.M.M. Witharanage (Faculty of Technology) participated representing the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to the Sports Academy online programme conducted by National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.

01st Virtual Inter University Chess Championship 2021

01st Virtual Inter University Chess Championship 2021 was organized by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA) in collaboration with The University of Moratuwa and Chess Federation of Sri Lanka, on 6th and 7th November 2021. The event was held with the participation of 28 teams (Boys 14 and Girls 14) from 14 Sri Lankan Universities. Our Chess teams could not obtain places, but they have shown tremendous performances.

Inter University Online Karate & Chess Championships 2021

01st Virtual Inter University Karate Championship 2021 organized by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association was held from 18th to 26th of November. Representing Rajarata University of Sri Lanka 07 men and 04 women players participated in the championship.

At the Karate Women Championship, “Senior Years Female Kata Level 4” Gold Medal was won by Ms. N.P. Jayalath (Faculty of Management Studies) of the Rajatara University. Our Karate Women team was able to secure the 3rd Runner Up position of the tournament.



S.U. Wijesinghe, Director of Physical Education was appointed as a Vice President of Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association for the year 2022.

Anuradhapura District Division iii Cricket Tournament - 2022

Anuradhapura District Division iii Cricket Tournament was held in June 2022 organized by Anuradhapura District Cricket Association. But it was not possible to hold all the matches of the tournament due to the current situation in the country, and to finish the tournament. Because of that our students participated in the 1st round cricket matches and they won all the matches they played and were selected to play semifinal match of the tournament.

