



# NEWSLETTER

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*The Most Venerable Professor Bellanwila Wimalaratana*

1942 - 2018

*Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*

2000 - 2018



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**The newsletter of the****University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

Savidu is brought out as a tri-annual newsletter carrying the vibrant academic, cultural and communal life of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

## Our Chancellor Thero

by  
Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura



### *"Reverend Prof. Bellanvila Wimalarathana Thero has passed away"*

This is the most unfortunate and the most tragic news I have heard in the year of 2018. The relationship between Reverend Professor Bellanvila Wimalarathana Thero and this university is not unlike the relationship between that of a tree to its bark or flower to its scent. I grieve the fact that while I pen his service and his values, he is no more. We as a nation unexpectedly lost this great priest on the 03<sup>rd</sup> of February 2018. There are many that grieve this great loss; I am one of them that feels it the most.

Reverend Professor Bellanvila Wimalarathana Thero was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1942 to Omaththage Paul Perera and Pallage Don Buthsilina De Silva at Bandaragama. He was named as Omaththage Gilbert Perera and was the fourth child of this family. He acquired his primary and secondary education from 'Nikape Madya Maha Vidyalaya' and 'Piliyandala Madya Maha Vidyalaya'. In February 1956 he left the life of a layperson to take robes. This was the very beginning of his chapter in becoming an extremely influential and powerful Sanga in the Sri Lankan 'Sanga Samajaya' and society as a whole.

He was fortunate enough to continue his education as many of the esteemed Sanga of his time did at the 'Molligoda Pravachanodaya and Rathmalana Parama Dhammachethiya Pirivena'. In 1965 he was able to receive his General degree and in 1972 he was able to gain his Special Degree from the

then most famous institute for Pali and Buddhist education, Vidyodaya University which is of course known as the University of Sri Jayewardenepura today. At thirty when he received these qualifications, he would not have thought he would be the Chancellor of this great institution in his future.

He was not content with just gaining a first degree. He entered Lancaster University in England and received his Master's degree in 1980. In the next few years that followed he was able to gain his PhD from both the Pali and Buddhist University and the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

Rev. Wimalarathana Thero begins his life as a teacher from the Rathmalana Parama Dhammachethiya Pirivena. He is soon made the 'Parivenadhipathi' of this famed institute, and later becomes a lecturer at the 'Bikkshu Abyasa Vidyalaya' in Rathmalana in 1976. In 1980 he becomes a visiting lecturer to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. His journey from thence on in the University is quite popular. He continues to become a Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor by 2003. He did not limit his skills of lecturing to just local Universities; he contributed as a Visiting lecturer at the University of London, England showing the world that an academic with great character can provide his services to not just the local arena but the world.

Rev. Wimalarathana Thero decided to retire from his position as a Professor in the university two years prior completing his full service time with the intention of looking into the



religious-social and academic activities that he was conducting outside the university. However, Rev. Wimalarathana Thero was given the position of the Chancellor of the University implying that the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was unable to part with this noble thero.

From then onward Rev. Wimalarathana Thero provided the utmost of his time and services for various duties as the Chancellor of the University as well as religious and academic activities. He was present at every Graduation Ceremony where his presence is quintessential irrespective of his health conditions. Thus the amount of students who received their Bachelors or Postgraduate degrees is infinite. According to my best knowledge he is the only Chancellor in the local University system that had the most service time. During his time of service as a Chancellor five Vice Chancellors were fortunate enough to work with him.

Being the fifth of these Vice Chancellor, I never expected that I would have to pen this note upon this tragic event.

I entered this University in 1983. As a student of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura I first met Rev. Wimalarathana Thero as a Senior Lecturer of the Department of Pali and Buddhist. I sadly but respectfully remember the encounters I had with him; recognizing him as a thero who behaved according to his wisdom not pride and associated with a peaceful heart devoid of evil.

Furthermore, I was able to join the staff of the University as a lecturer during the time Rev. Wimalarathana Thero too was serving in the academic staff. Subsequently I was appointed as the Vice Chancellor during the time he was continuing as the Chancellor of our University and was able to work in unison for a common goal during that historic time which has come to

an unfortunate end. As mentioned in Buddhist doctrine loss and gain are woven hand in hand in our life. Making this fact evident Rev. Wimalarathana Thero bid us adieu leaving us to suffer in our loss. This loss is not my own but is a loss for this University, the University system, the country and the world. It is the loss of a great mind and a great person, a loss of supreme wisdom among those with wisdom, a loss of a person who will stand up for what he believes; simply it is a colossal loss.



I have always been a great enthusiast of history; it is what shapes our future. I grew up admiring great figures like the most venerable Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala thero and the Venerable Welliwitiye Sri Soratha Thero. While these figures were before my time, there was someone who I closely associated, through whom I envisioned those great figures. This was none other than the most venerable Belanvilla Wimalarathana thero.

Throughout the past 34 years we have shared a deep bond and a great relationship, first through a student-lecturer relationship, even though he has not been one of my subject lecturers he taught me a great deal. Later we maintained our bond through a professor-lecturer relationship, then through a Dean-Professor relationship and finally through the Vice-Chancellor-Chancellor relationship. We have spent long hours together in discourse of Ven. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero and Ven. Welliwitiye Sri Soratha thero, we have discussed history, the past and how to shape the future. Without a doubt our relationship was a comfortable one.

He was always at ease at my office, the respect he earned from me, my staff and our students were immense. You could always see one of his rare smiles playing on his face when he was at my office. I would like to share a short story about one beloved memory I have of him.

During the time the statue of Ven. Wellivitiye Sri Soratha there was being built, Ven. Bellanwila Thero and myself was at the site of the construction. He was keen on the statue looking accurate reflecting Soratha Thero's age and through it, his wisdom. He sat at the construction site providing instructions for the building of the statue. It was a photogenic moment, and therefore I was able to retain a picture of that moment with me. I included it in the anniversary edition of Ven. Wellivitiye Sri Soratha Thero.

At an event when Rev. Bellanwila visited me, I chanced to show this picture in the souvenir, and at that moment, he gratified me with one of his rare smiles.

I cherish these moments that none of us will ever be able to relive, these moments that were some of the greatest highlights of my life. I honour his memory and yearn for days where we could once more engage in a comfortable discourse of the days of yore and the times before.

He was also one of those rare individuals who can be considered dignified above many known figures. He adhered to rules, regulations, protocol and more importantly necessary conventions of our culture. He was always present at University functions given that he is informed of it through the Vice Chancellor. He was strategic in his approach and dignified in his manner which complemented many developments that he advocated.

The knowledge he processed was not limited to a few things. He possessed the knowledge of Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit,

English and both Western and Eastern Languages. He was one of the few specialists in Buddhist sculpture in the country. His wisdom and knowledge is evident through the wealth of research conducted and published in both Sinhala and English.

He provided great service to not just Sri Lanka but the world by taking up the 'anunayaka' role at the Kalyani Samagri Dharma Maha Sanga Saba, Kotte and as the Registrar of the World Buddhist Sanga Society. This is only in terms of the religious. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that the amount of societies and associations he provided his services for was limitless thus making him an individual that is not in debt to the parents who gave him life or the country who gave him roots.

Rev. Bellanwila Wimalarathana Thero possesses many admirable character traits. This short note of mine is insufficient to explain them all, thus we I will provide details of a few qualities that we have keenly felt. "Ujupatipanna" a term which means direct in nature as mentioned as a quality of the Sanga in the Buddhist doctrine; Rev. Wimalarathana Thero, I believe was the epitome of this quality in this present era. As mentioned earlier he would stand by what he believed was correct in national and religious matters, he would express it openly maintaining transparency. He provided his services to this nation without being a representative of political parties.

He had a firm understanding of who a true Buddhist Bikku was and thus he believed in living in unity. His representation as an advocate of protecting peace among diversified groups and national peace is evident from his research papers done on the following topics: "Budu dahama saha Samaja Sevaya" (Buddhism and Community Service), "Sri Lankawe Bududhama saha Janawargika Arbudaya, Bahutharaye ha Sulutharawala anyathawa" Buddhism in Sri Lanka and (Ethnic Conflict, the identity of the majority and minority),



"Aagamika Vividathwaya Watahaganima saha Jathika Samagiye Watinakama" (Understanding the difference of diverse religions and the importance of National Peace). Without limiting his ideas and opinions to research papers, he put them into practice by maintaining a close relationship with those of different religions with understanding devoid of conflict.

He was aware that if the great tree of Buddhism was felled, the shade of Buddhism will be lost not just for the Buddhists but to Non-Buddhists as well. Furthermore he was of the understanding that the protection of the era of Buddhism inadvertently meant the protection of other Dhamma as well. The individuals of different religions and nationalities who associated Rev. Wimalarathana Thero viewed him as the embodiment of the true Buddhist. I have no doubt that the uncountable people who visited to pay respects to Rev. Wimalarathana Thero irrespective of religion, nationality or party was because he lived his life showing the value of unity and impartiality. The respect these countless individuals pay is a symbol of his limitless values and qualities. This reminds me of the concept brought forth by the great artist Rathnasri Wijesinghe. Changing one slight phrase I wish to offer a flower of tribute to Rev. Wimalarathana Thero.

"එක මලෙක නම් නොවේ මැ යි  
මල් යායක සිරස නැමේ  
පිතු සෙනෙහසෙන් ලොව කියා දුන්නු  
යති පාද පියුම් සුවඳ යි"

Having understood the inheritance of the Bikku, he was a father to the Samaneras who grew at the foot of his shade, through his academic publications he was a teacher to many who have seen him as well as those who have not. As a talented translator of the

Thripitaka, he was a specialist of Pali Knowledge; he was a great leader who sent many on the correct path while uplifting the Sasana, He was a 'Kalyana mithraya' (a good friend) who sought the development of those around him. He was a 'Sanga Pithroo' to his followers (Dayakas), He was a great chanter of Dhamma to his listeners, and he spread the knowledge of Dhamma both locally and internationally. He was a great writer who improved society through newspaper articles and magazine articles. As rain provides nourishment to the crop, he had a keen knowledge acquired for the nourishment of the 'sasana'. As meant by the Pali term 'Kin Sathyagaveshi' he was on the mission for truth. Beyond all of that he was the very definition of a disciplined son of the Buddhist Doctrine; he was a "Sanga Raja" in every sense of its word.

This is the great individual that not only the country but the world lost. There are some losses that can be fulfilled, yet there are others that will remain vacant. The loss of Rev. Wimalarathana Thero is a gap that will never be filled.

That great tree endowed with fruit and flower is lost to us. We will never again be able to enjoy its pleasant shade. No student will be able to converse with him, and share in the shade of his knowledge. Yet the results of his great services can be reaped by those of the future generations. His name, his qualities, his life, will never be forgotten so long as the University of Sri Jayawardenepura exists. We will never be able to enjoy his physical presence be it at The Bellanvila Raja Maha Viharaya, be it Aththidiya Maligawatta Purana viharaya or any other temple, but the memory of his great personality will live forever.

I wish the recently deceased Rev. Wimalarathana Thero will attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana!



# මහාචාර්ය බෙල්ලන්විල විමලරතන කුලපති ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේගේ ආදාහන පුජෝත්සවය

සටහන  
ආචාර්ය පින්තවල සංඝසූමන ගිමි

විදුදය සරසවි ඉතිහාසයේ පස්වන වන කුලපති ධුරය හොබවමින් එහි ශාස්ත්‍රෝත්තනික උදෙසා අමිල මෙහෙයක් සිදු කළ මහාචාර්ය බෙල්ලන්විල විමලරතන අනුනායක ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේගේ හදිසි අපවත්වීම පිළිබඳ පුවතක් සියල්ලෝම කම්පාවට පත්වූහ. බෙල්ලන්විල නායක භාමුදුරුවන්ගේ අඩුව යළි කිසි දිනෙක පිරිමසාලිය නොහැකි තරමට උන්වහන්සේ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ පමණක් නොව සමස්ත ජාතියේ ම අද්විතීය සංසපිතාවරයාණ කෙනෙක් වී සිටියහ. උපුපවසන්ත ගුණයෙන් උපලක්ෂිත උන්වහන්සේගේ පෞරුෂය තුළින් ගොඩනැගී තිබුණු අහිත නායකත්වය නිසාවෙන් සමස්ත ජාතියම ලැබූ අස්වැසිල්ල විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ කීර්තිනාමය තව තවත් ඉහළට ඔසවා තබන්නට හේතු විය.



ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට ජීවය ලබාදුන් කුලපති නාගිමිපාණන් වහන්සේගේ ආදාහන කටයුතු අති සම්භාවනීය ලෙස සිදුකළ යුතු බව සියලුම අධ්‍යයන, අනාධ්‍යයන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය හා සිසු ප්‍රජාව ඇතුළු සෑමගේ අදහස විය. උන්වහන්සේ අපවත් වූ දින එනම් 2018 පෙබරවාරි 03 දින බෙල්ලන්විල රජමහා විහාරස්ථානයේ පැවැති ප්‍රථම ආදාහන පුජෝත්සව කමිටුව සඳහා විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය නියෝජනය කරමින් උපකුලපති මහාචාර්ය සම්පත් අමරතුංග, මහාචාර්ය මැදගොඩ අභයනිසේස ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේ ඇතුළු අධ්‍යයන හා අනාධ්‍යයන කාර්යමණ්ඩලයේ පිරිසක් සහභාගි වූහ. එහිදී විශ්වවිද්‍යාල නියෝජකයින්

විසින් ආදාහන කමිටුවෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියේ පුරා වසර හතලිහකට ආසන්න කාලයක් විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ආචාර්යවරයෙකු මෙන් ම කුලපති ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේ ලෙස සේවය කළ මහාචාර්ය බෙල්ලන්විල විමලරතන නායක ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේගේ ආදාහන කටයුතු විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පරිශ්‍රයෙහි සිදු කිරීමට අවකාශ ලබා දෙන ලෙසත් එකී උත්සවයේ සියලු කටයුතු සංවිධානය කිරීමේ වගකීම විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය මගින් භාරගත නො බවත් ය. දීර්ඝ සාකච්ඡාවකින් පසුව පැමිණි එකඟතාවය මත 2018 පෙබරවාරි 08 වන දින ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පරිශ්‍රයේ දී ආදාහන ප්‍රජාව පැවැත්වීමට තීරණය කෙරිණි.

විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය වෙනුවෙන් ආදාහන පුජෝත්සවයේ කටයුතු සංවිධානය කිරීම පිණිස උපකුලපතිතුමාගේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් 2018 පෙබරවාරි 04 දින පැවැත්වූ සුනේත්‍රාදේවී පිරිවෙන් රාජමහා විහාරස්ථානයේ රැස්වූ ආදාහන පුජෝත්සව කමිටුව කුලපති නායක ගිමිපාණන් වහන්සේ වෙනුවෙන් කළ හැකි උපරිම උපහාරය දක්වමින් ආදාහන පුජෝත්සවය පැවැත්වීමට තීරණය කරන ලදී. උන්වහන්සේ වෙනුවෙන් විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ විද්වත් පිරිස් දක්වන ලද අදහස් ඇතුළත් වර්තාපදානයක් "අපේ කුලපති නා ගිමි" නමින් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කිරීමටත්, ආදාහන පුජෝත්සවය පවත්වන දිනය වන විට උපහාර කොරණ් 4 ක් ඉදිකිරීමටත්, මග දෙපස කහ කොඩි සැරසිලි සිදු කිරීමටත්, උන්වහන්සේ

වෙනුවෙන් උපහාර බැරෂ් ප්‍රදර්ශනය කිරීමටත්, විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයීය ප්‍රධාන ක්‍රීඩාපිටිය ආදාහන මළුව වෙනුවෙන් සැරසිලිවලින් අලංකාර කර සුදානම් කිරීමටත් කටයුතු සංවිධානය කෙරිණි.

ආදාහන පුජෝත්සව දිනයෙහි බෙල්ලන්විල රාජමහා විහාරාධිපති සිංගප්පුරුවේ ප්‍රධාන සංඝනායක ආචාර්ය බෙල්ලන්විල ධම්මරතන නායක ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේ ඇතුළු ශිෂ්‍ය නිකුණන් වහන්සේලාගේත්, ශතාධික මහාසංඝරත්නයේත් පසුගමන් සහිතව රත්සිව්ගෙය සහිත ආදාහන පෙරහැර ප.ව. 1.00 ට පමණ ගමන් ආරම්භ කළ අතර ප.ව. 3.00 පමණ වන විට විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රවේශ දොරටුව දක්වා අතිවිශාල ජනකායකගේ





උපහාර මධ්‍යයෙහි ගමන් කෙරිණි. එතැන් සිට උපකුලපති තුමන් ප්‍රධාන විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයීය අධ්‍යයන කාර්යමණ්ඩලයේ ගෞරවනීය ස්වමීන් වහන්සේලා ද, උපාධි ලෝගුවලින් සැරසුණු පීඨාධිපතිවරුන්, අධ්‍යයනාංශ ප්‍රධානීන්, මහාචාර්යවරුන් ඇතුළු අධ්‍යයන කාර්යමණ්ඩලය ද, වැඩ බලන ලේඛකාධිකාරී තුමන් ප්‍රධාන අනධ්‍යයන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ සාමාජික සාමාජිකාවන් ද සියලුම පීඨවල ශිෂ්‍ය ශිෂ්‍යාවන්ගේ ද පාද පරිවාරිකා උපහාර සහිතව අලංකාර මාර්ගය ඔස්සේ ආදාහන

මඵව දක්වා ආදාහන පෙරහැර ගමන් කෙරිණි. සාම්ප්‍රදායානුකූලව කුලපති ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේගේ විජිතිප තැන්පත්කොට උපකුලපති තුමන් ඇතුළු සියලු දෙනා විසින් දේහයට අවසන් ගෞරව දැක්වීමෙන් අනතුරුව ගුවනේ සිට හෙළන ලද පූෂ්පෝපහාරයෙන් උන්වහන්සේගේ ශ්‍රී දේහයට උපහාර පිදිණි.

මෙම ආදාහන පුජෝත්සවය සඳහා සකසන ලද සියලු මණ්ඩප පිරි ඉතිරි යන තරම් වූ අපේක්ෂිත ප්‍රමාණයට වඩා දෙගුණයක් පමණ එනම් තුන්දහසකට අධික මහා සංඝයා

වහන්සේලා වැඩම කර සිටියහ. ඒ අතර භෞතිකාධික මහානායක, අනුනායක සහ ලේඛකාධිකාරී ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේලා ද, විශ්වවිද්‍යාල නියෝජනය කරමින් මහාචාර්ය, ආචාර්ය ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේලා ද, විදෙස් රටවල් නියෝජනය කළ මහා ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේලාද, අගරදගුරු තුමන් ප්‍රධාන අන්‍ය පූජක ප්‍රසාදීන් වහන්සේලා ද ආදාහන උළෙලට සහභාගි වී සිටීම කැපී පෙනුණි. රටේ සියලු විශ්වවිද්‍යාල නියෝජනය කරමින් උපකුලපතිවරු, පීඨාධිපතිවරු ආචාර්ය මහාචාර්යවරුන්ට අමතරව

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අතිගරු ජනාධිපති මෛත්‍රීපාල සිරිසේන, අග්‍රමාතෘ රනිල් වික්‍රමසිංහ, හිටපු ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ, කතානායක කරු ජයසූරිය, උත්සවයේ ප්‍රධාන සංවිධායකවරයෙකු වූ විද්‍යා තාක්ෂණ හා පර්යේෂණ අමාත්‍ය ගරු සුසිල් ප්‍රේමජයන්ත් ඇතුළු මැති ඇමතිවරු ද විදේශ දූත මණ්ඩල ප්‍රධානීන් ඇතුළු රාජ්‍ය නිලධාරීන් විශාල පිරිසක්ද සහභාගි වී සිටියහ. මෙතරම් සම්භාවනීය පිරිසක් ආදාහන උත්සවයකට සහභාගි වී සිටීම ඉතිහාසයේ කවරදාකවත් නොවූ විරූ කරමේ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට මහත් අභිමානයක් ගෙනදුන් සිදුවීමකි.

බෙල්ලන්විල රාජමහා විහාරාධිපති නායක ස්වාමීන් වහන්සේගේ සහ එහි දායක සභාවේ උපදෙස් මත ඉතා විධිමත්වූත් ගාම්භීරවූත් සංකීර්ණ වැඩසටහනක් තුළ ආදාහන උත්සවයේ කටයුතු ආරම්භ කෙරිණි. බෙල්ලන්විල රජමහා විහාරාධිපති, බෙල්ලන්විල ධම්මරතන නායක ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේ පිළිගැනීමේ අනුශාසනාව පැවැත්වීමෙන් අනතුරුව සියම් මහා නිකායේ කෝට්ටේ පාර්ශ්වයේ අතිගරු මහානායක ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේගේ මූලිකත්වයෙන් ආගමික වතාවත් සිදු කරන ලද අතර තත් නිකායේ අනුනායක මහාචාර්ය කොට්ටිට්ටේ රාහුල ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේ විසින් පරම්පරා කතාව





සිදුකරන ලදී. අනතුරුව පවත්වන ලද අනුශාසනා අවසානයේ මැල්කම් රංජිත් අගරදගුරු හිමිපාණන් විසින් කතෝලික සභාව ඇතුලු අනා ආගමික ප්‍රජාව වෙනුවෙන් හරවත් දෙසුමක් පවත්වන ලදී. අනතුරුව හිටපු ජනාධිපති අතිගරු මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ හා වත්මන් ජනාධිපති ගරු මෛත්‍රීපාල සිරිසේන ජනපතිවරුන් විසින් බෙල්ලන්විල නා හිමිපාණන් වහන්සේ පිළිබඳ ගුණකරන පවත්වන ලදී. බෙල්ලන්විල රාජමහා විහාරස්ථල ශ්‍රී බෝධිරාජ දහම්පාසැලේ ප්‍රධානාචාර්ය ශාස්ත්‍රපති බොරැස්ග මුළේ ජේමරතන හිමියන් විසින් පවත්වන ලද ස්තූති කතාවෙන්

අනතුරුව ශ්‍රී දේහය උදෙසා අවසන් ගෞරව දැක්වීම සහ වාරිත්‍රානුකූල වතාවත් සිදු කොට විතකයට ගිනිදල්විණි. යුගයේ පහළ වූ අහිත සංසිතාවරයාණන් වහන්සේ නමක් වූ අපේ කුලපති මහාචාර්ය බෙල්ලන්විල විමලරතන අනුනායක ස්වාමීන්ද්‍රයන් වහන්සේගේ විතකය ගිනිදල්වෙද්දී සමස්ත ජාතියේ හදගිනි ගැනුනේ අත්‍යවශ්‍යම වූ නිමේශයක උන්වහන්සේගේ නික්ම යෑම සමග ජාතියටත්, ශාසනයටත් ඇතිවූ බලවත් පාඩුවක් බව පසක් කරමිනි.



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## Conferences and Research

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### Second International Symposium on Cyanobacteria and Public Health

The second International Symposium on Cyanobacteria and Public Health - organised by the Centre for Water Quality and Algae Research of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP), in collaboration with the National Sciences Foundation, Sri Lanka and the Microbiology Society, United Kingdom - was held on 15<sup>th</sup> January at the Golden Rose Hotel, Colombo. The inauguration ceremony of the symposium was graced by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, and by Prof. Pathmalal Manage, the Director of the Centre for Water Quality and Algae Research of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

A training workshop on "Cyanotoxin tool box II" was also held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Centre for Water Quality and Algae Research, under the supervision of Dr. Christine Edwards and Prof. Linda Lowton from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK and Prof. Pathmalal Manage. The aim was to provide hands-on experience to many interest groups, namely, local and international scientists, research students, the national water supply and drainage board and other technical institute personnel. Moreover, a training manual on Detection of Microcystin and Cylindrospermopsin in Water was also launched at the inaugural ceremony of the training workshop: the first copy was presented to the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage. Consequently, the Centre for Water Quality and Algae Research was able to quantify Cylindrospermopsin toxin in water for the first time in a Sri Lankan university context, using technically advanced analytical methods.



## Contribution to National Development

### Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara - newly appointed Director of Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute

Dr. Jayantha Wijayabandara, the former coordinator of the Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree programme, Faculty of Medical Sciences, was appointed to the post of Director of the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute (BMARI) by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine.

In the quest of advancing scientific research in the Ayurvedic system of medicine, Dr. Wijayabandara's appointment would mark a paradigm shift through reconciliation of traditional and modern strategies of disease management which will take pharmaceutical research in Sri Lanka to new dimensions.



## Awards

### Prof. H.H.D.N.P. Opatha - the Best Professor of the World HRD Congress

Prof. H.H.D.N.P. Opatha of the Department of Human Resource Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was awarded the "Best Professor in Human Resources Management Citation (honour)" by the World Human Resource Development (HRD) Congress, on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at Taj Lands End, Mumbai. The World HRD Congress which is governed by the Global Advisory Council is a retreat for executives in which evolving trends in Human Resource Management (HRM) are reviewed.

The selection procedure of the "Best Professor in Human Resources Management Citation (honour)" was comprehensive and transparent. The research cell which consists of postgraduates in History and Management with over 7 years of research experience was required to produce a shortlist of researchers engaged in extraordinary work, and to track the record of their achievements. Subsequently, a jury of senior professionals across the globe reviewed the shortlist, in line with benchmarked criteria and competencies, namely, Strategic Perspective, Track Record, Ability for Sustainability, Future Orientation, Integrity and Ethics, HR Impact (Internal to the Organization), and other HR competencies.

The prestigious award that Prof. H.H.D.N.P. Opatha won has brought honour and credit to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



### Department of Finance wins CFA Research Challenge

The team of students from the Department of Finance of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura emerged victorious at the CFA Sri Lanka Research Challenge, one of the most sought-after competitions for university students, organised by the CFA Society Sri Lanka. The final of the competition was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018 at Jaic Hilton, Colombo 02.

The competition consisted of two rounds. During the first round, the students had to come up with an investment thesis making a recommendation to the investors to buy, sell or hold a common share of a PLC. The subject company for this year was Hatton National Bank PLC and the students carried out a fundamental analysis backed by a sound industry and risk analysis. The four best teams were selected for the final round in which they had to defend their recommendations in front of a panel of judges consisting of practitioners from the industry.

Eight universities, viz., the University of Colombo, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the University of Wayamba, the University of Kelaniya, the University of Moratuwa, the Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT), the Royal Institute of Colombo, the BMS and Mercury Postgraduate Institute, took part in the first round of the competition. The four teams qualified for the second-round of competition were the University of Colombo, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the University of Kelaniya, and the Mercury Postgraduate Institute.

The Sri Jayewardenepura team comprised Mr. Vinu Wijemanna (the team leader), Mr. Dakshitha Vithanage, Mr. Dimuth Jayewardene and Mr. Rachitha Wickramasinghe. Mr. Sampath Kongahawatte acted as the Faculty Mentor of the team while Mr. Rasanja Perera, CFA, played the role of the Industry Mentor. Under the guidance of the Head of the Department, Prof. D. B. P. H. Dissabandara, and the other academic members of the department, the team achieved this feat after several months of untiring effort. The victory led the students to participate in the regional finals held in Malaysia on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.



## News

### Ven. Dr. Ittapana Dhammalankara Thero assumes duties as the Chancellor

The Chief Prelate (Mahanayake) of Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagri Dharma Maha Sangha Sabha of the Siyam Maha Nikaya, Ven. Dr. Ittapana Dhammalankara Maha Nayake Maha Thero assumed duties as the new Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, amidst the blessings by the Maha Sangha. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, with the staff members welcomed the new Chancellor. The ceremonial induction was attended by all the Deans of the Faculties, including the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. R. M. K. Rathnayaka, the Heads of the Departments and the other staff members.



# News

## Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Project



The Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) project - a competitive funding scheme of the World Bank of Washington and the University Grants Commission - was initiated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2018 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, in the presence of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge. During the inaugural meeting, Dr. Harsha Aturupane, a Lead Economist of the World Bank, Prof. P. S. M. Gunaratne, Director, AHEAD, Prof. Arosha Adikaram, Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda and Dr. Romola Rassool of the AHEAD project addressed the Deans and members of the academic staff, explaining the objectives and the procedure of the project. While introducing three Result Areas of the AHEAD project, the importance in creating linkages with the industry was also highlighted by the speakers.

The Result Area one aims to increase enrolment in higher education, particularly on study programmes required for an aspiring uppermiddle-income economy, by implementing the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework and by blending academic excellence with the promotion of socio-emotional skills. The Results Area two intends to broaden and deepen modern teaching and learning approaches that combine academic excellence with high-quality socio-emotional skills. The third Result Area is to promote a vivacious research and innovation culture that can contribute to economic development, including the growth of higher-value industries and services. The project through the third result area hopes to see development-oriented results through competitive projects, implemented to promote research.

The proposed scholarship programme for PhDs under the AHEAD project is offered in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) scholarship schemes. The scholarship is open for three years both for full time PhD programmes (overseas) and for split-site PhD programmes. The maximum allocation per candidate is Rs. 9 million. The grant covers the programme registration fee, the cost of living allowance for the time period living abroad and any other research expenses incurred.

Addressing the inaugural meeting, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge stated that this project ought to be the 'buzzword' of the university for the next five years. He also proudly highlighted the feats achieved by the university while disclosing the US \$ 500 million grant received from the Asian Development Bank for the development of the Faculty of Engineering.

## USJP ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> best Sri Lankan University

The uniRank – an international higher education directory and search engine featuring reviews and rankings of over 13,000 officially recognized Universities and Colleges in 200 countries – has ranked the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as the third best of all Sri Lankan Universities in 2018. To be eligible to be ranked, each university should have:

- been accredited, licensed and/or chartered by the appropriate Sri Lankan higher education-related organization
- offered at least four-year undergraduate degrees (Bachelor degrees) and/or postgraduate degrees (Master or Doctoral degrees)
- delivered courses predominantly in a traditional face-to- face, non-distance education format

It is mentioned on the uniRank website that its aim is to provide a non-academic league table of all Sri Lankan universities based on unbiased and valid web metrics.

4icu.org	
2018 League Table	
#	University
1	University of Colombo
2	University of Moratuwa
3	University of Sri Jayewardenepura
4	University of Peradeniya
5	University of Kelaniya
6	University of Ruhuna
7	South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
8	Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
9	University of Jaffna
10	Eastern University of Sri Lanka
11	Uva Wellassa University
12	Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
13	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
14	University of the Visual and Performing Arts
15	Buddhist and Pali University
16	Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka

## News

### Dr. S. M. Amarasena Appointed as the Director of the Career Guidance Unit

Dr. S. M. Amarasena, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Decision Science of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, was newly appointed as the Director of the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Dr. S. M. Amarasena assumed duties amidst blessings by the Maha Sangha at the Career Guidance Unit. The new Director was warmly welcomed by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Post Graduate Studies and several academic members of the University. All the staff members of the Career Guidance Unit participated in the ceremonial event.



### Orientation programme for the new intake of the FHSS in 2018

The inauguration ceremony of the orientation programme for the new intake of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Bandaranayaka Hall. The ceremony was graced by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. S. A. A. M. Subasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. P. B. Mandawala and the Registrar, Mr. Britto K. Gnanasiri. The Heads of Departments and academic members of the faculty also participated in the inauguration ceremony.

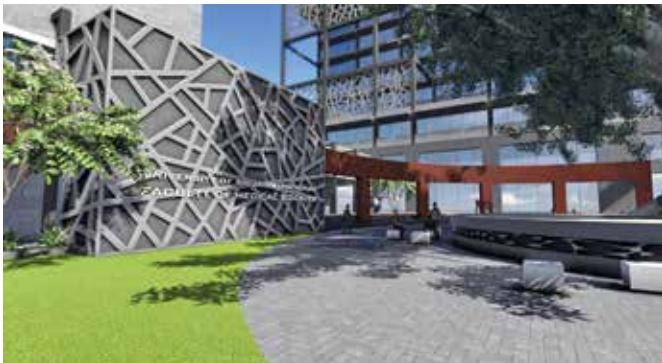
The first phase of the orientation programme, including various academic and cultural events, was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. The second phase was scheduled to be held at the end of the first semester of the first academic year. This year's orientation programme was coordinated by Dr. Shirantha Heenkenda, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Economics, with the assistance of the 2018 Orientation Committee of the FHSS.



## News

### Faculty of Medical Sciences celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was established on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1993, being the pioneers to award degrees in both Medicine and Para-Medical Sciences. During the last 25 years, it has produced more than 3500 doctors, while the first batch itself has produced 42 consultants in their respective fields of medicine all over the world.



The FMS is now a home to 1287 students pursuing different degree programmes under the tender but firm guidance of the lecturing panel. Although the FMS usually enrolls 150 medical students per annum, the intake was increased to 160 in 2018. Academic and administrative activities are coordinated by the current Dean, Prof. Surangi Yasawardene, who has "grown-up" with this fledgling institution, starting as a probationary lecturer in Anatomy from its initiation.

Although the FMS initially offered two degree programmes, namely, the MBBS and the B.Sc in Human Biology degrees, it has now extended to offer five degrees. Moreover, it also offers the degrees of B.Sc in Nursing, B.Pharm and B.Sc in Medical Laboratory Sciences, with effect from 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. The number of academic departments has also increased from three at the inception

to seventeen in 2018. At present, the FMS academic staff includes 27 Professors, 73 Senior Lecturers and 44 Lecturers in addition to the consultants from the Ministry of Health.



Clinical teaching is conducted at the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila, the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and the Homagama Base Hospital; students also visit the National Institute of Cancer, Maharagama, the National Institute of Mental Health, Angoda and a few medical units of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. The FMS is also the first to launch a new, state-of-the-art, purpose-built Family Practice Centre where medical testing and treatment are offered to the community – men, women and children in the close vicinity of the university.

Several research centres, a must in the modern world, are nurtured within the FMS. They include the Dengue, Cancer, Kidney, and Primary Care and Allergy Research Centres where ground-breaking studies are carried out, under the scrutiny of the relevant local and global researchers. The FMS has also become a space for research-based international conferences. Hence, collaborations have been established with key international research groups and laboratories from the University of Oxford and the University of York in the United Kingdom; the National University of Singapore; the Faculty of Medicine, University of Trondheim in Norway; the Gothenburg University and the University of Uppsala in Sweden; and the James Cook University in Australia to address national priorities and current global issues.





## News

### World-class Gynaecology & Endometriosis Centre at J'PURA

The Medical Faculty of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is at the pinnacle of its success with its South Asian Minimal Access Gynaecology Endometriosis Centre (SAMAGE), established on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, in Colombo South Teaching Hospital (Kalubowila Teaching Hospital), under the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, University Sri Jayewardenepura. As the media reported, this move would put the university and the country on the world-map.

Around the world, 6-10% of women at their reproductive age are affected by Endometriosis, a condition which refers to the development of uterine-lining tissue outside the uterus, resulting in abdominal pain, menstruation issues and even infertility. The SAMAGE centre – the first of its kind, not only in Sri Lanka but in South Asia – has been approved as an international provisional endometriosis centre from 2018 onwards by the British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE). It will proceed to receive full accreditation as an international endometriosis centre in 2019, through scrutiny and review from the BSGE.

The SAMAGE centre will be a referral centre for all complex gynaecological problems, particularly for endometriosis. The centre will promote training in Minimal Access Surgery while improving its standards and practices in Sri Lanka. Dr. Dhammika Silva, the Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, who is also a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, will be heading the Gynaecological team at Kalubowila Hospital. Dr. Silva and his team have been conducting minimal access surgeries for over 10 years, not only for endometriosis, but also for other ureteral concerns including re-implantation and end-to-end anastomosis, rectal shaving, bladder procedures, fistula, pelvic abscesses and all other operable gynaecological cancers including ovarian cancer. With this international accreditation, patients will be able to receive more streamlined treatment. Minimal Access Gynaecology offers the patients, less pain, less analgesics requirements, rapid healing, less infection risk and the comfort of being discharged early.



### Training programme on Project Management

A training programme on Project Management for officers in armed forces was coordinated by the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC). This programme was designed to equip middle grade officers in armed forces with knowledge and skills on Project Management. The inaugural ceremony was held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Boardroom of the FMSC, with the presence of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor, Dr. U. Anura Kumara, the Dean of the FMSC, Senior Prof. (Ms.) R.L.S. Fernando, the Head of the Department of Public Administration, of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Major General Harin Perera, Brigadier Vikum Liyanage, Captain, L.N. Hewawitharane, and Brigadier I.G Bogodawatte from the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff (OCDS).



## News

### 1<sup>st</sup> SL-Indo-US Cytometry Workshop 2018

The first ever Sri Lanka-Indo-US workshop on Laser Flow Cytometry in biomedical research and diagnostics was held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. This was hosted by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with the collaboration of a team of organisers from the National Centre for Primary Care and Allergy Research (NCPCAR), the Centre for Dengue Research (CDR) and the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry (ISAC). The workshop which spanned across three days covered a diverse range of timely topics from the basics of Flow Cytometry to advanced clinical and research applications. It was carried out in the form of lectures, clinical tutorials and research laboratory work. The researchers from the invited faculties from the USA, France and India conducted the workshop.

The success of the workshop was evidenced through the highly positive feedback received from local haematologists, pathologists and researchers who revealed a new-found confidence in interpreting and working with Cytometry. Many positive points were highlighted by the haematologists with regard to new approaches in reading data, and the analysis of cancer patients using Flow Cytometry.



### Seminar on Environment Management by Lakeland College and USJP

A seminar on 'Environmental Management Best Practices from North and South' was collaboratively conducted by the Department of Environmental Sciences, Lakeland College, Canada, the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP). It was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, who is Professor in Forestry and Environmental Science and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura,

conducted a lecture on 'Wetland restoration projects in Sri Lanka'. James Woodhouse, the Chair, and the faculty members, of School of Environmental Sciences, Lakeland College, including Cassandra Specht and Massoud Shafieifar, conducted lectures on various other topics on Environment Management. The students of Lakeland College also actively participated in the seminar sharing their experiences about environmental management projects. Academic members of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science of USJP including Dr. Prasanthi Gunawardene, the Head of the Department, and Dr. Thilak Chandrathilake, a Senior Lecturer of the Department conducted lectures on Environmental Management related topics. Additionally, several academic members and undergraduates of the Department of the Forestry and Environmental Science and the graduate students of the Faculty of Graduate Studies participated in the collaborative seminar programme.



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## News

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### Shadows of Success, 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop by Mr. Lasith Malinga

"Shadows of Success" is an initiative of the Career Skills Development Society of the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This programme involves a series of workshops that would feature noteworthy Sri Lankan personalities, who have thrived as great professionals in their respective fields, while receiving respect and admiration of the public. The aim of the programme is to empower university students with appropriate knowledge and skills about their career choices.

The second workshop of the "Shadows of Success" series was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Science Auditorium by Mr. Lasith Malinga, a legendary cricketer, while showcasing his brilliance and success. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. (Mrs.) M. G. G. Tharanganie, the Director of the Career Guidance Unit, Mrs. Chathuranagani Thennakoon, a Career Advisor and many academic and non-academic members of the university participated in the workshop.



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### Public discussion on "A New Approach to Productivity Success"

A public discussion on "A New Approach to Productivity Success" – organised by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) of the University, and conducted by the former Director of the Castle Street Hospital for Women, and leader of its productivity success, Dr. Wimal Karannagoda – was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, the Dean of the FGS, several academic members and undergraduate and postgraduate students participated in this event.



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## News

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### Family Practice Centre equipped with advanced medical facilities

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018, the Family Practice Centre (FPC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura received medical equipment from the Australia-Sri Lanka Association and the Medcric Foundation Canberra, Australia – represented by Mr. Ranjith Iddamalgodu, the National Organiser of the Alumni Association of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The National Centre for Primary Care and Allergy Research (NCPCAR) also launched its website at this event, amidst the gathering, including the Vice Chancellor and the Head of the Department of Family Medicine, Dr. (Mrs.) T. S. P. Samaranyake.

The FPC provides medical services for the community while maintaining a state-of-the-art research facilities which are shared with other research centres of the university and with the research conducted in collaboration with international bodies from countries such as Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom.




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### Opening ceremony of the mindfulness-based research room

A mindfulness-based research room of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, built with the financial support of the Multidisciplinary Research Centre of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, was ceremonially opened on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The event was witnessed by the Deans of the university, namely, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. S. G. Yasawardene, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. U. Anura Kumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, the Director of the Multidisciplinary Research Centre, and many academic and non-academic members of the university participated in this opening ceremony. Rev. Prof. Medagampitiye Vijithadhamma thero, the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, conducted a meditation programme while concluding the ceremony.



## News

### Opening ceremony of the new building of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

The opening ceremony of the newly-constructed building of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge ceremonially declared the building open amidst the presence of the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. U. Anura Kumara, Heads of Departments and other academic and non-academic members of staff.

The FMSC is renowned as the pioneering, leading and the largest faculty for Management Education in the country. Its landmark achievements and continued success has maintained its status quo, as the most sought after faculty by the best performed students of the commerce stream for university entry in Sri Lanka. This newly-opened building thereby mainly caters to the concern of the limited space of the faculty, and consists of the Dean's office, the Examination Division, the Supplies Division, the state-of-the-art Boardroom, the Faculty Research Centre, the ICBM Room, the Faculty Resource Centre and the office space for lecturers.



### Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka collaborates with USJP

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura met with the representatives of the Indian High Commission, Sri Lanka on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March at the Administrative Building Boardroom. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and the representatives discussed ways and means to strengthen the relationship between the Indian High Commission and the university. The representatives of the Indian High Commission expressed their desire to host a number of activities such as a Yoga Day, an Indian Day, and an Indian-Sri Lanka film festival.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura gives prominence to cultural enhancement within the university. Being facilitated with a Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts, students of the university gains significant exposure to languages like Hindi, Pali, and Sanskrit.



### Plastic Cycle Pledge Day

As a part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Centre for Advanced Material Research (CAMR), University of Sri Jayewardenepura and John Keells Holdings PLC to support John Keells Group in their efforts towards being a catalyst in significantly reducing plastic pollution in Sri Lanka, a Plastic Cycle Pledge Day was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 at the Science Auditorium of the University.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Ms. Nisreen Rehmanjee (Head of Tax Strategy) and the team members of the Plastic Cycle Project, John Keells Holdings PLC, Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda, Director of the CAMR, Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Dr. Thilini Gunasekara, Secretary of the CAMR, and several academic staff members and students of the Faculty of Applied Sciences participated in and pledged to contribute to the reduction of plastic pollution in Sri Lanka. As a part of the programme, specially designed recycling bins were installed on the Faculty of Applied Sciences premises.



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## News

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### Inauguration ceremony of Entrepreneurial Business Management Programmes 2018/2019- SMEDSU

The inauguration ceremony of the Certificate, the Diploma and the Advanced Diploma in Entrepreneurial Business Management (CEBM, DEBM and ADEBM) programmes 2018/2019 conducted by the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Support Unit (SMEDSU) of the Department of Entrepreneurship, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the National Institute of Education, Maharagama.

Dr Anura Kumara, the Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Mr. Rukmal Weerasinghe, Prof. Rohini Samarasinghe, Dr. Hilary Silva, Dr. M.D. Pushpakumari, Mr. P.H.A.B. Shantha, Mr. Dilan Rathnayaka, Mr. Shyaman Udayanga, members of the academic and the non-academic staff of the department, new students and past students of CEBM, DEBM and ADEBM programmes participated in this event.

Mr. A.M.R. K Attanayaka, Former Director, Regional Development Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka delivered the keynote speech and Mr. Chathuranga Kariyawasam, Director- Roots (Pvt.) Ltd. and a former student of SMEDSU, shared his experiences with the new students.

Mr. R.N Weerasinghe, Head, Department of Entrepreneurship, delivered the welcome speech. Mr. Shyaman Udayanga, the former Head, Department of Entrepreneurship, delivered an inspiring speech to the new students stressing the importance of an entrepreneur to the economy. Further Dr. U Anura Kumara also addressed the gathering and Mr. Channa Gajanayaka, the Coordinator of the SMEDSU delivered the vote of thanks.

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### Inaugural ceremony of the 14<sup>th</sup> intake of Diploma in Public Management

The inaugural ceremony of the 14<sup>th</sup> intake of the Diploma in Public Management was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018 on the university premises, with a view to welcoming the new students to the department, and to the Diploma Programme. Mr. J. Dadellage, the former Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management, who is currently serving as the Advisor (Public Relations) to the Prime Minister, Sri Lanka graced the event and delivered the keynote speech. The Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Heads of Departments, academic and non-academic members of the faculty participated in the event.



## News

### Field workshop for USA undergraduates at J'pura Yagirala Forest Station

A field workshop on "Tropical Forest Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation" for undergraduates of the Environmental Management Programme of Colby College, Maine, USA, was held at the Yagirala Forest Research and Conservation Education Center on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The programme was organised by Dr. Priyan Perera and hosted by the Centre for Sustainability of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. A group of 16 students led by Prof. Philip Nyhus attended the two day programme. Mr. Kosala Gunawardene, the Forest Manager of Yagirala forest contributed as a resource person in this highly successful workshop. The visiting students were given hands-on experiences in tropical biodiversity conservation, forest restoration and understanding of various conservation issues faced by the Yagirala Forest.



### Annual academic field visit of the Department of Public Administration

An annual academic field visit was conducted by the Department of Public Administration on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2018, under the course 'PUB 3341: Public Management'. A survey was conducted on 12th February 2018 to examine the socio-economic background of 100 selected households who live in Labukale Tea Estate, Nuwara Eliya. After the survey, the students visited Ceylon Horticultural Products (Pvt) Ltd, Ambewela New Zealand Farm and Labukale Tea Estate. Lecturers and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students of the Department of Public Administration participated in this field visit.



# News

## Guest lecture on 'Motivational Speech' organised by FMSC

The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) organised a guest lecture on "Motivational Speech" specifically for its undergraduates. It was conducted by Mr. K. A. Priyantha Perera, General Manager, Toyota Lanka (Pvt.) Limited on 10<sup>th</sup> January at the Fayol Hall in the Soratha Building. Several academic members of the faculty including, Dr. Sudath Manjula Amarasena, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Decision Sciences, Mr. M. A. N. Chandratilake, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Commerce graced the event.



## Guest lecture on Sri Lanka Development Update 2017

The Department of Business Economics organised a guest lecture on 'Sri Lanka Development Update 2017'. This was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Soratha Building Main Hall. The resource person, who holds a Master of Research Degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Master of Science Degree in Applied Physics from Delft University of Technology, was Mr. Ralph van Doorn, a Senior Country Economist at the World Bank for Sri Lanka and the Maldives. His responsibilities include monitoring and reporting on the macro economy, and providing technical assistance and policy advice to the governments on topics related to macroeconomics, fiscal policy and public debt management. He shared his experience and insights on macroeconomic performance of the country. This event provided an opportunity for the undergraduates to experience the practical application of Economics Theories in the business world.





## News

### Industrial exhibition by the Department of Business Economics

'ME-Expo 2018' was organised by the Department of Business Economics of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It was an industrial exhibition for the third year undergraduates who follow the course unit 'BEC 3340: Management Economics'. This was carried out as an outdoor exhibition in the vicinity of the Soratha Building. Academic members and undergraduates of the Department actively participated in the event.



### Innovegic Expo – 2018

Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) hold a significant place in the economic development of the country. However, such businesses may encounter many difficulties related to finance, technology, markets and so on. In particular, SMEs find it difficult to identify and target right markets and to develop right marketing strategies.

"Innovegic Expo 2018" was organised by the Department of Marketing Management of University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary Industries to address such difficulties faced by SMEs. The event took place on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with the objective of recognising promising small scale entrepreneurs in the country, and contributing to their success through the knowledge of the university communities.

At "Innovegic Expo 2018", small and medium scale enterprises were given the opportunity to showcase their businesses, products, and services to university communities and other participants. The exhibition created a platform for the second year undergraduates to experience and apply what they had learnt in the course unit 'Marketing Management', offered by the Department.

More than fifty (50) entrepreneurs participated in the exhibition representing agriculture, herbal products, food and beverages, clothing, footwear, handcrafts, gifts, and IT sectors. Also, the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project of the Ministry of Primary Industries held a stall at "Innovegic Expo 2018" to conduct business incubation facility at the exhibition. There, a team from the Ministry of Primary Industries provided advice and proper guidance for innovative entrepreneurs and young energetic undergraduates who were interested in joining the business world. Further, "Innovegic Expo 2018" paved a new way for a new collaboration between the Department of the Marketing Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Ministry of Primary Industries to work together for the development of the country.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Eng. Bandula Wickramaarachchi, Secretary, Ministry of Primary Industries; Dr. Anura Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce; Dr. Lalith Chandralal, Head, Department of Marketing Management graced the inauguration of "Innovegic Expo 2018" with their presence.



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## News

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### Debate on the 2018 Budget Proposals

Debate sessions on the Budget Proposal 2018 Sri Lanka, organised by the Department of Business Economics, were held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The debate sessions were scheduled under two debate motions; 'Is the 2018 budget directed towards a Blue-Green economy or not?' and 'Does the budget 2018 enable Sri Lanka to attract FDIs or not?' This event was organised to enhance the knowledge on macroeconomic concerns of the country while improving the skills of team work, leadership, critical thinking, policy making and communication skills of the second year undergraduates of the faculty.




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### Students' Visits to Zejiang Shuren University in China

The Department of Entrepreneurship organised two study visits to Zejiang Shuren University, Zhejiang Sheng, China from 03<sup>rd</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Zejiang Shuren University. Fourteen undergraduate students and twenty-eight postgraduate students participated in this visit guided by five academic staff members. Senior lecturers, Prof. Rohini Samarasinghe, Mr. L.K.I Rajapaksha, Ms. K.Y.J Somarathna and lecturers, Mr. G.M.C.J. B Gajanayaka, and Ms. D.H.B.Y Ranasinghe participated in this study visit as academic delegates.

Zejiang Shuren University arranged a comprehensive academic programme during the period of stay in China for the final year undergraduates and the Master's students of the Department of Entrepreneurship. A discussion on progress of ongoing research project between the two universities was also conducted. The study tour facilitated the students to visit Yiwu International Trade City - the primary wholesale market complex in Yiwu, Zhejiang and the Canton Fair - the China's best import and export fair.



## News

### Faculty of Engineering Introduces its Departments to New Students

The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organised a special event to introduce its departments to the undergraduates. The introductory sessions were on the Degree Programmes and the Course Units offered by each Department, viz., the Department of Civil Engineering, the Department of Computer Engineering, the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. S. A. A. M Subasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and respective heads and academic members of the departments participated in the event.



### Inauguration Ceremony of Diploma in Marketing Management

The inauguration ceremony of the Diploma in Marketing Management (2018/2019) conducted by the Department of Marketing Management of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Munasinghe Hall of the Faculty.

Dr. U. Anura Kumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. K. P. Lalith Chandralal, the Head of the Department of Marketing Management and other academic members of the department including Prof. B.N.F. Warnakulasooriya, Dr. (Mrs.) M. A. A. Malkanthi participated in the ceremony.

The Diploma in Marketing Management is designed to cater to individuals who have little opportunity to pursue their studies in the field of Marketing, while enriching the theoretical and practical knowledge, enhancing the soft skills needed to be dynamic and innovative marketers.



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## News

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### Inauguration of M.Sc. Programme in Analytical Chemistry

The inauguration ceremony of the M.Sc. programme offered by the Faculty of Graduates Studies of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Seminar Room. This programme was designed to improve the analytical Chemistry skills of government and industrial employees who are engaged in chemical, pharmaceutical, bio-analytical, forensic, food and environmental fields.

Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. P. M. Jayaweera, the Head of the Department of Chemistry, and several other academic members of the Department of Chemistry including, Prof. S. P. Deraniyagala and Dr. N. M. S. Sirimuthu graced the ceremony with their presence.



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### Inauguration of 'Coffee with Evening Leisure Talk'

The inauguration ceremony of "Coffee with Evening Leisure Talk" organised by the 'Career Skills Development Society' (CSDS) of the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Soratha Building Main Hall. The Director of the Career Guidance unit, Dr. Sudath Manjula Amarasena, Career Advisors including Mr. Sameera Jayawardene, and Mrs. Chathuranagani Thennakoon and several academic members of the university participated in the event.

"Coffee with Evening Leisure Talk" is a programme which aims to develop students' overall personality and confidence, and to enhance their communication skills in English. Several academic staff members contribute to the programme by volunteering to act as mentors. CSDS offers free coffee for all participants in "Coffee with Evening Leisure Talk", and those who successfully complete the programme are awarded with certificates.



## News

### Scholarships for Undergraduates from J'pura Canada Alumni Association

The Annual Scholarship Programme organised by Japura-Canada Alumni Association (JCAA) was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 at the Boardroom of the Administration Building, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The selected undergraduates of the university who have financial difficulties received scholarships from this year's scholarship programme. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Mr. Maxwell Ranasinghe graced the event. Academic and administrative staff members of the university also participated in the event.



### Appreciation Ceremony for Maintenance Division

It was not long ago when a mini cyclone struck Sri Lanka destroying many lives and property, including the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The Maintenance Division of the university faced this challenge with confidence and competence, to bring the university back to its working order shortly, within few hours.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor, deeply gratified by its commitment and efficiency, organised a celebration on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017, in honour of the labourers of the Maintenance Division. While praising their commitment at the ceremony held to honour their service, a letter of appreciation was also issued to each member who worked tirelessly during the period. Mr. Wasantha Perera, the Registrar of the university was also present at the event.



### USJP in Collaboration with the Kristianstad University, Sweden: Postgraduate Opportunities in Health Sciences

In view of promoting postgraduate education among BSc. Nursing graduates, a discussion was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, with the participation of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Surangi Yasawardene, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Associate Prof. Carina Elgan (PhD), the Course Director of the Kristianstad University, Sweden, Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne, the Head of the Department of Allied Health Sciences and the academic staff members of the Nursing programme.



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## News

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### The Monash and USJP Collaboration

The Staff-Student programme conducted in collaboration with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Monash University commenced on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This was afforded by the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two Universities.

The MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge and the Deputy Dean, Education, Monash University, Professor Robert Brooks. The proceedings commenced at the university, and was conducted by Dr. Wasantha Perera, the Coordinator for the International Collaboration with Monash University.

With this collaboration, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura hosted a delegation of 40 persons, including 5 academics and 35 postgraduate and undergraduate students from the Monash Business School in Australia from 4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This was a two-week study tour for them. The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura offered a course unit for them (Engaging International Business) as a part of the Monash Business School degree.

This study programme was designed by the Monash Business School in collaboration with the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The aim of this tour was to study Sri Lankan economy, political landscape, history, culture, and the current business environment. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura also offered a chance for the Monash Business School students to experience and learn the dynamics, opportunities and challenges of doing business in Sri Lanka, and a space to understand the role of Sri Lanka in the context of South Asia. It also provided the participants a distinct idea about the economic environment in Sri Lanka while reflecting its strengths and weaknesses as opposed to that of other countries in the South Asian region. The region has proved to be quite dynamic in the economic sphere, and is identified as a developing economy, creating trends in the markets.

Thereby, the course afforded insights into the economic powers of the region and the business environment in Sri Lanka. The programme would create a long lasting bond between the two countries, and would no doubt lead to future collaborations that would be mutually beneficial.




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### MoU between Faculty of Graduate Studies and Sampath Bank

The Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Sampath Bank, one of the nation's most innovative banks, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018. It enabled the two organisations to work collaboratively for the betterment of financial education and the economic growth of the country. The MoU was signed by Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Lalith Weragoda, the Assistant General Manager – Human Resources, Sampath Bank PLC.



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## News

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### MoU between Staff Development Centre and The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM)

The Staff Development Centre of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (SDC-USJP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM) on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Global Education and e-Learning 2018 (GLOBED 2018).

This occasion was graced with the presence of Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. R. B. Marasinghe, the Director of the Staff Development Centre, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Mr. Isanka P. Gamage, the Managing Director of TIKM.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Global Education and eLearning (GLOBED 2018) was scheduled to be held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the theme "Digital Literacies and Education: Spaces, Mobilities and Practices".

GLOBED 2018 offers an opportunity for you to participate in an interactive, dynamic, international platform to share your research outcomes, exchange ideas through networking, listen to renowned keynote speakers, strengthen and transform partnerships with various stakeholders such as academic researchers, industry professionals, and government officials, through dialogues on effective utilization of research outputs.




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### MoU Signed with J Lanka Technologies

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura collaborated with J Lanka Technologies, which hails as the industry giant for Solar Technology in Sri Lanka, to develop a "Renewable Energy Laboratory" complete with equipment and technical expertise at the Faculty of Engineering. The two entities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2018.

While providing the best of education for its students, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is also keen on providing students with links to the industry, so that students can gain more exposure to training, and will in turn contribute to the development of the country with the best of inventions and innovative ideas.

J Lanka Technologies began its journey of revolutionising the solar industry in Sri Lanka in 2011. Today, the company is a leading renewable energy supplier that offers advanced technical solutions in solar energy that is strengthened through cutting edge European technology, alongside Sri Lankan technical expertise. Since its inception in 2011, J Lanka has been able to save 5390 Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year, where they have powered 41,454,545 bulbs and planted 18,000 trees.

The Vice Chancellor stated that quantifying the economy within the university would allow the industry to reach out the university, thus to bridge the gap between the industry and the university. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura has created many affiliations with the industry and international universities so far, working to improve the prospects of the university further. The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has undertaken many projects to inculcate a mind-set that is ready to provide the future with innovations and inventions that will revolutionise the society.

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### MoU Signed with National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYU), Taiwan

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura in collaboration with the National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYU), Taiwan signed two MoUs on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. The first was with NSYU while the second was with the Laboratory for Professor Yu-Chung Chiang, Department of Biological Sciences of the National Sun Yat-sen University and ICIBN. The MoUs provide both the universities the mutual benefit of exchanging scholars and researchers, and improving research development.



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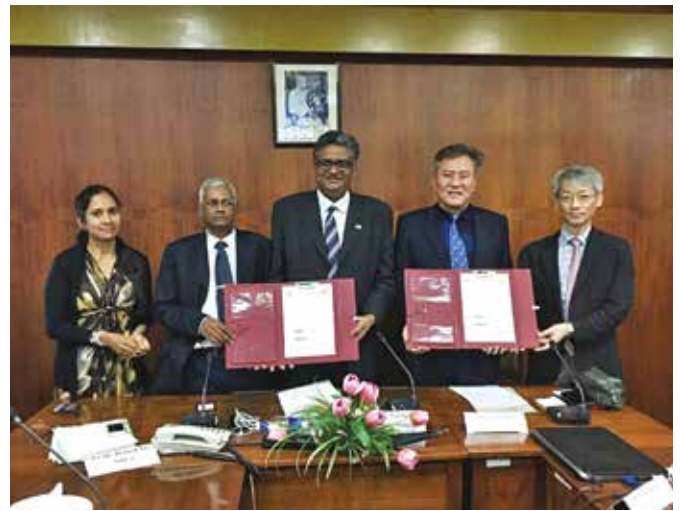
## News

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### MoU Signed with Daegu Haany University, the Republic of Korea

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura signed an MoU with the Daegu Haany University, the Republic of Korea on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. This MoU will provide the universities the mutual benefit of exchanging information and joint development in the fields of medicine, education and research. The collaboration, which was based on the mutual desire of uplifting the standards of Herbal medicine in both nations, was organised by the World-class University Project of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The Daegu Haany University was established in 1980 as a major regional higher education institute focusing on fostering the talents of the local community. The university harmonizes both traditional and cutting edge knowledge and technology regarding herbal medicine. Its clinical arm records 30 years of clinical experience.




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### MoU between Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services (MAKS) and the Department of Finance

Moody's Analytics Knowledge Services (MAKS) – a leading giant in knowledge process outsourcing and capital market research training – joined hands with the Department of Finance of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 26th February 2018.

The main purpose of this agreement is to share MAKS' expertise in global investment, research and capital markets training with the Department of Finance – among the students and the academic staff of the Department – with a view to improving the quality of its degree programmes and the employability of its students. Through the partnership, the Department expects to receive a direct exposure to the industry practices pertaining to capital markets and investment research, subsequently, to further enrich the degree programmes.





## News

### MoU between Department of Accounting and Deloitte Audit Firm

The Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the globally acclaimed audit firm, Deloitte, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2018. The partnership was forged with the intention of bridging the gap between the academic world and the industry, and guaranteed mutual benefit to both the university and the famed institution.



This partnership offers accounting students a chance to receive a training in the professional arena prior to the completion of their degrees. Thus, the students will gain an idea about the industry while developing their soft skills and other attributes required for the industry.

Deloitte is one of the top four audit firms of the world which has a history of work and commitment that spans over 150 years. The organisation is highly diversified, employing over 263,900 people in over 150 countries. The company provides services in areas such as audit, tax, legal and financial advisory, risk advisory and consulting services.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, much famed for the brilliance of its Management students, harbours the cream of the country's commerce stream students. The Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies offers students a rigorous programme, with training which helps them to maintain their standards in the business world.

### MoU between Department of Marketing Management and Hemas Holdings

An MoU was signed between the Department of Marketing Management and Hemas Holdings on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Prof. K. A. Munasinghe Auditorium.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amararatunge participated in the ceremonial event as the Chief Guest. Dr. U. Anura Kumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. K. P. Lalith Chandralal, the Head of the Department of Marketing Management of the University and several leading members of the Hemas Holdings PLC including Mr. Niranjana Perera, Director, Human Resources, and a few academic members and undergraduates of the Department of Marketing Management attended the occasion.



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# Announcements

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## Google Classroom for J'pura Staff and Students

Staff members and students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura can now use Google Classroom - a free web service developed by Google for educational institutes to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in an effective way.

### What can you do with Google Classroom?

#### Teachers

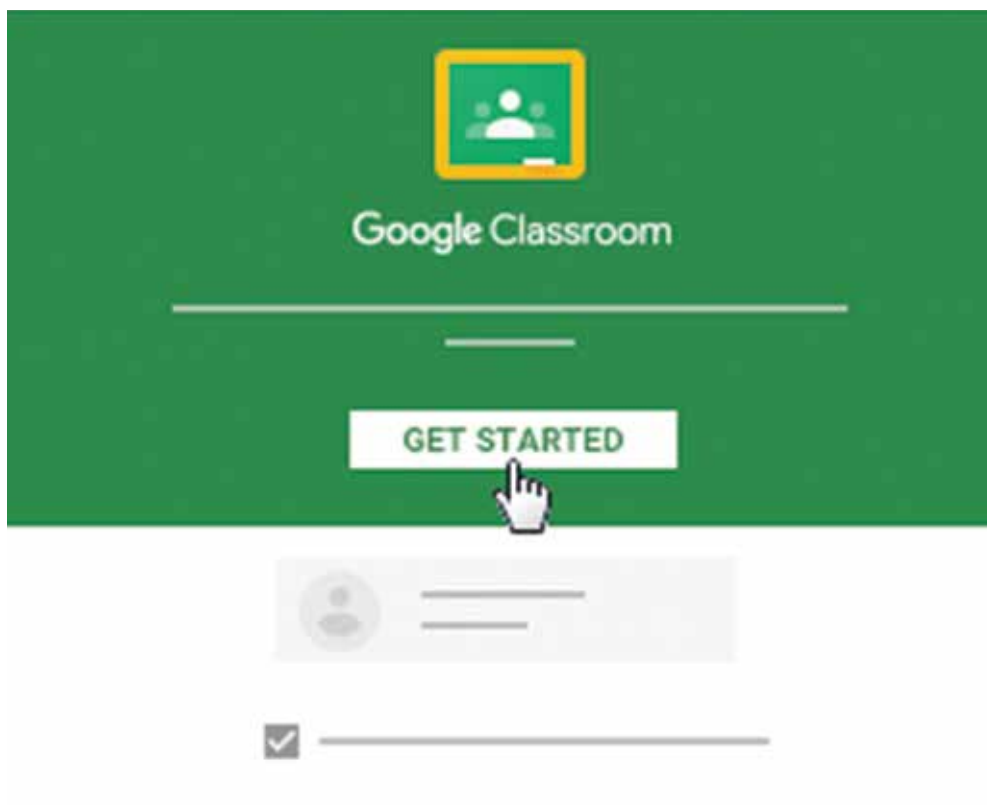
- Create and manage classes, assignments, and grades.
- Give direct, real-time feedback and grades.

#### Students

- Keep track of classwork and materials.
- Share resources and interact in class stream or by email.
- Submit assignments.
- Get feedback and grades.

Google Classroom mobile apps are available for iOS and Android devices. The apps let the users take photos and attach them to their assignments, share files from other apps and support offline access.

Log on to: [www.sjp.ac.lk/classroom](http://www.sjp.ac.lk/classroom) for more information



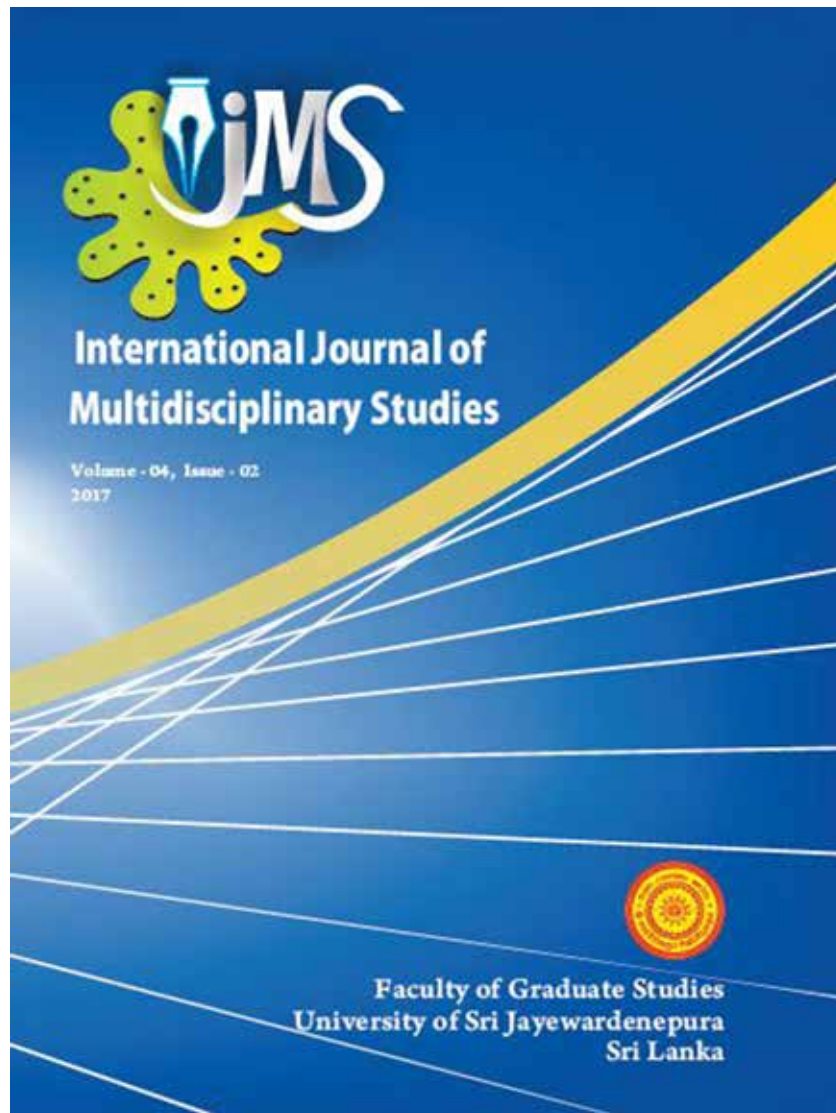
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## Publications

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### IJMS New Issue Published

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (IJMS), which is peer reviewed and published biannually, accepts scholarly articles and research communications of internationally competitive standards. Research articles with significant theoretical basis as well as practically applicable scholarly contributions across a broad spectrum of global interest are accepted for the IJMS. The Volume 4 - Issue 2 of IJMS was published during April, 2018.



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## Award Ceremonies

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### Research Methodology & Scientific Writing: Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The certificate awarding ceremony for the students who successfully completed the Certificate Course on "Research Methodology and Scientific Writing" (2<sup>nd</sup> Batch) was held at the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. The Dean of the FGS, Senior Professor Hemanthi Ranasinghe, the Course Coordinator, Professor Charmalie Nahallage, the Deputy Registrar of FGS, Mr. Nalinda Dharmarathne, Dr. Prasad M. Jayaweera and Mr. Uditha Senarathne participated in the ceremony.



## Sports

### Ja'pura Secures the Championship of Inter-University Games 2017

The Inter University Games (IUG) 2017 were held from May to September 2017, and fourteen universities were in the battle trying to win titles for 34 sports categories. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura was crowned with the Overall Champion of IUG 2017.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura collectively secured 373.5 points for the championship. This included the Overall Men's and the Women's Championships by obtaining 213 and 160.5 points respectively. The USJP was nominated as the Champions for 13 sports categories, namely, Cricket, Hockey (Women), Badminton (Men & Women), Taekwondo (Men & Women), Athletics (Men), Chess (Men), Swimming (Women), Road Race, Netball and Basketball (Men & Women), which added more colours to the glory.

After the IUG 2015 and the Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2016, the trophy remained with the USJP, asserting the USJP's championship with respect to Inter University Games. The USJP earned the true credits by winning the overall title for the third consecutive time in 2017.

The remarkable guidance given throughout the journey by the Physical Education Department and the Sports Advisory Board of USJP, and bounteous sponsorships delivered by the Alumni Association of USJP are very much appreciated. Behind this victory, the Vice Chancellor of USJP, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge has been a great strength to all the athletes of USJP, providing them with all the necessary facilities and equipment. Prof. Amaratunge met all these stupendous athletes of Ja'pura on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in a celebratory event at the main library lobby to congratulate on their victory in the Inter University Games 2017.

We salute our great athletes who were in the battle of bringing this trophy home, for all the hardships, commitments, and services rendered to the university. We give our gratitude for everyone who encouraged the Sports Council of the USJP, throughout the journey of IUG.



### Vidudaya Ritzbury Interschool Swimming Championship – 2018

The Department of Physical Education and the Sports Council of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organised the 'Vidudaya Ritzbury Inter-school Swimming Championship 2018' together with its main sponsor Ritzbury Chocolates. This championship attracted over 2500 swimmers from over 130 schools and was held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January at the pool complex of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. There were 96 individual events and 24 relay events with under 9, 11,13,15,17 and under 19 year competitors, competing for junior, senior and overall championship trophies.

Ritzbury is Sri Lanka's one of the most prominent chocolate brands manufactured by Ceylon Biscuits Limited (CBL), and the company has been significant in uplifting sports in Sri Lanka. This was the company's first revolutionary step to sponsor swimming competition in the country. The company collaborated with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, which has the largest swimming pool in Sri Lanka, to make the first 'Ritzbury All-Island Inter-school Age Group Swimming Championship' a reality.

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## Sports

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### Academic Staff's Sports Club Established

The academic staff members of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura established a Sports Club, which aims to enhance the physical activity and relations among academics in various faculties and departments of the university. The staff cricket team was founded by organising a friendly cricket match with the Kalubowilla Hospital team which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana, the Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine, Dr. Wasantha Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Finance, Dr. N. M. S. Sirimuthu, the Acting Head of the Department of Sport Sciences and several academics of the University represented the USJP team.



## Community Celebrations

### Welcoming 2018

After successfully completing the year 2017, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura commenced the year 2018 with grand plans for the future. The university community, including the Vice Chancellor, the Deans of the seven faculties, the Registrar and other academic and non-academic, gathered near the shrine room and the Bo tree on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2018 to ceremoniously begin the New Year with blessings.

In his speech, Professor Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura talked about the great contribution the University has made to the mother nation. He stated that the Vidyodaya Pirirvena, later known as Vidyodaya University, has always maintained the true essence of the term 'university' in all its activities. He added that the university has developed immensely over the past years, and would continue to do so, and to serve the nation, with new plans in 2018.

This annual event marked the solidarity and friendship among the university community. The oath of office published by the Ministry of Policy Administration was taken by the staff members, which concluded the event.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura welcomed the year 2018, with great hope and spirit. The year began with the determination to execute the great vision of the university, a vision that serves the nation.



### Thai Pongal Festival

Thai Pongal -- a thanks giving ceremony dedicated to the spirits of nature -- is celebrated on the first day of the month Thai of the Tamil calendar. The day normally falls between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of January in the Christian calendar. It is widely known as "Tamil Thai Pongal" or the "Festival of the Tamils". While farmers celebrate the event to thank the Sun God and the farm animals for their assistance in providing a successful harvest, the rest of the people celebrate the festival to express their gratitude to the farmers for the production of food. Overall, it is a festival to encourage social harmony and unity.

The celebration of the Pongal day at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura took place on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in front of the Cultural Centre of the University. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. P. B. Mandawala, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Anura Kumara, the Coordinator of the Social Harmony Project, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, the President of the Art Assembly and Cultural Centre, Dr. Praneeth Abyesundara, a Senior Lecturer of the Department of History and Archaeology, Rev. Dambara Amila Thero, other academic and non-academic staff members, and the undergraduates of the university participated in the Pongal Ceremony. This festival is annually organised by the Art Assembly and Cultural Centre of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



## Community Celebrations

### 107<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Ven. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero

The 107<sup>th</sup> commemoration of Ven. Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thero, the founder of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in front of the Cultural Centre of the University. The proceedings of the Memorial Day began with a religious ceremony.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. D. P. S. Chandrakumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Surangi G. Yasawardene, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. P. B. Mandawala, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. S. A. A. M. Subasinghe and the Registrar, Mr. Britto K. Gnanasiri graced the ceremony with their presence. Heads of departments and academic members of the university also took part in the ceremony to pay their tribute to Ven. Sumangala Thero.

Ven. Hikkaduwe Sumangala Thero was one of the pioneers of Sri Lankan Buddhist Revivalist Movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sumangala Thero, a veteran author and great orator, was a major figure of the Paanadurawadaya, a religious debate held between Christian missionaries and Buddhist monks in 1873 at Panadura, Sri Lanka. He did a great service to improve the Buddhist Education in the country and was the founder of 'Maligakanda Vidyodaya Piriwena' established in 1873, which was granted the university status later in 1959 by the Government of Sri Lanka as the 'University of Sri Jayewardenepura'. Today, the university has become a pioneering education institution in Sri Lanka, generating new scholars and adding new knowledge to different fields of studies. Thus, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has progressively journeyed through the years, fulfilling the vision of Ven. Hikkaduwe Sumangala Thero.



### Haritha Wasanthaya 2018

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year Festival, 'Haritha Wasanthaya 2018', is annually organised by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. This year's festival was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 on the department premises.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University and Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences graced the event with their presence. Academic members of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science and other departments of the Faculty of Applied Sciences also participated in the festival. Students representing all departments of the faculty took part in various folk sports such as Hodama Hinawa (the best laughter), Eluwan Kaama, Aliyata Ahathabima (Placing the eye on the elephant), Olinda Keliya (Mancala game), Kamba Adeema, Kotta Pora and so on. Haritha Wasanthaya 2018 was a successful event that created numerous memories for the undergraduates and the staff members who participated in the event.





## Community Celebrations

### 25<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Pirith and Almsgiving

On March 2018, the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, completed 25 years. To commemorate this significant milestone of the faculty and to invoke blessings on the newly-constructed Phase IV Building, an all-night pirith ceremony was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 with the participation of the then Chancellor of the University Ven. Prof. Bellanwila Wimalaratana Nayaka thero. This was followed by an almsgiving the following day. Both events were held in the Phase IV Building complex and were attended by a large number of staff members and students.



### Pirith Chanting Ceremony by Department of Accounting

A pirith chanting ceremony organised by the Department of Accounting of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce was held on the Department premises on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Dr. U. Anura Kumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce as well as academic members of the Department of Accounting including Dr. A. Harendra N. Kariyawasam, the Head of the Department and undergraduates participated in the ceremony.



## Community Celebrations

### Community Development Projects by Dept. of Business Economics

The third year students of the Department of Business Economics of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully completed eight community development projects under 'BEC 3342: Development Economics' offered by the department. All the projects were located in Walawwatta, Hanwella which was identified as the poorest Divisional Secretariat Division in the Colombo district.

#### Project 01 – “Mathudhara”

The project "Mathudhara" was organised with the aim of enhancing spiritual and maternal health and the mothers' welfare in the Walawwatta area. Accordingly, an awareness programme regarding the maternal health was conducted in collaboration with the MOH officers in Hanwella. A religious programme was also conducted with a view to enhancing the participants' spiritual health. The programme concluded with the distribution of nutritious food hampers to the participant mothers.



#### Project 02 – “Colouring Hearts”

The 'Colouring Hearts' project was organised under the theme "A drug free country", aiming to reduce the likelihood of drug use among the villagers. Accordingly, in collaboration with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, a drug prevention programme was conducted for parents of the students of the Pahala Hanwella secondary school, as the first phase of the project. The objective of the second phase of the project was to improve children's attendance at primary school. Some interactive activities, namely, an art competition, an essay competition and a grade five model-paper discussion, were organised to motivate the students to attend school regularly.



## Community Celebrations

### Project 03 – “Eyes on Diabetes”

The 'Eyes on Diabetes' project was organised to make the general public more knowledgeable about Diabetes; a common chronic disease in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, a Diabetic Prevention Programme was conducted for the villagers and the students above age 10 of the Walawwatta area with the technical support rendered from the National Diabetes Centre in Rajagiriya. The programme increased the awareness about the disease among the people, and provided the participants with a blood-sugar check-up service.



### Project 04 – “Isurumath Hetakata Ran Aswanu”

This project “Isurumath Hetakata Ran Aswanu” aimed at distributing commercial plants including pepper, mango, coconut, brinjals, chilli etc. for the selected low income families in the Walawwatta area. They were expected to cultivate the plants as additional sources of income.



### Project 05 – “Giving donations to pre-school”

The project “Giving donations to pre-school” aimed at encouraging nursery education in the Walawwatta village. Accordingly, the project donated basic requirements such as school bags, school shoes, water bottles, lunch boxes, books and stationery to the nursery students of Pahala Hanwella Junior School. A series of events were also organised parallel to donations, to enhance positive attitudes about school education in these children.



## Community Celebrations

### Project 06 – “Athwelak”

The project “Athwelak” was organised, by boosting the opportunities for education for the students in the Walawwatta area. It was carried out by distributing stationery packs among the students of Pahala Hanwella Secondary School.



### Project 07 – “Literacy Enhancement Programme”

A workshop for grade 2-5 students of Pahala Hanwella primary school was conducted with the aim of enhancing the students' literacy in all three languages, and motivating them to attend school regularly. The undergraduates of the department coordinated the programme, focusing on academically less-successful students.



### Project 08 – Colouring Dreams

The project “Colouring Dreams” successfully completed colour washing of the school buildings of Pahala Hanwella Junior School. The project enabled to deliver a visible experience to the underprivileged community of the Walawwatta area.



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## Community Celebrations

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### “Lohitha Puja” by the Association of Public Administration

The Association of Public Administration (APA) organised its Annual Blood Donation Camp “Lohitha Puja” on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The event is annually organised to inspire the youth to fulfil their civic duties, and to encourage them to contribute to the community welfare. The 2018 blood donation camp concluded with a great success, with an average of 115 donors, including students, and academic and non-academic staff members.



## Concerts and Cultural Events

### Vibes of Marketing

The "Vibes of Marketing 2018" organised by the Marketing Management Association of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held successfully, as an outdoor show, on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the university ground. This is an iconic event of the department and the university as it is the first ever talent show organised by a single department in the Sri Lankan university system. Since its inception, 'Vibes of Marketing' has gained an immense reputation as it consists of an astonishing harmony of singing, dancing, acting, drawing and compeering.

The main objectives of this event were to take forward the goodwill of the Marketing Team, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, to create a better platform for the talents of J'pura Marketers, to enhance leadership skills, organisation skills and team working and to make strong relationships between Marketing undergraduates, Marketing Diploma students, the alumni members and the lecture panel.

Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Praneeth Abeysundara, the President of the Art Assembly of the University and a Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mr. Wasantha Dugannarala, a prominent media reporter, Mr. Somarathna Dissanayake, a film maker and producer, Mrs. Puja Umashankar, a popular actress, Mr. Thumidu Dodanthanna, an actor, and Mr. Kalana Gunasekara (Priyantha Mahaulpathagama in Kumbiyo Tele drama), an actor, participated in the "Vibes of Marketing 2018" as guests.



## Student Activities

### J'pura Trio represents Lanka at Unilever's Future Leaders League

Three students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura were adjudged winners of the Unilever Challenge 2017 which was held recently in Colombo. The three winners, Madusha De Silva, Nayomi Fernando and Umendra Abeynayake of 'Team Innovints' represented Sri Lanka at the Unilever's Future Leaders' League which was held in London.

The Future Leaders' League is a dynamic marketing competition, where aspiring young brand managers receive the opportunity to compete against like-minded future leaders from over 30 countries. The said team was mentored by senior representatives from Unilever Sri Lanka and previous winners of the Unilever Challenge, preparing them to face the global competition with confidence. Team Innovints won the judges over through the ingenious approaches they took to solve the cases posed to them during the competition.



### Mahapola Scholarships Awarding Ceremony

The Mahapola Scholarships Awarding Ceremony for the undergraduates of the 2016/2017 academic year was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Boardroom of the Administration Building. The occasion was led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge with the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Prof. Surangi Yasawardene, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. U. Anura Kumara and the Registrar, Mr. Britto K. Gnanasiri. The staff members of the Students Welfare Division of the university also participated in the scholarship awarding ceremony. In this year, Mahapola scholarships were awarded to 2071 undergraduates (2016/2017 academic year) of the University.



## News Feature

### The Australia USJP Affiliation



The University of Sri Jayewardenepura has developed immensely within the past few years. The university which had only five faculties until late 2016, now comprises seven faculties and one Postgraduate Institute of Management. Identifying the need to create a research culture in the university, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura established a powerful Research Council. Moreover, understanding that a university is a place that brings the entire universe into a single place, and that a university should not confine its education to classrooms, but incorporate extra-curricular activities into its programmes, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura has paid much attention to sports. Consequently, the university has produced many outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen in the recent years who have brought glory to the country by participating in many international competitions. For instance, the University has won 'the Sri Lankan University Games' for three consecutive years, and produced the first undergraduate to participate in the Olympics. In terms of infrastructure, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is now equipped with a number of modern facilities. It has increased the hostel occupancy capacity by 53% in 2017. It has also developed further in terms of foreign relations. One such development is the strengthening of the bond between the university and many other Australian higher education institutions.

To discuss the development evidenced in the university, Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, took a little time off his busy schedule.



**Q: Prof. Amaratunge, how did it all begin?**

**A:** The past few years were important in terms of research development in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The research initiatives taken by the university received much prominence in both local and international media, as the university created international affiliations through the World Class University Project, without limiting its research to local concerns. It is customary for many embassies to visit the university; embassies like the Japanese Embassy, the Canadian Embassy, the American Embassy, usually make frequent visits to the university. In 2017, the Australian High Commission, upon noticing the media presence the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had received, visited the university and was greeted at my office along with Prof. Ranil De Silva.

**Q: What was their impression of the university?**

**A:** They were impressed with the work and the research being conducted at the university and requested us to visit Australia to gain an understanding about the universities there. We were excited about, and gratified with, the opportunity given to create more affiliations, with yet another developed country in the world.

In 2017 April, a delegation, including the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Dr. Anura Kumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Prof. Surangi Yasewardene, the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, the Director, World Class University Project, Prof. Ranil De Silva, the Director, Quality Assurance, Prof. Samanthi Senaratne and myself visited Australia.



**Q: Can you elaborate more on how foreign affiliations help the University?**

**A:** With Australia opening their doors to facilitate our students with higher education opportunities, we were able gain many affiliations that are mutually beneficial. In the field of Higher Education, building relationships is important to the institute's success.

As a result, the University will be able to offer split or joint undergraduate degrees, MBAs, and PhDs, in a variety of different subjects from Australian universities in the near future.



## News Feature



**Q: What were the outcomes of your visit?**

**A:** Upon our visit to Deakin University, we were offered joint MBA programmes, double degree programmes, joint research, academics and students exchange at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These programmes are currently underway.

We also visited Victoria University, upon discussions they were happy to offer PhD placements for our academics and students. Furthermore, they agreed on an academic exchange programme where both parties will be benefitted.

**Q: You mentioned that you visited Queensland University of Technology; I understand that is ranked high in the world, what were the outcomes of that visit?**

**A:** Biomedical research being one of their areas of interests, Queensland University of Technology, agreed to offer joint PhD opportunities for multidisciplinary research in Biomedical Sciences. It also agreed that they will collaborate in future MPhil and Master's in Biomedical Sciences. Furthermore, Queensland University will also grant ten MPhil students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with scholarships waiving the total tuition fee which amounts to Rs.3.2 Million per annum.

**Q: Did you visit any other universities?**

**A:** We were also fortunate enough to visit another high-ranking university in Australia, the University of Griffith. They agreed to open up opportunities for collaborative research, exchange of academic papers, mutual assistance in preparation for seminars, conferences, exchange of academic publication materials, training projects and other forms of co-operation, such as the delivery of award and non-award courses.



In collaboration with the Gold Coast Campus, the University of Griffith will allow an annual student exchange programme for MPhil and PhD students.

**Q: We have seen many news items on the University of Sri Jayewardenepura website in relation to Monash University, can you tell us about that?**

**A:** Monash University of Australia has a large presence in Sri Lanka with its own arm of education in the country. Monash University upon our visit offered a joint research, student and academic exchange programme which commenced earlier this year.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura received 35 postgraduate and undergraduate students and 5 academics from Monash University in February on a study tour of two weeks. They were given lectures, field trips and industry visitations covering the topic of "Engaging International Business" which was a 12 point credit course in their curriculum.

Following their visit, USJP also sent a delegation of 15 to Monash University on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2018. The programme was fully funded by an Australian Funding agency. The delegation has gained many opportunities that will greatly benefit the university in the future.

Prof. Ramani Samaratunge, an alumnus of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura aided us greatly in creating a good relationship with Monash.



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## News Feature

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**Q: How was your visit to the University of Western Australia?**

**A:** The University of Western Australia (UWA) Business School signed an MoU for a PhD programme with the university, for the employees of the Central Bank. We had great success with striking up a worthy collaboration with UWA. The memorandum suggests that we use the grant that they provide, which usually suffices for a Master's programme or a PhD. The candidates will only be in Australia for one year, they will return to continue their research in Sri Lanka.

UWA will also enroll two to three students for MPhil and PhD programmes annually. In addition, USJP will also interact with the school of Indigenous Studies and the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, UWA on establishing a National Centre for Integrative Medicine.

**Q: Did you also manage to visit the Florey Institute?**

**A:** Yes, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, upon our visit, readily agreed to collaborate with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to enroll two to three students for MPhil and PhD Programmes in the field of Neuroscience.

**Q: You have managed to cover a few leading universities, how will you maintain these links in the future?**

**A:** This visit proved to be one of the most successful as we were able to create links with many of the Australian Universities. We have several of our Alumni in these universities who help us maintain strong links. Furthermore, we will continuously be in contact with them, providing them with our feedback and encouraging their input.

**Q: I understand that most of the MoUs are currently functioning. How is the student feedback about them?**

**A:** I am happy to say we have got 100% positive feedback both from our students and the exchange students whom we have hosted.

*Interviewed by Vishmi Wijeratne, Research Assistant, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*