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FEATURE ARTICLE

Unmasking the Fakes in the Age of Information Overload: Detecting Fake Publications and Selecting Journals to Publish

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Academic Sessions and Vice-Chancellor's Awards-2024

The University of Ruhuna proudly hosted its prestigious Academic Sessions and Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2024 on 20th March 2024, at the auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. This annual event, a cornerstone of the University's academic calendar, aims to honor outstanding contributions and achievements in research, inventions, innovations, creative works, and international collaborations by both academics and students.

Under the theme "Nurturing Excellence in Research: Boosting Empowerment-Oriented Advances in Academic Productivity," the Academic Sessions provided a valuable platform for scholars to discuss advancements in research across various disciplines. Organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the University Library, the event featured an array of academic presentations, fostering an environment of intellectual engagement and knowledge sharing.

The ceremony was graced by Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasinghe, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, who served as the Chief Guest, and Senior Professor Saman Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, as the Guest of Honor.



ulty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, providing a thought-provoking perspective on interdisciplinary research and its impact on societal progress.

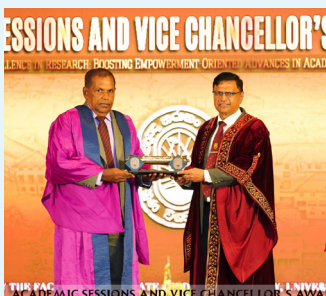


The inauguration was attended by Deans of all faculties, academic staff, technical staff, post-graduate students, sponsors, and distinguished guests, underscoring the event's importance within the academic community.

A highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Vidya Jothi Professor H. Janaka De Silva, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, who shared insights into current trends and future directions in medical research. An oration was delivered by Professor Saman Senewere, Professor (Chair) of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Fac-

Conferment of Emeritus Professorships

In recognition of their distinguished service to the university and the nation, Senior Professor L.P. Jayatissa, Faculty of Science and Senior Professor S. Subasinghe, Faculty of Agriculture were conferred Emeritus Professorships.



Tier 4 Star Award

The Tier 4 Star Award, recognized by the University Grants Commission, honors university academics who have demonstrated exceptional performance in research and publications. This year's recipients were awarded at the academic sessions 2024. Prof. Disna Rathnasekara, Faculty of Agriculture; Senior Prof. P. Mangala C.S. De Silva, Faculty of Science; Prof. G.G. Tushara Chaminda, Faculty of Engineering; Senior Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Faculty of Agriculture; and Prof. K. Masakorala, Faculty of Science received this award.



Vice-Chancellor's Awards

The Vice Chancellor's Awards celebrate the most outstanding achievements in research, innovation, grants acquisition, and international relations by members of the university community in 2023. This year's awardees were;

- The Most Outstanding Scholar:** Prof. G.G. Tushara Chaminda, Faculty of Engineering
- The Most Outstanding Young Researcher:** Dr. C.L. Fonseka, Faculty of Medicine
- The Most Outstanding Promoter of International Relations:** Senior Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Faculty of Agriculture
- The Highest Recipient of Grants:** Senior Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Faculty of Agriculture
- The Most Outstanding Student Inventor/Innovator:** Mr. K.G. Samarathna, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Best Presenter Awards (Oral Sessions)

The Best Presenter Awards for the technical sessions recognize the best performers from the 2023 Academic Sessions, acknowledging exceptional research presentations delivered during the event. The awardees were:

- Agriculture, Environment, and Biological Sciences:** Dr. J.M.S.N. Rathnapala and Dr. Dushan Kumarathunge
- Computer Science, Information Technology, and Physical Sciences:** Mr. P.A.D.S.N. Wijesekara
- Economics, Finance, and Management:** Dr. B.L. Galhena
- Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences:** Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa
- Engineering, Technology, and Applied Sciences:** Mr. B.G.V. Sanjaya, Dr. N.W. Prins
- Human Health, Pharmaceuticals, and Medicine:** Ms. W.N.D. De Silva, Prof. H. Harshini Peris, Dr. T.D.K.S.C. Gunasekara



Best Presenter Awards (Poster Sessions)

The Best Poster Awards recognize the most impactful and well-communicated research presented in the poster sessions, based on the 2023 Academic Sessions performances. The recipients were:

- Agriculture, Environment, and Biological Sciences:** Ms. S.A.V. Pulsarie
- Computer Science, Information Technology, and Physical Sciences:** Mr. H.K.I.R. Kalhara
- Engineering, Technology, and Applied Sciences:** Ms. K.T.A.G. Somarathna
- Human Health, Pharmaceuticals, and Medicine:** Ms. N.H.G. Isurika



The Academic Sessions and Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2024 at the University of Ruhuna were a resounding success, reflecting the institution's commitment to fostering a culture of excellence in research and innovation. The event celebrated the remarkable achievements of its scholars and students, inspired collaboration across disciplines, and reinforced the university's role as a leader in academic and research excellence. The awards not only recognize individual accomplishments but also motivate the academic community to continue striving for excellence, innovation, and impact.



In Memoriam: Dr. Ronnie de Mel, Founder of the University of Ruhuna



The University of Ruhuna mourns the passing of its esteemed founder, Dr. Ronnie de Mel, who passed away on 27th February 2024. Dr. de Mel, a visionary leader and a dedicated public servant, left an indelible mark on Sri Lanka's educational landscape through his unwavering commitment to higher education and development.



By his last wishes, Dr. de Mel's remains were respectfully placed at the University of Ruhuna gymnasium, allowing the university community and the wider public to pay their final respects. The gymnasium, usually a hub of youthful energy and activity, became a place of solemn reflection as students, academics, political leaders, religious dignitaries, and members of the general public gathered to honor the legacy of a man who dedicated his life to empowering future generations.

The cremation ceremony occurred at the University of Ruhuna Playground, and the ceremony drew an immense gathering, including His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic

of Sri Lanka, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe; Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr. Dinesh Gunawardana; Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardhena; former President Mahinda Rajapaksa; Opposition Leader Mr. Sajith Pemadasa; Governor of the Southern Province; Hon. Ministers; Hon. Parliamentarians; and religious leaders from various faiths, underscoring the profound impact Dr. de Mel had on the nation.



The funeral activities were meticulously organized by the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University Ruhuna, Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, reflecting the respect and gratitude that the university community, holds for Dr. de Mel. The university community including the Deans of Faculties, and the Registrar of the University of Ruhuna, came together in unity, with students, and staff, working hand in hand to ensure a dignified farewell.

Dr. Ronnie de Mel's legacy at the University of Ruhuna is not only reflected in the physical infrastructure he helped establish but also in the spirit of inquiry, innovation, and service that continues to define the institution. His contributions to the university and the broader field of education in Sri Lanka will continue to inspire future generations.

As we bid farewell to a great leader, let us also recommit ourselves to the ideals he championed: excellence in education, service to the community, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. May Dr. Ronnie de Mel's vision continue to guide the University of Ruhuna as it grows and evolves in the years to come.

Unmasking the Fakes in the Age of Information Overload: Detecting Fake Publications and Selecting Journals to Publish

Introduction

In today's digital age, the spread of fake publications is a growing challenge. These range from fraudulent academic papers to misleading news articles, all of which have harmful impacts. Such misinformation can promote dangerous theories and mislead readers, often proliferating through social media or fake websites. Some open-access journals may falsely claim groundbreaking medical discoveries. In academia, counterfeit publications mislead scholars and can be exploited for academic dishonesty. The consequences are significant both socially and academically, as fake information can influence politics, illegal business, and extreme movements, while undermining the credibility of legitimate research. This article explores methods to identify fake publications and guide scholars in selecting appropriate open-access journals.

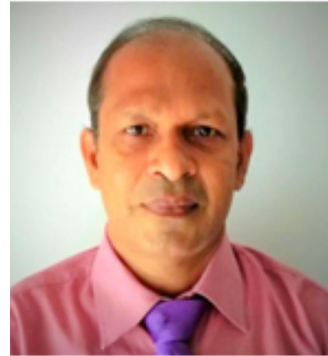
What is a Fake Publication?

A fake publication is any work intentionally misleading or false, pretended as real academic or news content. Common types of fake publications include:

1. **Bogus Academic Papers:** Fabricated or plagiarized works lacking rigorous peer review and often published in predatory journals with false data or unverifiable claims.
2. **Misleading News Articles:** Articles designed to misinform, often with distorted facts or sensationalized stories to push specific agendas or influence public opinion.
3. **Predatory Journals:** Exploiting the open-access model by charging authors fees without providing legitimate peer review services, accepting papers with little scrutiny.
4. **Plagiarized Works:** Copying others' work without proper attribution, presenting it as original research.

Identifying Fake Publishers

Identifying predatory publications is increasingly challenging in the digital age. Predatory entities often mimic legitimate structures and employ strategies to obscure their true nature. Genuine publishers can also become predatory due to management changes or lowered standards for profit. Scholars must carefully verify publications before using or submitting to them. Common characteristics of



predatory publishers include:

- Lack of established quality control and standards.
- Absence of a clear peer review process.
- Informing authors of article processing fees only after acceptance.
- Aggressively soliciting article submissions through frequent emails.
- Publishing unrelated articles within a single journal.
- Including scholars on editorial boards without their consent.
- Listing fake or non-existent academics as board members.
- Cloning websites and imitating established journal names.
- Making false claims about editors' qualifications and the journal's location.
- Misusing International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN).
- Falsifying impact factors and indexing information.
- Appointing unqualified editors.

Fake publications can be categorized into four types: purposive predatory publishers, standalone journals, misleading metrics, and hijacked journals. Authors should remain vigilant, recognizing these characteristics to avoid predatory publishers and protect the integrity of their work.

Identifying the Credibility of Publications

To determine the credibility of publications, several key aspects should be examined:

- **Author Credentials and Affiliations:** Scrutinize the authors' backgrounds and institutional affiliations. Verify their profiles on institutional websites or LinkedIn. Be cautious if an author's academic background is hard to confirm.
- **Peer Review Status:** Authentic academic journals follow a rigorous peer-review process. Confirm that the publication is peer-reviewed by checking the journal's website or databases like PubMed or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
- **Journal Impact Factor:** Verify claims about impact factors and indexing through trusted sources like Journal Citation Reports (JCR). Predatory journals might list false impact factors.
- **Citations and References:** Cross-check citations to ensure they lead to real, relevant studies. Fake papers often use nonexistent or obscure references.
- **Errors and Inconsistencies:** Look for poor grammar, spelling mistakes, and inconsistent formatting. Genuine academic papers are meticulously edited and logically consistent.

Investigative Techniques

Plagiarism Detection: Use tools like Turnitin or Grammarly to check for plagiarism. High copied content indicates a fake publication.

Multiple Source Verification: Validate the publication's claims with other sources. Unique and unsupported results warrant caution.

Publisher Analysis: Investigate the publisher's website for transparency regarding the editorial board and publication process.

Fee Policy: Reputable journals disclose publication fees transparently. High, undisclosed fees are red flags.

Editorial Policies: Verify the editorial board members and their affiliations independently.

Unsolicited Invitations: Be wary of unsolicited emails inviting submissions or offering quick publication.

Beall's List and Cabell's Predatory Reports: Use these tools to identify potentially predatory publishers.

Use of Citation Reports

Academic indexing databases employ Journal Citation Reports (JCR) to provide impact factors and other metrics. Authors can use these reports to verify the impact factor and select reputable journals. Ulrichsweb (<https://www.ulrichsweb.com/ulrichsweb/analysis/>) is an authoritative directory of periodicals providing detailed information on over 300,000 serials worldwide.

Use of Supportive Movements to Select a Journal

Various journal evaluation tools help assess the quality and impact of academic journals based on metrics such as impact factor, editorial policies, and peer review processes. These tools assist researchers in selecting suitable journals for publication:

ChronusHub Journal Finder (Beta): Helps researchers find suitable journals by inputting research details to receive recommendations (<https://journalfinder.chronoshub.io/?fq=>).

cOAlition S Journal Checker Tool: Assists authors in finding open access journals that comply with Plan S requirements, promoting immediate open access to research publications (<https://journalcheckertool.org/>).

Edanz Journal Selector: Analyzes abstracts and keywords to recommend appropriate journals for manuscript submission (<https://www.edanz.com/journal-selector>).

Elsevier Journal Finder: Provides a list of relevant Elsevier journals based on manuscript title, abstract, and research field, along with impact factor and submission guidelines (<https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>).

ANE (Journal/Author Name Estimator): Suggests relevant journals by comparing manuscript text with millions of PubMed articles (<https://jane.biosemantics.org/>).

JournalGuide: A free tool offering journal recommendations based on manuscript title, abstract, or keywords, including scope, impact, and submission requirements (<https://www.journalguide.com/>).

Publish & Flourish: Simplifies the publication process by providing detailed journal information and recommendations based on manuscript content (<http://flourishoa.org/>).

Open Journal Matcher: Suggests open access journals relevant to the manuscript, supporting barrier-free research dissemination (<https://github.com/markeaton/open-journal-matcher>).

Springer Journal Suggester: Provides a list of suit-

able Springer journals based on manuscript details, including impact factors and editorial policies (<https://www.springeropen.com/get-published/find-the-right-journal>).

TOP Factor Search: Helps find journals adhering to Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines, ensuring publication in journals promoting best practices (<https://topfactor.org/>).

Think, Check, Submit: An initiative providing a checklist to verify journal credibility before submission, ensuring selection of reputable outlets (<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>).

These resources help researchers navigate the complex landscape of academic publishing and select credible journals for their work.

Use of Retraction Watch Database

The Retraction Watch Database (<http://retractiondatabase.org/RetractionSearch.aspx?>) created by Retraction Watch, is an essential resource for tracking and reporting retracted scientific papers. This comprehensive database has been active since August 2010, logging retractions of journal articles, preprints, book chapters, and conference papers. Here are its key features and functionalities:

Transparency and Integrity: The database enhances the transparency and integrity of scientific research by documenting retractions due to errors, misconduct, or fraud across various disciplines and journals worldwide.

Educational Resources: It serves as an educational tool, helping researchers understand the reasons behind retractions and learn from past mistakes to improve future research practices.

Institutional Monitoring: Universities and research institutions can use the database to monitor their affiliates' retraction records, ensuring adherence to ethical standards and maintaining institutional credibility.

Accountability and Deterrence: By publicizing retractions and the involved individuals, the database promotes accountability and discourages unethical research practices. The exposure of retractions serves as a deterrent to misconduct, fostering a culture of ethical research.

The Retraction Watch Database is crucial for maintaining the quality and reliability of scientific literature, supporting the academic community in upholding high standards of research integrity.

Conclusion

Predatory journals and publishers exploit the academic need to publish by charging fees without providing legitimate editorial and publishing services. This unethical practice harms academic integrity, misleads researchers, and spreads low-quality research. Identifying predatory publishers and pirated content, which violates copyright laws, is crucial in the digital age.

Universities should implement comprehensive policies to identify fake publications, incorporating multiple tools and mechanisms. This approach will protect research integrity and enhance the overall quality of academic literature. In an era of information overload, the rapid spread of misinformation has significant impacts. Universities often incentivize publishing quality research, but some authors fall prey to predatory publishers, especially in the Open Access scenario. Critical analysis of publication credentials, content, and context is vital to avoid being misled and to maintain the integrity of scholarly work.

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The 10th International Symposium on Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices (ACEPS-2024)

The 10th International Symposium on Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices for Sustainable Development (ACEPS) was successfully held on 27th June 2024, at the Department of Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Ruhuna, Galle. Since its inception in 2012, ACEPS has been a vital platform for researchers, engineers, and industry leaders to collaborate and promote sustainable development in Civil and Environmental Engineering. This year marks a momentous occasion as ACEPS celebrated the 10th anniversary of the symposium series.

The 10th ACEPS was co-organized by the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, Saitama University, Japan, and the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. ACEPS 2024 was supported by four industrial sponsors: LANWA group, Access Engineering, Rovel Constructions Private Limited, and Central Engineering Services Private Limited (CESL).

With over 200 delegates in attendance, the symposium featured more than 55 technical presentations highlighting the latest research findings and innovations. The event was co-chaired by Dr (Eng). J.M.R.S. Appuhamy, Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Ruhuna and Prof. Ken Kawamoto from Saitama University, Japan. Prof (Eng). G.G. Tushara Chaminda of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Ruhuna, served as the symposium secretary for ACEPS



2024. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, took part as the Chief Guest, while the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior. Prof. E. P. Saman Chandana, attended as the Guest of Honor of the 10th ACEPS.

Two keynote addresses were delivered by renowned experts, including Prof. Ken Kawamoto from Japan and Prof. Wei Yuansong from China, setting a high standard for ACEPS-2024 and inspiring future advancements in the field of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Extended Abstract Writing Session

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the University of Ruhuna organized a workshop on "Extended Abstract Writing" on 23rd March 2024, in line with the upcoming RASAS-2024 conference. This workshop attracted a substantial virtual audience of over 300 participants, demonstrating strong interest in acquiring academic writing skills.

Led by Mr. Samitha Udayanga, a distinguished Senior Lecturer from the Department of Sociology at the University of Ruhuna, the workshop provided attendees with invaluable insights into the art and science of crafting an effective extended abstract. This event was organized under the guidance of Ven. Dr. Koggalle Wijitha (conference chair), and Mr. Anuda Kanchana (conference secretary), along with the dedicated RASAS-2024 organizing committee. Their collaborative efforts ensured an enriching experience for all attendees, emphasizing the importance of clear, concise, and impactful abstract writing in academic research.



The 11th Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON - 2024)

The 11th Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON), organized by the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, took place successfully on 24th January 2024, under the theme “Advances and Impacts of Science and Technology Towards a Sustainable Future.” The event featured esteemed guests including Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna who served as the chief guest, Prof. Stefan H. Bossmann, Department Chair of the Kansas University Medical Center, University of Kansas, USA who was the distinguished Keynote Speaker; and Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe, Vice-Chancellor of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, along with Prof. C.A.N. Fernando, Head of the Department of Nanotechnology at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, who served as plenary speakers.



The conference was notable for its physical attendance of 300 participants, marking the first in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, it included a virtual session to ensure those unable to attend in person could still engage and share their scientific knowledge and outcomes. The conference featured 14 technical sessions across four categories, with approximately 130 abstracts presented either orally or as posters. During the inauguration ceremony, the Faculty of Science also honored two retired academic staff members, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to their respective departments. The successful conclusion of RISTCON-2024 demonstrated the Faculty of Science's commitment to fostering collective knowledge sharing and promoting international collaboration.

Guest Lecture on International Human Resource Management



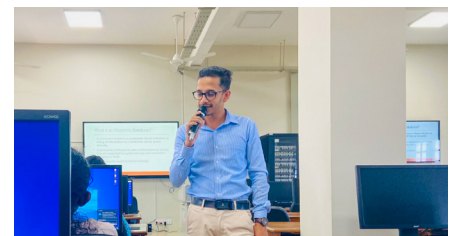
The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM), in collaboration with the Consulate General of India at Hambantota, hosted a guest lecture for the third-year students in the field of HRM on 08th January 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Dr. Hemamali Ganewatta, the course coordinator for International HRM, warmly welcomed attendees and introduced the esteemed guest speaker, Mr. Harvinder Singh, Consul General of India at Hambantota. Mr. Singh delivered a captivating presentation on expatriate management, integrating academic theories with real-life encounters. His engaging discussion shed light on the complexities and practical aspects of handling international assignments, leaving students with a more profound comprehension and a broadened perspective.



The interactive Q&A session that followed was highly beneficial, providing students with essential insights into “Expatriation and Repatriation”. Miss G.N.M. Perera, an enthusiastic undergraduate, expressed attendees' gratitude with a thoughtful vote of thanks. The event was attended by Mr. R.M.D.D. Rathnayake, Head of the Department of Human Resource Management, along with several academic staff members of the department. Mr. R. Nishantha, the Librarian of the Consulate General of India, played a pivotal role in coordinating this event.

Information Retrieval Techniques From Scholarly Databases

The workshop on “Awareness of Information Retrieval Techniques From Scholarly Databases” was organized by the Department of Human Resource Management for the third-year HRM Specialized Undergraduates. The session was held on 17th January 2024 from 01.00 p.m. to 03.00 p.m. at the Computer laboratory. The resource person of this workshop was Mr. Thilina Madhushanka, Assistant Librarian, University of Ruhuna.



Does Curiosity-Based Reading Enhance English Proficiency Among Undergraduates?

Mrs. H.E. Pavithra Mayuri, Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (AHS), University of Ruhuna hosted a workshop titled "Curiosity-based Reading as a Stimulus for Improving English Among Undergraduates" on 30th April 2024, in collaboration with the English unit of the Faculty of AHS. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance intrinsic motivation among undergraduates to learn English by harnessing curiosity.

The targeted audience of this workshop was the first-year undergraduates of the Faculty of AHS at the University of Ruhuna, and nearly 80 students attended the event. Ms. Pavithra Mayuri and Dr. (Ms.) K.G. Pramudika Nirmani, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Nursing, Faculty of AHS, University of Ruhuna also contributed to organizing the event. The workshop featured Mr. Ruwan Gunawardane, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, as the esteemed resource person. Further, Ms. Kavidya Jayawardena, Assistant Lecturer of in English,



Faculty of Science, and Ms. L.H. Vishmi Dilprabha, Assistant Lecturer in English, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, provided their invaluable support for this workshop.

Mr. Gunawardane captivated participants with his expertise, insightful concepts, methodical teaching, and engaging presentation style. His passionate and stimulating session inspired lively discussions and significantly enhanced the participants' interest in learning English.

The participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the profound impact of Mr. Gunawardane's contributions on their understanding, motivation, and appreciation of the subject matter. The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences expressed their sincere gratitude to Mr. Gunawardane for his invaluable contribution and looks forward to future collaborations.

Training in Agricultural Machineries 2024

A training program titled, "Training in Agricultural Machineries 2024" was organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna for their third-year undergraduates in collaboration with the Browns Agriculture PLC from 8th- 22nd March 2024. Students were made aware of the usage and maintenance of farm machinery by the academic staff members and experts of the Browns & Company PLC.

It was a valuable opportunity for students to acquire hands-on experience in fuel system parts and the operation of four-wheel tractors, two-wheel tractors, and transplanter. Additionally, students were able to enhance their knowledge and skills in regular maintenance of common farm machinery. At the end of the training, there was an opportunity for test driving sessions of both four-wheel tractors and two-wheel tractors under the supervision of skilled instructors. Besides to training on common farm machinery, students were also trained on drone-based agricultural applications by experts from Retail IT Company.



Faculty of Medicine Academic Sessions - 2024

The Faculty of Medicine Academic Sessions (FMAS) – 2024 was successfully held on the 8th May 2024, at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna under the theme “Health Across the Life Cycle”. Senior Prof. Vijitha De Silva, and Prof. Nayana Liyanarachchi were the Chairpersons of FMAS 2024. The Chief Guest for FMAS 2024 was Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna. The keynote address was delivered on “Challenges in ensuring Health Across the Life Cycle in Sri Lanka” by Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

The FMAS oration titled “Ensuring Every Child Counts; Expanding Newborn Screening for Inherited Metabolic Disorders in Sri Lanka” was delivered by Dr. Imalke Kankanarachchi, Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. Miss. J.A.M.L. Jayawickrama, Mr. Mevan Induruwa and Dr. Devuni Wijenayaka were awarded the Dean's awards for the year 2024 as the best 2nd MBBS student, the best 3rd MBBS student and the best final MBBS student respectively. Academic staff members of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna who had published articles indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded or Social Science Citation Index received the “Research Publication Awards” for the Year 2023.



Twenty-five academic members received the Research Publication Awards for the Year 2023.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by the FMAS symposium. The symposium on “Health Across the Life Cycle; Challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals” consisted of three subthemes.



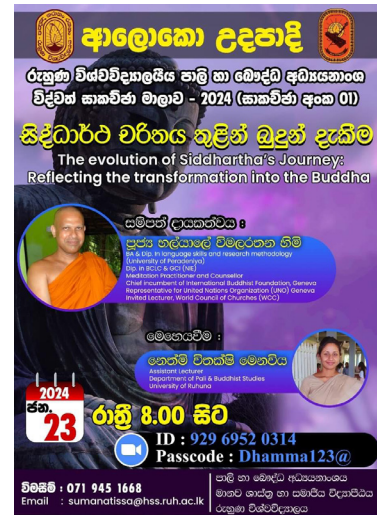
- **“Challenges in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Child Healthcare in Sri Lanka”** by Prof. Pujitha Wickramasinghe, Senior Professor in Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka,
- **“Challenges in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Adolescent HealthCare in Sri Lanka”** by Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana, Director, Planning, and Focal Point of SGDs, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- **“Challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Elderly HealthCare in Sri Lanka”** by Dr. Shiromi Maduwage, Consultant Community Physician, Youth, Elderly and Disability Unit, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

This session was followed by a free paper session and poster session from both open category and undergraduate categories. Senior Professor Thilak Weeraratna, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, awarded the certificates to the winners of best oral and poster presentations.



Āloko Udapādi - Dhamma Discussion Program

Most Venerable Halyale Wimalarathana, the Chief Incumbent of the Buddhist Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Representative to the United Nations Organization (UNO) in Geneva, delivered a guest lecture titled "The Evolution of Siddhartha's Journey: Reflecting on His Transformation into the Buddha" for the "Āloko Udapādi" – Dhamma Discussion Program organized by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies. The session, moderated by Ms. Nethmi Vithakshi, Assistant Lecturer in Buddhist Philosophy, was held virtually on 23rd January 2024. Dr. Ven. Makola Mangala, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, along with academic and non-academic members, students, and international participants, attended the program. This platform serves as a unique initiative focused on advancing knowledge and fostering innovative ideas in the field of Buddhism, showcasing the Department's commitment to intellectual growth within the Buddhist academic community.



Seminar for Grade 11 Students on G.C.E. O/L Buddhism

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the Zonal Education Office, Matara, organized a comprehensive seminar for Grade 11 students preparing for their G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O/L) examinations in Buddhism on 3rd March 2024, at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This seminar



aimed to provide students with a thorough review of the syllabus, enhance their understanding and retention of Buddhism, and bolster their exam confidence while raising awareness about the significance of Buddhism as an academic discipline. Led by academic staff members from the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies—Dr. Ravindu Priyanka, Dr. Dilshan Manoj, Ven. P. Suamanatissa, Mr. Anuda Kanchana, and Ms. Nethmi Vithakshi—the sessions were funded by the Zonal Education Office, Matara, highlighting a strong partnership aiming to support education in the Southern Province.

Training Session on "e-Resources Access and Introduction to TURNITIN"

A workshop on "e-Resources Access and Introduction to TURNITIN" was held on 11th June 2024 for the academic staff members of the Faculty of Science, at the computer laboratory of the Department of Computer Science aiming to increase the usage of e-resources and TURNITIN in the teaching and learning process. Dr. Theja Kuruppu Arachchi, a Senior Assistant Librarian of the Main Library of the University of Ruhuna was the resource person for the event. The first half of the workshop was allocated to introduce VPN access for remote access to library e-Resources. An introductory session on Turnitin for similarity checking and accessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage reports was conducted in the latter half of the workshop. This workshop was organized by the Science Faculty Library Committee.



The 3rd Mini-Symposium 2024 of the Department of Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics, together with the Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSS) physically conducted their 3rd Mini-Symposium, on 21st February 2024 from 1.00 p.m. onwards at the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. The main objective of this event was to encourage undergraduate students to experience the research culture in the field of Mathematics and Statistics and related areas while providing a platform to improve their research and communication skills.

Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna graced the inaugural session of the Mini-Symposium 2024 as the Chief Guest. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Janak R. Wedagedara, former Professor in Mathematics at the Department of Mathematics, University of Ruhuna, and Senior Pharmacometric Scientist, A. Menarini Farmaceutica, Internazionale SRL, UK delivered a lecture on "Beyond the Equations: Mathematics in Action for Real World Challenges" via Zoom. There were four parallel sessions under BSc. (General) Degree Level I, II, III, and BSc.(Hons) Degree in Financial and Industrial Statistics. K.T.A.K.D.T.S.B. Perera, Y.A. Udayakumar, T.H.M.U.S.B. Tennakoon and K.A. Wimalasuriya were selected as the best presenters in each category respectively



Researcher Boost Session for Early-Career Academics

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Faculty of Management and Finance hosted a session to empower and support early-career academic staff on 2nd February 2024 from 1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at the New Faculty Board Room. This session provided valuable insights and resources to help early-career researchers navigate the initial stages of their research careers and thrive in their academic endeavours. Dr. Thedushika De Silva, Chairperson – IQAC was the resource person for the event and she shared her experiences and explored supportive strategies to publish in high quality journals. The session fostered a sense of collaboration, networking with peers and the exchange of research ideas through interactive role plays and discussions on navigating to empower research journey. This initiative demonstrated the faculty's commitment to supporting and guiding early-career academic staff of the faculty. This effort will enable to empower young academics to make significant contributions to uplift the academic landscape of the university.



Expert-Led Field Clinics and Practical Sessions for BSc. Agriculture Resource Management and Technology Students

A group of undergraduates following the BSc. Agriculture Resource Management and Technology at the faculty of Agriculture are currently managing an 18-week field-based practical program, engaging in problem-based learning for upland crops and paddy farming. To further extend students' practical knowledge, two experts from Brown & Company PLC conducted a crop clinic for the students, sharing their experience in identifying the field level problems, followed by an online lecture on 7th June 2024. In addition, a visiting professor from Nepal, Dr. Bishnu Bandari visited the students' fields and conducted a practical session and a lecture, sharing his experience in upland crop management between Nepal and Sri Lanka on 22nd June 2024. These practical-based sessions were organized by Dr. I.R.Pali-hakkara, Course Coordinator (Field crops and Vegetables), Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture.



Workshop for Stakeholders in Ornamental Fish Industry

The University of Ruhuna, renowned for its academic excellence and industry collaboration, recently took center stage in advancing Sri Lanka's ornamental fish industry. The Society of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFAA), the official society under the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, proudly facilitated a workshop aimed at strengthening this vital sector. This event, held in partnership with the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology, the Association of Live Tropical Fish Exporters of Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan Ornamental Fish Farmers Association, highlighted the University's commitment to practical, industry-relevant education.

Held at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine sciences and Technology, the workshop attracted key stakeholders from across the ornamental fish industry. The event provided a dynamic platform for fish farmers, exporters, and industry experts to share insights, discuss challenges, and explore innovative solutions to enhance the industry's growth and sustainability.

The workshop featured a series of informative sessions led by experts from the University of Ruhuna and industry professionals. Topics ranged from advanced breeding techniques and sustainable farming practices to market trends and export regulations. Participants also had the opportunity to engage in hands-on demonstrations and interactive discussions, enhancing their understanding and skills in ornamental fish farming.



This collaborative effort reflects the University of Ruhuna's dedication to leveraging academic resources to benefit the wider community. By supporting initiatives that bridge the gap between education and industry, the University is not only enhancing its reputation but also contributing significantly to national development.

The successful execution of this workshop further cements the University of Ruhuna's position as a leader in fisheries and aquaculture education, setting a benchmark for future industry-academic collaborations.

Battle of Brotherhood in Sri Lankan University Cricket History

In a landmark moment for Sri Lankan cricket, the University of Ruhuna and the University of Jaffna made history with the inaugural 'Battle of Brotherhood' – the first-ever cricket match between two state universities in the country. The event took place from March 29th to 30th March 2024, at the University of Ruhuna, captivating the nation and ushering in a new era of sporting excellence and camaraderie.

The Battle of Brotherhood was not merely a cricket match; it was a symbol of unity, friendship, and reconciliation between the North and South of Sri Lanka. Organized by the Social Reconciliation Center (SRC) at the University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the University of Jaffna, this initiative aimed to foster connectivity and collaboration between university communities while promoting social harmony and mutual understanding.

By bringing together students and academic staff members from different regions and backgrounds, this initiative served as a beacon of hope for a more harmonious and united Sri Lanka. *30th OF MARCH 2024*

At University Playground, Wellamadama Premises, University of Ruhuna



The inaugural ceremony of the event was held at the University playground. The Chancellor of the University, Most Ven, Dr. Akuratiye Nanda Thero, other religious heads, Vice-chancellors of the two universities, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Deans of the faculties, staff members, and students attended the inaugural session. The Eastern Band team of the Rohana Maha Vidyalyaya, Matara added to the event's vibrancy with their participation. We are proud to announce that the Battle of Brotherhood received generous sponsorship from the High Commission of India, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the Lyca Gnanam Foundation.

In the 40-overs match, the University of Ruhuna team emerged as the champions, adding another layer of glory to this memorable event, meanwhile the 10-overs women match was won by the Jaffna team. There was also a T-20 Match, in which players were shared between the two teams by their respective captains. Some Jaffna players played for the Ruhuna captain's team, and vice versa. This match was won by the Rununa Captain's Team. The Man of the Match, the Best Bats man, the Best Baller were Dilas R.K (UoR), Ashmika Iddamalgoda(Jaffna University) and A.Kirishan (UoR) respectively. The University of Ruhuna and the University of Jaffna made history with the inaugural Battle of Brotherhood – a moment to remember in Sri Lankan university cricket history.



Opening of Renovated Library Building

The library of the University of Ruhuna, a grand three-story building, began construction in 1978 and was completed in 1986. Over the past 36 years, it has amassed a vast collection of books from around the world, greatly enriching academic resources. Recognizing its importance in academia, the library underwent a significant renovation, costing Rs. 169 million. With the traditional Sri Lankan Pirith Chanting by the Maha Sanga, the refurbished library was unveiled, promising university community a renewed space for learning and exploration on 22nd Feb 2024.

Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna graced this occasion as the Chief Guest, while the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deans of the Faculties, Registrar, Bursar, and other academic and non-academic staff members also attended the event. The event commenced with a warm welcome address by the Librarian, Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, who expressed profound gratitude to all individuals whose concerted efforts made the reopening possible. The Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, addressed the gathering not only emphasizing the importance of the renovated library as a cornerstone of academic excellence but also he highlighting the significance of embracing change and innovation in higher education.



Voluntary Business Consultation on “ Milk Processing and Value Addition” for Bandarawela Dairy Producers’ Co-Op Society

A two-day training program has been successfully conducted on “Milk Processing and Value Addition” for Bandarawela Dairy Producers’ Co-Op Society under the voluntary business consultation program of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna from 21st to 22nd March 2024 at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, aiming to make aware of the milk processing and value-addition strategies to strive towards sustainable profits as dairy product producers. Prof. Ganganee Chandima Samaraweera of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness coordinated the event, while Prof. Nayana Narayana of the Department of Animal Science, and Prof. Nilantha Lakshman of the Department of Food Science and Technology were the main resource persons for the event.



Contribution of UoR to Achieving the SDGs

The University of Ruhuna has been actively contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through various initiatives such as projects, workshops, and awareness sessions. These events have been directly linked to specific SDGs, helping to address global challenges while fostering local engagement.



In-depth investigation into the issues of the Nilwala River and other water bodies in the Matara District



A Select Committee of Parliament has been appointed to carry out an in-depth investigation into the issues that have arisen related to the Nilwala River and other water bodies in the Matara District and to make recommendations for the development of a set of new reconstruction proposals. This activity contributes to achieve the SDG-11: Sustainable cities and Communities. The Hon. (Mrs) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Chair of the committee, has appointed a sub-committee under the above select committee consisting of the Hon. Dullas Allaperuma, the Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, and the Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka as members. An expert committee was appointed to collaborate with this sub-committee to investigate issues of the region and provide short-term, medium-term, and long-term solutions to the waterlogging and flooding issues related to the Nilwala River. The expert committee was chaired by Senior Prof. Saman Chandna Ediriweera, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna and Senior Prof. D.A.L. Leelamanie, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture; Prof. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Prof. H.I.G.C. Kumara, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences were the members of the committee. Prof. G.G. Tushara Chaminda, Prof. Sudhira De Silva, Dr. T. N. Wickramaarachchi, and Dr. W.M.K.R.T.W. Bandara also served in the committee as engineering experts. The committee has submitted its final report.



World's Environment Day Celebration 2024: An Environmental cleanup Program

To protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, and combat land degradation and biodiversity loss (aligned with SDG-15), the University of Ruhuna conducted an environmental cleanup program on 5th June 2024, in celebration of World Environment Day. This initiative was organized under the idea and sponsorship of Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna. The campaign focused on cleaning both sides of the road from the Wellamadama premises of the University to Dondra. The event, which began at 8 a.m., was attended by Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University, along with Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, other academic and non-academic staff members, students, and volunteers from the general public.



Additionally, invaluable support was provided by Mr. Deshabandhu Rahmayake, Officer-in-Charge of the Gandara Police Station, and his team. During the cleanup campaign, a significant quantity of non-degradable waste including polythene, plastic, PET bottles, and glass bottles was collected, contributing to the effort to create a cleaner and more sustainable environment.



Naming a Newly Discovered Endemic Firefly Species (*Pygoluciola ruhuna*) in Honor of the University of Ruhuna

Pygoluciola ruhuna
A newly discovered firefly species from Sri Lanka.

This species was named to honour the University of Ruhuna.

Research Team

Lecturer Dammika Wijekoon, Dilshan R. De Silva, Thisara Isnan, Prof. Hemantha Wegiriya

Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

READ MORE <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5428.3.4>

Two new endemic firefly species in the genus of *Pygoluciola* was discovered from Sri Lanka by a research team, comprising Mr. W. M. C. D. Wijekoon (Lecturer), Prof. H. C. E. Wegiriya, Mr. D. R. De Silva (Demonstrator), and Mr. A. D. T. I. Madushanka (B.Sc. Graduate), all from the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. This novel finding allowed the research team to record the genus *Pygoluciola* fireflies for the first time in Sri Lanka.

The study team named one the new firefly species as *Pygoluciola ruhuna*. Naming this newly discovered firefly species as *Pygoluciola ruhuna* pays tribute to the University of Ruhuna, which has provided constant support for firefly studies since 2009. Currently, this team is the only active research team studying on Sri Lankan fireflies. The scientific publication in connection with this discovery was published on 22nd March 2024, in the top-ranked taxonomy journal, ZOOTAXA.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5428.3.4>



Replantation and Cleanup Corals at Turtle Beach, Mirissa, by the Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology

The Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG), known for its commitment to marine conservation and education, recently partnered with the Leo Club of the University of Kelaniya for a remarkable project titled “NaCl+H₂O.”

In line with SDG-14: Life Below Water, an initiative was held on 18th February 2024 at the beautiful Turtle Beach in Mirissa. The event centered on coral replantation and cleanup, alongside observing fish schools to assess the impact of coral replantation on fish populations. This effort reflects a commitment to preserving marine ecosystems and fostering sustainable ocean health.

Coral Replantation: Participants engaged in hands-on coral replantation activities, helping to restore damaged coral reefs and enhance marine biodiversity. This effort not

only aids in the recovery of the coral ecosystem but also supports the thriving marine life that depends on these reefs.

Coral Cleanup: The team conducted a thorough cleanup of the coral areas, removing debris and pollutants that threaten the health of the coral and marine species.

Fish Population Observation: One of the significant aspects of the project was observing the fish schools and assessing the impact of coral replantations on their populations. Compared to last year, the team noted encouraging progress, with increased fish activity around the replanted corals.





Awareness Session on Microplastics and Marine Pollution

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Society of the Faculty of Engineering, organized an awareness session on microplastics and marine pollution on 18th March 2024 at the faculty premises.

Prof. F. Nakajima, Vice Director of the Environment Science Center, University of Tokyo, delivered a guest lecture on impacts of microplastics, while Dr. Duminda Seneviratne of the Department of Animal Science, University of Uva Wellassa, shared his knowledge and research experience on marine pollution. The resource persons were coordinated by Prof. Thushara Chaminda of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna.

Distinguished guests from the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), along with faculty members and students, actively participated this event, and this session provided insights into critical environmental issue of microplastics and marine pollution.



Seascope: A Project of the Society of Oceanography and Marine and Geology

On 25th January 2024, the Society of Oceanography and Marine and Geology (SOMaG), of the faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology collaborating with the University's Rotaract Club for an exciting event dubbed the "Seascope" set to take place at the Polhena Beach. Participants dove deep into the azure waters of Polhena Beach for an exhilarating snorkeling session. This activity not only promised fun but also aimed to raise awareness of the vibrant marine life and the importance of preserving our underwater ecosystems, targeting the SDG 14. This project marks a significant collaboration between SOMaG and the University's Rotaract Club, blending their collective enthusiasm for marine conservation and community engagement.



The Seascope Project stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in achieving environmental conservation goals. By engaging students, faculty, and community members in activities like snorkeling, the project highlighted the beauty of marine biodiversity and the need to protect it. Such events are crucial in educating and inspiring future marine scientists and conservationists. With more such initiatives on the horizon, SOMaG continues to lead the way in marine and geological sciences education at the University of Ruhuna.

Six Gold Medals for Innovative Functional Food Development

The Ruhuna Invention and Innovation Exhibition and the Southern Province Competition jointly organized by the University of Ruhuna and the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission were held on 15th May 2023 at the University of Ruhuna to recognize and award the invention and innovation done by school pupils, as well as in the open and institute categories in the Southern Province.



Senior Prof. Vajira P. Bulughapitiya was the Principal Investigator of the project leading the development of innovative functional foods and nutraceuticals under AHEAD-DOR grant. Senior Prof. Vajira and her team were awarded six gold medals placing the first place for six functional food developments (Rasam cube, Veggi sausages, Guava Tea, Kombucha Beverage, Genki Tea, and Cinnadar). All these products were developed using medicinal herbs and these products help preventing the risk of non-communicable diseases.

With this achievement, Senior Prof. Vajira was the first candidate to receive the highest number of gold medals (six Gold Medals) under the Institute Category at the award Ceremony held on 7th December 2023 at the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium of University of Ruhuna. This marks the University's progress in invention and innovation that benefits the community directly. Members of Snr Professor Vajira's team were Ms. Sumudu Arundathi, Ms. Ashani Bulathgama, Ms. Bhagya Samarakoon, Prof. Nilantha Liyanage, Dr. Rasangi Sabaragamuwa, and Dr. Thilini Kanake. Among them, Dr. Rasangi and Dr. Thilini are from the Department of Food Science and Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, and others are from the University of Ruhuna.



Knowledge Sharing Session on Examination Matters

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Faculty of Management and Finance organized a session on examination matters for the staff members of the faculty on 21st Feb 2024 from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. at the New Faculty Board Room. The session aimed to enhance understanding of the revised examination manual and share best practices of examinations and related procedures. Prof. Manjula K. Wanniarachchige, Prof. P.A.P. Samantha Kumara, and Mr. K.G.P.V. Vijitha Gunarathna served as the resource persons for the session, and they shared their expertise on various aspects of examinations, including revised examination manual, question paper setting, marking techniques, and maintaining integrity and transparency in examination processes. The session fostered an interactive environment, encouraging staff to engage in the discussion. The IQAC's initiative highlights the faculty's commitment to continuous improvement and ensuring the highest quality standards in its academic processes, ultimately benefiting students and the overall educational environment.



Students of FMST at the International Industry Expo-2024

Students following the course unit of "Freshwater Algae" at the Department of Limnology and Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST), prepared various algae-based products under the guidance of Course Coordinators Prof. H.B. Asanthi and Dr. L.N. Wijewardene. They established an algae culture system with a financial support of the Technology Transfer Office, University of Ruhuna.

Algae-based product prepared by students were exhibited at the International Industry Expo 2024 by the students of the Limnology Society, of FMST from 19th to 23rd June 2024 at BMICH, Colombo. Algae-based fertilizers, algae bioplastic, algae paper, different cosmetics, algae soap, incense sticks, mosquito repellent sticks, and algae biofuel were among exhibits. This outreach activity conveys the credibility of the University in the industrial development of Sri Lanka.



The Industrial Consultation Committee Meeting 2024: Faculty of Technology

The Industrial Consultation Committee Meeting 2024 organized by the Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, was held on 28th June 2024 at the Saegis Campus, Nugegoda aiming to collect suggestions from the industry professionals and academia for the curriculum revision. The meeting commenced with an opening speech by the Dean of the faculty, Prof. Subash Jayasinghe, and he emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry to foster a symbiotic relationship that benefits both sectors ensuring that academic programs remain relevant and aligned with the need of industry. Dr. V.H.P. Vitharana, Head of the Department of Engineering Technology, provided an overview of the activities of the department.

Senior Prof. W.G.D. Dharmarathna, the founder Dean of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna delivered the keynote speech highlighting the necessity of adapting to rapidly changing industrial conditions driven by emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Industry 4.0, Virtual Reality, and Big Data.



Dr. Harshadewa Gunawardana, the former Dean of the Faculty of Technology, led the main discussions, focusing on the content of the current curriculum of the Department of Engineering Technology.

Professionals across various fields, including electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, and materials engineering actively participated in the discussion, while the graduates and undergraduates of the same department also took part in the discussions, sharing their perspectives and experiences. Experts highlighted the significance of a well-planned curriculum that not only develops technical knowledge but also fosters a healthy and balanced academic and social environment. The viable suggestions collected in this meeting will be considered in the next curriculum revision.



Staff Musical Event

Upon the idea and proposal from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, a staff musical event namely "Ruhunu Ambare Sangawunu Tharu" was held at the Open Theater in front of the Main Library on 02nd May 2024. The event was graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana while the deans of the faculties, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and students also attended the event. Staff members of all faculties actively participated in the event by performing their various hidden talents in singing, and dancing. It was a colourful and enjoyable evening for the entire community of the University of Ruhuna to relax their minds from the working environment.

The event was coordinated by the Deputy Vice Chancellor with the help of faculty coordinators. Dr. Anuga Liyanage of the Faculty of Agriculture. Dr. Bimba Wickramaarachchi of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Prof. Thushara Chaminda and M. Saumya Batuwatta of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Palitha Amaraweera of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Surangith Gunasekara, Coordinator of the Cultural Center, Prof. A.C. Karunarathna of the Faculty of Management, Prof. Channa Yahathugoda and Dr. Janithra De Silva of the Faculty of Medicine, Senior. Prof. Dammini Premachandra and Dr. Sugandima Vidanagamachchi of the Faculty of Science, and Dr. K.S.S. Atapaththu of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology were in the organizing committee.



The Elective Student Programme: A Premier Training Placement for International Medical Students at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

The Elective Programme, a well-established short-term training placement for international medical students within the Faculty of Medicine, has been running for over 15 years. The programme has grown significantly over the past two years. Currently, the programme operates from dedicated office premises with full-time staff.

To date, the programme has provided short-term medical training to over 10,200 international students. The faculty has ensured that the programme effectively caters to the needs of foreign medical students seeking elective placements in their medical education journey. The Elective Programme offers comprehensive clinical and paraclinical training placement in various specialties.



Beyond academic and clinical training, they offer elective students opportunities to engage in traditional Sri Lankan events such as the New Year Festival, games, and other cultural activities. These experiences foster a deeper con-



This extensive range of subjects provides students with a thorough understanding of the medical field and hands-on experience in diverse clinical environments through university affiliated two teaching hospitals: Teaching Hospital Karpitiya and German-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital For Women.

A primary draw for a large number of students choosing the faculty is the unique exposure to Sri Lanka's medical landscape and the immersive cultural experience they provide. The programme not only enhances their medical knowledge but also allows them to observe and understand the cultural nuances and healthcare setting in Sri Lanka. This enriching experience has made the Elective Programme a significant contributor to the University's revenue and a valuable asset to Sri Lanka's overseas reserves.

In 2023, the Elective Programme achieved a significant milestone by receiving recognition from the German government, marking the first instance of such acknowledgment. This endorsement underscores the high standards of the programme and its international credibility.



nection with our traditions and provide a holistic educational journey.

Looking ahead, they aim to further enhance the quality of the Elective Programme by introducing GPA certification, organizing outdoor activities, and increasing social events for students. The faculty's commitment to the continuous improvement of the elective program ensures that the Ruhuna Medical Faculty remains a leading destination for foreign medical students involved in such programmes.

Visit of the Indian High Commissioner HE Santosh Jha



On 06th March 2024, Indian High Commissioner H.E. Santosh Jha visited the University of Ruhuna, accompanied by the Consular General of India in Hambantota. The High Commissioner was welcomed by Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Terney Pradeep Kumara, Director of Center for International Affairs (CINTA).

The High Commissioner attended a meeting with the Deans of Faculties, Directors of Centers, and administrative officers at the new Senate Room of the University. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor delivered a brief presentation about the University of Ruhuna elaborating on the existing collaborations with Indian universities and the close relationship between India and the University of Ruhuna.

Discussions also covered potential future collaborations between India and Sri Lanka, including research and academic exchanges. H.E. Santosh Jha expressed his enthusiasm for strengthening inter-university collaborations and conveyed his best wishes to the University of Ruhuna for their future endeavors.

Following the meeting, the High Commissioner visited the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium, a gift from the Indian government, and paid floral tribute to the statue of Rabindranath Tagore located on the auditorium premises.



Visit to Sharjah Maritime Academy: United Arab Emirates

Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna and Dr. B. Sumith, Head of the Department of Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture, visited the Sharjah Maritime Academy (SMA) to explore opportunities for mutual collaboration.

The Chancellor, Dr. Hashim Al Zaabi, welcomed the University of Ruhuna delegation and discussed possible opportunities for mutual interests and student exchange programmes. We were provided a tour of campus facilities, including Engine and Bridge simulators and workshops. The foundation of the SMA is derived from the vision of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah and President of Sharjah Maritime Academy who envisions SMA as a hub for Maritime Studies in the UAE and beyond.

SMA currently offers Undergraduate Programs and bespoke training and research facilities in the fields of Maritime Transport, Marine Engineering, Maritime Logistics and Supply Chain Management.



Visit of Prof. Nicola Fohrer from the University of Kiel, Germany



Prof. Nicola Fohrer, Director of the Institute for Nature and Resource Conservation at the University of Kiel, Germany, visited the Department of Limnology and Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology from 26th to 29th February 2024 to strengthen collaborative academic and research activities between the two institutes. This visit was organized as a progressive step of ongoing collaborations with Dr. Asanka Jayasinghe and Dr. Lishani Wijewardene of the Department of Limnology and Water Technology. During the visit, she joined discussions related to joint research grant applications and academic exchanges. She shared

her experience by delivering a guest speech on "Sustainable River Basin Management for Food Security, Water and Ecosystem Services" on 26th February at 2:00 p.m. at the Limnology Lecture Theater. She also joined to see ongoing field research activities of the Department. Following her visit, Dr. Uta Ulrich from the same institute also visited the Faculty and joined the ongoing research activities, field work and postgraduate student supervision from 10th to 14th March 2024.

Successful Completion of the BRITAE Project and Launch of the BRITAE M.Sc. Program

The BRITAE Project: A Journey of Collaboration and Innovation

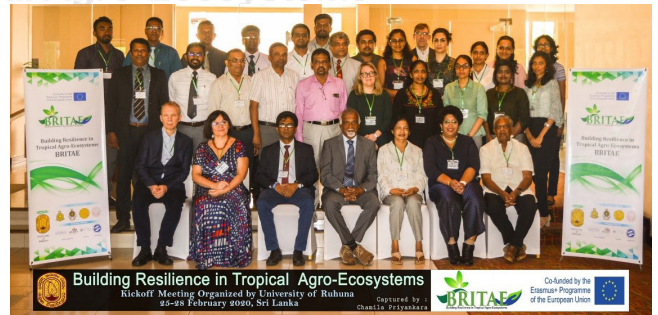
The BRITAE project, a collaborative endeavor involving five Sri Lankan universities and four European Union (EU) universities (from the UK, Estonia and Lithuania), along with 45 industry partners, has reached its successful conclusion.

This project was made possible by a highly competitive international research grant under the grant scheme of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (Erasmus+: Capacity Building in Higher Education) of the European Union. Spanning four years (15.11.2019 – 14.11.2023), the project has been a journey of discovery and innovation.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



The BRITAE framework has identified existing practices, research interests, innovations, links, and gaps at both global and local levels. It has illustrated 151 concepts classified into five major areas. A Smart Agroecosystem-Based Resilience Center was developed for teaching, learning, research, and development. A multidisciplinary joint M.Sc. curriculum was also developed, blending European practices in education from participating EU universities.



The BRITAE MSc Program: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Agriculture

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

BRITAE
Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems

- Master of Science in Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems (by Dissertation) 2023/2024 SLQF level 10
- Master of Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems (by Coursework) 2023/2024 SLQF level 9
- PG Dip. in Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems 2023/2024 SLQF Level 8
- PG Cert. in Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems 2023/2024 SLQF Level 7

The program will leverage online platforms such as Moodle and Zoom for lectures, assignments, and exams, providing students with a flexible and interactive learning environment. Students will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field and engage in practical projects. The first intake to the BRITAE M.Sc. program was held this year, and semester-1 commenced on 24th February 2024. As we welcomed our first cohort of students, we are confident that the BRITAE MSc program will continue the legacy of the BRITAE project.

Building on the success of the BRITAE project, we are thrilled to launch the BRITAE M.Sc. program. This program, featuring joint curricula modules on building resilience in tropical agro-ecosystems, aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to sustainable agriculture.



The FOUNTAIN Project

Naresuan University - Thailand Online Workshop

The FOUNTAIN (Fostering Sustainable University-Industry Techno-entrepreneurial Collaborations and Innovations in Asian Universities) project, led by the University of Ruhuna coordinated by Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, is a collaborative initiative involving 10 Higher Education Institutes from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Sweden, Lithuania, and Estonia, supported by an EACEA Erasmus Plus grant to build capacity in higher education through transformative partnerships.

The FOUNTAIN Naresuan University Online Workshop, held at the Faculty of Engineering at Naresuan University in Thailand from 10th to 12th January 2024. As the leading partner, the University of Ruhuna played a pivotal role in the FOUNTAIN project, showcasing its leadership and commitment to enhancing higher education through international collaboration. This event brought together universities from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Estonia, Lithuania, and Sweden to enhance university-industry engagement. Prof G.Y. Jayasinghe (UOR) as the coordinator of the project led the meeting (online) and conducted the 2nd steering committee meeting at the end of Day-03. Over the three days, participants engaged in project briefings, shared best practices, and explored case studies on effective collaboration strategies.



The FOUNTAIN Naresuan University Online Workshop, held at the Faculty of Engineering at Naresuan University in Thailand from 10th to 12th January 2024. As the leading partner, the University of Ruhuna played a pivotal role in the FOUNTAIN project, showcasing its leadership and commitment to enhancing higher education through international collaboration. This event brought together universities from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Estonia, Lithuania, and Sweden to enhance university-industry engagement. Prof G.Y. Jayasinghe (UOR) as the coordinator of the project led the meeting (online) and conducted the 2nd steering committee meeting at the end of Day-03. Over the three days, participants engaged in project briefings, shared best practices, and explored case studies on effective collaboration strategies.

The inaugural Industry Engagement Camp

The inaugural Industry Engagement Camp of the FOUNTAIN project supported by Erasmus Plus grant and led by the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka was held on 26th January 2024. This event was hosted at Horizon College of Business and Technology (HCBT) in Malabe, marking a significant milestone in academia-industry collaboration. Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Coordinator of the FOUNTAIN project from the University of Ruhuna emphasized the importance, of University Industry Engagement Camp under current academia-industry context. Mr. Bandula Wickramarachchi, Technical Specialist at Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Ms. Deshani Gamage, Managing Director at Apex Business Academy served as the guest speakers. The



event showcased success stories, fostering innovation and academia-industry bonds, with gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and organizers.

Thailand Visit of Ruhuna FOUNTAIN Team

Prof G.Y Jayasinghe, Senior Prof. K.L. Wasantha Kumara, Dr. Chamila Wijekoon, and Mr. K.M.C. Tharupath representing the FOUNTAIN project from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka recently visited Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 8th to 10th Feb 2024, facilitating knowledge exchange, collaboration, and connections with stakeholders in Thailand's food and agriculture sector. The visit included participation in plenary sessions of FAB 2024 Conference, and field excursions to Niithi Foods Co., Ltd. and Sunsweet Public Co., Ltd. Consortium members engaged in work package discussions and country presentations on the project's WP 2 survey findings from Thailand and Sri Lanka. The University of Ruhuna team presented the progress and the way forward of work packages regarding the university industry collaboration under Sri Lankan context. The 3rd Project steering committee meeting of the FOUNTAIN project was led by Prof. G.Y Jayasinghe as the Coordinator of the project.



FOUNTAIN Framework for Promising University-Industry Collaborations

The FOUNTAIN framework was developed by the project leader, University of Ruhuna – Sri Lanka, Horizon College of Business and Technology (HCBT), Malambe and Naresuan University, Thailand through literature reviews and qualitative surveys that investigated best practices, barriers, and successful models of University – Industry Collaborations (UIC). Workshops and focus-group meetings were conducted with practitioners and researchers in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the EU to explore current university-industry engagement and gather input on improving collaboration. The findings were analyzed to create the FOUNTAIN framework, which aimed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of UIC. This work significantly contributed to the existing knowledge on UIC by providing concrete steps for effective collaboration between universities and industries, benefiting academic and industry practitioners alike.

The FOUNTAIN framework has identified existing practices, research interests, innovations, links, and gaps at both global and local levels. It has illustrated 148 concepts classified into seven major areas. The framework was first drafted by the University of Ruhuna and then it was opened for round table discussions among the consortium members and then it was finalized by the University of Ruhuna.



Co-funded by the European Union

Professor Karu Esselle Visited the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna

Professor Karu Esselle, a distinguished Professor in Electromagnetic and Antenna Engineering at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and a Fellow of the IEEE, Royal Society of New South Wales, and Engineers Australia, visited the Faculty of Engineering at the invitation of Dr. C.K.W.Seneviratne, Counselor of the IEEE Student Branch at the University of Ruhuna.

Professor Esselle is a world expert in Telecommunications, Defense, and Space Technologies. His remarkable contributions earned him the prestigious Australian National Department of Defense Eureka Prize in 2023 for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia.



The Eureka Prizes are among Australia's most esteemed science awards, highlighting his outstanding achievements. He was also named Australia's national Professional Engineer of the Year for 2022. During his visit, Prof. Karu Esselle delivered a lecture on "Future of Satellite Technologies and Challenges" for the students attached to the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering. Additionally, Prof. Esselle attended two special discussions with the staff members of the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, and the IEEE student branch representatives. The potential for collaboration and strengthening the IEEE activities of the University of Ruhuna was discussed during these meetings

Invited Talk on "Higher Studies and Migration to the UK"

In an inspiring collaboration with the Career Circle at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, the "Higher Studies and Migration to the UK" session took place on 01st March, 2024 at the Faculty of Technology providing the perfect backdrop for an enlightening discussion, aimed at undergraduates aspiring for further their studies and careers at the United Kingdom.



This session was graced by the distinguished Prof. Vishanth Weerakkody, the Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford. His vast experience and insightful guidance created a vibrant and informative atmosphere, encouraging students to explore the opportunities and pathways available for higher education and professional growth in Bradford University at UK. The students enthusiastically participated, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the steps necessary for a successful transition. This session was not just an informative talk; it was a launchpad for our students to envision and plan their futures on an international stage.

Meta Mastery: Advanced Meta Analysis Techniques Workshop

A series of workshops on "Meta Mastery: Advanced Meta Analysis Techniques" were organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna on 26th June, 3rd and 10th July 2024 for the interested staff and student of the faculty. The resource person of the event was Dr. Nirmala Liyanage of the University of Sydney, Australia, and there were more than 70 participants. The workshop was constructively delivered with a comprehensive theoretical background and hands-on statistical analyses related to Meta Analysis, providing practical examples. This workshop series were coordinated by Prof. Saman Seneweera of the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology.



Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia (SECRA) Project

Fostering University – Enterprise Collaboration: Policy Brief meeting

The SECRA is an Erasmus+ project supported by the European Commission (project number 619022) project aiming to enhance university curricula, strengthen business links, and foster invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship by supporting start-ups and promoting environmental conservation. Prof. Guttilla Jayasinghe and the team from the Faculty of Agriculture play a significant role in coordinating the university's involvement in the SECRA project as the main coordinator of the University of Ruhuna.

The Policy Brief Meeting of the SECRA project was held at the Colombo Conference, GapHQ, Sri Lanka, on 16th March 2024. The project partners from the University of Sri Jayawardhanapura hosted this meeting to strengthen the collaborations between universities and enterprises, especially considering the challenges posed by the pandemic and economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The theme of the meeting was "Enhancing University-Enterprise Collaboration (UEC) for Economic Recovery and Resilience in Sri Lanka". This gathering brought together a diverse array of panelists representing universities, enterprises, and government sectors, and they elaborated on various collaborative models and initiatives intended to bridge the gap between universities and enterprises.



representing universities, enterprises, and government sectors, and they elaborated on various collaborative models and initiatives intended to bridge the gap between universities and enterprises.

SECRA Sri Lanka Meeting 2024



The SECRA Sri Lanka meeting was hosted by the University of Peradeniya, with collaborative sessions organized by the University of Ruhuna and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura from 18th to 21st March 2024. The final sessions were held at the University of Peradeniya and the Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy, with the participation of more than 80 academics, researchers and students from the 13 partner universities, the University of Ruhuna, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mid Sweden University (Sweden), University of Huddersfield and University of Central Lancashire (UK), Tallinn University (Estonia), Naresuan University, Chiang Mai University, and Mahasarakham University (Thailand), Ateneo de Manila University, Philippine Normal University, and Malayan College Laguna (the Philippines). As a partner university, 16 members from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna represented the meeting.

The Colombo Conference (ICSD-2024)

The 1st International Conference on University-industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD 2024), also known as the 'The Colombo Conference' aimed to promote sustainable solutions, innovative technologies, and entrepreneurial strategies across various industries. The event organized by SECRA in collaboration with FOUNTAIN (Fostering Sustainable University-Industry Techno-entrepreneurial Collaborations and Innovations in Asian Universities) projects led by University of Ruhuna was held from 15th to 17th March 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Both SECRA and FOUNTAIN projects are Erasmus+ projects supported by the European Commission. This is an annual event to enhance university curricula, strengthen business links, and foster invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship by supporting start-ups and promoting environmental conservation.



The inauguration of the event was held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on 15th March 2024, brought together foreign and local academics, industry leaders, and experts. The plenary sessions consisting nearly 200 presentations of keynote speakers and authors held on 16th and 17th March at the gapHQ, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The University of Ruhuna's dedication to innovation shone brightly as the FOUNTAIN UOR Team masterfully coordinated the IPC (International Pitching Competition) 2024 session, showcasing UOR's commitment to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators. This vibrant gathering set the stage for insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and the sharing of ideas aimed at advancing sustainable development and innovation.

The International Pitching Competition

The International Pitching Competition (IPC) 2024, organized under the purview of the SECRA and FOUNTAIN projects was held on 17th March 2024 to support young entrepreneurs in parallel with the ICSD 2024 - The Colombo Conference. The IPC 2024 brought together innovative minds and promising concepts for sustainable commercial products. Finalists of the pitching competition had the opportunity to present their ideas to a distinguished panel of evaluators, including industry experts and academics. Prof G.Y. Jayasinghe of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna welcomed the guests giving a kick start to the session. The winning pitch of the session was on "Banaroo Sausages", a concept for eco-friendly vegan sausages, and the 1st runners-up presented: a breast cancer detecting sensor.



The 2nd runners-up award was secured by Mr. H.G.C.P.Bandara, Ms. R.D.S.M.Gamlath, Mr. S.R.Edirisinghe from the Alumni of the University of Ruhuna for their concept on "Empowering Farmers Globally," which highlighted the importance of agricultural innovation for sustainable development.

Visit to Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy: United Arab Emirates

Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna and Dr. B. Sumith, Head, Department of Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture, Prof. H.C.P. Karunasena, and Dr. Buddhika Annasiwatte visited the Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy (ADMA), AD Ports Group, UEA on 28th June 2024 to explore opportunities for mutual collaboration and to observe the facilities of latest Full Mission Engine Room Simulators used for maritime education.



The Director, Navigation and higher officials of ADMA welcomed the delegation, discussed possible opportunities for collaborative research and student exchange programmes. The visitors were provided a tour of campus facilities, including Engine and Bridge simulators and workshops. As a premier initiative by AD Ports Group for the advancement of the maritime industry, Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy provides world-class maritime education and training for the next generation of maritime industry leaders in the UAE and the region.



Francophonie 2024 Master Class in Collaboration With the Department of English and Linguistics

The Department of English and Linguistics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Ruhuna had the pleasure of partnering with the Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and the Maldives together with the International Organization of la Francophonie in the hosting of a Master Class by renowned Artistes Marc Aymon and Milla. As one of the youngest Departments of English in University system, such a collaboration was an impetus for future collaborative work despite being a small and growing Department and a positive influence on the students of the department and faculty.



Bringing the Francophonie festival to the University community in the South, the session primarily focused on the poetic expression of lyricism in the inter-cultural context where Aymon and Milla engaged with Glaneurs; a compilation of poetry and lyrics by the Artistes. As the Department engages in World Literatures in English where key European writers are discussed within the post-colonial contexts of the modern world, the exposure to the crafting of lyrics, poetry, and the process of transferring such lyrical expressions into the universal language of poetic expression proved to be immensely beneficial to the students and members of the department and faculty.

The exchange of cultures in a live setting (a lived experience) in a context where the digital seems to have overtaken us was a heartfelt experience, for, the students engaged with the Artistes after the official session discussing the process of lyrical composition exchanging their creative work.

This event was coordinated by the Head of the department Mr. R.M. Wijayawardhana, together with Dr. D.V.N. Harischandra, Mr. P.N. Rathnayake, and Mr. C.M. Arsakulasuriya under the guidance of the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Mr. I. Renuka Priyantha. Collaborative events of such a nature on English Literature and Linguistics are planned for the students in the future.

International Research Collaboration on Sustainable Waste Management

The University of Ruhuna is proud to be at the forefront of a collaborative international research project tackling a critical environmental issue in Sri Lanka: the open burning of municipal solid waste in fisheries harbors. This project is funded by an Engineering X grant from the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK. The project, led by Dr. Thusitha Bandara of the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, convened a team of experts from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), the Administrative Staff College of India, and the Alliance for Aquatic Research and Conservation (ARRC).

This team conducted extensive fieldwork, exploring harbors in the Western and Southern provinces of the country while visiting plastic recycling centers, solid waste management facilities, and a waste-to-energy plant. Additionally, they had discussions with NGOs to explore innovative waste management plans aiming to develop potential partnerships. These visits revealed several burning issues related to waste accumulation and disposal within the fishery harbors. The team held in-depth discussions with harbor authorities to develop potential solutions. Researchers, including Prof. Karl Williams (UCLAN), Dr. Prathibha (Administrative Staff College of India), Mr. Rohantha and Mr. Manuja (AARC), and Dr. Thusitha Bandara (University of Ruhuna), played key roles in identifying and addressing these challenges. The project's impact extends beyond research. The team organized a successful harbor cleanup activity and workshop, collaborating with students from Ocean University, Tangalle, focusing on Tangalle Harbor. This initiative exemplifies the commitment of the University of Ruhuna to environmental stewardship and community engagement. The Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology would like to extend their special thanks to the Negombo Recycling Club, Waste to Energy Plant, Solid Waste Management Center- Ekala, Ocean University, and HELPO for their valuable contribution.



Visit to IIT Madras, India by the Faculty of Technology

A team of academic staff members and students from the Faculty of Technology (FoT), University of Ruhuna, embarked on its first visit to the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) from 21st to 27th April 2024. This initiative was made possible by the efforts of the Dean of the faculty, Prof. Subash Jayasinghe, while Mr. P.H.P. Nuwan Laksiri coordinated the event. Since this was the first experience of its kind for FoT and UoR with IITM, the visit provided a multifaceted opportunity for the students and staff to engage with the vibrant academic and research community at IITM.

An insightful tour of the IITM Research Park showcased innovative research and development initiatives, while exposure to the diverse internship programs available at IITM provided the students with insights into various academic and professional avenues. Visits to several state-of-the-art research centers offered a glimpse into cutting-edge technological advancements, and the exploration of the Centre for Innovation highlighted entrepreneurial and inventive activities.

Additionally, the visit to the IITM heritage Center explored the history and milestones of the institute. Staff members were able to meet the Director of IITM for a short discussion and the meeting with the NPTEL program administration opened a new avenue for online teaching and learning. The visit concluded with a city tour which showcased the rich culture, and exploring the history of the country was a great experience for the team. This event laid the foundation for future partnerships in research, education, and technological advancement to uplift higher education in technology in the country.



2024 International Summer School at IIT Bombay

Six third-year undergraduates specializing in the field of Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), University of Ruhuna, participated in the prestigious 2024 International Summer School organized by IIT Bombay. Senior Prof. D.A.L. Leelamanie coordinated the event from the FoA, and Dr. T.D.P. Liyanage, and Mr. U.I. Samarawickrama also accompanied the students. This event took place from 12th to 21st June 2024, providing an excellent opportunity for our students to interact with international scholars and experts in their field. The program involved a rigorous schedule with a minimum of 5 hours of engagement per day, including lectures and various activities. This participation underscored the academic excellence and dedication of the students, and the Department of Soil Science of the FoA is proud of their achievements and appreciates the productive and enriching experience they had at IIT Bombay.



Training Programme for an International PhD Student

Mr. W. M. C. Dammika Wijekoon, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, conducted a Ph. D. training program on "Taxonomy and Identification of Asian Fireflies" for a Ph. D. student (Mr. Parvez) in India.

Mr. Parvez is a PhD candidate at the University of Calcutta, and the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Bangalore, India. He conducts his PhD research on 'Identification and Bio-ecology of Fireflies, Karnataka, South India, Mr. W.M.C. Wijekoon of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna was selected as one of his PhD supervisors, as Mr. Wijekoon is one of the experts working on fireflies in the Asian region. Mr. Wijekoon conducted a PhD training program on "Taxonomy and Identification of Asian Fireflies" for Mr. Parvez, and he successfully completed the ma-



For a major part of his PhD training at the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna from 01.02.2024 to 16.02.2024. Prof. (Mrs.) H. C. E. Wegiriya, Department of Zoology, initiated this collaboration.

Summer School on "Global Health in Context: Sri Lanka"

The Department of Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, successfully hosted the third Summer School on "Global Health in Context; Sri Lanka," in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, in June 2024. Initially launched in 2018, the program faced a hiatus from 2019 to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, it welcomed 14 medical undergraduates from the University of Amsterdam for a four-week course that covered the Sri Lankan health system, maternal and child health care, occupational health, spiritual health, and infectious diseases.

The curriculum included lectures, field visits, group discussions, student projects, and presentations. This program aims to be an annual event, fostering international collaboration and providing valuable learning opportunities. The organizers wish to extend their gratitude to all participants, lecturers, and organizers for making this year's Summer School a success and look forward to future editions.



Workshop on “How to Facilitate a Program”

The Career Circle of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, hosted an empowering workshop on “How to Facilitate a Program” on 6th March 2024, with the presence of esteemed, President of the Career Circle, Sarwodya Shanthy Sena Director, CMVE Facilitator, Mr. Aruna Sampath. Mr. Aruna Sampath shared his wealth of experience, guiding students to become effective leaders and organizers, specially focusing on practical strategies for planning, organizing, and executing programs,

The workshop's success was reflected in the enthusiastic participation and the valuable skills gained by the students. This event was not just a learning experience but a platform for students to harness their potential and strengthen their leadership skills. Through this initiative, the Faculty of Technology continues to foster the development of capable and confident program facilitators, ready to make a significant impact in their respective fields.



Applets Awarding Ceremony of Rover Scouts

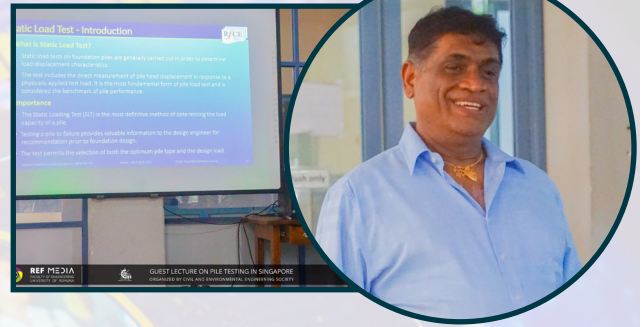
Rover Scouts Applets awarding ceremony was held on 09th and 10th February 2024 at the University of Ruhuna. Sixty-five (65) Rover Scouts received their Applets and were invested as Rover Scouts. The Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna organized the event in collaboration with Sri Lanka Scout Association. For the Applets awarding ceremony, Professor Saman Chandana Ediriweera, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Professor Thusitha Gunawardana, Director, of the Career Guidance Unit (CGU), Assistant Commissioner Mr. Srilath De. Silva, and Assistant Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scouts participated as the guests. Mr. Indika Prasanna, Former Commissioner of the Matara District Scout Association and Mr. Nilantha Kalansooriya, Career Counsellor of the CGU coordinated the training program.

The University of Ruhuna became the first University among the state Universities in Sri Lanka to establish the first Rover Scout Crew. A Rover Scout Crew is a section within the Scouting movement that caters to young adults, typically between the ages of 18 and 26. The Rover Scout program is designed to provide older youth with opportunities for personal development, leadership, and service while emphasizing the values and principles of Scouting. Rover Scouts provide a bridge between the youth and adult phases of Scouting, preparing young adults for leadership roles in both Scouting and their broader communities. The program aims to foster a sense of responsibility, service, and lifelong commitment to the principles of Scouting. Rover Scouts engage in various community service projects and take on leadership roles within their Crew. The training program encourages them to use their skills and experiences to make a positive impact on their communities.



Guest Lecture on Pile Testing in Singapore

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Society of the Faculty of Engineering, proudly hosted a guest lecture on 1st April titled “Pile Testing in Singapore,” presented by Engineer Ranjan Fernando, a renowned geotechnical expert. This insightful event enriched attendees’ understanding of practical challenges in pile testing specific to Singapore’s unique environment and introduced cutting-edge technologies in the field. Participants left with enhanced knowledge and appreciation for the complexities and advancements in geotechnical engineering.



Training on Societal Documentation and Report Writing

The Career Circle at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, conducted a workshop to enhance the skills in societal documentation and report writing. Miss. Himasha Galbadage, Secretary of the Career Circle, and a distinguished content writer at the Microsoft IT Pro community, Sri Lanka was the resource person for the event. Miss. Himasha is a 3rd-year undergraduate of the same faculty, and her expertise in professional report writing provided practical tips and techniques for project completion and organizational improvement within the circle.



“Yathra” Project: Soft Skills Society of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

“Yathra”, the annual event of the Soft Skills Society of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) was organized on 14th February 2024 for the 3rd consecutive year. This year’s event provided essential school items to the students (Grade 1 to 5) of Akuressa Yahamulla Primary School together while adding a few entertaining activities. Student fundraising activities during the convocation ceremony of the University of Ruhuna along with kind donations and contributions of the undergraduates, alumni, and staff members of the Faculty of FMST, this year event was completed at the Akuressa Yahamulla Primary School.



The event was highly appreciated by the principal of the school, Mr. D.N.N. Samarasena emphasizing the dedication of the Soft Skills Society of FFMST, University of Ruhuna for bringing smiles to the little souls in one of the extremely rural schools in Southern Province

New Year Celebration

On 27th April 2024, the Career Circle of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, conducted a vibrant New Year Festival at Bright Kids Preschool, Samagi Welfare Society, Polwaththa, Kandy. This joyful event was filled with traditional games, cultural performances, and engaging activities, creating a joyful festive atmosphere for the children.

The dedicated members of the Career Circle brought enthusiasm and creativity to the event, ensuring a memorable day. Their efforts not only provided entertainment but also fostered a sense of community and cultural appreciation among the young participants.



Revit Workshop and Competition

On 31st March 2024, a Revit workshop was conducted via Zoom to prepare participants for an upcoming Revit competition. Led by Mr. Channa Senarathna, CEO of Architect CAD Academy, the session provided valuable insights into building information modeling with Revit architecture. The workshop, organized by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Society (CEES) of the University of Ruhuna, aimed to equip attendees with essential knowledge and skills for the competition. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of Revit's capabilities in architectural design and construction projects.

The Revit competition, scheduled for 6th April in DO1 and DO2, will challenge 75 teams to complete a specific design project using Autodesk Revit within a set timeframe. Evaluation criteria include design quality, model complexity, accuracy, presentation, and innovation.

Awards will be given to the top three civil engineering students, with all participants receiving certificates. The event not only aims to educate students about Revit but also sparks their interest in civil engineering.



Leadership Training Program for Future Leaders

The Career Guidance Unit, University of Ruhuna conducted a one-day Leadership Skill Development Training Programme for 84 school prefects at the Nittabuwu Sangabodhi National College on 18th January 2024. This program was aimed at developing leadership qualities, teamwork, and positive thinking through theoretical and practical training. By conducting a leadership program for school prefects, CGU seeks to help emerging young leaders become real-world change makers, by driving awareness, action, and change, while supporting their academic and personal goals.



Moreover, the leadership training for prefects emphasized positive attitude, respect, adherence to school policies, honesty, time management, effective communication, humility, empathy, responsibility, and ambassadorship. Prof. Thusitha Gunawardana and Mrs. Pubudu Mallwarachchi participated as resource persons with university undergraduates for this event.

7th International Academic Conference on Buddhist Studies (SLABS 2024)

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies at the University of Ruhuna played a significant role in the 7th International Academic Conference on Buddhist Studies (SLABS 2024), jointly organized by SLABS and Nagagananda International Institute for Buddhist Studies (NIIBS). Held from 22nd to 24th March 2024, at the NIIBS in Manelwatta, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, the conference focused on the theme "Survey of Buddhist Studies: Current Trends and Future Directions."

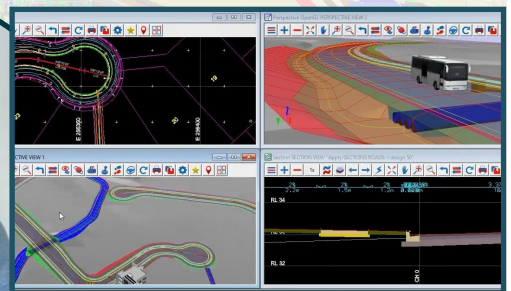
Eight students from the Department (Rev. R. Dhammasiri, Rev. M. Sumanathissa, K.M.K. Kaushalya, T.D.T.S. Dhananjana, P.A.K.W. Kumari, K.L.S.A. Jayasekara, H.A.S. Sandaruani, and N.V.N. Wasana) made significant contributions as volunteers throughout the three-day event. Senior Lecturer Dr. Dilshan Manoj Rajapaksha served on the organizing committee of the SLABS conference, while Senior Lecturers Dr. A.A.R. Priyanka, Dr. Dilshan Manoj Rajapaksha, and Mrs. Ranjani Malawi Pathirana acted as co-chairpersons for the sessions. Additionally, Senior Lecturer Dr. Rawindu Abewardhana, Assistant Lecturers Ven. Welampalle Rathanasara and Sachini Hansika, and undergraduate students, B. Rasanjaya Batugedara and B.H. Himasha Erandi presented research papers representing the department.



The conference attracted prominent scholars from Sri Lanka and various countries including China, Greece, India, Myanmar, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam. The SLABS provided an excellent platform for students of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies to actively participate and contribute to the field of Buddhist Studies.

Guest Lecture on Storm Water Drainage Modelling with 12D

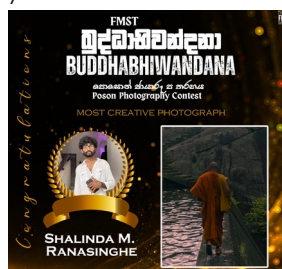
On 23rd April, a workshop on stormwater drainage modeling using 12D software was conducted via Zoom. The workshop, organized by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Society, attracted enthusiastic participation from aspiring engineers eager to enhance their skills in design modeling. The guest speaker, Engineer Soumya Sendaheera, shared his expertise, engaging young engineering undergraduates in an interactive session. Participants deepened their understanding of stormwater management techniques, preparing them for future challenges in the field.



Buddhabhiwandhana 2024: An Online Photographic Contest

The "Buddhabhiwandhana 2024", an online photographic contest was organized in conjunction with Posen Poyaday via the official Facebook page of FMST media. as an open competition under the theme of "Poson poya". This was open for the students of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST).

The most popular photograph was selected by Facebook votes (reactions) from followers of the FMST media Facebook page, while the most creative photograph was selected by a judging panel. Around 100 contestants participated, and a cash prize of LKR.3000 was awarded to each winner in the above two categories.



Photographic Competition: "Natural Beauty of the University of Ruhuna"



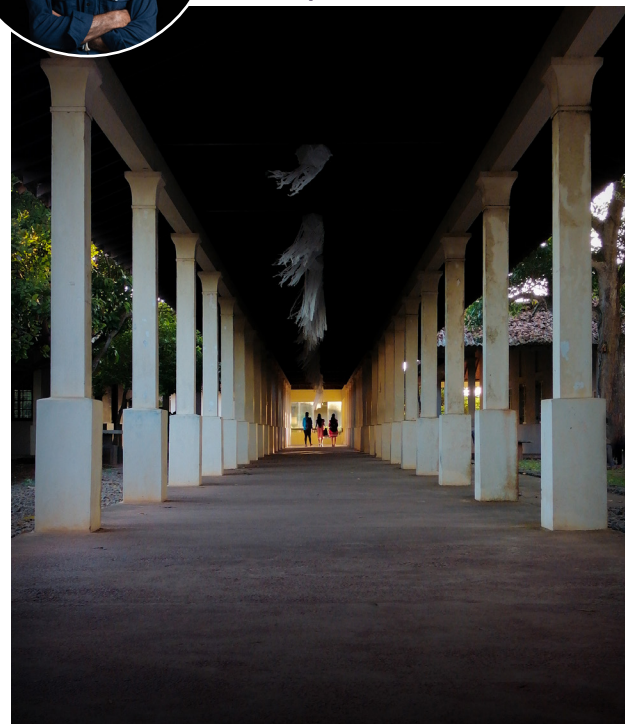
First Place: P.H.U. Jayamal (HS/2021/18577)
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Second Place:
I.H.D. Seneviratne (EG/2019/3743)
Faculty of Engineering



Third Place
S.M.A.N. Shanilka Senanayake
(SC/2021/12078)
Faculty of Science



First, Second, and Third place winners receive cash prizes of 10,000, 5,000, and 3,000 LKR, respectively. The event was sponsored by the Students Welfare Fund, which was established by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, and the event

was organized by the editorial board team of the UoR Highlights under the guidance of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Half-Night Camp - SEDS Ruhuna

“Reignite Your Passion for Space: Relaunching SEDS Society at the University of Ruhuna – Join Us in Shaping the Future of Space Exploration”

The Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) is an international organization devoted to advancing the exploration and development of space. The SEDS Ruhuna Chapter, established in 2020 at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, had been inactive for several years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the chapter was revitalized, and its Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 27th March 2024, in collaboration with SEDS Sri Lanka. During this meeting, the executive committee for the year 2024 was appointed.

The reestablished SEDS Ruhuna Chapter aspires to unite a community of passionate individuals, providing opportunities for educational enrichment, hands-

on projects, and professional growth. The chapter's inaugural event, a half-night camp titled 'Ad Astra 1.0,' took place on 19th April 2024, under the supervision of Dr. K.C. Wickramasinghe, the Senior Treasurer of SEDS Ruhuna. Over 100 engineering students participated, and the event was successfully executed with support from the SEDS Society of the University of Colombo.

Currently, membership in the renewed SEDS Ruhuna Chapter is limited to students of the Faculty of Engineering. However, it will soon be open to all students at the University. The chapter aims to attract a diverse membership from various academic disciplines, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to space exploration. Membership benefits will include access to exclusive events such as night camps, rocketry and rover projects, and other resources, as well as leadership and networking opportunities.



Workshop on Social Media Literacy

The Career Circle of the University of Ruhuna, together with Prathiba Media Network, and Hashtag Generation organized a workshop on Social Media Literacy at the Prathiba Media headquarters on 25th June 2024. This event aimed to sharpen the video content creation skills of undergraduates of the University of Ruhuna. Mr. Kosala Gunawardhana, Project Director at Prathiba Media Network attended this event as the resource person, and the session brimmed with creative insights and expert guidance, tailored to elevate media skills and expand professional networks.

Attendees, Career Circle members and dedicated volunteers, immersed themselves in hands-on experience in crafting and compelling video narratives. Beyond technical proficiency, the workshop provided insights into the critical importance of social media literacy in today's interconnected world.



Leadership Development Program at Sri Rahula College, Kandy

The Career Circle at the Faculty of Technology organized a Leadership Training Program for the Prefects of Sri Rahula College, Kandy on 28th June 2024, aiming to equip these young leaders with the tools and confidence needed to navigate the complexities of leadership in their careers. Nearly 50 students actively participated in this event, to enhance their leadership skills.

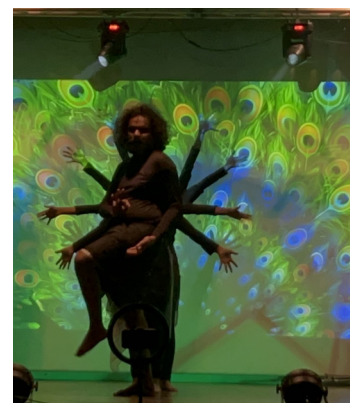
The session was successfully organized with the support from the administration of both ends, Sri Rahula College, and the University of Ruhuna, together with the volunteer support of Mr. Aruna Sampath, Miss. Himasha Galbadage, Mr. K.H. Sandeepa, Mr. Dineth Siriwardana, Miss. Anusarani Gunawardana, and Miss. Samudi Amara-keerthi. Their collaboration was instrumental in the seamless execution of the program, providing an enriching environment for the students.



Wasanthaye Arunalu 2024: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

On the evening of 21st February 2024, the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science & Technology (FMST) at the University Ruhuna transformed into a lively seafaring paradise for its annual student talent show, orchestrated by the 15th batch, aptly named "Dinario." This year's theme, "Pirates of the Sea," brought out the adventurous spirit of students, making it an unforgettable evening of entertainment, creativity, and camaraderie.

From the moment guests arrived, they were greeted by an atmosphere reminiscent of the golden age of piracy. The campus grounds were adorned with nautical decorations, including ship sails, pirate flags, treasure chests, and even a life-sized replica of a pirate ship's deck. The attention to detail in the decorations set the tone for a night filled with swashbuckling fun and excitement. The show kicked off with a spirited speech by the Dean of the faculty, Prof. K.H.M.A Deepananda, who highlighted the importance of such events in enriching campus life.



The talent show featured a diverse array of performances, showcasing the multifaceted talents of the students. From singing and dancing to dramatic skits each act incorporated the pirate theme, adding a unique twist to their presentations.

Insurgex 1.0: Intra-University Hackathon

Computer Science Student Community (CSSC) of the Department of Computer Science recently organized a landmark event—the Insurgex 1.0, an intra-university hackathon that ignited the creative minds of students across the University of Ruhuna.



Recognizing the need for more intra-university hackathons, CSSC initially launched "Road to Insurgex," an intra-faculty hackathon event on 6th December 2023. This pilot event provided valuable insights and experience, setting the stage for a larger, more inclusive competition. With the lessons learned from this pilot event, the CSSC organized Insurgex 1.0. In line with this main event, the CSSC community hosted a workshop to equip students with the necessary skills and strategies for hackathon success. Further, a dedicated website was launched to provide comprehensive information and facilitate easy registration for participants.



The grand event was held on 20th January 2024, with the generous support of sponsors including Exactpro, WSO2, and Kavithi Group. The hackathon brought together students from several faculties, fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation. Participants showcased their technical prowess while networking with industry professionals and peers. All participants received a certificate of participation, acknowledging their efforts and dedication. The winners were awarded cash prizes motivating them to pursue their passions in technology and innovation.

Insurgex 1.0 was more than just a competition; it was a testament to the University of Ruhuna's commitment to nurturing talent and encouraging a culture of innovation. This event has undoubtedly set a new standard for intra-university activities, reinforcing the University's reputation as a hub of creativity and excellence.

Ramadan Kareem '24: Faculty of Medicine

The Islamic Students Society of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ruhuna, together with the Spiritual and Religious Subcommittee of the cultural center of the faculty, celebrated their second annual grand iftar event, Ramadan Kareem '24, on Friday, 29th March 2024.

Attendees were treated to mesmerizing qaseedahs, and engaging interactive quiz that tested their knowledge of Ramadan and Islamic traditions. The event offered hands-on experiences with Islamic culture, including Mehendi and Hijab try-ons, allowing participants to gain valuable insights into these beautiful traditions. A traditional iftar meal was served, featuring kanji, dates, fruits, and a variety of short eats, providing a delightful culinary experience that was both nourishing and symbolic. Participants also had the unique opportunity to witness the Muslim call to prayer and observe the Maghrib prayers in congregation, fostering a sense of spiritual connection and unity.



Thai Pongal Festival 2024

Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The vibrant and culturally rich festival of 'Thai Pongal' recently took center stage at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology in 2024, in the presence of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana by bringing together students, faculty, and staff in a celebration that showcased the essence of Tamil culture and tradition. The festival was successfully organized under the indispensable guidance of the Dean and the Senior Treasurer of the Student Union of the faculty. In a heartwarming display of cultural pride and communal spirit, the festival was coordinated by the 15th batch through the Student Union. As one entered the faculty, the vibrant colors of traditional Kolam (rangoli) designs adorned the pathways, each intricate pattern symbolizing prosperity and happiness. A highlight of the Thai Pongal celebrations was the sumptuous spread of traditional Tamil dishes. The celebration also included other traditional foods and beverages. The rhythmic beats of the thavil and the melodious strains of classical music filled the air, captivating the audience and invoking a sense of celebration.



Traditional dances such as Bharatanatyam and folk dances brought alive the spirit of Tamil culture, with students showcasing their talents with grace and finesse. Beyond the cultural displays and culinary delights, the Thai Pongal festival underscored the importance of unity in diversity. Students from various cultural backgrounds came together to partake in the celebrations, and also build bridges among batches of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science and Technology.

Faculty of Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine celebrated Thaipongal for the third consecutive year with enthusiasm and cultural flair on 25th Feb 2024 at the faculty premises. The event was graced by Senior Prof. Sujewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. T.P. Weeraratna, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, alongside academic and non-academic staff, and students.



A highlight was the traditional preparation of Pongal. As the fresh pot of rice cooked and the milk began to boil, the crowd joyfully hailed "Pongalo pongal," spreading blessings and gratitude to the Sun God. This communal cheer symbolized abundance and prosperity.

Students showcased their creativity through Kolam, intricate designs made with colored powders, adding a vibrant touch to the venue. Following tradition, prayers were offered to the Sun, and a Pooja was performed by the Chief Priest of the Murugan temple, emphasizing the festival's spiritual significance. The celebration featured lively cultural performances, including classical dances and Bhajana songs, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the Tamil community. Through rituals, performances, and community engagement, the Thaipongal celebration at the University of Ruhuna demonstrated the institution's commitment to celebrating diversity and promoting cultural exchange.

New Year Celebration: "Isiwara Bakmaha Ulela"

This New Year's celebration of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, came to light as the "Isiwara Bakmaha Ulela" on 28th April 2024 at the Faculty Ground Premises. The university has transformed into a vibrant celebration hub as students, faculty, and staff gather to embrace the new year with grandeur and joy. Organized by the Student Union of the Faculty of Medicine, the event featured a blend of cultural displays, entertainment, and community spirit, making it a day to remember. Senior Prof. Tilak Weeraratne, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, attended as the Chief Guest. The ground was adorned with cultural motifs and vibrant colors, creating a festive atmosphere. Spirited performances from dance troupes added to the excitement. The event began with traditional customs, such as lighting the oil lamp, while the sweets corner offered a diverse array of treats, and the lineup of games provided an incredible experience for all attendees.



Blood Donation Program at the Faculty of Science



Students of the BSc Honours Degree in Financial Mathematics and Industrial Statistics program organized a blood donation camp in collaboration with the Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSS) of the Department of Mathematics on 27th March 2024 at the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. This event was supported by the blood bank, and Teaching Hospital Karapitiya. Students, academic staff, and non-academic staff members participated enthusiastically, resulting in the collection of 120 packets of blood..



Historic "Iftar Al Wahdha" Event at the University of Ruhuna

The event, 'Iftar Al Wahdha', held at the University of Ruhuna on 2nd April 2024, stands as a significant moment in the institution's cultural and religious inclusivity efforts. It was the first official Iftar organized by the Community of All Islamic Students, with key figures from the University, including Vice-Chancellor Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, attending as distinguished guests.

The 'Iftar Al Wahdha' event began with a unique and inclusive Qirath in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, reflecting the Islamic principle of unity and the significance of connecting with sacred texts across languages. Mr. Akthar Zarzam, President of the Muslim Students Community, gave a heartfelt welcome speech, setting a warm tone for the gathering.

During this event, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, highlighted the importance of Iftar in fostering harmony and mutual respect among different faiths, drawing upon the Quranic values of peaceful coexistence.

Ash-Sheikh M. Ikram AL-Fasy's insightful presentation on "Ramadan and its Benefits" explored fasting, empathy, and community spirit.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of shared values and common goals that unite people of various faiths, aligning with the Islamic teachings of inclusivity and interfaith dialogue. Senior Prof. Jayantha Amarasinghe contributed to the evening, underscoring themes of inclusivity, brotherhood, and interfaith dialogue, while Senior Lecturer Dr. Dhammika Jayasinghe of the same department delivered the vote of thanks. The event concluded with the Azaan and Iftar, embracing the unity of shared values across different faiths.



Annual Sports Events 2024: Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

From March to July 2024, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna Sports Club successfully organized the Interbatch Sports Meet 2024. The highlight was the Annual Volleyball Encounter 2024, where the 41st batch emerged as champions in the men's tournament, and the 44th batch triumphed in the women's tournament.

The Interbatch Sports Meet 2024 featured a diverse range of sports including athletics, football, badminton, weightlifting, carrom, swimming, table tennis, chess, and e-sports demonstrating the vibrant sports culture and the enthusiastic participation of students at the Faculty of Medicine. The annual sports events, organized by the University of Ruhuna Sports Club, continue to foster friendship, teamwork, and healthy competition among the batches.



Dhamma Sermon and the Ice Cream Dansala at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

In parallel with the Vesak Full Moon Poyaday-2024, a Dhamma Sermon and “Ice Cream Dansala” programme was organized by the Ruhuna Nursing Students’ Society (RNSS), Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (AHS), University of Ruhuna on 21st July 2024. Prof. Imendra Kotapola, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna participated as the chief guest, while academic and non-academic staff members attended the event.

Damma sermon was conducted by Rev. Venerable Ratkekulave Pannadassi thero, and the entire event was organized under the supervision of Dr. Bimba Wickramarachchi and Mr. Thilina Abegunasekara who are the patron and senior treasurer of the Ruhuna Nursing Students’ Society respectively.

This event was completed with the great support of the entire community of the Faculty of AHS, and it was a memorable day for the undergraduates of the Department of Nursing, Faculty of AHS, University of Ruhuna.



Voluntary Contribution of Students During Challenging Times



As a part of their curriculum, third-year second-semester students of the Faculty of Agriculture commenced their field-based practical program in April 2024. However, this academic activity was severely impacted by several difficulties that occurred in May 2024. Among those difficulties, the trade union actions and severe floods around the Kamburupitiya - Mapalana area were significant. However, the third year students had to operate and manage their fields under a range of difficulties.

As the water availability, electricity supply to hostel premises, and canteen facilities were limited during this period, there was a dilemma on how to operate and manage the crop fields during this challenging time. With this background, 35 third-year students voluntarily agreed to stay and manage the field activities bearing all the hardships.

To appreciate these students' actions, an External Faculty Board Member of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, and Senior General Manager of Elpitiya Plantations Ltd, Mr. Hiranjan Bulugahapitiya, together with Department of Crop Science staff members, distributed essential food items on 27th May 2024 to support hardwork work during this difficult period. Dr.I.R. Palihakkara, the course coordinator, of the third-year second-semester field training course coordinated this program.

E.A Hornel's (1864- 1933) Photograph Exhibition

The University of Ruhuna hosted a captivating exhibition of rare photographs by Scottish artist Edward Atkinson Hornel (1864-1933), shedding light on Sri Lanka's rich cultural and economic history from 1st to 4th, February 2024 at the faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) premises. This exhibition was organized by the Society of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFAA), and it featured Hornel's striking images from 1907, documenting the Pearl Fisheries, Tea Plantations, and rural life in Sri Lanka.

E.A. Hornel's photographs offer a rare glimpse into Sri Lanka's past, particularly its renowned pearl fisheries, which were celebrated globally for their exquisite pearls and significant economic impact. The exhibition vividly portrayed the historical significance of these fisheries, alongside insightful depictions of the country's tea industry and rural communities during the early 20th century.

The success of the exhibition was made possible by the dedicated efforts of SOFAA's remarkable volunteer team and the generous support from The National Trust Sri Lanka and the British Council. Their collaboration ensured that Hornel's remarkable collection was presented in a manner that honored its historical significance and educational value.

Visitors to the exhibition were treated to an immersive experience, with detailed captions and contextual information accompanying each photograph. This allowed attendees to appreciate not only the visual beauty of Hornel's work but also the rich stories and historical contexts behind them. The University of Ruhuna's commitment to hosting events that bridge the past and present highlights its dedication to fostering a deeper understanding of Sri Lanka's heritage. By facilitating such culturally enriching activities, the University continues to enhance its reputation as a leading institution for academic excellence and community engagement.

As the exhibition concluded, it left a lasting impact on all who attended, reinforcing the University of Ruhuna's role as a beacon of knowledge and cultural preservation.



Ruhuna vs Peradeniya Annual Cricket Encounter 2024

The Ruhuna vs Peradeniya Annual Cricket Encounter 2024, organized by the Galle Medical Association and the Sports Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, was successfully held on 24th March 2024, at the Galle International Cricket Stadium. This much anticipated match showcased the competitive spirit and sportsmanship of four teams. The Peradeniya team emerged victorious in the students' category, demonstrating exceptional skill and teamwork, while the Galle team triumphed in the doctors' category.



AHS Cricket Fiesta 2024

The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna recently organized its highly anticipated Annual 'AHS Cricket Fiesta 2024', an inter-batch softball cricket tournament that fostered camaraderie and showcased exceptional sporting talent within the faculty. Held at the scenic Meepawala Amarasuriya College cricket ground in Galle, the event kicked off with the esteemed presence of Professor Imendra Kotapola, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna.

The tournament featured enthusiastic participation from various batches, with spirited matches that highlighted the students' dedication and sportsmanship. Alongside the thrilling cricket games, food stalls set up by the faculty's batches added to the festive atmosphere, offering a delightful array of refreshments for attendees.

In a display of remarkable prowess, the Boys' 14th Batch emerged as champions of the tournament, with the 15th Batch securing the runner-up position. On the girls' side, the 14th Batch claimed victory, while the 13th Batch finished as runners-up.

Outstanding individual performances were recognized, with D.H.V. Kaushalya from the 13th Batch named Best Bowler (Women), W. M. A. P. Dilanjalee from the 14th Batch awarded Best Batswoman, D.M.J.S. Disanayaka from the 14th Batch honored as Best Batsman, and T. D. K. C. Malshan from the 14th Batch acknowledged as Best Bowler (Men).



Community Engagement by Students, Faculty of Management and Finance

The 1000-level undergraduates of the Faculty of Management and Finance, under the leadership of Prof. A.C. Karunaratne, Head of the Department of Marketing, and Mr. M.N.M. Nismi, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Marketing, conducted several impactful community projects. On 19th January 2024, the "Suwa Sahana" program was held at Matara General Hospital, where necessary medical items were provided to ensure the smooth functioning of the children's ward. Following this, on 21st January 2024, the "Green Giver" beach cleaning project was implemented, with the participation of undergraduates and volunteers, to contribute to environmental sustainability and promote community engagement. Additionally, on 09th February 2024, the "Sinahawata Athwelak" program was organized at Subagya Blind and Deaf School in Monaragala, with the aim of assisting children with special needs.



Environmental Friendly Innovation Award 2024

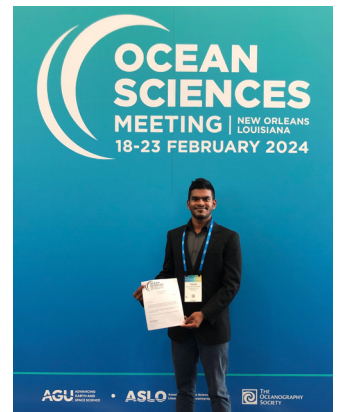
Dr. C. K. Muthumala, a postgraduate student at the University of Ruhuna was awarded the New Environmental Friendly Innovation Award on 28th June 2024 at BMICH. This award ceremony was organized by the Central Environmental Authority, and the Ministry of Environment. He developed a waste timber plank door using different types of waste timber species in parallel with his studies. This project was supervised by Prof. Sudhira De Silva, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. K.K.I.U Arunakumara and Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.



Mr. Thivin Abeywickrama's Participation in the Ocean Sciences Meeting 2024

The biennial Ocean Sciences Meeting (OSM) is the flagship conference for the ocean sciences and the larger ocean-connected community. The OSM unifies the oceans community to share findings, connect scientists from around the world, and advance the impact of science. This year's meeting (OSM24) took place in New Orleans, LA, USA, from 18th to 23rd, February 2024, and brought together nearly 6,000 attendees.

Mr. Thivin Abeywickrama (FM/FW/2019/121) of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) presented an abstract titled "*Influence of the Indian Ocean Dipole on Coastal Primary Production in Sri Lanka: A 25-Year Analysis*" in which he was the first author. At the time, Mr. Thivin was a third-year undergraduate and one of only two authors of this publication representing the University of Ruhuna at OSM24.



Miss. Chamika Sewwandi Won Third Place in the 3MT Competition 2024

Ms. M.W. Chamika Sewwandi (SC/2018/10432) of the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna won the third place in the Three Minutes Thesis (3MT) competition 2024, organized by the Young Scientist's Association and National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS) for the thesis completed as a partial fulfillment of BSc. Special Degree in Botany.

Her thesis titled "*Characterization of Nitrifying Bacteria from Rekawa Mangrove Soil*" was supervised by Prof. W.G. Shirani Manel Kumari of the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.



G17 University Ambassadors Consortium

Ms. J.B.K. Santhushi of the 43rd Batch and Ms. Hasi-ni Goonasekara of the 45th Batch of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna were selected as the G17 Sri Lanka University Ambassadors for the term 2024/2025. G17 University Ambassadors Consortium is a global fellowship which aims at moulding University undergraduates into resilient leaders through an experiential learning environment with a focus on making our communities and the earth a better place through Sustainable Development Goals.



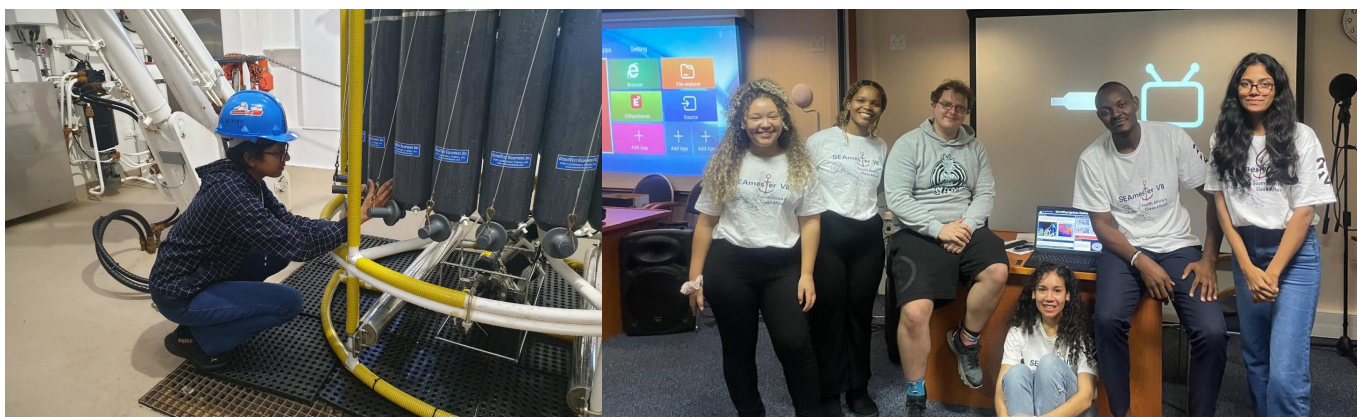
Champions of the Chemistry Magic Competition 2024

The Department of Chemistry representing the University of Ruhuna won the championship in the Inter-University "Chemistry Magic" Competition 2024, organized by the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon. Our winning team was represented by W.K. Taniya Fernando, D.G. Dilani Malshani Weerasinghe, Deeksha Rodrigo, M. Pabodhi Rasadhika Perera, and J.P. Chamal Chinthaka Jayaweera. The award ceremony was organized in parallel with the Annual Sessions of the Institute of Chemistry on 21st June 2024 at the Marino Mall, Colombo. Our team received the awards from Prof. Namal Priyantha, President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, and Prof. Supawan Tanyanon, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.



SEAmester – South Africa's Class Afloat

SEAmester – South Africa's Class Afloat is a training where traditional classroom lectures are combined with hands-on ship-based deck activities for a maximum of 46 students while providing them with an opportunity to support specialist scientists in recognized marine research activities. Miss. P. M. P. Sewwandi, an undergraduate student of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology who specializing in Oceanography and Marine Geology was accommodated onboard R V Agulhas for this 10-day training in international waters along the Agulhas current and ASCA transect as a trainee from POGO.



She attended daily classroom lectures and deck work that ran parallel to the ASCA research program. She was provided with the opportunity support specialist scientists and could get daily hands-on experience on deck training, data collection, sampling, and data analysis. She said that it was magical working with the full suite of oceanographic, atmospheric, and biological ship-based instrumentation such as CTD, and XBT as well as gaining experience on all biological net tows. In addition, she was given a chance to work on a specific scientific mini-project related to her area of interest and the scientific research underway. One project involved calculating the radii and areas of eddies broken from the Agulhas current moving to the Atlantic Ocean using GLORYS physical ocean model and Okubo-Weiss parameter, while the other was on mapping submarine canyons for a coelacanth expedition using QGIS.

JENESYS SAARC Exchange Programme

K.J.K. Gayan Niluke, a fourth-year Marketing undergraduate at the Faculty of Management and Finance, represented Sri Lanka at the JENESYS SAARC Exchange Programme (Batch 3) in Tokyo, Japan. The program was held from 5th to 12th March 2024. The JENESYS SAARC Exchange Programme promotes cultural exchange and fosters strong relationships between young leaders from South Asia and Japan. Gayan's participation highlights the University of Ruhuna's commitment to providing its students with exceptional global learning opportunities. The participants had the opportunity to network and build professional relationships with peers from other South Asian countries, gain first-hand knowledge and insights from Japanese experts through engaging lectures and discussions, and experience Japanese culture through homestays and cultural activities.



Intercultural Center Competition in Short Drama, Dancing, and Art 2023

Short Drama

Students from the University of Ruhuna Cultural Center who competed in the national round of the 2023 Intercultural Center Short Drama Competition were recognized with several accolades during the awards and certificate presentation ceremony held on 23rd January 2024, at the Elphinstone Theatre. The short drama "Ramuwa" won third place for Best Director and received merit awards, certificates, and three cash prizes. The drama "Sewaneli" won certificates and cash prizes for Best Supporting Actress, Best Stage Designer, and Best Director. Additionally, "Sewaneli" secured third place among the top five national-level dramas. Special acknowledgment is due to theater artist Mr. Tharaka Pushpakumara, the resource person for the Drama and Performing Arts Course, and to the students from the Cultural Center for their exemplary commitment to these achievements.



Dancing

During the awards and certificate presentation ceremony held on 23rd January 2024, students from the University of Ruhuna Cultural Center secured second place in the Open Group Category at the Pratibha Intercultural Center National Dance Competition. Their performance, themed "A Country Reawakening in the Face of the Corona Threat," was a notable highlight. The success of this performance can be greatly attributed to the commitment of students from three faculties, the dance teacher, and the dedication of the Cultural Center officials.



Art

Students from the University of Ruhuna Cultural Center were awarded five merit places in the southern provincial round and one merit place in the national round in the Art category. These accolades were presented during the awards and certificate ceremony held on 23rd January 2024, at the Elphinstone Theatre.

In achieving these victories, the encouragement, guidance, and counsel provided by the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and the Coordinator of the Cultural Center were instrumental.



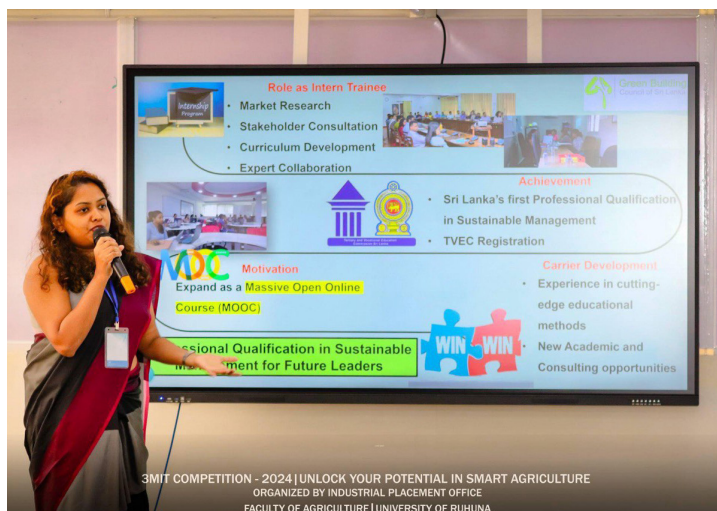
3MIT Competition 2024: Faculty of Agriculture

The Industrial Placement Office at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, successfully organized the second annual 3MIT (3 Minute Industrial Training) competition on 14th June 2024, at gap HQ, Colombo 07. This event bridges academia and industry through competitive graduate internships, nurturing vital connections for students and professionals. Building upon the inaugural success, 3MIT 2024 elevated collaboration to new heights. Industry experts and recent graduates engaged enthusiastically, providing a platform for students to showcase their skills and share internship experiences while gaining valuable insights from professionals to enrich their learning.

The event commenced with an opening address by Snr. Prof. S.D. Wanniarachchi, the Dean and Co-chair of the University-Industry Partnership Program (UIPP), who introduced the significance of the 3MIT. Mr. Ariyaseela Wickramanayake, Chairman of Mawbima Lanka Foundation and Pelwatte Dairy Industries Pvt. Ltd., delivered a keynote speech emphasizing the role of industries in nurturing young talent.

Attendees enjoyed presentations, interactive speeches, and networking sessions where students demonstrated practical knowledge gained from hands-on experiences. Motivational speeches by Dr. Susantha Malla-waarachchi and Mr. Anusha Rajapaksha inspired ambition among participants.

The unveiling of the 3MIT 2024 Synopsis Collection was done by Prof. Kumari Fonseka, Coordinator of the Industrial Training Committee, showcasing the students' valuable experiences and innovative projects. Exceptional student contributions were recognized, with Ms. U.T. Sewwandi winning first place, followed by Ms. M.A. Samaraweera and Ms. A.M.E.R. Bandara securing second and third places, respectively.



The Faculty extends gratitude to participants and industry partners whose support drives the program's success. Looking forward, 3MIT remains committed to preparing future agricultural leaders through collaborative education and industry engagement, reinforcing the vital link between academic excellence and industry relevance.

INDE 2024: International Training for Teachers of French

Ms. Chakrangi Abeywardhana Dahanayake, an Instructor in English at the University of Ruhuna, recently added another feather to her cap by receiving a prestigious scholarship to attend the “Université Pédagogique Régionale - INDE 2024 (International Training for Teachers of French).” This event took place from 26th May to 1st June 2024, in Noida, India.

Ms. Dahanayake, who is affiliated with the Department of English Language Teaching and also serves as the coordinator and teacher of French for the Center for Languages at the University of Ruhuna, was awarded this scholarship by the French Embassy to Sri Lanka. The training was organized by the Embassy of France and the French Institute in India, in collaboration with Amity University, Noida.

The scholarship enabled Ms. Dahanayake to participate in an intensive week-long linguistic and pedagogical training program aimed at enhancing her teaching skills and deepening her knowledge of the French language. By supporting such initiatives, the University ensures its instructors are equipped with cutting-edge knowledge and skills, enriching the educational experience for its students. This opportunity



not only showcased her dedication to professional growth but also highlighted the university's commitment to academic excellence and international engagement, further solidifying its reputation as a leading educational institution in Sri Lanka.

A New Book: “A Philosophical and Psychological Study of Vipallāsa Concept”

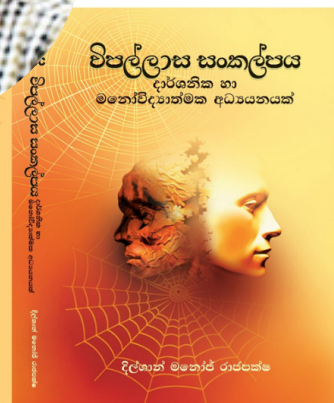


Senior Lecturer at the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, Dr. Dilshan Manoj Rajapaksa's latest book, “A Philosophical and Psychological Study of Vipallāsa Concept,” elucidates that vipallāsa refers to adopting a view opposed to a conception, opinion, or standpoint. In a world steeped in ignorance, vipallāsa accumulates. The ordinary person grasps reality upside down, obscuring what should be seen, akin to one who has lost their way, leading to a darkness that obscures the reality of everything.

Prince Siddhartha ventured to question the practical essence of life, obscured by traditional social patterns, in order to understand it. The primary aim of ascetic Siddhartha was to discover the path to ultimate peace, the summum bonum. Buddhism teaches individuals to recognize distortions within themselves and eliminate them; otherwise, they will face the consequences of these distortions in repeated cycles of birth and death.

The flow of diverse Western ideologies from ancient

Greece to the present day is profoundly complex. This research undertakes an in-depth study of the concept of vipallāsa, drawing from both the Pāli canon and its commentaries, and comparing them with Western philosophical analyses, discussions, ideologies, and concepts. The author focuses on various types of vipallāsa, the occurrence and detrimental effects of distortions on individuals, and methods for eliminating them. It can be concluded that the author has made a commendable contribution to philosophy and academia in this field of study.



CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI) Award

Senior Prof. Vajira P. Bulugahapitya was awarded the Chinese Academy of Sciences President's International Fellowship Initiative (CAS PIFI) award from the CAS, China, for the years 2023–2024, recognizing her as a "High-level foreign talent" in the Visiting Scientist category.

CAS has been ranked the No. 1 research institute in the world by the Nature Index since the list's inception by Nature Portfolio. CAS PIFI is a highly competitive and prestigious funding program to attract talented foreign scientists to the CAS for scientific exchange and research cooperation. This award is a great honor to the University of Ruhuna and Senior Prof. Vajira became the second academic of the University of Ruhuna who received this award. Currently, Senior Prof. Vajira is conducting her research in collaboration with Professor Fuyi Wang at the CAS Key Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry for Living Biosystems at the Institute of Chemistry of CAS as a visiting scientist. She is working on identifying saponins, highly bioactive compounds from Sri Lankan guava leaves, and developing them into potent anti-cancer drugs.



International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on 'American Language and Multicultural Diversity'

Dr. S.G.S. Samaraweera, Head of the Department of English Language Teaching, participated in an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the United States on 'American Language and Multicultural Diversity' from 4th to 22nd March 2024, organized by the Department of State, United States. This project offered him an opportunity to engage with American counterparts to discuss current English-language institutional curricula, trends, and developments, with a particular emphasis on the geographical and multicultural diversity of the United States. The project highlighted programs that specialized in Teaching English as a Second Language, allowing him to interact with English language teachers and students in K–12 classrooms and exchange views on pedagogical methodology. The knowledge, experience, and exposure gained from this visit will help him in developing English language curricula and enhancing English language skills in Sri Lankan primary, secondary, and tertiary-level students.



Completion of the Overseas PhD Training

Mr. W. M. C. D. Wijekoon, Lecturer attached to the Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, obtained a full scholarship under the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility project UALG Alliances 2022/2025 for his overseas PhD training. He successfully completed this training at the University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal, from October 2023, to January 2024 representing the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. Snr. Prof. K.B.S. Gunawickrama, Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, is the university coordinator for this UALG Alliances project.



OWSD-Elsevier Award 2024

Prof. W.G. Shirani Manel Kumari, Department of Botany was awarded the OWSD-Elsevier Award 2024 for Early Career Women in the Developing World for her research in 'Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene'. The awarding ceremony was held in Singapore in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week from 18th to 22nd June 2024. She also attended a workshop on 'Water First! Role of Women in Water Research', jointly organized by COACH (Committee on the Advancement of Women Chemists) and Elsevier Foundation in Singapore. Further, Prof. Shirani participated as a panelist in the discussion under the theme of 'Success Strategies from the Global South' at the EcoSTEM Asia Summit held in Singapore from 27th-29th June 2024 and shared her experience as a women scientist.

Her story as a successful woman scientist in the global south is featured on Elsevier Connect (<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/gaining-funding-and-trust-for-a-freshwater-algal-bloom-alert-system-in-sri-lanka>).



Training Course on Mariculture and Aquatic Product Processing Technology for Sri Lanka

Dr. S.S.Herath, Head, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology received an opportunity from the Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China to attend a training course on "Mariculture and Aquatic Product Processing Technology for Sri Lanka". This training was organized and conducted by the Fujian Institute of Oceanography, Xiamen, China from 16th May to 05th June 2024, aiming to disseminate knowledge and experience on Mariculture and aquatic product processing technologies to Sri Lankan government officers in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



There were lectures and many field visits to get hands-on experience in Mariculture and Aquatic product processing technologies which could be incorporated into Sri Lanka. There were 26 participants representing different divisions/departments of the Ministry of Fisheries in Sri Lanka. Dr. S.S.Herath represented the University of Ruhuna, a national university which directly involved in the sector, and she delivered a speech at the inaugural ceremony of the training program.

Academic Staff

Recruitments : Lecturer (Probationary)

Mrs. Nanayakkara N.W. S., Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Dr.(Mrs). Malwatta M. A. L. D., Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine

Mr. Lakal U. G. S., DEpartment of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mr. Dilhan A. W.A. T., Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mrs. Gunasekara D., Department of Information & Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology

Ms. Weerakkody W. A. S. S., Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management & Finance

Ms. Madhavi W W I., Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management & Finance

Mr. Madushanka D.M.T., Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management & Finance

Mr. Adhikari A. M. C. P., Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Technology

Ms. Aysha Asra S., Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Mr. Adhikari A. M. C. P., Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Technology

Ms. Famila Sara S., Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Mr. Gihara G. G. G. R., DEpartment of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Ms. Madushika G. G. C., Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Technology

Mr. Kumara J .L. R. M., Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology

Ms. Weerasinghe W. P. H. N., Department of Information Technology, Humanities & Social Sciences

Ms. Manamperi, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Recruitments : Senior Lecturer (Grade-II)

Dr.(Mrs). Wijayasekara K. N., Department of Bio Systems Technology, Faculty of Technology

Dr.(Mrs.) Jayasinghe D. B. C., Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Promotions : Professors

Prof.(Mrs.). Narayana N.M.N.K., Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture

Prof.(Mrs.). Rathnayake R.H.M.P.N., Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Prof.(Mrs.) Bandara W.V.R.T.D.G., Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Prof. Priyankara N.H., Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Prof.(Mrs.). W Sriyani G.T.W., Department of Management & Entrepreneurship, faculty of Management & Finance

Prof.(Mrs). Perumpuli P.A.B.N., Department of Food Science & Technology, Faculty of Agriculture

Promotions :Associate Professors

Dr.(Mrs) Jayawardena P.P., Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine

Promotions : Senior Lecturer (Grade-II)

Dr. Bandara K.M.T.S., Department of Agriculture Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture

Ms. Jayasekara A.J., Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Ms. Dasanayake P.D.M.D.S.B., Department of History & Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Retirements



Prof. Kanthi K. A. S. Yapa
Department of Physics
Faculty of Science

This recognition is for the extraordinary service and contributions of Senior Professor Kanthi Yapa, who has dedicated over three decades to the Ruhuna University. Her illustrious career has left an indelible mark on the Department of Physics and beyond. Prof. Yapa has been a pillar of strength, wisdom, and inspiration, not only within our Department of Physics, but also to the entire Faculty of Science and the University of Ruhuna (UoR).

Her journey with us began in September 1993 after she was recruited to the University of Ruhuna as a Senior Lecturer in Physics, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and a passion for teaching. Throughout her tenure, she displayed unwavering dedication, serving as an educator, mentor, leader, and friend to many. Her door was always open to any member of the UoR community including students, academic and non-academic staff, and even cleaning service personnel, whether to

offer guidance, lend a listening ear, share words of encouragement, or provide financial assistance.

In September 2006, She assumed duties as the Head of the Department, a position she held with grace and distinction until September 2010. Under her leadership, the department grew, fostering a culture of excellence in academics and research. Her visionary leadership laid the groundwork for countless achievements and advancements within our academic community. She has been instrumental in positioning the Ruhuna Physics Department as a premier destination for physics studies in Sri Lanka, as evidenced by its recognition in the global rankings of 2023.

Her academic journey has been highlighted by outstanding achievements and unwavering dedication, and she obtained her Ph.D. in Theoretical Biophysics from Tufts University, USA, in February 1990. In Sri Lanka, experts in this field are rare. Following this, she served as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Tufts University's Department of Physics from June 1991 to June 1993.

She received her professorship (Professor in Physics) in 2009 and was promoted to Senior Professor in 2017. Her research endeavors have significantly enriched our understanding of physics and have garnered recognition both nationally and internationally.

Professor Kanthi Yapa's teaching portfolio predominantly comprises highly challenging courses such as Quantum Mechanics, Statistical Mechanics, and Solid-State Physics, each spanning 60 hours or four-credit courses. Despite the complexity of these subjects, her lectures consistently draw active participation from students, a testament to her engaging teaching style. Many of the current staff members of the same department, who themselves graduated from the Ruhuna University, were students of Professor Yapa during their bachelor's degrees. This underscores the enduring impact of her teaching, as her former students now contribute to the academic community as esteemed colleagues.

Professor Yapa's ability to make challenging concepts accessible and her dedication to nurturing the next generation of physicists are qualities that have shaped countless academic journeys. Her impact extends far beyond the lecture halls and laboratories. She has been a pioneer in introducing innovative course units such as "Active Citizenship" and "Active Citizen Community Project," fostering a new generation of socially responsible physicists. Her leadership roles, including serving as the Faculty Coordinator of the Quality Assurance Cell and as the Acting Director of the Center for Quality Assurance, have elevated our faculty to new heights of academic excellence.

The exceptional contributions made by Professor Kanthi Yapa in the last Institutional Review resulted in an "A" grade, and her unwavering supervision and support in the Science Faculty Program Review played a pivotal role in achieving the highest grades for all degree programs. Her continuous guidance and support in different capacities at the CQA, SDC, and CGU have uplifted their standards. Beyond her teaching and administrative roles, Professor Yapa has made significant contributions to the broader academic community. She has been actively involved in conducting institutional reviews at prestigious Sri Lankan universities including the University of Kelaniya, the Open University of Sri Lanka, the University of Jaffna, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and the Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Her expertise in evaluating academic institutions has been invaluable in shaping the future of Sri Lankan higher education.

Professor Yapa's significant contributions to the success of the HETC/World Bank project activities at the faculty level are equally remarkable. She extended her continued service in various capacities including the University Coordinator for the University Development Grant, Coordinator for QIG W4 focusing on commercialization, and the Activity Coordinator for QIG W2 promoting innovative teaching, and her dedication and leadership have been invaluable.

Additionally, she has worked on the introduction of a pioneering Applied Physics degree program specifically tailored for students in the Biological stream, addressing a significant gap in Sri Lanka's Physics educational landscape. Previously, alongside the esteemed Emeritus Professor Dharmarathne and subsequently, with her unwavering dedication, foresight, and rich experience, significant steps have been made to enhance the quality of the staff of the department. This encompasses improvements in lecturing methodologies, paper setting, and paper marking procedures, streamlined laboratory experiment arrangements, and the instrumentation of diverse extracurricular activities. Notably, her guidance and support in organizing the annual Invention and Innovation exhibitions, initiated in 2010, is one of the remarkable events of the faculty of science, UoR.

Dear Madam, we remain committed to preserving and expanding the standards you have methodically cultivated, promising to garner further commendation both domestically and internationally. Though you may be departing from the Department of Physics, your legacy will continue to inspire us as we strive for excellence in all our endeavors. We extend our warmest wishes to Professor Yapa as she embarks on the next chapter of her journey. May your retirement life be filled with continued success, fulfillment, and happiness.



Dr. M.V. Chandrasiri
Department of History and Archaeology
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Chandrasiri is a distinguished scholar known for his invaluable contributions to the field of history. He began his academic journey by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ruhuna, laying the foundation for his future scholarly pursuits. In 1994, he achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a Master of Philosophy degree from the same institution, deepening his expertise in historical research methodologies. Continuing his academic endeavors, Dr. Chandrasiri completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2010, also at the University of Ruhuna, solidifying his position as a respected academic and researcher in history.

He was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II on the 18th March 2013, marking a pivotal moment in his academic career. He further advanced to Senior Lecturer Grade I on 27th May 2019, reflecting his ongoing growth and dedication to his field. From 13th to 26th November 2013, he took on the responsibilities of Acting Head of the Department of History and Archaeology, demonstrating his leadership and commitment to academic excellence. He was officially appointed as the Head of the Department from the 15th August 2014 until the 14th of August 2017, during which time he guided the department to new heights of success and innovation.

Dr. Chandrasiri's research interests include the study of Digamadulla, inscriptions, and the agricultural practices of the Southern Province. His notable publications include *Digamadulla*, *Dakunu Palathe Wewili Karmanthaya*, *Kirala Sandeshaya Pilibadha Ithihasi-ka Vimarshanayak*, *Digamadulle Sellipi*, *Yuropeeya Desha Gaweshakayo*, *Gaalu Gaga Bada Paththuwa*, *Kaviyen Liyawunu Helawedakama*, *Pruthugrisi Bhasha Anka-1*, *Pruthugrisi Bhasha Anka-2*, and *Brithanya Palana Samaye Suwisheshi Siduweem*.

Dr. M.V. Chandrasiri retired on 17th of April 2024, after years of dedicated contributions to the advancement of the department, the faculty, and the University. We wish him a happy retirement filled with continued success, fulfillment, and happiness.

Non-Academic Staff

Recruitments : Assistant Registrar

Ms. Madushika H.G.S., CMD, General Admin

Ms. Sujinika Dias W.K.N. , General Admin

Ms. Kahandawala C.D. , Centre of International Affairs, Centre for Quality Assurance, Staff Development Centre, China Centre

Ms. Premarathna M.A.P.N. , Capital Works, Vice- chancellor office

Assistant Farm Manager

Mr. Gunawardena, O.B., Dean's Office, Faculty of Agriculture

Scientific Assisitant

Ms. Ransika, G.C., Vice- Chancellor office.

Retirements

Mr. Cyril H.M., Faculty of Agriculture

Mr. Telishan P.B., Library, University of Ruhuna

Mr. Lal, P.K., Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture

Mr. Pathirana, H.P.B., Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

Mr. Sunilrathna, M.P., Maintenance Unit

Mr. Gamini Sarath D.M., Security division, Wellamadama

Mrs. Amarasinghe K.M., Department of physics, Faculty of Science

Mr. Ranjith R. , Library, University of Ruhuna

Mr. Karunathilaka W.G., Security division, Faculty of Agriculture



The 10th Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS 2024), organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Ruhuna, is scheduled to be held on 16th October 2024, centering on the theme of “Sustainability Literacy.”

For more details, please visit: <https://hss.ruh.ac.lk/ruichss/ruichss2024/Submission%20.html>



The 2nd Symposium on Oceans and Freshwater Systems - 2024 (SOFS-2024) will be held on 08th November 2024, under the theme of “Expanding Resilient Blue Horizons” at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna.

For more details, please visit: <http://www.fmst.ruh.ac.lk/SOFS2024/>



RISTCON is an annual international conference organized by the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. RISTCON-2025 will be organized under the theme of “Advancing Science and Technology Research for a Better Future!”, emphasizing the crucial role of scientific and technological advancements in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future. The conference aims to serve as a premier multidisciplinary forum, bringing together leading academics, researchers, and research students from diverse fields.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.sci.ruh.ac.lk/conference/ristcon2025/>

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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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