



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Number 1. January 2010

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2010

Editorial

The University of Colombo is a public funded university and as such our primary responsibility is to provide a good education to our stake holders, the students. Our duties however do not end there. Thus, in this editorial we decided to convey the findings of a recent survey of the community services conducted by the university during the past five years, in order to highlight the university's involvement in community development.

The Faculty of Arts has conducted programmes to improve English Language competence and Communication Skills of employees of government and semi-government institutions and industries, to improve understanding of micro finance, to enhance the social skills of probationary prison officers and to improve understanding of methods of survey research & survey data analysis.

The Faculty of Management and Finance was involved in providing training in Accounting and Financial Management and has conducted programmes in Printing Technology & Management and Visual Communication & Management.

The Faculty of Science has conducted training programmes, on data analysis using SPSS, in biodiversity management, in bioinformatics, in radiation protection, on microcontroller programming, on lightning protection, in applied electronics and training workshops for GCE (A/L) teachers in several subjects. The faculty has conducted, competitions SLMC/SLMCC, prepared school students for IMC and has conducted "chemistry magic shows" in schools. The faculty has contributed to national programmes in Environmental Policy Development & Environmental Management.

The Faculty of Law is conducting programs to train students as legal assistants in the justice programme and has provided legal aid to improve legal literacy among individuals in the estate sector. The faculty has also conducted public awareness programmes such as "National Law Week".



The Faculty of Medicine has undertaken to train personnel in diagnosis of malaria, has provided the diagnostic cytopathology, histopathology and haematology services to patients, has been providing clinical genetics and counselling, has been providing HIV training programmes to physicians. The faculty has published several documents to enhance the awareness of diabetes, has organized programmes to enhance the awareness on disease prevention. It plays an advisory role in drug evaluation, outbreak control of SARS & Bird flu and vaccine reactions and contributes towards the kidney transplantation programme.

UOC has one campus, Sri Palee campus located away from the main university complex. Sri Palee campus has undertaken media training internships and has conducted certificate courses in English and IT.

The University of Colombo School of Computing has conducted many training programmes such as digital video production & animation, computer aided drafting, java application development, Unix/Linux network & system administration. At national level, UCSC has processed and released the election results to the media at presidential elections and has conducted Training Programme in e-Learning Technology.

The Institute of Agro-technology and Rural Science offers on-line certificate course to the farming community. The National Institute of Library and Information Sciences has conducted many workshops, conferences and exhibitions for librarians. The Institute of Human Resource Advancement serves the community by conducting different programmes to enhance the employability. The Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, Institute of Indigenous medicine and Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology are the other 3 institutes of the university which are set up to serve the community better with their expertise in their respective fields.

The UOC has 5 centres. The Staff Development Centre is committed to training and developing human resources in all Sri Lankan Universities. The Colombo University Community Extension Centre provides an institutional base for academics to actively participate in research based community development activities. The National Education Research and Evaluation Centre has provided advice to education planners. The Centre for the Study of Human Rights has created a public awareness and recognition of human rights issues among the public.

Finally, this editorial is dedicated to the university staff members who rendered their services towards the community using their field of expertise. We are sure that their services would have made a difference in the lives of the Sri Lankans.

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Introduction

The Faculty of Education performs a distinctive function in the training of graduates as professionals in Education and in the initiation of undergraduates to the field of Education. Its contribution specifically in the fields of teacher education and higher education is of much significance to national educational advancement. Established in 1975, the Faculty completes 34 years of service to the University system as well to the country.

History and Development.

On recommendations of the special committee on Education in 1943 (The Kannangara Report) a Department of Education was set in the University of Ceylon in 1949. This Department conducted the Postgraduate Diploma in Education for training of graduate teachers in the country which was parallel in composition and in conduct to the Post-Graduate Certificate of Education in the University of London.

In 1957 this Department of Education was shifted to the University of Peradeniya. The Vidyalkara and the Vidyodaya universities established their own Departments of Education in the late 1950s. Under the University Act of 1972, a new Department of Education was established in the University of Colombo in the Faculty of Arts. The Department conducted a four year Bachelor of Education programme that was designed to train teachers for the secondary schools of Sri Lanka. In 1973 this Department was elevated to Faculty status.

In 1975 on a policy decision of the Ministry of Education, the Departments of Education of the Peradeniya, the Vidyalkara and the Vidyodaya Universities were moved to the Faculty of Education of the University of Colombo.

With the granting of autonomous status, Universities of Peradeniya and Jaffna commenced their Departments of Education in 1978 and 1980 respectively. Some of the Lecturers serving the Faculty of Education at Colombo were transferred to these universities.

Present Status

In 1975 when it was elevated to Faculty status, four Departments of study namely Humanities Education, Educational Psychology, Social Science Education and Science and Technical Education were set up. These Departments continue to function to date. In 1975 there were nearly 36 permanent members on the teaching staff of the Faculty. Today the academic staff of the Faculty of Education consists of 27 permanent Lecturers of whom three are in the rank of Professor. The Faculty staff received training in the UK, Australia, Japan and India. The areas of specialization of the teaching staff spreads across many diverse areas of studies in Education, such as Educational Psychology, Measurement and Evaluation, Curriculum studies, Population studies, Maths Education, Science Education, Science Education, Educational Management, and Planning, Education Administration, Early childhood Education, Primary Education, Environmental studies and a number of other areas.

Study Programmes conducted by the Faculty

Bachelor of Education.

The Bachelor of Education Programme that was offered in 1972 was specifically designed to address the needs of the 1972 secondary school curriculum. This programme of studies focused on training undergraduates for teaching integrated social science subjects in the 6-10 grades.

These students followed an academic component of a core curriculum of Integrated Social Sciences and a professional component of subjects in Education. This programme of studies was terminated in 1979 due to various policy decisions and in 1996 a Bachelor of Education programme re-commenced in the Faculty. The course content of this programme was different from the programme of 1972.

The programme of 1996 was modeled on the Bachelor of Education programme that was conducted at the University of Peradeniya from 1964-1972. The undergraduates join the Faculty of Education after they complete their first year of studies in the Faculty of Arts. They continue to study 2 academic subject areas in the Arts Faculty for the following two years, while studying several professional subjects in the Faculty of Education. In the fourth year they read for 4 professional subjects in the Faculty of Education, undertake 10 weeks of practical teaching in a secondary school, and submit an extended essay.

Post-Graduate Diploma Programmes of Studies

Today the Faculty conducts several Post-Graduate Diploma Programmes which include the Post-Graduate Diploma in the Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL), Post-Graduate Diploma in Counseling, Post-Graduate Diploma in Educational & Psychological Assessment and Post-Graduate Diploma in Community Development.

The Post-Graduate Diploma programmes are of one year's duration taken full time, or 2 Years on a part-time basis. Each programme consists of theoretical knowledge and a practical component of 10 weeks duration. The Faculty commenced a weekend Post-Graduate Diploma in Education to train the untrained graduate teachers in 1992, at 4 regional centers in Galle, Ratnapura, Kurunagala and Colombo. The programme has supported the professional training of 6000 graduate teachers serving in remote areas of the island. This can be considered as a great achievement of the Faculty and a distinguished service rendered to the country.

Higher Degree Programmes

The Higher Degree programmes in Education commenced in 1976. Today the faculty conducts three higher Degree programmes in Education, Master of Education, Master of Philosophy in Education and Doctor of Philosophy in Education. The programme of studies leading to the Degree of Master of Education is of one year's duration on a full-time basis, or of two years duration, on a part-time basis. The Degree of Master of Philosophy is a 2 year fulltime programme and at the end of the second year a thesis is submitted by the student in the field of Education. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is the highest Degree awarded by the Faculty. The candidates are engaged in intensive research in a field of Education and submit a thesis, which illustrates original work in the selected area.

Since the commencement of these programmes in 1976 up to date there has been an unprecedented demand for entry and the Faculty has never been able to admit all the qualified applicants in any academic year. Human and physical resources limit the Higher Degree programmes to a small proportion of the population that seek entry into these programmes.

Research and Ancillary services

The Faculty has made a major contribution to education in the field of research in education. A profile issued in 1995 indicates the details of research undertaken by the staff and the students of the Faculty. The staff has undertaken individual and collaborative research sponsored by the University and outside agencies like NARESA, UNESCO, IDRC, UNDP, DFID and UNICEF. Over the years the staff members have published many books on Education and served as writers to many course guides issued for teacher education programmes conducted by the Open University, National Institute of Education, and the National Colleges of Education. The Faculty members continue to serve as national consultants to many educational projects undertaken by the Ministry of Education, National Education Commission and other institutions, and on foreign consultancies. Some of the members of the faculty are members or office bearers of professional organizations such as SLAAS and SLAAED.

OUR STRENGTHS

The Institute for the Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences (IARS)

History

The University of Colombo Institute for Agro-technology and Rural Sciences (UCIARS) incorporated within its system the Magampura Agro-Technology and Community Services Center in Weligatta, Hambantota affiliated to the University of Colombo in 2000 by the UGC. The Centre's history dates back to 1998 through which the university and researchers were able to build over the years close collaborative links with the community in order to transfer technology / knowledge and know-how directly to the end-users and improve efficiency in agriculture and agro-industry in the region.

Development of the Institute

The University of Colombo Institute for Agro-technology and Rural Sciences (UCIARS) was established as an Institute with blended distance mode of teaching to provide opportunities of higher education to farming community across barriers of age, space, time and academic background, under Section 24 A and Section 18 of the Universities Act No 16 of 1978 and the University of Colombo Institute of Agro-technology and Rural Sciences Ordinance No. 02 of 2008. The Order under Section 24 A came into operation with effect from 23rd August 2008. The establishment of this Institute heralded an era of affirmative action on the part of the Government of Sri Lanka to “uplift farming in Sri Lanka as a prestigious occupation through arming the farming community with modern knowledge and information technology”.

Academic Programmes

The Institute has a mandate to “providing, promoting and developing among persons presently engaged in Agriculture and Agro technology, higher education in the discipline of Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences”. It will cater to the changing individual and social needs by taking education through a blended learning mode to the doorsteps of the farming community who never dreamt of entering the portals of higher education. However, they have aspirations and potentials to pursue higher education but could not utilize the opportunities for personal, family or economic reasons. With the flexibility in the entry requirements and choice of courses the Institute demonstrates that it is possible to impart quality higher education using modern information communication technologies to learners of the farming communities of poor rural sectors to pursue education at a pace and place convenient to them and realize their academic, professional and social aspirations. The level of programme offerings by the Institute therefore has two aspects: first- the content and learning objectives provide the foundation, knowledge, and skills necessary to equip all learners with the capacity to undertake further learning and relearning over their lifetime; second the institute expands its programme options to address the learning needs of the communities with a variety of motivation and aims and draw on the opportunity presented by digital technologies to transform the delivery of learning. This Programme is the first ever attempt by the University system to provide an opportunity for Sri Lankan farming community to pursue their higher education, while being engaged in their cultivations, enabling them to be involved in knowledge-based economy. In this empowerment of rural agro-based community, the first batch of 62 students in all around the country has successfully completed two certificate courses and is continuing with the third.

Instructional system

The Diploma Programme in Agro -technology is delivered in a blended mode. Many of the courses will be on line internet based. The institute follows a well organized plan of on-line course development put in place by DEMP to ensure the quality and effectiveness of learning material encouraging self-directed learning. The courses can be accessed through any one of the NODES (National On-line Distance Education Service) access Centres (NACs) set up by the Distance Education Modernization Project (DEMP) or through student's home computer. The student will also be supported by dedicated on-line tutors and mentors. At every phase of the on-line education process student receives on-going support.



Learner support

Openness produces challenges for students. In an effort to improve retention and the quality of learning for students the Institute has taken a number of steps to enhance guidance, advice and preparation of study. Learner support is also provided through Learner guides, print material, video cassette tapes, face-to-face discussions, computer assisted instructions and Video-conferencing. Laboratory sessions and field work are mandatory for all students. Practical manuals and project guidelines are provided.

Activities



The tissue culture laboratory produces ~ 20,000 banana plants per month and provides to farmers at a concessionary price. The laboratory is totally managed by village girls and is a self-financing project. The farmers are supported by an advisory service on crop management, fertilizer, water and disease management of banana, operated through regular

visits made to farms by the Institute's Field Officer. Currently, 4000 farmers all over the country are benefited through this extension programme. This service is aimed at a continuous and quality production towards an export market. In addition, the Food Technology unit provides training programmes in banana chip production and mushroom cultivation. A mushroom cultivation demonstration shed is also maintained on site.

The Institute's commitment to engagement with society is evidenced by its response to the needs of rural agricultural community in a poor region of the country by linking the community to the lifelong learning for Farmers (L 3 Farmers) Programme of the Commonwealth of Learning, (COL) Canada. This Programme aims to empower the farming communities to improve livelihood through technology mediated open and distance education (Tech-MODE).

ACU Excellence Award was given for the Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences from the Association of Commonwealth Universities for the services given for the rural community. The competition was among the Commonwealth Countries and the Institute won the Award for the category “Community Services” in 2009.

*Professor Oliver Hector De Alwis Wijesekera
Vice-Chancellor (1967)*



Born to parents, both of the teaching profession, O.H. de A. Wijesekera started his school career in a bilingual school at Induruwa. He then spent a brief period at one of Galle's leading schools, St. Aloysius College, and later gained admission to Ananda College, Colombo where he received his entire school education.

At Ananda, he showed great promise in the subject of mathematics throughout his school career. When he left the school, in 1927, after obtaining a first division at the Cambridge Senior and topping the list at the examination, the love for mathematics was so much fostered in him that he expected to specialize in it in the University.

At the University College, however, he was destined to take to a different career. Dr. G.P. Malalasekara, who was then Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Sinhalese, was searching for talented young men to train them in various fields of Indological and Buddhist studies, which were claiming for recognition in the University. At the same time Venerable Rambukwelle Siddhartha Mahathera, Senior Lecturer in the Department was inculcating in his pupils a love for indigenous literature and the culture of the land.

Dr. Malalasekara was able to persuade him to take an interest in Pali Studies in the University. He specialised in Indo-Aryan Honours for the Degree and secured a First Class being also placed first among all the candidates who sat for the London University Examination in Arts, in 1932.

After winning a Government Scholarship on the result of an Final Examination, he proceeded to the School of Oriental and African studies, in London and obtained his Ph.D. He took to the study of Sanskrit and Comparative Philosophy and Indian Philosophy, dipping also into Western Philosophy for purposes of comparison all these subjects showing an important bearing in his research work. Specializing in Vedic and the Upanishads, he obtained the Master's Degree, and the Diploma of the School of Oriental Studies in Indian Philosophy.

He returned to Ceylon, in 1936, and was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Sinhalese where he found that his specialized knowledge of all the three languages was a great asset. He contributed in no small measure, both by example and by guidance, to the stimulation of research in Indology and Buddhism in the University. He began to contribute to learned articles on Vedic and Buddhist topics to the *University of Ceylon Review* of which he was one of the earliest Editors and also published papers in journals of international repute.

Dr. Wijesekera actively contributed along with Prof.G.P. Malalasekara

in conducting courses both at the University of Ceylon and Vidyalandara Pirivena for the Buddhist Monks with a view to initiate learned Buddhist monks, steeped in traditional knowledge, into critical and comparative studies of these subjects and as a pioneering effort to teach these subjects at an advanced level in the Sinhala medium at the University and outside.

He was also a keen student of music and developed a special aptitude for classical Indian music and contributed articles on various musical topics to Sinhalese journals and weeklies. Another of his cultural interests was Sinhala drama which he avidly pursued from his days at Ananda. Later at the University, he wrote a few plays and produced them with acclaimed success.

When separate departments of Sinhalese and Sanskrit were created in 1943, Dr. Wijesekera was appointed the Head of the Department of Sanskrit, and in 1948, he was appointed as the first Sri Lankan to the Chair of Sanskrit of the University of Ceylon. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies from 1956 and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1963. In 1959, he was invited by the German Universities Association to deliver a series of lectures on Indology and Buddhism and delivered the annual Joachim Wach Foundation Lecture on Comparative Religion at the University of Marburg. In 1963, he served the University of Pennsylvania as a Guest Professor, lecturing on Indological subjects. During the next year Prof. Wijesekera was invited by the Ministries of Culture in India and Japan to lecture at Universities in those countries. In 1966, he served as one of the six panel speakers at the XIth Conference of the International Congress for the History of Religions held at Claremont, U.S.A, where he contributed a paper on Hinayana Buddhism. He served as Visiting Fellow of Harvard University and Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

In 1967, he resigned his post in the University of Ceylon to accept the appointment as the first Vice-Chancellor of the new 'University of Colombo' but resigned from the post after a short period owing to a crisis which arose as a result of student agitation over the name and status of the University. In the same year he was appointed Professor Emeritus of the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. The University of Colombo honoured Professor Wijesekera by conferring the Degree of Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*) in the year 1970.

In later years he has devoted more attention to the study of Religion paying special regard to Buddhism as a religion, motivated mainly by the requirements of teaching this aspect of the subject during his several assignments in American Universities. He has been compelled to analyse and examine the data of early Buddhism in this light and present the Religion and Psychology of Buddhism to students abroad in a scientific form.

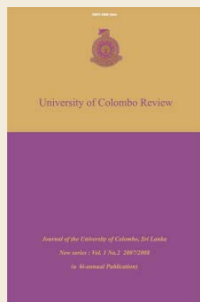
Enjoying the peace and quite of a retired life he has been devoting a good part of his time to research studies on Buddhism. Professor Wijesekera passed away on 1st February, 1990.

Professor Wijesekera has enjoyed as much success in his domestic life as in the academic sphere and it would be inappropriate, therefore, to conclude this account without referring to his wife who must necessarily share the credit for his achievements. She was one of his pupils at the University College, Colombo, a graduate in Indo-Aayan, who with her genial nature and understanding, has been an unflinching source of encouragement to him in all his activities. Our cordial wishes go to Ms.Wijesekera and the family for their continued happiness in the future.

Source: Felicitation Volume edited by Professor Jayadeva Tilakasiri

PUBLICATIONS

University of Colombo Review



The second issue of the University of Colombo Review (New Series) was released in October 2009. The issue, Volume 1, No. 2 articles eight original peer-reviewed research article in the area of English literature, teaching of English, Social exclusive, Immigration and Climate Changes etc.

Subscription rates are:

	Per Copy	Per Year
Sri Lanka	Rs. 600.00	Rs.1,150.00
SAARC Countries	US\$ 30	US\$ 55
Others	US\$ 40	US\$ 75

Articles for publication in the Volume 2, Number 2 are invited from Researchers. **Email :- acpb@admin.cmb.ac.lk**

Theoretical Mechanics and Introduction to Theories of Albert Einstein.

Dr. KAIL Gamlath Wijewardena, a Senior Lecturer in Physics who deals with Mathematical and Statistical Physics has authored two books, *Theoretical Mechanics* and *Introduction to Theories of Albert Einstein*.

Five Books in Sinhala

Mr. H.K.N. Karunarathne, Senior Lecturer in Geography has authored five books in Sinhala titled "Horton Plains Physical Environment and Bio diversity", "Physical Environment of the Earth", "Pedosphere Formation Factors", "Properties and Soil Orders", "Bio- diversity and Recent Environment Problems in Sri Lanka" and "Climate Change; A Tangible Reality".

NEWS & EVENTS

New De Seram Hostel for female undergraduates



The new De Seram Hostel for Women was ceremonially opened by Professor Gamini Samaranayake, Chairman/UGC on 27 April 2009 at No. 220, De Seram Place, Colombo. This new hostel for Women will provide some relief for the acute problem of finding accommodation faced by female Undergraduates in the University of Colombo.

This new hostel can accommodate 320 female undergraduates. The University has decided to dedicate the hostel to first year female undergraduates. The academic year 2008/2009 intake consists of 1318 female undergraduates among 2440 new entrants.

Inaugural Opening of the NODES Access Center, Colombo University

Inaugural Opening of the NODES Access Center was held on 26th November 2009 at the Center located at the Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo.3. Professor P.W. Epasinghe, the Adviser to his Excellency to the President on IT and English was the Chief Guest. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama and Mr. Abeywardena, Director, Distance Education Motorization Project (DEMP) of the Ministry of Education too attended. The NODES Access Center would provide facilities for on-line learning to the students who follow the Online programmes conducted by the University of Colombo. The objective of the DEMP is to increase education opportunities to enhance the human resource base needed to support economic growth and promote social cohesion.

Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities



A Resource Centre on Information Technology for the Students with Disabilities was opened on 5th November, 2009 at the Faculty of Arts of the University. Some of the equipment for this Centre was sponsored by Leanord Cheshire Disability Resource Centre for Sri Lanka. The Vice-Chancellor was the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour, Mr. K.I. Silva, National Chairman, Leanord Cheshire Disability Resource Centre, Sri Lanka briefed the objectives and projects of the Leanord Cheshire Movement in Sri Lanka; the Chief Executive Mr. A.S.L. Hettiarachchi, Sri Lanka Council for the Blind and several other distinguished Guests addressed the gathering and several undergraduates with disabilities attended the function Cheshire.

Seminar on Recent Developments in School Education



The Faculty of Education conducted a seminar on the above theme with the collaboration of the National Institute of Education (NIE), Maharagama. Resource persons from the NIE made presentation on titles related to school education. Foreign expert Dr. Richard Gonzales made a presentation on the subjects

Assessment of Achievement, School Counselling and Quality Inputs. The Director General, Prof. Lal Perera and local consultants to NIE - Dr. A. Jayasena and Mr. Sterlin Perera also present at the Seminar.

Workshop on Counselling

A Workshop on Counselling organized by the Student Counsellor's Office was held on July 29 – August 12, 2009 in the Board Room of the Faculty of Arts. The workshop was inaugurated with a welcome speech by Dr. Premakumara de Silva and an address by the Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Marian Staunton, Programme Director, Asia Foundation and Dr. Raveen Hanwella, Department of Psychological Medicine were resource persons. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the quality and skills in counselling among the teachers and counsellors in the Faculty of Arts. The Workshop was sponsored by the Asia Foundation.

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

The Postgraduate Convocation



The Postgraduate Convocation of the University of Colombo was held on 28 July and 06 September, 2009 at the BMICH in four sessions. A total of 1423 postgraduands were conferred Postgraduate Degrees and Diplomas making this the largest number of postgraduands conferred the degree at a single Convocation.

The Special feature of the Convocation was the conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) on Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Public Security, Law and Order. The Convocation Address was delivered by His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa at the last session of the Convocation.

In addition, Academic Research Awards were presented to Prof. Indralal de Silva, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine and Prof. W.D. Ratnasooriya, Senior Professor of Zoology, Faculty of Science.

The University Community took into consideration the yeoman service and contribution made by His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa to the nation in safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country, restoring peace and harmony for all Sri Lankans and uplifting the image of Sri Lanka as a proud nation in the world. His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa has written his name in the Sri Lankan history as the national leader who united the country under the national flag and embarked on a programme to ensure democracy throughout the country with a new political vision that seeks both development and reconciliation to build a new Sri Lanka. The University community also considered that the conferment of this doctorate will strengthen His Excellency the President's hand both at the national and international level.

Swara Yathra

'Swara Yathra', a performing arts & musical talent competition titled 'Abhishekayata Purvikawak' arranged by Arts Society of the Faculty of Management & Finance was held at the New Arts Theatre on 20 August 2009. Leading Artists from the University of Visual & Performing Arts acted as judges for the competition.

Asala Sathsara

'Asala Sathsara', a programme which exhibits the talents of first year undergraduates of the Faculty of Arts organized by *Exsath Sisya Sanvidanaya* was held on 16-17 September 2009 at the Arts Faculty premises and in the Gymnasium. Folk Dances and other plays were staged.

The 15th Annual Convocation Ceremony of the Kathmandu University, Nepal



On the invitation from the Kathmandu University, Nepal, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, attended the 15th Annual Convocation of the Kathmandu University on 23 October 2009 as the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation Address. She also joined Hon. Madhar Kumar Nepal, the Prime Minister of Nepal who is also the Chancellor of the University in awarding the certificates to the graduates.

Student Scientific Sessions of the Community Stream



The 4th Student Scientific Sessions of the Community Stream of the Faculty of Medicine was held on the 29th September 2009 with presentation of 24 research papers of which 9 were oral presentations and 15 posters.

These research papers were based on the research projects carried by students as part of the Community Stream academic curriculum. The Stream organises these sessions to provide opportunity to disseminate students' research findings as well as to provide the students an exposure to the research culture. The Chief Guest for this event was Dr. F. R. Mehta, the WHO Representative in Sri Lanka. The staff of the Department of Community Medicine and the students of the A/L 2004 batch worked together in organising this event.

The Best three oral and poster presentations were selected and certificates were awarded. A "Medal for the Best Research Paper in the Community Stream" was introduced this year.

Management of Environment

The Central Environment Authority together with Dialog Telekom PLC under the joint project launched to manage Mobile Waste (M-waste), provided two E-Waste Collection Boxes to the University to place at identified vulnerable places to collect M-waste (used mobile phones, mobile phone batteries and chargers).

Workshop on Tax

A Workshop on With-holding Tax, Value Added Tax and National Business Tax was held on 20th October 2009 with the resource persons from the Inland Revenue Department. This Workshop provided an opportunity for the staff to find solutions to tax problems.

A Seminar on Management and Verification of Fixed Assets was held on Thursday, 12th November, 2009, at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) for the benefit of the staff who involved in the verification of assets in the University

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

Professor V. K. Samaranyake Memorial Oration



2nd Annual Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranyake Memorial Oration was held on 15 September 2009 at the Professor V.K. Samaranyake Auditorium of the University of Colombo School of Computing.

Professor L. S. K. Wijewardhana, Professor of Physics at the University of Cincinnati, USA was the Chief Guest and Orator for this year. The Oration titled “Unravelling the origin of Mass” was highly acclaimed by academia. On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor T.R. Ariyaratne, Dean, Faculty of Science, the Guest of Honour, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Research – Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health

An anthology of Research Papers on Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health was launched at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on 21 August 2009 by Prof. A.R. Wickramasinghe (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya) and Prof. A. Pathmeswaran (Department of Public Health, University of Kelaniya). Among the other research publications launched at the ceremony are “*A National Study on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health*” by Professor Indralal De Silva (Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo); “*Adolescent interest in Sexual & Reproductive Health seen through Informant-Generated Questions*” by Dr. Neil Thalagala (Family Health Bureau) and Dr. Nalika Gunawardena (Department of Community Medicine, University of Colombo); “*Assessing adolescent Health Information needs using the Informant Generated Questions Method (IGQM Handwork)*” by Binod Nepal (Australian National University, Canberra) and a Compact Disk on “*A systematic comparative study between the conventional study & IGQM study on Knowledge, Attitudes Practices in relation to Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health*” by Professor Ravindra Fernando (Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Colombo). These research publications were released by Plan Sri Lanka.

Diploma in Drug Abuse Management Studies

A Diploma in Drug Abuse Management Studies (Dip DAMS), a one year diploma offered by the University of Colombo through the Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA), was inaugurated on 22 August 2009 at the Senate Hall of the University of Colombo. This programme is conducted in collaboration with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) of the Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law & Order. The Chief Guest was the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Jayantha Wickramaratne and Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo was the Guest of Honour. Many Professionals who are actively involved in the drug abuse prevention and treatment areas attended the inauguration.

Sixty (60) participants from the Police, the Excise and Customs Departments and other regulatory agencies were enrolled in the programme. The main objective of the course is to develop skills for prevention rather than treatment.

New Intake for Diploma in Business Management

An inauguration ceremony for the next intake for the Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management programme of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) was held on 23 July 2009 at the Auditorium of the Faculty. Professor Indralal De Silva, Dean, Faculty of Arts was the Chief Guest and Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawarathne, Director, Human Capital & Youth Development at Cargills Ceylon PLC was the Guest of Honour.

Diploma in Biodiversity Management

An Awards Ceremony for the award of the Diploma in Biodiversity Management jointly conducted by the Departments of Plant Sciences & Zoology of the Faculty of Science was held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on 31 July 2009. Diplomas were awarded to 18 successful candidates who were enrolled in the programme last year.

Youth Camp for Asia's Future 2009



Ms. Thiagi Hepziba Piyadasa, a student from the Faculty of Arts, attended the sixth Youth Camp for Asia's Future held on 30 July 13 August, 2009 in Seoul, South Korea. She was among the nine undergraduates selected by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to represent Sri Lanka at this event. About 280 participants from 23 countries attended the youth camp to enhance their understanding of Asia and promote mutual cooperation and friendship for peace and prosperity of Asia.

Asia Institute for Political Economy Summer Programme 2009

Mr. WMMP Rajendra Gunaratne, second year student specializing in International Relations in the Faculty of Arts, represented the University of Colombo at the Asia Institute for Political Economy Summer Programme 2009 held on July 10 August 1, 2009 at the University of Hong Kong. The School of Economics and Finance of the University of Hong Kong in conjunction with the Fund for American Studies and the Georgetown University, Washington, USA jointly offered this three week international academic programme to analyze and debate issues of economics and politics with well-known professors and notable guest lecturers. The programme attracted nearly 70 of Asia and America's most outstanding university students to investigate free market economies and political concepts.

Putting Theory into Practice

A/L 2005 batch of the Faculty of Medicine currently following the Community Stream components on health promotion and education conducted their health education programmes in several institutions on 17th of October 2009. These provide an opportunity for students to have hands on experience on health education. This time the students visited seven institutional care settings namely, Gamini Matha elderly home, Mallika Niwasa Samithiya Society Ltd., Friends in Needs Society, Welikada prison, Maithree children's home, Madiwela children's home and Victoria home for the incurable. Students came up with creative methods to deliver their health messages to different target audiences. This is an opportunity for them to enhance their skills in creative thinking, communication and organization.

Community Services Provided by the University of Colombo



*Workshop for L3 Farmers
Institute of Agro-Technology and
Rural Sciences (IARS)*



*Leishmaniasis Clinic
Department of Parasitology*



*Chemistry Magic Show
Department of Chemistry*



*Pathology Specimen Reception
Department of Pathology*



*Work shop on Tuberculosis
Department Microbiology*



*Class in the Extension Courses
in English
Department of English*



*Virtual Village Project
University of Colombo School of
Computing*



*Diabetes Walk 2009
Department of Clinical Medicine*



*Launching of the Sinhala Braille book
Department of Pharmacology*

Inquiries.....

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