

Editorial

Alumni of any academic institution are vital to the development of the institution. The University of Colombo alumni are no exception. It is our duty to enhance rapport between the University of Colombo and the different Alumni Associations operating both in Sri Lanka and abroad. We felt that the University of Colombo newsletter is a wonderful platform to build up a strong relationship between the University's Alumni and the University.



*Mr. Lalith Weeratunga delivering the 6th Annual Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration
An activity organized by the University of Colombo Alumni Association*

Quite often, alumni in Sri Lanka and abroad express their interest in supporting the University. In fact, they have been very helpful in the past in providing funds, in finding industrial placements for our undergraduates and in donating text books, equipment etc. There are instances where the Alumni help us in conducting different course modules to the undergraduates and the postgraduates of the University. The University takes this opportunity to acknowledge the generous services of Alumni Associations.

Our Alumni operates both locally and globally. Perhaps the newsletter which is hosted at the University of Colombo website will help us to renew the lost contacts. The space limitation in the newsletter may hamper individual interactions with Alumni. Hence, as a maiden attempt to stay connected, this newsletter is dedicated towards the Alumni Associations. The beauty of this interaction is that it is not limited to those who stay in the motherland, but is open to those who are thousands of miles away.

Would this interaction bring any benefit to the Alumni, in addition to the self-satisfaction they gain from supporting the University where their youthful years were spent? The newsletter will help the Alumni find out about upcoming events, new programmes at the University, new appointments and publications of the University. It is interesting to think of ways that the University of Colombo newsletter/website could be used to enhance the interaction with our Alumni. Hosting online listings of Alumni Associations in different parts of the world would undoubtedly help us to stay connected with old friends. The website may also host current job listings of government institutions and private companies. However, the University of Colombo administration has a key role to play in this matter. One other important activity that the University of Colombo can provide is to introduce a method for past students to obtain their transcripts on-line. For this purpose, some changes to the financial business processes of the University of Colombo need to be made as there are no facilities to accept on-line payments under the current system.

What support can the Alumni give towards the development of the University of Colombo? Associations and individuals may be interested in providing scholarships for deserving students and in finding accommodation for current students who reside outside Colombo. These forms of assistance are already being provided to the present student population by our Alumni. Could we strengthen these projects and perhaps think of novel projects? Let us think beyond the aforementioned projects, to see whether the Alumni are interested in giving expert advice in building University/Industry interactions and University/community interactions. Perhaps, some may be interested in providing software for courses like bioinformatics, teaching some postgraduate course modules and sharing technical know-how of new technologies in different fields.

The Newsletter will be the perfect forum to post requirements of the University. Let us illustrate one example. Daycare facilities for young children at the University of Colombo which was established to relieve our employees from worrying about their children while they are at work requires major modifications. A project of this nature may be of interest to an Alumni Association abroad. Early childhood education methods practiced internationally may be adopted with the assistance of Alumni. Nicely printed books and special educational toys not only help keep the young toddlers occupied but also help the development of their young minds.

The University of Colombo Alumni Association in Sri Lanka is well established and works closely with the University. In addition, there are Alumni Associations operating abroad. Is there a mechanism to make foreign associations, branches of the Alumni Association in Sri Lanka? Or would they be interested in continuing the way they are? Whatever the decision may be, it is our duty to initiate the interaction. We understand that the schedules of Alumni are really tight after graduation and the University of Colombo is part of the history in their lives. Yet, if you have the time and willingness to get involved, the University of Colombo newsletter website is just click away.

The contribution from Alumni will make a difference in the life of an undergraduate here at the University of Colombo. This does not have to be monetary in nature. It may be a project that the association will undertake or may be to assist a post-graduate or undergraduate programme. It may be as simple as a suggestion/advice or as big as purchasing of equipment/donating a building. It is our belief that the Alumni-University interaction can be enormous and that the sky is the limit.

HISTORY OF THE FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE



Introduction

Established in May 1994, the Faculty of Management & Finance has shown a rapid growth in terms of quality, variety and numbers in relation to academic programmes, research and publications, and students and staff. The Faculty which provides a collective expertise in disciplinary and functional realms of management and finance is renowned for quality research and teaching, highly selective admissions, successful alumni and improved facilities to provide better learning environment, within Sri Lanka. In recognizing its role in the sphere of management education and research, the Faculty of Management & Finance has been listed among the best 1,000 Management Schools in the world by the EDUNIVERSAL, a global crossroad for education matters located in France.

A Brief History

Historical development of management education at the University of Colombo dates back to mid 1970s during which period a large number of G.C.E. Advanced Level students who followed the commerce stream at school were sent to faculties of Arts and Humanities due to the insufficient number of places available in management faculties or departments in the university system. Though such students sent to the University of Colombo were initially accommodated by the Department Economics, there was a pressure from these students for a separate degree programme which could confer the identity of their subject stream. This was resulted in founding the Bachelor of Commerce Degree (B.Com) in 1978 at the University of Colombo under the Faculty of Arts. However, student agitation was not over and they demanded a separate Department of Studies for this subject stream. The dream was realized when the University of Colombo decided to set up a separate Department, namely the Department of Commerce and Management Studies in 1980.

From the inception, the Department of Commerce and Management Studies has been very innovative. In 1981, the department was able to introduce the Executive Diploma in Business Administration as the first ever extension programme of the University of Colombo to meet the needs of growing business and entrepreneurial community at that time. The success of this programme led the department to inaugurate its second extension programme, Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 1983 to provide **a further training to professional managers with initial academic and/or professional qualifications**. In addition to these two extension programmes, the department introduced a Master of Commerce Degree (M.Com) as a research degree especially for the benefit of the academics and research community in the field. Passing another milestone this department introduced the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) special degree programme in 1985.

As a department which operated under the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Commerce and Management Studies grew rapidly in 1980s and thereby became the department which accommodated the highest number of undergraduates in the Faculty of Arts. Also, both degree programmes (B.Com. and BBA) were offered in all three mediums. In line with the increasing student population and the rapidly growing needs of Sri Lankan business community, the necessity for establishing a new faculty for this particular field of study began to be felt since 1980s. The issue was discussed and debated among university authorities, teachers, students and other stakeholders of the University of Colombo for several years. As an initial step of expediting the process of establishing the new faculty, two academic departments, namely the Department of Commerce and the Department of Management Studies, were formed by bifurcating the Department of Commerce and Management Studies in 1993 under the purview of the Faculty of Arts. Finally, this long-lived dream of all interested parties was materialized in May 1994 with the inauguration of the Faculty of Management and Finance.

Undergraduate Programmes

Faculty offers a four-year special degree in Bachelor of Business administration. The programme structured into two levels. The Level I programme which is common for all undergraduates is comprised of basic disciplinary courses, skill development courses, and environmental learning courses. This programme provides the necessary interdisciplinary foundation for students before following the specialized programme in next two years (Level II). The Level two programme has been designed to give a higher level of disciplinary rigor with application to world of work (world of business). Therefore, the Level II programme comprised of a large number of applied courses and students are allowed to select one of the specialized degrees [BBA (Special), BBA (Accounting), BBA (Finance), BBA (HRM), BBA (Marketing), BBA (Business Econ.), BBA (International Business), BBA (Management and Organization Studies)] in their Level II programme.

Annually increasing z-score levels of new entrants to the faculty shows that its undergraduate programmes are getting special recognition among the university entrants through the A/L Commerce Stream. In 2009, more than 85 percent of students gained the admission to faculty on all island merit basis. Regularly updating undergraduate programmes offered by the faculty are also compatible with the needs of the industry and therefore students graduating from the faculty are highly employable.

During the past twelve years, the undergraduate population of the faculty grew rapidly. When the faculty was established in 1994 its undergraduate population was about 600 and it was comprised of almost equal number of males and females. Currently this number has gone up to 1617 and it comprises more female (about 57%) than male.

Postgraduate & Extension Programmes

Faculty offers a range of postgraduate and extension programmes to outfit the requirements of a large spectrum of people considering their research interest and mid-career development needs. Currently faculty offers eight extension and postgraduate programmes.

Consultancy and Industry Extension Work

It is the policy of the Faculty to encourage the members to provide their expertise to the industry without prejudice to the faculty work with prior approval. Also, faculty releases its staff to industry to get the hands on experience on world of work. Accordingly, faculty staff has provided services to a wide range of clientele including Government Ministries and Departments, Foreign Missions such as World Bank, ADB, JICA etc., and Corporate Organizations. Currently, the faculty undertakes a major management development programme for People's Bank.

OUR STRENGTHS

Institute of Indigenous Medicine (IIM)

At the end of the nineteenth century, the British colony, the then Ceylon, had a system of Indigenous medicine, but had no College for providing indigenous medical education. Three associations or bodies that were formed had done the preliminary work for preservation of traditional medical knowledge, to protect and uphold the professional status of those engaged in practicing oriental medical system. These associations are "The Sinhalese Medical Association (1891), Sri Lanka Vaidya Maha Mandalaya (1901) , and Sri Lanka Samaja Prathisanskarana Sangamaya (1915). Eminent personalities such as, Sir Solaman R. Dias Bandaranaike, F.R. Senanayake, K. Balasingham, Donald Ubhayasekera and Ananda Coomaraswamy, the great patriots were involved in creating a fund for this purpose.

In 1926, for the first time, a Committee that looked into indigenous medical system proposed that a College should be established with adjoining teaching hospital, to provide training to those who are keen to pursue this system of medicine. The then States Council (Rajya Manthra Sabhawa) appointed an Advisory Council titled 'Ayurveda Sammelana Sabha' in 1928 with Dr K. Balasingham as its Chairperson, based on this Committee recommendation , an Institute named "Swadeshiya Vaidya Vidyalaya" (Indigenous Medical College) was established on 10th June 1929, and it was inaugurated by the then Governor General of Ceylon, Sir Herbert James Stanley, at the Bauer building situated at Cotta Road, Borella. Dr A.N.N. Panikkar from India who had western medical qualification and who possessed a Sound training in Ayurveda Sciences was brought down to the newly established College by the then Government as its first Principal. Similarly, Dr H.M. Jaffer and Dr H. Ahamed were also brought down from India to develop Unani system of medicine.

Another milestone in the field of indigenous medical system was the enactment of Indigenous Medical Ordinance No. 17 of 1941. Hon S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike as the Minister of Health and the Chairperson of the Indigenous Medical Advisory Council had brought the legislation to uplift the quality of teaching at the College with a national standard. In 1961, the Ayurveda Act No. 31 of 1961 was enacted by repealing the Indigenous Medical Ordinance No. 17 of 1941 and the College was renamed as the Government College of Indigenous Medicine and came under the management of the College and Hospital Board. This was a step taken to uphold the quality of ayurveda health care delivery and the systems of education in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. Four Statutory Boards namely, Ayurveda Medical Council, the College and Hospital Board, Ayurveda Research Committee and Ayurveda Drug Formulary Committee were created.

In 1963, Diploma in Indigenous Medicine & Surgery (DIMS), the qualification hitherto named was changed to that of the Diploma in Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery (DAMS) under the new Ayurveda Act.

In 1977, the College of Indigenous Medicine was absorbed as the Institute of Indigenous Medicine and affiliated to the University of Colombo under the University Act No. 1 of 1972. This was done by the Institute of Ayurveda Statute No. 1 of 1977, published in the Government Gazette Extraordinary bearing number 258 of March 30, 1977. The objective of this step was to produce qualified medical practitioners in the field of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha medical systems. Institute of Indigenous Medicine Ordinance No. 7 of 1979 was published in the Government Gazette Extraordinary bearing No. 67/14 dated 21.12.1979 under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978. With this enactment, the Siddha section was transferred and affiliated to the University of Jaffna.

The Institute under the affiliation to the University of Colombo, has made many changes in the syllabus with the approval of the Senate of

the University. One such major revision was in 1982 where the assistance of specialists in various sections in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani for which expert advices were obtained from Prof. P.N.V. Kurup, advisor on Ayurveda of the World Health Organization.

With the establishment of the Institute in 1977, imparting instructions under the two degree programmes, i.e. Degree of Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) and the Degree of Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) commenced under two sections of the Institute and the first batch graduated in 1983. These degrees were conferred at the convocation of the University of Colombo held on 26.10.1992.

Since inception, the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital at Borella has been the centre for providing resources for imparting practical knowledge and skills, particularly in the clinical setting. The Institute has the strength of postgraduate qualified academic staff who undertake teaching responsibilities and 23 different subject areas are now taught during the five academic years. The syllabi contain study material on Ayurveda/ Unani and other related sciences to produce a competent indigenous medical graduate. Each academic year consists of thirty (30) weeks teaching during three terms, with two mid term vacations. At the end of each academic year annual examinations are held. Each examination consists of written, *viva-voce* and practical/ clinical components.

The governing body of the Institute, the Board of Management is responsible for administrative and academic matters. In terms of the Ordinance provisions have been provided to have two sections namely Ayurveda and Unani.

The admission of students to these two degree programmes at the Institute is based on the performance by the student who sat for the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in Biological Sciences stream. The two degree programmes comprise of five academic years and one year internship which is part and partial of the degree. Internship attachments are given at hospitals provided by the Department of Ayurveda. The Internship training is carried out under the supervision of Consultants attached to the Hospitals under the Department of Ayurveda of the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine with the approval of the Commissioner of Ayurveda.

The present total student population at the Institute is 668 (517 in Ayurveda and 151 in Unani). The Institute provides facilities for undergraduates at the student centre and the Medical Centre at the Institute premises while residential facilities are provided in hostels at Moragasmulla approximately 3 kilometers away from Rajagiriya and other one is close to the Institute.

In addition to undergraduate education, the Institute conducts two postgraduate programmes leading to Postgraduate Diploma in Ayurveda/ Unani Medicine and M.Phil degrees in Ayurveda/ Unani. The Postgraduate section is under the supervision of an Additional Director appointed from among the senior teachers of the Institute. All postgraduate programmes are under the purview of the Higher Degrees Committee of the Institute . Some short courses are being planned by the Institute at present. Already Ayurveda Pharmacy course has been started.

Several steps have been taken for curriculum reforms and syllabus revision with the incorporation of more applied aspects in indigenous medicine to equip graduates to face the current challenges in providing health care to the nation. The Institute has been the pioneer in providing human resources for the delivery of indigenous systems of medicine in the country.

Source : Ayurveda Vaidya Vidyalayeeeya Swarnajayanthi Pustakaya. (1987) Simasahitha Lotaus process , 758/7 , Baseline Road , Colombo.

WALWIN ARNOLD DE SILVA

**Vice Chancellor, University of Ceylon, Colombo.
(1968/1969)**



Mr. Walwin Arnold De Silva was born at Balapitiya on 12 August, 1905 to Dr and Mrs. O.A. De Silva. His father Dr. O.A. De Silva was a Registered Medical Practitioner attached to the Department of Health. Walwin and his brother Colvin (the late Dr. Colvin R. De Silva) had their primary education at St. John's College, Panadura and they moved to Royal College, Colombo for their secondary schooling. Walwin entered the Ceylon University College and read mathematics under the eminent late Professor C. Sundaralingam and subsequently, entered the University of London where he obtained an Honours degree in Mathematics.

Mr. De Silva sat for the Ceylon Civil Service Examination in England in competition with British and Ceylonese aspirants for a service highly coveted in the British colonies. He was successful at this highly competitive examination.

As a Ceylon Civil Service cadet and the young officer, Mr. Walwin De Silva began his working life in 1927 as an Assistant Government Agent and Assistant Commissioner in Galle, Kegalle, Badulla, Putlam and other Kachcheries as well as the Food Department in Colombo where he was Deputy Food Controller when rice rationing was introduced during the war years. At the Food Department, during the years of the Second World War he helped to save the nation from starvation when the imports of food were badly affected. He also had a stint as Secretary to the then Minister of Communications the late Sir John Kotalawala in the State Council.

As Additional Director and later Acting Director of Education he held very advanced views on education. He was greatly interested in introducing the study of Science throughout a child's school career commencing at the Kindergarten level itself. Mr. De Silva earned a reputation as a strong administrator.

The important services rendered by Mr. De Silva in these various positions were numerous and significant.

After his retirement from the public service, Mr. De Silva took to politics for a brief period. He was elected to the first parliament of independent Ceylon at a by-election to represent the Ambalangoda - Balapitiya constituency. As an independent member of the opposition he made a noteworthy contribution to the debates and discussions in parliament.

On the invitation of the late Mr. Saravanamuttu, also a member of the CCS, Mr. De Silva joined Ceylon and Foreign Trades Ltd. as an Executive Director. He became Chairman of that company on Mr. Saravanamuttu's death and held that position for many years. Mr. De Silva was appointed to the Board of Directors of the People's Bank.

He thereafter served briefly as Chairman of the Development Finance Corporation of Ceylon (DFCC).

He was appointed a member of the National Council for Higher Education established under the Higher Education Act No.20 of 1966. In 1968 he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon, Colombo, a post which he held for one and a half years, until his health began to fail him.

Mr. De Silva was reputed for his enlightened and independent views. As Vice-Chancellor he did his utmost to develop the University of Colombo as an important centre of learning. When advised during disturbances to close the University he observed that his endeavour was to keep the University open and not closed. He carried out with great enthusiasm and dedication whatever task was assigned to him and he genuinely enjoyed doing so. He aspired to no success or reward external to the task itself.

Even after he resigned his post as Vice Chancellor Mr. De Silva has continued to remain a friend and well wisher of this University, fostering development in every way possible. Along with Ms. De Silva he has endowed two scholarships: the Gita De Silva Memorial scholarship in memory of their daughter and the Sunil De Silva Memorial scholarship in memory of their son.

In view of his long and selfless service to the nation as a public servant and Parliamentarian and in recognition of the service rendered by him to the development and welfare of this University, the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*) at the Convocation held in Colombo on 27 July, 1985.

India establishes a visiting chair position at University of Colombo



Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Colombo for establishing a Visiting Chair in Social Sciences on March 11, 2010.

The MOU was signed by the High Commissioner of India, H. E. Ashok K. Kantha and Vice Chancellor of the Colombo University Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama.

The MOU, which is valid for five years and renewable thereafter, would put in place an institutional arrangement under which the University would host a Visiting Professor from India in Social Sciences for up to six months during each academic year, a press release issued by the Indian High Commission said.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary, Romesh Jayasinghe, and senior academics of the University, including Deans of the faculties, were present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Hirimburegama said the MOU would contribute to the exchange of expertise on a regular basis between the two countries. She said Sri Lanka could benefit from the scientific and technological advances made by India and suggested a similar Visiting Chair could be set up in the field of science and technology.

The Indian High Commissioner said the excellent relationship India and Sri Lanka were sharing is not a one-way street and he was sure that India could also count on Sri Lanka's help whenever it was needed.

NEWS & EVENTS

New Departments Established

A Ceremonial opening of the three Departments of study in the Faculty of Law was held on 10th December 2009 at the Faculty of Law in the University of Colombo wherein, Hon. Chief Justice Asoka N. de Silva was the Chief Guest. Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof, P.C., Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Professor Gamini Samaranyake, Chairman, University Grants Commission and Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor of the University were the Guests of Honour. Hon. Chief Justice addressing the occasion said that the event marks a milestone in the University Legal Education with the opening of three Departments of Study, namely Department of Public and International Law, Department of Private & Comparative Law and Department of Commercial Law. Hon Justice Marsoof, P.C. while expressing his congratulations to the Faculty, said that the variety is the very spice of life that gives it all its flavour. Professor Samaranyake foreseen that the newly created academic environment will foster deeper and more meaningful insights into the field of Law. Hitherto, the Department of Law existed for more than six decades as a single department in the Faculty. The Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty, Mr. N. Selvakkumaran also addressed the gathering. Professor Sharya Scharenguivel, Professor of Law and Head, Department of Private & Comparative Law proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Educational Field Trip to Naval and Maritime Academy, Sri Lanka Navy, Trincomalee



On 27th and 28th February the 2nd and 3rd year students, reading for the special degree in International Relations in the Faculty of Arts took part in a field trip to the Trincomalee Naval Base, which was organized by the Department of History and International Relations. The 2nd year students made a presentation on the “Political Economy of Afghanistan” and the third years on the “Socio-Economic and the Politics of Iraq”.

The officers of the Naval and Maritime Academy made a presentation on military intervention on Afghanistan and Iraq followed by an animated lively discussion with a question and answer session. The students were given tea at the training center followed by a 45 minute boat ride in the second largest natural harbour in the world. It was formative, enjoyable and a life time experience. On the 2nd day of the field trip the students visited the Trincomalee Naval and Maritime Museum, Sri Lanka Navy and also visited the historic Konesar Temple. The students also saw the largest bridge in Sri Lanka from Kinya to Muttur.

Commencement of Postgraduate Diploma Course in Ayurveda / Unani Medicine 2010/2011

The 3rd Course of Postgraduate Diploma Ayurveda / Unani Medicine commenced on 18th January 2010. Thirty three students including 32 Ayurveda and 01 Unani have been enrolled for the present course. This is a 15 months full time study course specially designed with 12 modules covering the field of studies in Basic Principles, Anatomy and Physiology, Materia Medica, Community

Medicine and Primary Health Care, General Medicine, Traditional Medicine, Maternal and child health care and management. General surgical Procedures and selected essential surgical management applied Toxicology and essential medico legal procedures, hospital administration and management, Basic Research methodology and information technology. The course objectives are to develop knowledge, skills and abilities with regard to applied aspects of Ayurveda / Unani systems of Medicine for better patient care and management.

Inauguration of Postgraduate Diploma/Masters in Information Systems and Management

The inauguration of the Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems and Management leading to the Masters in Information Systems Management was held on 5th January 2010 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor was the Chief Guest. Mr. Suren J. Amarasekera, Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Mobitel, delivered the Keynote address as the Guest of Honour. Professor Sunil Chandrasiri, the Dean of the Faculty, Course Coordinator, Acting Registrar and other invitees from the University and SL Mobitel attended the function. There were 150 students enrolled for both Postgraduate Diploma and Masters Programmes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

First Award Ceremony of the Advanced Diploma in Printing Technology/Visual Communication and Management

The first Award Ceremony of the Advanced Diploma in Printing Technology /Visual Communication and Management, jointly conducted by the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo and the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing was held at the BMICH, Colombo on 10th September 2009. Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister of Mass media & Information, and the Minister of Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion was the Chief Guest. The Acting Vice chancellor Mr. N. Selvakkumaran was the Guest of Honour.

These programmes were developed under an MOU signed by the University of Colombo and the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing with the objective of producing technical experts in printing technology and visual communication who are equally competent in managerial skills to meet the growing demand in the industry. These two diploma programmes are considered to be the highest qualifications offered by any institution in the fields of printing technology and visual communication in Sri Lanka.

Award Ceremony - Diploma in Forensic Medicine & Science

A Ceremony for the award of Diploma Certificates to those who successfully completed the Diploma in Forensic Medicine & Science was held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine on 4th January 2010. Hon Milinda Moragoda, Minister of Justice and Law Reform was the Chief Guest and the Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor was the Guest of Honour. Honourable Minister highlighted the importance in acquiring scientific knowledge relevant to administration of justice while having a close interaction with both professionals in Law and Medicine. Hon Minister took the opportunity to interact with invitees and Diplomates with a view to identify the issues and possible solutions as relevant to his ministerial portfolio.

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

4th International Research Conference on Management & Finance 2009

The Inaugural Ceremony of the 4th International Research Conference on Management & Finance 2009 organized by the Faculty of Management & Finance of the University of Colombo was held on 11th December 2009 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo 7. The Chief Guest was the Vice-Chancellor Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama and Professor B. S. Sahay, Management Development Institute, New Delhi, India was the Guest of Honour. The Key Note Address was delivered by Professor Stanley Paliwoda, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom. Professor H. D. Karunaratne was the Conference Chair and Dr. Fazeela Jameel Ahsan was the Conference Coordinator. The Conference ran through seven Tracks under different themes: namely, Accounting & Management Information Studies; Business Economics & International Business; Entrepreneurship and Small Business & Business and Innovation Management; Financial & Financial Markets; Human Resources Management; Marketing & Supply Chain Management; and Organizational Studies. The International Conference was well attended with participants from the Universities in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, China and Islamic Republic of Iran.

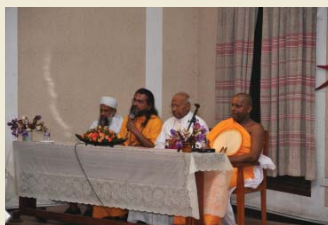
Professor Stanley Wijesundera Memorial Lecture



Professor Stanley Wijesundera Memorial Lecture for the 4th consecutive year was held on Thursday, 17th December 2009 at the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the University of Colombo. The Lecture titled 'Oxidative Stress and Disease' was delivered by Professor Lal G. Chandrasena, B.Sc. (Hons.) Biochemistry Ph.D.(Liverpool), Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon, Fellow of the National Academy of Clinical

Biochemistry, USA, Senior Professor of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Kelaniya. Professor Kamani H. Tennakoon, Director of the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology chaired the function. Several members from the academia were present. Emeritus Professor Eric H. Karunanayake, the founder Director of the Institute and family members of late Professor Stanley Wijesundera were present.

A Ceremony of all Religions



The academic and non-academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine of the University organized a Ceremony of all Religions on Monday, 4th January 2010 where in former Arch Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, Chancellor of the University,

Rev. Agalakada Sirisumana Thero, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts, Brahmachari Dharshan Cythan and Rev. M.I. Asheik Abdul Jabbar carried out the respective religious observances, blessed the Faculty, the University, the country in general, and all staff and students for the New Year 2010. The Dean of the Faculty, Professor Harshalal R. Seneviratne, a large number of both academic & non-academic staff and students attended this multi-religious ceremony.

SIDCER recognition for the Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine



The Ethics Review Committee of the Faculty of Medicine became the first Ethics Review Committee in Sri Lanka and only one of three in South Asia to be awarded recognition under the Strategic Initiative for Development of Ethics Review Capacity (SIDCER) programme initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and carried out by the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific Region (FERCAP). The recognition plaque was awarded to the committee at the 8th International Congress of FERCAP on 25 November 2009 held in Chang Mai, Thailand. At a ceremony held on 18 January 2010, at the Faculty of Medicine, the chairperson of the committee, Prof. Hemantha Senanayake, officially presented the plaque to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama.

Launching of the Guidelines for Ethics Review of Research Proposals Involving Animals in Sri Lanka

The guidelines for Ethics Review Research Proposals Involving Animals in Sri Lanka which was coordinated by the Ethics Review Committee (ERC) of the Faculty of Medicine were launched on 18 January 2010 at a simple ceremony at the Faculty of Medicine. The first copy of the guidelines was handed over to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, by Dr. Mangala Gunathilake, who chaired the committee that coordinated the development of the guidelines.

PGIM Oration and Titular Award Ceremony—2009



The PGIM Oration and Titular award ceremony organized by the PGIM Alumni Association was held on 26th of November 2009 at 3.30 p.m. at the PGIM Auditorium. The occasion was graced by the presence of Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama

as the Chief Guest, the Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo, Professor Priyani Soysa, the Guest of Honour and by the presence of many medical luminaries. By the initiative and foresight of the Director, Professor Rezvi Sheriff, titles were awarded to those who have rendered services to the PGIM as trainers, examiners and in numerous other capacities. A point scheme is in operation for selection.

Prof. Upali Illangasekara delivered the 3rd PGIM Oration titled "Towards delivery of cost-effective diabetes care in Sri Lanka" which added colour to the evening. During the Titular Awards ceremony Dr. H.I. Chrisantha S. Abeysena was awarded as the Fellow of the PGIM and Dr. M.H. Jayantha Ariyaratne, Dr. S.M. Samarage, Dr. C. Thurairaja, Dr. J. Indrakumar, Dr. Suneetha Weerakoon were awarded as Senior Fellows of the PGIM. In addition Professor S.P. Lamabadusooriya, Professor Malcolm Fernando, Dr. Dennis Alloysius, Dr. K.A.T.W.P. Jayawardene, Professor Leela Karunaratne, Professor Dulitha Fernando and Dr. M.A.L.R. Perera were awarded as Honorary Senior Fellows of the PGIM. The Titular award, Visiting Professor of the PGIM was awarded to Professor M.T.M. Jiffry and Prof. N.D. Perera, who became the first Ministry of Health Physician to be awarded this title.

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

University of Colombo Alumni Association of Canada (UCAAC)

It's with great pleasure that we are announcing the formation of the University of Colombo Alumni Association of Canada (UCAAC) in February 2010 in Canada (Toronto) with a huge participation of former Colombo University graduates representing from all faculties. During this Special General Meeting, following office bearers were elected unanimously from enthusiastic membership for the calendar year 2010.

President: Dr. Daya Sarathchandra, Vice-President: Dr. Ransirimal Fernando, Secretary: Dr. Mahendra Munidasa, Assistant Secretary: Dr. Asoka Perera, Treasurer: Mr. Siri Mahathantila, Director, Communications: Mr. Srilal Fonseka, Director, Events and Activities: Mrs. Niranjali Alwis

The meeting was held at the Century Garden Community Centre Meeting Hall in Brampton on February 13, 2010. Colombo University graduates and their families were welcomed to the association by Dr. Daya Sarathchandra. Dr Pradeep Alwis and Mr. Srilal Fonseka who devoted their valuable time and energy with Dr Ransirimal Fernando in developing association's website (www.ucaac.org), described in details the features, maintenance and benefits of the site for the membership. Dr Ransirimal Fernando presented the detail description of the significance and relevance of the registration of the association for future activities.

In February 2009, the association held their first winter get-together in Scarborough and opened a dialogue to initiate projects to help needy students in the University of Colombo. Priorities were given to look for possible fund raising events to support future projects. In response to the appeal from Sri Lankan Consulate Office in Toronto, members of the association donated 1200 \$ to assist Internally Displaced People (IDP) in war affected areas in Sri Lanka.



Section of UCAAC members and their families taking part in the Eldorado Park, Brampton Get Together in July 2009

During this family fun day, our members raised funds for the Colombo University financial aid program. Sum of 48,000 Rupees collected at this function in support of 12 Mahapola recipients' at University of Colombo was handed over to Sarasavi Mithuro organization in a committee meeting attended by Dr Daya Sarathchandra in August 2009 in Colombo.

Recent Activities of the University of Colombo Alumni Association, Sri Lanka

The Alumni Association is continuing to focus on a series of programmes geared towards preparing our undergraduates for future employment. Currently, the NDB Bank is collaborating with the Alumni Association and conducting a Programme on **Entrepreneurship Skills Development** for a group of students from the Faculties of Arts, Management and Science. On the first two days CEO's of leading companies conducted sessions on 'An Overview of Entrepreneurship', 'How to Identify a Business Proposition', 'Sources of Funding and other Institutions/Organizations available for an Entrepreneur', 'Developing a Business Plan' and an inspirational talk on 'Facing Life' and 'Success Stories of Entrepreneurs'. The students were divided into groups with a Mentor from the NDB Bank

Each group will submit a Business Plan within a month, which will be evaluated by the NDB Bank and the best Business Plans will receive cash prizes and awards.

A Workshop with **Mock Job Interviews** was successfully conducted by the Alumni Association with volunteer external resource personnel, and was followed by a presentation by experts in the field to give insight to Undergraduates into the Interview process.

Once again an Outward Bound - '**Eco Adventure Training and Personal Development Programme**' has been scheduled for Saturday 6th March in Bandaragama, for 100 Undergraduates representing all the Faculties.

The six-month **Intensive English Communication Programme** for 100 Undergraduates was recently concluded, and applications have been called for the next group of students.

The 6th Annual **Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration** was delivered by **Mr. Lalith Weeratunga**, Secretary to His Excellency the President at the BMICH on the topic, "Education: Where Do We Go From Here?" The event was very well attended by a distinguished gathering.

Colombo University Alumni Association of Victoria (CUAAV)

The Colombo University Alumni Association of Victoria (CUAAV) was formed on 19 September 2009 at a general meeting held in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Its primary objectives are to promote the interests of the University of Colombo as a pre-eminent centre of education, while providing a common forum for academic, professional and social interaction among graduates, staff and others associated with the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Members of the inaugural committee of CUAAV are as follows.

President: Ramyani Abeywickrema, Vice-President: Dayanthi Nuggeoda, Secretary: Amodha Ratnayake, Treasurer: Mahesha Peiris, Assistant Secretary: Saman Sandanayake, Asst Treasurer: Sudath Amarasinghe, Public Officer: Senake Perera, Committee: Fahmi Haniffa, Keerthi Pothuvila, Mangala Tillekaratne, Panduka Amarasekara, Priyantha Guneratne, Rupert Ferdinands, Sanjaya Fernando, Srinath Daluwatta



A number of other alumni also worked hard over several years to make this association which is now an incorporated body in the State of Victoria, and subject to the corresponding accountability guidelines. Representatives of CUAAV have been in

contact with the University of Colombo and met the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and the Dean of Law in January 2010 to seek their advice. The association has held a number of events. The next major event planned is the Family Dinner & Dance in August 2010 and CUAAV also hopes to make a suitable contribution to the University of Colombo.

Sarasavi Mithuro

Sarasavi Mithuro is an organization formed about 13 years ago, by the graduates passed out from the University of Colombo. The main objective of the organization is to continue the University friendship forever. Sarasavi Mithuro donates scholarships to the university undergraduates, who are facing financial difficulties.

At present Lalith Cooray (President), G. Liyanaarachchi (Secretary) and K.L.A. Kithsiri (Vice President) are the office bearers of Sarasavi Mithuro.

In remembrance of Mr Lal Nanayakkara



The University Community was shocked and grieved to hear of the sudden untimely demise of Mr. Lal Nanayakkara the Acting Registrar in the morning of 17th March 2010 while he was awaiting the vehicle to report for work.

Mr. Don Padmasiri Lal Jayakody Nanayakkara hailed from a respectable family at Welimada. He had his primary and secondary education at the Welimada Madya Maha Vidyalyaya and continued his tertiary education at the Kandy Technical College.

Mr. Nanayakkara joined the University of Peradeniya in 1971 at the age of 20 years and subsequently transferred to the University of Colombo in December 1978. When the University Grants Commission was established in 1979 he was an ideal choice to be transferred to the Establishments Branch of the UGC, in view of his commitment and the knowledge he had in establishment matters. Mr. Nanayakkara immensely contributed in the preparation of the first ever Establishments Code for the UGC and the Higher Educational Institutions.

Mr. Nanayakkara appeared for the highly competitive recruitment exam for Assistant Secretary /Assistant Registrar in the year 1983 and secured the highest mark with a wide margin between the candidate who was placed second. He served the Faculty of Medicine in his capacity as Assistant Registrar and Senior Assistant Registrar from 1984 to December 2000. He was Promoted as a Deputy Registrar on 1.1.2001 and transferred to the Institute of Indigenous Medicine.

While serving the University of Colombo, he registered for the external B.Com Degree at the Sri Jayewardenepura University. He obtained the EDBA from Colombo, various other Diplomas and the LLB from the Open University. Having Completed his Attorney- at- Law exam, he took his oaths as an Attorney- at- Law of the Supreme Court. During his sabbatical leave he obtained the degree of Master of Business Administration at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia .

Mr. Nanayakkara was appointed the Acting Registrar of this University on a full time basis from 20.10.2003 and he held this position up to 26.09.2004. When the Registrar post fell vacant in September 2008, He was the unanimous choice and he served as the Acting Registrar up to his demise. He was also a founder editor of this Newsletter.

Mr. Nanayakkara was dedicated and efficient officer who has given his unstinted service from the day he joined the University service way back in 1971. His sincere and dedicated service took him through various administrative positions in the University System. Mr. Nanayakkara commanded the respect of his superiors, peers and subordinates alike due to the good qualities he has displayed both as an Administrative Officer and a human being.

“May he attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana.”

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