

ALUMNI NEWS

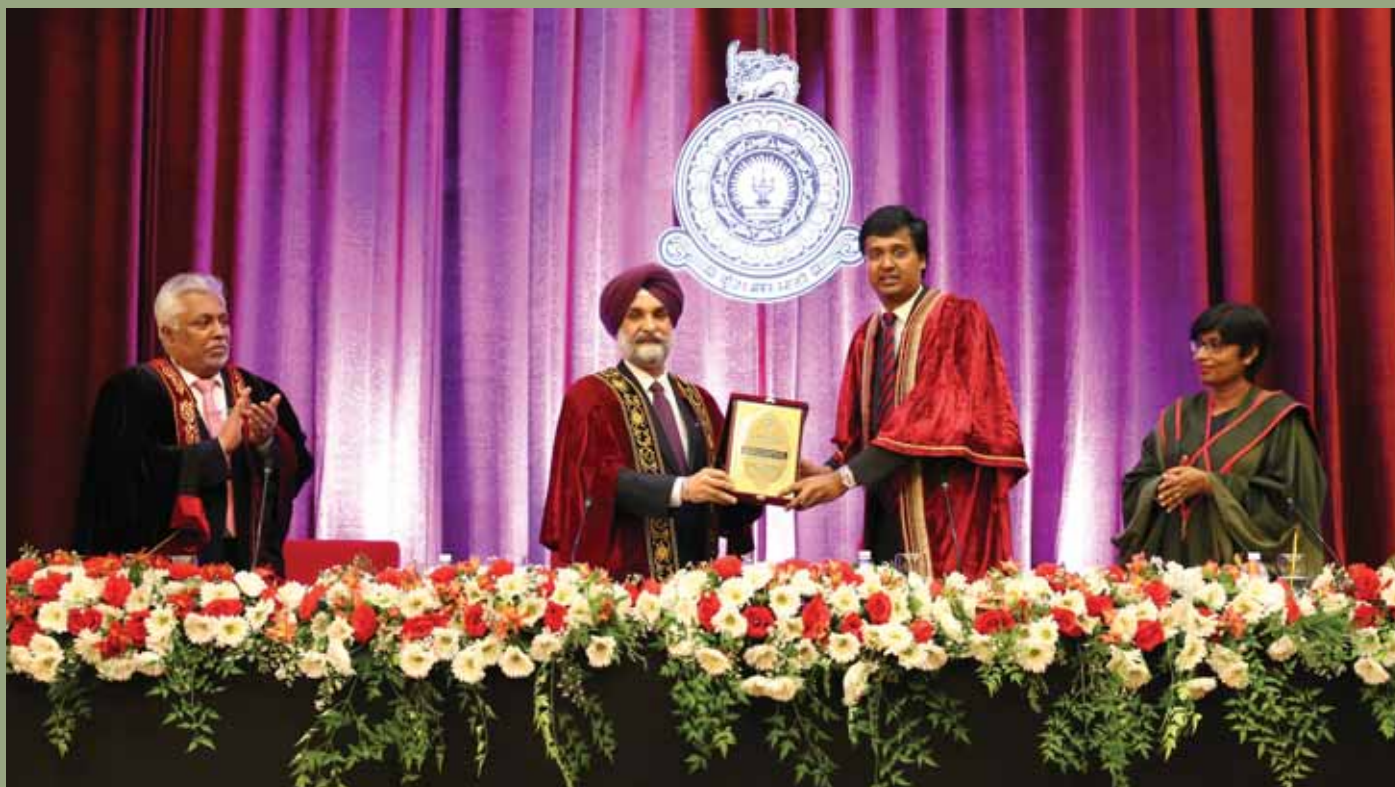


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

FEBRUARY 2019

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14th Annual Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration



Alumni President Rajeev Amarasuriya handing over the 14th SJ Oration Memorial Plaque to H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, whilst the Vice Chancellor Senior Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake and Senior Prof. Nayani Melagoda look on

'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas : Together We Progress' India Sri Lanka Relations in the light of India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

High Commissioner H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka delivered the 14th Annual Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration in April 2018 at the BMICH on the topic 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas : Together We Progress' India Sri Lanka Relations in the light of India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

The High Commissioner was escorted by a Ceremonial Procession to the Hall and joined the Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, President Alumni Association Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya and Senior Professor Nayani Melagoda at the head table.

The inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President Alumni Association, which was followed by an address by the Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake. Senior Professor Nayani Melagoda then introduced the Orator,

who delivered a very pertinent and interesting Oration on the said topic.

High Commissioner Sandhu in his address emphasised that 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas : Together We Progress' sums up in one line the very essence of India's Neighbourhood First policy. He reiterated the importance India attaches to progressing together with Sri Lanka, as self-interest alone is neither in Indian culture nor in Indian behaviour. He added that neighbourhood is crucial not just because of the close proximity, neighbourhood is significant because the two nations are joined as one larger people.

He spoke about the three 'B's which signify India-Sri Lanka relations: Broad, Blend and Buddha. He emphasised that India has never believed in setting conditions for friendship. He said India's heart is broad and big; India does not see friendships through a transactional lens. He added that India has always believed in sharing what it has; even while struggling to meet its own developmental priorities, India has shared the fruits of its expertise, knowledge and skill set with its friends and partners.

Contd. to page 2....

(....Contd. from page 1) **14th Annual Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration**



He noted that Buddhism first came to Sri Lanka from India before it spread anywhere in the world. This was not just because of proximity, it was because of the interconnectedness India and Sri Lanka felt for each other, even in those times. He added that King Ashoka sent his own worthy children Mahinda and Sangamitta to Sri Lanka to spread Buddhism, while sending emissaries to other parts of the globe. Sri Lanka was special for India not just now, but even then. He noted that India is proud of its Buddhist identity.

High Commissioner Sandhu noted how leaders in both countries have imparted a new energy to India-Sri Lanka ties.

High Commissioner Sandhu noted that India believes that success of one must propel the growth of many. He specified that the real ownership of India-Sri Lanka relations rests with the people in both nations. The people have to decide whether to look at the past, survive in the present or work towards a common future. He reassured that India will be there for Sri Lanka whenever Sri Lanka needs India.

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya then presented the High Commissioner with the Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Plaque for having delivered the 14th Oration. The Vote of Thanks was by Deshamanya Tissa Devendra. The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Naazima Kamardeen. The proceedings were followed by fellowship and refreshments.

The 36th Annual General Meeting



The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo was held on 23rd July 2018 at the Senate Hall, College House, University of Colombo. The Chief Guest was former Vice Chancellor Professor G.L. Peiris. The AGM was also attended by the Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Past Presidents of the Association, Academics and Members.

Addressing the occasion Chief Guest Prof. G L Peiris spoke on education and his experiences as Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo. He commended the Association on the

extensive student welfare and development activities that have been undertaken and extended his fullest support and co-operation towards its activities.

Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake in his address emphasized on the achievements of the University. He also said that several new faculties are being introduced by the university in order to keep abreast with the market demands and changing landscape of the Economy.

The names of the new Executive Committee for 2018/2019 is given on the last page of this edition.

Alumni Association Participates at the “Back to Faculty”

The Alumni Association actively participated at the “Back to Faculty” event which was organized by the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo.

The Association offered several engagement opportunities for those who attended the stall; to contribute to the Swimming Pool Project, Mentor a Student or Support the Internship Programme.



University Corporate Partner Recognition Programme



The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association recognized and appreciated the Partners of the "University Partnership Programme". A plaque was presented to each Partner Organization at the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Association. The current partners under the "University

Partnership Programme" are LOLC Group, Nations Trust Bank PLC, Deutsche Bank Sri Lanka and 3CS (Pvt) Limited. These private sector corporates have contributed in financial and non-financial ways to help the Association achieve its student development and welfare goals.

Recognition of Multiform Chemicals (Pvt) Limited

The Alumni Association recognized the continuous patronage of Multiform Chemicals (Pvt) Limited and its Chairman Mr. Thilak Karunaratne by sponsoring the Alumni Newsletter since its inception in 2004, during the presidency of Mr. Karunaratne. Mrs. Suraji Wijenayake representing the company accepted the appreciation plaque at the last Annual General Meeting. A warm thank you for sponsorship for this issue of Alumni News as well.



UNIVERSITY OF
COLOMBO

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

15th Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration

"Up in the cloud"
Using Artificial intelligence and Digitization to
Transform Sri Lanka to a Developed Country

by

TONY WEERASINGHE
Founder of MillenniumIT, e Channeling and Ustocktrade

On Thursday, 28th March 2019 at 5.30 p.m.
At the BMICH

For Invites Contact:

Head of Administration-Alumni Association
Alumni Association Administrative Office
College House, University of Colombo

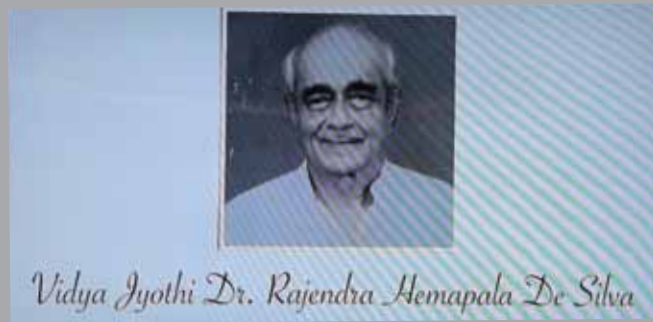
Tel : Mr. Sumanaratne: 2506236/ 077 38 22 73
Tel: Ms. Suraji: 011 2 50412/071 7289014 (Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.)
mail: alumni.colombo@gmail.com

Felicitation of Senior Distinguished Alumni

A highlight of the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo was a charming felicitation ceremony conducted to recognize and felicitate seven Senior Distinguished Alumni of the University of Sri Lanka, which was the predecessor of the University of Colombo, for the outstanding services they have rendered to the nation.

They were former Director of the Medical Research Institute, founder Professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and former Cabinet Minister Vidya Jyothi Tissa Vitarana, Educationist, Promoter of Women's Rights and Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Colombo Deshabandu Kala Keerthi Professor Swarna Jayaweera, Co-Founder of the Marga Institute Deshamanya Dr. Godfrey

Gunatilleke, Former Chairman and Managing Director of Aitken Spence and Company for almost twenty years, Founder Chairman of LOLC and several other organizations Deshamanya Charitha Prasanna De Silva, Former Archaeological Commissioner and author of several publications including 'Sigiriya and its Significance' and 'Distortions in History' Vidya Jyothi Dr. Rajendra Hemapala De Silva, founding Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, University of Moratuwa, the first Professor of Electronic Engineering in Sri Lanka's University system and the Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa Vidya Jyothi Professor K. K. Y. W. Perera and Senior Public Servant and Secretary to seven Prime Ministers Deshamanya Mr. Bradman Weerakoon.



Programme with Nations Trust Bank and Bridge Partnership



Nations Trust Bank together with the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo and the "Bridge Partnership", a reputed international training firm, initiated a socio-emotional skills workshop for the undergraduates of the University. The programme commenced in the year 2017 and will be conducted till 2020.

A significant component of the programme was that it was equipped with a mentoring component, where senior management of the bank volunteered to guide undergraduates over a transitional period of 3 months to assist them to adjust from their university life till the beginning of their careers.

Six workshops were conducted from July 2017 to February 2019, with over 150 students of University of Colombo taking part in

the programme. 28 members of the Senior Management from the bank volunteered as mentors for these programmes adding up to 141 hours of employee volunteering. With the objective of improving emotional intelligence, interpersonal communication and personal resilience of undergraduates, many further workshops are scheduled to be held before the 30th of June 2020.

The Association extends its gratitude to Mrs. Keshini Jayawardena (Consultant of Bridge Partnership in Sri Lanka), Mr. Adheesha Perera Manager Sustainability from Nations Trust Bank and the management of Nations Trust Bank for supporting the Association in this endeavour.

Alumni Association supports internship placements of the Department of Economics



The Alumni Association entered into a collaboration partnership with the Department of Economics of the University of Colombo to support its final year internship programme. Through this collaboration the Department has secured over 100 internship opportunities in the private sector.

In recognition of the progress of this successful initiative, the Department of Economics hosted a ceremonial inauguration and felicitation recently at the Auditorium of the Department of Economics.

University of Colombo Head of the Department of Economics Ven. Rev. Prof. Wimalaratne, University of Colombo Alumni President Rajeev Amarasuriya, Department of Economics Internship Programme Co-ordinator Dr. Sasini Kulathunga, Alumni Head of Administration Sumanaratne Marasinghe, representatives from the Corporate Partners Cargills Ceylon Ltd., LOLC Group and BR De Silva and Co., and many staff and students were present.

Private sector organisations interested in joining the internship programme are kindly requested to contact the Alumni Office at College House, University of Colombo.

“Sindunu Wena Thath”

Our congratulations go out to Alumni Executive Committee Member Mr. Chandrawansa Gnanasekera for publishing a very interesting and apt compilation of a poetry book by the name “Sindunu Wena Thath” (Broken Harp Strings) which was launched at the University of Colombo.



'Sujata Arunella'

The women undergraduates residing at the Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Hostel presented their Annual Variety Entertainment Show, named 'Sujata Arunella' on 25th June this year too. This annual concert held every year in remembrance of the late Mrs. Sujata Jayawardena, is always a fun filled and enjoyable evening and an opportunity for these undergraduates to showcase a variety of their multitude of talents in dance, music, song and drama. As usual the highlight of the show was the beauty pageant with a bevy of 20 beauties vying for the crown as the 'Sujata Kumari' for 2018.



Oration Synopses – S. J. Memorial Orations

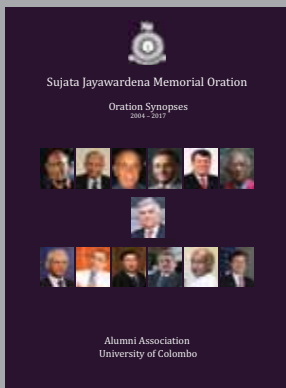
'Sujata Jayawardena Oration Synopses 2004 – 2017' is a collection of summaries of the past 13 Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Orations delivered between 2004 and 2017, edited by Dr. Dayani Panagoda and published by the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo.

This collection consists of 13 synopses of orations delivered by eminent personalities on topics of contemporary importance in a range of disciplines including the Scientific Analysis of the Universe, Environment and Traditional Wisdom, Philosophy and Science, Current Developmental and Political Issues important to Sri Lanka including Peace, Development, Security, Education and University System, Human Rights Challenges, Sri Lankan

Heritage, Democratic Institutions and Regional Economic co-operation.

This collection of Synopses is possible due to the rich contributions made by the orators namely, Prof. Chandra Wickremasinghe, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, HE Robert O. Blake, Jr., the Late Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Vidya Jothi Prof. Arjuna Aluwihare, Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Dr. P. B. Jayasundara, Prof Sudharshan Seneviratne, Prof. Carlo Fonseka, Prime Minister, Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe, and HE Yi Xianling.

This publication could be purchased from the Administrative Office of the Alumni Association, at College House, University of Colombo.



English Language Skills Development Programme with Deutsche Bank Sri Lanka

As an integral component of the University Corporate Partner Programme the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo partnered with Deutsche Bank Sri Lanka to conduct a Business English Programme for the resident undergraduates at the Sujata Jayawardena Hostel located down Buller's Lane, Colombo 7. The programme was fully sponsored by Deutsche Bank Sri Lanka, and part of the University Corporate Partnership Programme.

The programme focused on effective communication, a key factor for success and in today's context, it is essential for undergraduates and graduates seeking employment. Organizations look for potential employees who can use the English Language effectively in day to day work situations; such as meetings, discussions, individual performance, specifically in every core area of business in an organization. In this context, many undergraduates and graduates face tremendous

competition when trying to secure an employment opportunity and then performing to an optimum level. However, effective training in English Language used in a business context can elevate these individuals to be confident in facing interviews, meeting people and addressing large audiences.

The course was conducted by Sphere Academy & Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd. They ensured that the selected group of students were given the required requisites to be successful in gaining access to employment through effective communication.

The programme commenced in October 2017 and was conducted over 9 months (60 hours) for a group of 50 undergraduates at the Hostel. It was completed in July 2019.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Management of Deutsche Bank Sri Lanka for coming forward to sponsor this programme.

A Student Welfare Initiative of the Alumni Association in Partnership With CENWOR

The Alumni Association in partnership with the Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) awarded Scholarships of Rs. 20,000/= each at a ceremony held at College House in May 2018.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake attended the function as the Chief Guest, and the Alumni Association was represented by President Rajeev Amarasuriya, Secretary Ruwandhi Thanthrige and several other office bearers. Founding member Professor Swarna Jayaweera and Ms. Girty Gamage represented CENWOR.

Similar to previous scholarships the recipients of these scholarships were selected through an objective process. This was done in consultation with the Student Counsellor's Office, the Student Welfare Division and the Alumni Administrative Officer.



The Alumni Membership Identity Cards



The Alumni Membership Identity Cards were officially launched with the ceremonial handing over of the first ID Card to the Vice Chancellor and Vice President of the Association Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, by the Secretary of the Association Ms. Ruwandhi Thanthrige. If you have not collected your New Alumni Membership ID please visit the Alumni Office between 9.00 AM to 3.30 PM on weekdays. A processing fee of Rs. 500 is applicable.

The Alumni Identity Card entitles you to access the University Ground for Walking and reference access to the Library (Electronic Resources).

Alumni Association University of Colombo Executive Committee 2018/2019



Seated from Left to Right : Mr. Sumanaratne Marasinghe (Head of Administration), Mr. Milad Mubarak (Asst. Treasurer), Mr. J.M.S. Bandara, Mr. Jithendra Gunatilake (Treasurer), Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake (Vice Chancellor / Vice President), Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya (President), Ms. Ruwandhi Thantrige (Secretary), Mr. Thilak Karunaratne (Past President / Advisor), Prof. Naazima Kamardeen (Asst Secretary), Mrs. Ramanee Amarasuriya (Past President / Advisor) and Mr. Tissa Devendra (Past President / Advisor)

Standing from Left to Right : Mr. K.D.R. Siriwardena, Ms. Dinesha de Silva, Mr. Pradeep Uluwaduge, Mr. G. Wijemanne, Mr. Milton Arandara, Mr. S. R. Balachandran, Mr. M. K. Gnanasekera (Asst. Editor), Mr. Asanka Ranhotty, Dr. Dayani Panagoda, Ms. Mahesha Amarasuriya (Editor), Ms. Chathurika Akurugoda

Absent : Ms. Suranjani Wickremeratne (Vice President), Mr. Lakshman Keerthisinghe (Immd. Past President), Mr. J. Charitha Ratwatte (Past President / Advisor), Mr. P.W. Senaratne (Past President / Advisor)

University Alumni Corporate Partners




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If undelivered please return to:

The Head of Administration
The Alumni Association
University of Colombo
College House
No. 94, Kumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka

 alumni.cmb.ac.lk

 The Alumni Association of University of Colombo