



"NEW YEAR FESTIVAL - DECPE"



With the aim of enhancing the interaction between the students & staff, the students of the 2013 batch of the Department of Chemical & Process Engineering organized a New Year Festival for the first time in the Department history. It was successfully held on April 25 at the Department centre court.

The day started with the glorious sounds of crackers and Raban Sural. All the academic staff members, non-academic staff members & students were invited to enjoy the delicious Avurudu Kama Mesaya which was filled with many traditional

sweets, both Sinhala and Tamil. The premise was decorated with Kolam and a swing.

The games started with the participation of all the students as well as staff. Some new game items which were created by the students themselves were also included in the event. At the end of the day winners were gifted with special gifts arranged by the organizing committee. Thus concluded another delightful day in the Chemical family.

Inside

Page 3

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING NEWS

Page 7

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE NEWS

Page 10

FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NEWS

Page 11

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Page 12

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Page 14

APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

Page 16

VISITS & TRAVEL



UPGRADING OF THE ELTC TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

The English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) was upgraded to the status of a Department with effect from March 2016.

Dr JMA Manatunge who served as Head of the ELTC for nine years made a unique contribution to its development in various ways, which climaxed in it becoming the Department of Languages (DOL). During his tenure of office as Head, the ELTC was able to enhance the quality of almost all the language programmes offered to the undergraduates and start new programmes both internal and fee-levying.

Prof Mahendra Prinath Dias of the Department of Electrical Engineering has been appointed as Head of the Department of Languages with effect from March 23. He is a former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority of Sri Lanka and has served as a senior professional at the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations.

The objectives of the new Department are to address the language skills development needs of the entire University more effectively and to offer tailor-made language enhancement courses to all stakeholders of the University. The new department will function under the Faculty of Engineering for administrative purposes and will be governed by a Board of Studies. The first Meeting of the Board of Studies was held on April 19. The Department with the guidance of the Board of Studies is expected to take action to meet the current urgent language skills development needs of the University in the short term and to introduce internationally benchmarked English teaching programmes and teaching programmes in other languages in the long-term.

ANNUAL BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN



“DONATE BLOOD, SAVE LIFE” the annual blood donation campaign organized by the Leo Club of the University of Moratuwa was successfully held on 27 April at the Old Gym. UoM Leos joined their hands with the National Blood Transfusion Service of Naranhenpita for this project. From the commencement of the campaign at 9.00 am there were many willing to donate blood and save precious lives. Nearly 150 donors including Leos as well as non-Leos expressed a keen interest in this massive contribution. The day came to its end not only adding a remarkable experience but also an immense social service.

MAHESH ABEYWICKRAMA MEMORIAL DEBATE COMPETITION

The Leo Club of the University of Moratuwa successfully conducted the Mahesh Abeywickrama Memorial Debate Competition for the fourth consecutive occasion on 26 March for school students of the Western Province. This project was held in memory of past president Mahesh Abeywickrama (2004/2005). Leo Pramod Wimalatunga, District President of Leo District 306A2 was the chief guest for the opening ceremony and Mr Hasitha Wijesundara, attorney-at-law and president of “Sasnaka Sansada” was the chief guest for the closing ceremony and a judge for the final debate. The final debate was between the debating teams of DS Senanayake College and Gothami Balika Vidyalaya. Both teams exhibited great oratorical skills but finally D.S. Senanayaka College, runners up in last year’s competition, was declared the champions..



MORATUWA ENGINEERING RESEARCH CONFERENCE (MERCON) 2016



The second Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon2016), organized by the ERU, was held on April 5-6 at the Civil Engineering Complex. MERCon 2016 received 155 submissions from authors representing Sri Lanka, Canada, Australia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, United Kingdom, and United States. After the peer-review process, 76 papers were accepted for the presentation. All accepted and presented papers of MERCon 2016 will be submitted for publication to the IEEE Xplore. 12 technical sessions as well as four keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Monte Cassim, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan; Prof. Saman K. Halgamuge, University of Melbourne, Australia; Prof. Karu Esselle, Macquarie University, Australia; and Prof. Jagath K. Samarabandu, Western University of Canada. The conference was jointly organized by the University of Moratuwa, ERU, and IEEE student branch of University of Moratuwa. It was technically co-sponsored by the IEEE, IEEE Sri Lanka Section, Sri Lanka Section chapter of IEEE Power and Energy Society, Sri Lanka Section chapter of IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, the National Science Foundation, and University Grants Commission. Parallel to the main conference, MERCon also co-hosted “ERU Symposium” – MERCon’s predecessor aimed at stimulating and fostering student research through the publication of 12 peer-reviewed extended abstracts. The third edition of MERCon will be held on April 4-5, 2017 and further details are available at <http://mercon.mrt.ac.lk/>.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

PANHINDA - 2016

Going beyond the usual line-up of events for the year, the students of the 2013 batch of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering unveiled a new project named “Panhinda 2016” on March 21 to uplift the educational standards of underprivileged students. More than 1000 books and resources were collected for the event with the generous support of students and staff of the Department. A/ Saliyamala Maha Vidyalaya, Mahawilachchiya, was chosen as the recipient school since it lacked many of the necessary resources.

Apart from the donation of books, a motivational programme was carried out for the students of grade 9, 10 and 11 in order to share the experiences of reaching success while overcoming obstacles. Further, several activities were also carried out to improve the thinking abilities of the students in an enjoyable manner. The event was appreciated and admired by the Principal, staff members and the students of the school for the commitment and dedication in addressing the needs of the school.



UNILEVER CONDUCTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR UNDERGRADUATES

“The Professional” is a training session for the students in the concept of stepping into the Professional world, initiated by Unilever Student Ambassador Programme and 2013 batch of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering. The programme specifically targeted the Engineering Faculty students in the third year of their degree programme who will be facing the industrial training in few months.

The event was organized in two sessions and the first phase was held on March 17 at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. More than 200 students from all three faculties attended the event. The session covered the basics of facing an interview and compiling a CV and was conducted by Ms Aarthy Arunasalam, the Leadership Development Manager of Unilever Sri Lanka.

The second phase of “The Professional” was held on March 18 for the 2013 batch students of Department of Chemical and Process Engineering. More than 25 mock interviews were conducted, where students were able to get a practical experience of what they learnt during the first session. For most of the students, the event was a life changing experience. The panels for the event were from the Human Resources division of Unilever.

The event was organized by Charitha Wickramarachi and Rochelle Silva, the representatives from DCPE, in collaboration with Kaushalya Batawala, the Unilever student ambassador of the University of Moratuwa, Ms Aarthy Arunasalam, Ms.Rovina Vandersay and members of the Human Resources division of Unilever Sri Lanka Ltd. Dr PG Rathnasiri, Head of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering and Ms Peshalya Kothalawala along with the other academic staff members also contributed to the success of the event.



NEW EQUIPMENT TO CHEMICAL ENGINEERING UNDER NRC PUBLIC –PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP GRANT SCHEME



A laboratory scale twin screw extruder was purchased to the Polymer Processing Laboratory of the Chemical and Process Engineering Department under a public-private partnership grant of National Research Council. This PhD study grant is to develop a natural rubber- polyethylene blend to use as a roofing material to substitute asbestos. The private sector partner is Samson Compounds PLC. The extruder will be used to process thermoplastics compounded with fillers and other chemicals to produce master batches and to prepare thermoplastic elastomers and thermoplastic vulcanizates.

YAYE PADURA - 2016

“Yaye Padura ” the annual musical event of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering was held on March 17 at the centre court of the Department. Members of the academic and non-academic staff participated along with the students of the Department. The event was organized by the students of the 2014 batch with tremendous support from the academic and non-academic staff and the senior students of the Department.



STEPPING STONES - 2016

The closing ceremony of the “Stepping Stones 2015/16” for the Semester 5 (2013 intake) was successfully held on March 29 at the seminar room of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering with the presence of the mentors and the academic staff of the department. “Stepping Stones” is a mentoring programme which is annually organized by the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering (DCPE). The Department aims at producing high quality graduates with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes who will be much sought after by the industry. Therefore, it is important that they develop soft skills in addition to the technical expertise. Hence, the Department acquires the assistance of high calibre executives from the industry to guide the students in their way of excellence as well assisting students in their transition from the University to a work environment.



SINHALA TAMIL NEW YEAR FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS – DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING



A cultural festival was organized by the academic and non-academic staff members of the Department of Civil Engineering on April 20 to celebrate the Sinhala Tamil New Year. The function started with lighting the hearth by the current Head of Department, Prof Saman Bandara, and boiling milk until it boiled over, wishing everyone a prosperous year of happiness and harmony.

A table full of traditional sweets was arranged and all the attendees were invited to enjoy it. After this a number of traditional games were held. The function was graced by the attendance of almost all the academic staff of the Department of Civil Engineering, their families, non-academic staff and others. Addressing the gathering at the end of the function, Prof Saman Bandara mentioned that he expects the same warm-hearted smiles on all faces for the rest of the year.

FAITH IN HUMANITY RESTORED – METH MIHIRA



Due to busy academic schedules, Civil Engineering students rarely get a chance to show their compassionate hearts. To awaken the humanitarian side of Civil Engineering students, the Civil Engineering Society (CES) holds a programme called “Meth Mihira” for physically and mentally Challenged children of “Meth Mihira Centre”, Moratuwa.

This year’s episode of this annual event was held on April 08 at the Civil Engineering Auditorium with the participation of 35 differently abled students, eight teachers and the head of the institute.

The children were accompanied to the university and served with breakfast. After that many dancing, singing, painting and sporting activities were followed breaking the ice between them and hosts, filling the environment with joy and creating a feast for the eyes. Children were awarded gifts and a complete fish tank was given to the institute in response to a request of the head of the institute.

The function was held with the participation of former Head of Department Prof Anura Nanayakkara, Dr Nalin De Silva, Dr Rangika Halwathura, and Dr (Mrs) Dhammika Nanayakkara. The event was organized by the 2014 batch of the Department of Civil Engineering under the guidance of CES.

LIGHTNING 2016 – CRICKET TOURNAMENT



The six-overs-a-side inter batch cricket tournament of the Department of Electrical Engineering was successfully held on 24 March at the University of Moratuwa grounds. This was a well organized event that enhanced the rapport between academic staff and undergraduates of the Department.

STL AGM & AWARDS CEREMONY 2016

The Society of Transport & Logistics (STL), University of Moratuwa held its 8th Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony on 16 March at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. A new committee was appointed for the upcoming year 2016/17 after concluding a successful year with a remarkable committee.

The TLM Awards ceremony was initiated by the outgoing STL committee and it was decided to continue the project in future which appraised the outstanding performances of TLM students in Extra Curricular Activities. Undergraduates received awards under two categories highlighting their individual performances and the performance as a group. Five students from the 2011 intake, eight students from the 2012 intake, seven students from the 2013 intake and one student from the 2014 batch were awarded under individual award category. 1st Runners up of HSBC Youth Enterprise Awards 2015, 1st Runners up and 2nd Runners up of FIONTRAI Entrepreneurship competition 2015-AIESEC University of Sri Jayawardenapura-2015 and Champions Quiz Competition 2015 organized by WISTA (Women in Shipping & Trade Assoc.) & WiLAT winners were awarded under the group award category. 11 batch representatives Kushan Sameera, Jayani Sudusinghe and Lakmuthu Sri Sandaruwan were awarded a special appreciation for their sacrifices and commitments. The 11 batch appreciated the outgoing committee by awarding the outgoing President Mr. Gihan Vidanapathirana.

Dr. T. Sivakumar was appointed as the Patron and Mr Nishal Samarasekera was appointed as Staff Advisor. Mr. Thiranjaya Kandamarachchi was elected as the President for the upcoming STL year 2016/2017. Mr. Pasindu Dushantha, Mr. Damith Nirmal and Mr. Shasindu Punchihewa were elected as the Vice President (Media), Vice President (Industry Relations) and Vice President (Administration) respectively. Ms. K. P. Dilini was elected as Secretary and Ms. P.S.M. Diyawadana was elected as Assistant Secretary. Mrs. Baudi Abeysekera was re elected as Senior Treasurer for upcoming year. Mr. Chrishly Fernando was elected as the Treasurer. President Mr Thiranjaya Kandamarachchi in his address appreciated the various activities that the STL has conducted over the past year. While thanking the outgoing STL committee, he requested all STL members' cooperation to make the upcoming year 2016/2017 a success. Further he mentioned that the Society of Transport & Logistics will work beyond the well-being of undergraduates of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management towards the well-being of the Community.

Dr. T. Sivakumar was appointed as the Patron and Mr Nishal Samarasekera was appointed as Staff Advisor. Mr. Thiranjaya Kandamarachchi was elected as the President for the upcoming STL year 2016/2017. Mr. Pasindu Dushantha, Mr. Damith Nirmal and Mr. Shasindu Punchihewa were elected as the Vice President (Media), Vice President (Industry Relations) and Vice President (Administration) respectively. Ms. K. P. Dilini was elected as Secretary and Ms. P.S.M. Diyawadana was elected as Assistant Secretary. Mrs. Baudi Abeysekera was re elected as Senior Treasurer for upcoming year. Mr. Chrishly Fernando was elected as the Treasurer. President Mr Thiranjaya Kandamarachchi in his address appreciated the various activities that the STL has conducted over the past year. While thanking the outgoing STL committee, he requested all STL members' cooperation to make the upcoming year 2016/2017 a success. Further he mentioned that the Society of Transport & Logistics will work beyond the well-being of undergraduates of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management towards the well-being of the Community.



FAREWELL TO THE ACADEMIC STAFF FROM EE 11' BATCH



The EE 11' batch organized a farewell event to express gratitude to the academic staff of the Electrical Engineering Department on 26 April at the Department premises. The Head of the Department and the members of the academic staff were present at the occasion with the students of EE 11' batch. The event was immensely enjoyed by all the staff members and tokens of appreciation were presented to all the lecturers. Head of Department Prof Nalin Wickramarachchi and Prof Rohan Lucas addressed the gathering and wished good luck for the future of the passing out graduates.

EE QUIZ - EE 11' BATCH

A Quiz Competition was conducted for the graduating batch of Electrical Engineering students on 26 April. The first round of the Quiz was for 25 final year groups as a written Quiz. The four best groups were selected for an interactive five rounds of questions. Members of group 3, Mr. S.R.A. Bolonne, Mr. A.K.K. Chanaka, Mr. G.C. Jayawardhana and Ms. I.H.T.D. Lionel emerged winners in the bonus round after a tough competition.

EXPOSE FORUM & EXHIBITION 2016

The annual flagship event of the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, Expose Forum 2016, was held on 29 March at the BMICH from 5.30 pm onwards. Organized by the Electronic Club, the objective of this was to provide a common platform for the undergraduates, faculty, industry, government and other relevant institutes to discuss the common challenges faced by the field of Electronic and Telecommunication.

This year's event was lined up with some interesting sessions, where the panel discussion themed as 'Propelling Sri Lankan Economy through niche areas of electronic such as; Semiconductor IP core and EDA tool development, Hardware Software co-design, Robotics & Automation' was an iconic item. Distinguished panelists included, Dr. Sankalpa Gamwarige (General Manager/VP Engineering - Zone24x7), Dr. Beshan Kulapala (Research Scientist at CodeGen International), Mr. Farazy Fahmy (Director, Research and Development at Synopsys), Dr. Ajith Pasqual (Senior Lecturer, Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering), and Mr. Thayaparan Sripavan (Head - Hardware Accelerated Systems at MillenniumIT).

Another session which drew audience's attention was the start-up space, where several start-ups established by the fresh graduates of the department were featured. It was a very inspiring session for both undergraduates and the professionals who were present, as they described how they have partnered with global businesses and expanding their operations in the



international arena.

There was also a final year project presentation session which showcased the innovative projects being carried out by the undergraduates in par with the trending technologies across the world. Several projects were able to attract even the potential investors to develop their projects into the commercial level.

The student achievements (in both national and international events) for the year 2015/16 was also recognized at this event and the award for the most outstanding student of the department in Leadership, Scholarship and Service was awarded to Ms. Nadee Seneviratne. Also, the official annual magazine of the Electronic Club, 'E-Carrier' was also launched at this event. Marking another milestone for the department, the 'Expose' Exhibition which is organized by the undergraduates and the Electronic Club of the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering was held on 23rd and 24th of March 2016 at the Department premises. On 23rd, the exhibition

was exclusively open for the university undergraduates and faculty whereas, it was open to the general public on the 24th. The exhibition was organized after a few years of silence with the aim of demonstrating final year projects and other undergraduate projects carried out at the department to industry experts, investors, school students and general public. Another intention of the exhibition was to raise awareness in school students and techno enthusiasts on trending technologies and the projects carried out at the university.

The exhibition comprised of a demonstration of final year projects and a selected set of other undergraduate projects along with some interesting events such as Robotics shows, UAV (Unmanned aerial vehicle) shows, and Electronics workshops. The Exhibition evoked a lot of positive responses which is indeed a motivation to continue this worthy cause in the coming years as well.

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

48TH BEMRU COLLOQUIUM

The 48th research colloquium of the Building Economics Management Research Unit (BEMRU) was held at the boardroom of the Faculty of Architecture on April 26. The colloquium on 'Flood Risk Management: Impacts, Recovery and Adaptation' was delivered by Prof David Proverbs, Associate Dean-International, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment, Birmingham City University, United Kingdom. Members of the academic staff of the Department of Building Economics participated in the session.



RIBA UNCONDITIONALLY REVALIDATES B.ARCH PROGRAMME

A five member Accreditation Panel from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) comprising Ruth Reed – Chair and Past President of RIBA, Prof Lilly Kudic of London South Bank University, Harbinder Birdi of Hawkins/Brown Architects, Prof Robert Brown, Head of Architecture, University of Plymouth School of Architecture and Design, and Sophie Bailey, RIBA validation manager, visited the Department on March 10 and 11 to revalidate the B.Arch Programme conducted by the Department of Architecture.



RIBA Validation is a peer review process that monitors compliance with internationally recognised standards in architectural education and encourages excellence and diversity in student achievement. The revalidation panels visit schools of architecture to assess the standard of courses for exemption from the RIBA examinations. These panels are composed of academics, practicing architects and construction team co-professionals. Courses in architecture are revalidated on a five-year cycle.

During their visit to the Department, the panel met the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty, external and professional examiners and the academic staff of the Department. Design portfolios of all years were reviewed in addition to an exhibition of students' work. The visiting Board also had a meeting with architecture students where the students got an opportunity to share their views and opinions on architectural education.

At the end of the revalidation process, a dinner was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor for the visiting board and academic staff of the department.

The B.Arch. Course/Programme conducted by the Department was given unconditional validation for five more years by the RIBA. The Panel was impressed with the Programme which was a reflection of the efforts and dedication of the students and the staff.



SEMINAR ON 'HOW MASS TRANSPORTATION MODES SHAPE A CITY'

A half-day seminar on 'How Mass Transportation Modes Shape a City' was organized by the Department of Town & Country Planning in collaboration with French Development Agency on March 23 at the Auditorium of the Department of Town & Country Planning. The technical sessions comprised distinguished speeches which brought diverse experiences from diverse backgrounds regarding the challenges and priorities of urban transportation systems, and the importance of incorporating these transportation systems in to town planning. The key speakers of the seminar were Prof Amal Kumara, Senior Professor, Department of Transport & Logistics Management, University of Moratuwa, M. Denis Fuentes, urban planning and transport expert, France, Dr Jagath Munasinghe, Senior Lecturer, and former Head of the Department of Town and Country Planning, Dr Dimantha De Silva, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Prof Xavier Greffe, Professor of Economics at the University of Paris Sorbonne, Mme Langlois, Deputy Director General of the Urban Planning Agency in Bordeaux, and Mr Alfred Peter, urban planning and transport expert, France. In addition, chief guests of the event were His Excellency Jean-Marie Schuh, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Prof Ananda Jayawardane, Vice-Chancellor, University of Moratuwa, Mr Madava Waidyaratne, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development, Prof Rahula Attalage, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Moratuwa and Dr Rangajeewa Rathnayake, Head, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa.



'ATHWELAK' EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The undergraduates of the 2012/2013 intake of the Department of Building Economics organized an educational programme in collaboration with the Building Economics Students' Society (BESS) to aid the students of several schools of the Dehiowita Education Zone, with the subjects Science, English and Mathematics. Students from Magala Kanishta Vidyalaya, Sri Devananda Kanishta Vidyalaya, Pothdenikanda Maha Vidyalaya, Dikellakanda Kanishta Vidyalaya and Sirisaman Madya Maha Vidyalaya participated in the programme, which was conducted from April 29 to May 01 at Magala Kanishta Vidyalaya, Deraniyagala. The Zonal Education Director of Dehiowita also participated in the programme.



BE EXTERNAL EXAMINERS VISITATION 2016



The External Examiners Visitation of the Department of Building Economics was held on March 23 and 24 to review the BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and BSc (Hons) in Facilities Management degree programmes. The review panel comprised of Prof Melvyn Lees, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment, Birmingham City University, United Kingdom, ChQS HD Chandrasena, Chairman, Cost Consultancy Services (PVT) Ltd., and Mr Remaz Ghouse, Chief Operating Officer, Overseas Reality (Ceylon) PLC., Sri Lanka.

TANDEMIZE 2.0

Tandemize 2.0 – a collaborative design project between the Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa and the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design, London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom was conducted in March 2016 at the University premises.

Five students from the Field of Fashion & Lifestyle Design, Department of Integrated Design, and five graduates from BA Hons Jewellery/Silversmithing and Architecture, the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design, who were awarded Tandemize travel fellowships through the British Council, participated in the project hosted by the University of Moratuwa following a mutual residency in the UK in January.

The Tandemize group conducted a public-participation event in Galle Fort and the project is further continued with an exhibition at the Cass from 4 - 7 May 2016 as part of the London Craft Week 2016 programme.



FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FIT CODERUSH 2016

'FIT CodeRush 2016' the annual inaugural coding competition organized by INTECS, the Information Technology Society of the Faculty of Information Technology was held successfully on April 23 and 24 at the Faculty Premises.

INTECS, being the main student body of the Faculty of Information Technology focusing on student development, was able to take another step towards achieving their long term goal through the successful inauguration of 'FIT CodeRush 2016' which is hoped to be continued within the faculty annually. This coding competition targets the participation of the undergraduates of the faculty with the intention of developing the knowledge and skills of the undergraduates, who will be the future talent of the industry.

The competition was held with the participation of more than 45 teams from Batch 12, Batch 13 and Batch 14 of the faculty. The teams were able to complete the given challenges successfully throughout the twelve hours of the competition. It was indeed a pleasure to witness the competitive atmosphere throughout the competition. After twelve hours of coding and a very tight competition, 'FIT CodeRush' concluded with team 'Wolfpack' of batch 14 becoming overall champions and team 'RathuAscot' of batch 12 emerging 1st runners up while team 'Antimatter' of batch 12 emerged 2nd runners up.

FIT CodeRush 2016 paved its path to success with the assistances of Millennium IT as the Gold Sponsor, Virtusa as the Silver Sponsor and eBuilder, Crowderia and Zone24x7 as the Bronze Sponsors. FIT CodeRush 2016 was indeed a great experience and an exposure to the undergraduates of the Faculty of Information Technology. This was further confirmed by the many comments and well wishes of the competitors, who although did not emerge champions on that day, were determined to do their best and were motivated to carry on the good work.



FIT MEET - UP 2016

A get-together of the staff of the Faculty of Information Technology and their family members was held on March 07 at Aqua Pearl Lake Resort in Panadura with the objective of strengthening the relationship among the staff and their family members. The event included games for the children and the staff followed by lunch and a musical event. The winners of the games and all the children were given memorable gifts by the organizing committee. It was decided to make this get-together an annual event.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

CHQS (MRS) KANCHANA PERERA AWARDED FRICS

ChQS (Mrs) Kanchana Perera was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS) on March 22. She is currently attached to the Department of Building Economics as a Senior Lecturer. She previously served as Director – Undergraduate Studies of the Faculty of Architecture, and is also the Chief Student Counsellor of the University.



BEST PAPER AWARD – ACEPS-2016

Dr Udeni Nawagamuwa of the Department of Civil Engineering won the Best Paper Award at the Fourth International Symposium on Advances in Civil and Environmental Engineering Practices for Sustainable Development (ACEPS-2016) on March 03. The title of his paper was “Ground Improvement with Waste Copper Slag.” The symposium was organized by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna and the award was made by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna.



BEST PAPER AWARD – MERCON 2016

Mr. V. Sivahar, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, together with Ms SDC De Silva, a MSc student of the Department, received the best paper award at MERCon 2016 for work on “Non-Destructive Evaluation of Strength Gain of Ordinary Portland Cement Mortar by Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity Method” in the track of Materials Science and Engineering. It was held at the Civil Engineering Auditorium on April 05-06.

TALKS BY PROF LUCAS

Prof. Rohan Lucas, Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering and S. Gopa Kumar, Technical Director OBO Betterman were resource persons at the Seminar on Lightning Protection of Modern Buildings, at IESL on 18 March.

Prof Lucas also delivered a speech on Over-current Protection at the IEE Wiring Regulations Course at the IESL on 02 April. Around 100 engineers participated in the course.

Prof Lucas also attended the TV programme “ROBA EVE” on MTV channel TV1, and talked on “What you should know about lightning” on Wednesday 6th April 2016, educating the general public on how to protect from lightning strikes.



TV PROGRAMME – FACE THE NATION

Eng. Anura Wijayapala, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Chairman, Ceylon Electricity Board attended the TV programme “Face the Nation” on MTV channel TV1 the on 21 March, where the discussion was focused on the island wide power blackouts in the recent months.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

WINNERS – ESTADISTICA 2K16

A team from the 2013 batch of the Department of Civil Engineering of University of Moratuwa were the winners of “ESTADISTICA 2k16”, the annual Inter-University statistics competition organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of Sri Jayawardanapura. They participated under the guidance of Mrs RT Jayasundara and Ms SAS Sureni Wickramasooriya of the Department of Mathematics. Eight students (S.A.S.K. De Silva, D.M.J.M Dissanayake, O.P.C Randil, W.S.G. Fernando, W.A.R.K De Silva, D.M.S.P. Dassanayake, H.S. Wijesuriya and K.A.S.D. Ratnayake) took part in this event.

A team comprising Nisal Ranasinghe, Ayodhya Kinkini, Ashira Jayaweera and Mohamed Athif of the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering were the 1st Runner-Up. They were selected and trained by Mrs Jayasundara. The event was held on March 31 at NFC4 at the Faculty of Applied Sciences of University of Sri Jayawardenapura.



FIT STUDENTS WIN 2ND RUNNER-UP POSITION AT MICROSOFT IMAGINE CUP COMPETITION

The team SAS Ninjas comprised of Thuan Shafer Preena, Ramindu Rusara Senarath, Tharindu Senanayake, Supun Harsha Priyadarshana, and Chandima Gunawardana (Substitute) of Batch 12 of the BSc (Hons) in Information Technology Programme of the Faculty of Information Technology has been awarded the 2nd runner-up place in the World Citizenship category at the Sri Lankan finals of the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2016, the world’s premier student technology competition organized by Microsoft Corporation held on April 21st, 2016. Their project Ms.USE is an IoT based mobile solution developed to prevent women violence, abuse and harassment through a smart wearable device (a wearable ring), which gives women and children the opportunity to call for help and backup assistance just in a split of a second from their guardian or from any responsible group of people who are ready to act against such incidents.



TEAM SIPLO @ UOM ARE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Global Student Entrepreneur Award (GSEA) is the world’s premiere award for students who run companies and study at the same time. The First ever GSEA in Sri Lanka was won by University of Moratuwa student entrepreneurs Buddhika Jayawardena, Asela Darshan, Jayamini Rodrigo, Manesh Jayawardhana and Buddhi Vikasitha (Team SIPLO). The National grand finale was held at BMICH on March 04 with the patronage of many international dignitaries. As the National Champion, Buddhika is heading to Thailand in May, 2016 to meet fifty students from fifty countries joining together with 1,300 entrepreneurs from around the world for three days of learning, celebration and competition in Bangkok, Thailand.



THE “I-BELT” FROM UOM WINS AN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION



A group consisting of three final year mechanical engineering undergraduates from the University of Moratuwa has been able to win the 1st place in “IMEchE Asia Pacific Design Competition for People with Hearing Disorder” for their product the “i-belt” in the final heats which was held at Auckland, New Zealand on 30th of April 2016. This competition was organized by the IMechE UK (Institution of Mechanical Engineers) and it is a cross-region engineering design competition for university students and young engineers. The objective of the competition is to address real-world problems through engineering design projects and give solutions to challenging issues of human well-being. This time the competition challenge was to design and make an engineering solution for the people with hearing disorders.

The competition comprised three stages where in the first stage each team has to be selected and win from their respective countries to be advanced for the regional finals and winners of the each regional finals will be selected for the final heats among each regions. The solution and product of University of Moratuwa team was a lightweight wearable waist belt which they named as “i-belt” and has two main functionalities to assist hearing impaired people. This belt is comprised with a special embedded system along with array of mini microphones and mini vibrators which in first case has an inbuilt voice recognition system, capable to react for 5 selected word inputs and quickly alerting the wearer through a special pattern of vibration by picking up the accurate direction of the source sound, translates this to a vibration in the belt that corresponds to the direction of the selected sound. These selected sounds may be the name of the wearer or special words such as help, run etc... Moreover this belt also has the ability to alert the wearer for high noises in emergency situations for quick reaction like siren noise, vehicle horn, gun shooting, dog barking etc. An example situation would be where a deaf person was at risk from a vehicle behind him and the vehicle is tooting for him, the deaf person would not hear the sound normally, but the “i-belt” would vibrate and cause the wearer to look behind for vigilance and see the vehicle pointing towards him where the message is safely and timely delivered.

The team “Mavisuru” from University of Moratuwa comprising three final year undergraduates Eranga De Silva, Hasala Sakvithi Rohanawansa and Peshan Sampath entered to the competition under the guidance and supervision of Dr Ranjith Amarasinghe, a Senior Lecturer from the Mechanical Engineering Department and the preliminary rounds of the competition was held within the three engineering faculties of

Sri Lanka where the project from the University of Moratuwa was selected to represent Sri Lanka at the regional finals. The South Asian regional finals or the second stage of the competition was held on late November at Colombo with the participation of Indian and Pakistan contestants where the teams had to both conduct a presentation and a demonstration of the product. The Sri Lankan team from University of Moratuwa became the champions of the event and got selected to represent the South Asia region in the Asia Pacific region finals.

The final competition or the Asia Pacific heats was held on April 30 at the Callaghan Innovation Centre in Auckland, New Zealand with the participation of teams from North East Asia (Hong Kong, China), South East Asia (Malaysia) and Southern Asia (Sri Lanka) as the winners of their respective regions.

The chief judge for the final competition was Mr. Mike Granger who was appointed for the task by the Auckland Deaf Society. Profoundly deaf from birth and working 35 years as an engineer Mr. Granger and the remaining judge panel thoroughly examined the presentations and demonstrations from each team and finally selected the product “i-belt” from “Team Mavisuru” of Sri Lanka as the winning product and team. “The ‘i-belt’ device is a great solution for Deaf people, alerting them in an emergency if there’s a loud noise, if someone is at the door, or calling their name,” Mike Granger says. “I’ve had many near miss accidents where I didn’t realise that emergency vehicles were passing nearby, couldn’t hear my daughters calling me, or see the doorbell or smoke alarm flash at home if I was outside or in a different room. The “i-belt” solves all these things,” he says. Second and Third places went to Hong Kong for their device which would predominantly assist people to get the appropriate information whilst on public transport and to China for their filtering system to be used in an office environment.

The Sri Lankan winning team acknowledges Vice-Chancellor Prof Ananda Jayawardane, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean of the Engineering Faculty Prof Kapila Perera and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Dr. W.K. Wimalasiri for their continuous helps throughout the competition and the assistance from the Sri Lanka section of IMechE, which they believe as vital factors for their performance.



APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr Thushara Damayanthi was appointed as a Senior Lecturer (on-contract) with effect from April 2016 in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Dr. Damayanthi obtained her B.Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering in 2003 with First class Honours from the University of Moratuwa. She was awarded a scholarship in 2004 to pursue doctoral studies at University of Tokyo, Japan and completed her PhD in 2009. After her PhD she has been working in University of Tokyo as a postdoctoral research fellow until 2013, and a research scientist at RIKEN from 2013 to 2016. Her research interests include Nuclear Engineering and High frequency Electromagnetic phenomena.



Mr KV Kamal Deshapriya Wasala has been appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) at the Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture. He completed his MA in Product Design at Buckinghamshire New University, UK in 2013 after having obtained his first degree in Fashion Design and Product Development from the University of Moratuwa in 2009.



Ms. Ruwani Thanuja Rathnayaka assumed duties on 01 February in the Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture as a Lecturer (probationary). She earned her Bachelor(Hons) Degree (First Class) from the University of Moratuwa.



Dr (Ms) Thilini Jayawickrama joined the Department of Building Economics as a Senior Lecturer (Grade II) from April 01. She is a product of the Department of Building Economics, and has completed her PhD at the National University of Singapore.

Dr MKA Gunawardena and **Dr MDR Nayanasinghe** have been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I in the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering with effect from 01.04.2016.

Ms Ruwani Thanuja Rathnayaka assumed duties in the Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture as Lecturer (Probationary). She earned her Bachelor's (Hons) Degree (First Class) from the University of Moratuwa.

Mr HHS Gayan has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering with effect from 01.04.2016.

PROMOTION TO SENIOR LECTURER

Dr (Mrs) ABN Dassanyake has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Earth Resources Engineering. She earned her BSc Engineering from the University of Moratuwa in 2006, MEng from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand in 2010 and PhD from the University of Hokkaido, Japan in 2015. She joined the University as a Lecturer (Probationary) in 2007.

NEW HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Dr HM Ranjith Premasiri has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering with effect from April. He has experience as a University Lecturer and a practising Geologist for over 20 years. He obtained his BSc Special degree in Geology from the Department of Geology, University of Peradeniya in 1994 with first class honours and obtained the MPhil degree in Earth Resources Engineering from the University of Moratuwa in 2006 for his research on Development of a Conceptual Geological Model for the Formation of Hot Water Springs in Sri Lanka. He later obtained his PhD in Applied Geophysics from the Graduate School of Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics (EPSAM), Keele University, UK researching on the Identification of Palaeotsunamis using Ground Penetrating Radar, Sedimentological and Micropaleontological Techniques; Implications for Sri Lankan Tsunami Risk.



NEW HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Mr VSC Weragoda has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering with effect from April 06. Mr. Weragoda is a graduate from the same department and has a service of 18 years on the academic staff.



Prof Saman Bandara has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering from March. He earlier held the position of Head of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management, and as the first Director – Undergraduate Studies of the Faculty of Engineering.

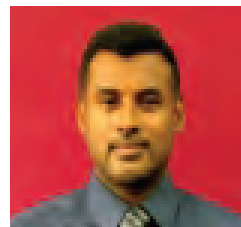


Dr Sanja Goonewardene has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering from April 2016.



PROFESSORIAL PROMOTIONS

Dr EASK Fernando has been promoted to the post of Professor in Textile Engineering (on merit) in the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology with effect from 19 June 2015. Prof Fernando joined the University after completing his MSc in Textile Engineering specialising in textile machinery from the Textile Institute of Ivanovo, Russia, in 1987, and his PhD from the same institute in 1992. He was recruited as a Senior Lecturer in 1993. He served as Head of Department from 2006 to 2009, during which time the Department saw many new developments in terms of infrastructure. Prof Fernando is a Chartered Textile Technologist (UK) and a Fellow of the Textile Institute UK.



Prof Fernando is a keen researcher with five patents in his name, including one international patent. He received the Outstanding research award of UOM in 2015, Quality Product of the Month: Textile World Magazine award in October 2010 (with EY technologies-USA) and “US Army Successful Project Award” for Smart Textilea in 2011 (with EY technologies- USA). He has co-authored five textbooks on weaving and weaving preparation, as well as is the author of two monographs. He is also a cricketer of no mean repute, having captained his school first eleven and also the University State Services cricket team. He has served on many national level committees in his capacity as the weaving expert in the Department.

Dr GLD Wickramasinghe was promoted to Professor in Textile Engineering of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology, University of Moratuwa with effect from May 2015. Prof Wickramasinghe is from the first batch of BSc Engineering graduates of the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology and has the distinction of being the first graduate of the Department to become Head of Department (2009-2012) and the first graduate of the Department to be promoted to the grade of Professor.



Prof Wickramasinge graduated in 1993 with a BSc Engineering from the University of Moratuwa. Subsequently he earned a PhD in Textile Engineering from the University of Manchester, UK in 2003, during which he received the University of Manchester, UMIST postgraduate award from 1999 to 2002. He earned a Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning from the University of Arts, London in 2006 and an MBA from PIM, University of Sir Jayewardenepura in 2008. He joined the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology as a lecturer in 1996, after having served as Assistant Manager Lanka Synthetic Fibre Co. Ltd., Sapugaskanda, and has been serving the department since then. Prof Wickramasinghe is the Chairman of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) of the University of Moratuwa. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of Orit Apparel Lanka Ltd. from 2014. He served as a board of directors of Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA), Ministry of Industry and Commerce, from 2010 to 2015. He also served as chairman and member of various public and private sector committees. He has been a recipient of the University of Moratuwa research excellence award every year since 2011. He has received the NSF merit award for scientific publications in 2011.

VISITS & TRAVEL

EESOC GUEST LECTURE- INTEGRATING CLEAN ENERGY IN SMALL POWER SYSTEMS

Dr Priyantha Wijayatunga, a former Professor of the Department of Electrical Engineering and currently a Principal Energy Specialist at the Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippine, paid a courtesy visit to the Department recently. During the visit, he delivered a guest lecture on “ Integrating Clean Energy in Small Power Systems “ at the Electrical Engineering Seminar Room which was organized by the Electrical Engineering Society. The guest lecture was attended by students and academic staff.



ADVISORY BOARD

Professor Rahula Attalage (Chairman)
Professor KKCK Perera
Professor Lalith De Silva
Mr PM Karunaratne
Mrs Ruvini Kodikara
Professor (Mrs) Chinth Jayasinghe
Archd UPP Liyanage
Dr Chathura De Silva

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs Ruvini Kodikara
Archd Sithumini Rathnamalala
Archd A Rajapakse
Mrs WASN Wijethunga
Mrs Thushari M Seneviratne
Dr (Mrs) DA Meedeniya

Editor : Eng SN Niles
[E-mail: nils@uom.lk]
Published by : Library
University of Moratuwa
Page Layout : Mr PD Munasinghe

NEWS TO BE SENT TO

Library
University of Moratuwa
Katubedda, Moratuwa, 10400
Sri Lanka
E-mail: melromendis@gmail.com
info@lib.mrt.ac.lk



ISSN 2279-2023