



page 05



page 09



page 02



page 09



page 06

page 10



page 03



page 12



page 09

page 10



page 03



University of Moratuwa

Bimonthly UOM news

2021

November - December

Volume: 10

Issue: 06

ISSN: 2279-2023

BOLGODA PLAIN

Lighthouse Talk

The lighthouse talk program, held once a month at the Faculty of Graduate Studies in virtual mode, assists research students enhance their abilities and skills at performing their research activities. The FGS mainly focuses on topics that are highly relevant for research students and obtains the support of resource persons from within and outside the university as required.

The 01st Lighthouse talk was held on 10th June 2021, as a virtual event with 75+ participants by Dr. Gerard Fernando on the topic of “Patent and Publish; Doing Research Publication while Securing IP”.

Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

Supply Chain, Operations and Logistics Optimization - Multidisciplinary Research Center at the University of Moratuwa

[From Cover page]



The Center for Supply Chain, Operations and Logistics Optimization (SCOLO), the newest multidisciplinary research center at the University of Moratuwa (UoM), was established in the fourth quarter, 2021. The center concentrates on quantitatively driven research encompassing all facets of supply chain, operations and logistics.

SCOLO was established through the vision of Dr. Niles Perera and Dr. Amila Thibbotuwawa, Senior Lecturers of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management, to fill the vacuum of quantitatively driven supply chain research in Sri Lanka while bringing state-of-the-art knowledge from across the globe. The center is ably guided by the patronage of Prof. Amal Kumara, Prof. Asoka Karunananda, Prof. Asoka Perera, Dr. Ajith Pasqual, and Dr. Ranil Sugathadasa, who are experienced researchers at UoM. Further, Dr. Logeeshan Velmanickam (Dept of Electrical Engineering), Dr. Hirushie Karunathilake (Dept of Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Priyanga D Talagala (Dept of Computational Mathematics), and Mr. Supun Gothama Hewawalpita (Dept of Decision Sciences) who are passionate young researchers cutting

across three faculties have partnered with SCOLO. The establishing of the center was inspired by the acceptance of an international grant proposal submitted to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

SCOLO presently conducts projects in numerous domains and mainly focuses on applications of forecasting, inventory decision-making, life cycle analysis, sustainable circular economy, artificial intelligence/machine learning, augmented reality, operations research/management science, system dynamics, and blockchain technology on supply chain, operations and logistics. In addition to the faculty members, SCOLO is fortunate to have over a dozen talented postgraduate research students. SCOLO presently maintains research connections with twenty universities covering four continents. This enables the UoM to improve its international visibility within the scope of SCOLO. Blessed with a list of highly cited international collaborators, SCOLO is presently working on several research projects aimed at contributing towards the body of knowledge as well as to the community at large.

The 02nd talk was held on 05th August 2021, as a virtual event with 100+ participants by Prof. Jagath C. Rajapakse on the topic of “Navigating Research through Interfaces: Brain Imaging, Computational and Systems Biology, and Deep Learning”.

The 03rd talk was held on 09th September 2021, as a virtual event with 240+ participants by Prof. Mahesh Jayaweera on the topic of “Making of a Research Paper; Transmission of COVID-19 Virus by

Droplets and Aerosols: A Critical Review on the Unresolved Dichotomy”.

The 04th talk was held on 16th November 2021, as a virtual event with 180+ participants by Dr. Rasika Jayathilake on the topic of “Role of Statistics in Research; From Design to Conclusion”.

Inaugural Lecture Series - Faculty of Graduate Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) conducted five inaugural lectures as hybrid events launched from the boardroom of FGS at the University of Moratuwa during the period of April 2021 - January 2022.

The 01st Lecture was held on 29th April 2021, with 140+ participants by Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa on the topic of “Nature Based Landslide Mitigation; A Futuristic Approach”.

The 02nd Lecture was held on 20th May 2021, with 160+ participants by Prof. Jagath Munasinghe on the topic of “The making and unmaking of National Physical Plan 2050”.

The 03rd Lecture was held on 15th July 2021, with 150+ participants by Prof. Kumari Gamage on the Topic of “Restoration of Infrastructure: Reinforced Polymer Composites and Technology”.

The 04th Lecture was held on 25th November 2021, with 110+ participants by Prof. Lalith Rajapakse on the topic of “Is the Water Blue, Green or Colourless-Revisiting my Career Journey and Achievements in Water Research”.

“Bolgoda Plains” - Research Magazine

[From Cover page]

Bolgoda Plains gives a voice to the University of Moratuwa Researcher. Our eco-system spans 06 faculties with 35 departments and 09 centers. The University of Moratuwa serves research facilities at 155 laboratories under the supervision of 396 academic staff, while the postgraduate research student community currently exceeds 500. Communicating and dissemination are key ingredients of any research endeavor. The goal which the magazine would pursue is in realizing the impact the society expects.

The Bolgoda Plains Inaugural issue was published in August 2021 showcasing twenty diverse articles. Research findings of undergraduate and post graduate research students were included in this issue. The 01st issue was launched at the Vice Chancellor's Board room on 09th November 2021.

Bolgoda Plains 02nd issue was published in December 2021 showcasing eighteen diverse articles. The 02nd issue was launched during the Research Week 2021.

Research Week 2021 [From Cover page]

The Faculty of Graduate Studies organized its first Research Week at the University of Moratuwa engaging with four faculties: Architecture, Business, Information Technology, and Medicine. The event was successfully held from 30th November

Research Support Books “RESEARCH WEEK 2021”



Developing a “Research Support Books Collection” is a great advantage for postgraduates and researchers to

Guest Lectures / Talks

Webinar on Omnichannel Services & Contactless Deliveries as the new Normal

The Society of Transport and Logistics held its 11th webinar in collaboration with Hayleys Advantis Limited on 04th of November 2021. The webinar on “Omnichannel services & contactless deliveries as the new normal” was conducted by Mr. Sanjeeva Abeysagoonewardena, Member, Group Management Committee, Hayleys Advantis Limited.

Webinar on the Impact of COVID Vaccine Storage Efforts on Cold Chain Logistics

The Society of Transport and Logistics held its 12th webinar in collaboration with Hayleys Advantis Limited on 30th of November 2021. The webinar on “The impact of COVID vaccine storage efforts on cold chain logistics” was conducted by Mr. Amal Rodrigo, Director of a subsidiary of Hayleys Advantis Limited.

to 04th December, 2021 with three International conferences by the Faculties of Architecture, Business and Information Technology, a Keynote by a Nobel prize winner Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, two panel discussions, undergraduate and postgraduate workshops and research center presentations in hybrid mode.

Collection for Celebrating

conduct their research activities without any difficulty. The Library is proud to announce that it has developed a “Research Support Books Collection” for celebrating RESEARCH WEEK 2021. This collection was displayed from 29th November 2021 to 04th December 2021 (throughout the RESEARCH WEEK 2021 of the University of Moratuwa).

Guest Lecture on “Unleashing the Power Beyond Possible: Motivational Speech”

An online guest lecture on “Unleashing the Power Beyond Possible: Motivational Speech” was organized for the Level IV Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics on 13th and 20th November 2021. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Nuwan Rajapaksha, Coach in Public Speaking and Leadership Development.

Guest Lecture on “Project Financing Challenges in Developing Countries”

An online guest lecture on “Project Financing Challenges in Developing Countries” was organized for the Level IV Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The lecture was delivered by Eng. Jahfar M Ismail, on 24th November 2021.

Guest Lecture on “Effective Communication”

An online guest lecture on “Effective Communication” was organized for the Level III Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake, Career Guidance Counselor, University of Rajarata, on 02nd December 2021.

Guest Lecture on “Self-Motivation”

An online guest lecture on “Self-Motivation” was organized for the Level III Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The lecture was delivered by Dr.(Eng) Ranil Sugathadasa, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, on 08th December 2021.

Guest Lecture on “Effective Time Management”

An online guest lecture on “Effective Time Management” was organized for the Level III Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Rashitha Nilan Delapola, Director, Technical and Vocational Training, National Youth Service, on 16th December 2021.

Staff Development Programme on “How to MARC your Bibliographic Data: Step by step MARC 21 Records Instruction”



Dr. Piyanwada Wanigasooriya, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Kelaniya conducted a staff development programme on “How to MARC your Bibliographic Data: Step by step MARC

21 Records Instruction” on 16th November 2021 via Zoom for Library Information Assistants. ‘What is MARC 21, what is the Sri Lankan perspective on MARC 21, cataloging with MARC 21’ were discussed with practical examples.

“Resource Recovery from Waste Streams for Production of Microalgae Biomass”

Dr.Thilini U.Ariyadasa from the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa delivered an invited speech at the International Conference on Biotechnology for Resource Efficiency, Energy, Environment, Chemicals and Health (BREEECH 2021), held in hybrid mode at Dehradun, India from December 1-4, 2021. Her talk was on “Resource recovery from waste streams for production of microalgae biomass: A sustainable approach towards high-value biorefineries”, which emphasized on the recovery of waste resources for production of value-added biomass.

Training on Solar PV System Designing, Installation and Testing for the PUCSL



Dr. Asanka Rodrigo conducted a two day training programme on Solar PV system

designing, Installation and Testing for the engineers at the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), at the Sustainable Energy Authority on 06th and 09th November 2021. The outcome of the training will empower the PUCSL's effort on producing professional solar technicians island wide.

Webinar on Modern Trends in Construction Digitalization



The Civil Engineering Society (CES) of the University of Moratuwa initiated the “Skill up with CES” webinar series with the aim of providing opportunities for the students to meet experts and renowned professionals from all around the world. Within two months from the initiation, five successful webinars were carried out under several major topics.

The latest webinar was conducted on 12th December 2021 by Dr. Rajeev Ruparathna (BSc.Eng Hons.(Moratuwa), M.A.Sc (Canada), Ph.D. (Canada), P.Eng (Canada)). Dr. Ruparathna is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Windsor, Canada, and an alumnus of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. He conducted the webinar on Modern Trends in Construction Digitalization, and elaborated on the emerging areas such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), digital transformation in the construction sector and infrastructure management using machine learning and big data management. This webinar was an excellent eye-opener for undergraduates and practitioners to identify emerging construction industry trends and see how we can apply those to the Sri Lankan construction industry.

Webinar Entitled “Importance of the Undergraduate Period”

The Civil Engineering Society (CES) of the University of Moratuwa initiated the “Skill up with CES” webinar series with the aim of providing opportunities for the students to meet experts and renowned professionals from all around the world.

The third webinar of the series was conducted on 07th November 2021 by Mr. Asitha Rathnayake (BSc.Eng Hons. (Moratuwa), AMIE (SL), CIMA Dip MA). Mr. Rathnayake is currently a PhD candidate at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Cambridge, and an alumnus of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. He spoke on the “Importance of the Undergraduate period”, and defined a valuable path to embrace the importance of one’s undergraduate period. This fruitful session uplifted the knowledge of undergraduates on different perspectives of the undergraduate period.

Academic Programs

42nd General Convocation of University of Moratuwa

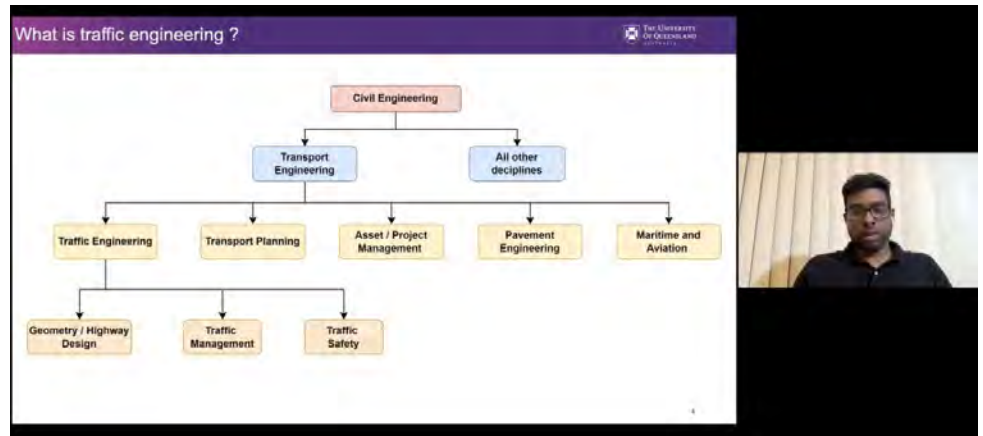
[From Cover page]



The 42nd General Convocation of University of Moratuwa (UoM) was held on 22nd and 23rd December 2021 with all its glory and pride at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in eight sessions. The Chancellor of the University, Vidya Jyothi Professor Emeritus KKYW Perera, presided the Convocation Ceremony. It was attended by the graduands with their parents, distinguished invitees, as well as the academic and administrative staff of the University.

A total of 1958 competent graduands were conferred degrees in their respective

“Chat with an Engineer” Event - Exploring Aspects of Traffic Engineering



“Chat with an Engineer – Session 3” organized by the Highway Engineering Society (HES) – Student Chapter, University of Moratuwa was held on 18th December 2021 via the Zoom platform with the participation of civil engineering undergraduates from around the country. This was the 03rd consecutive session organized by the HES – Student Chapter, University of Moratuwa, focusing on providing an opportunity for enthusiastic civil engineering undergraduates to acquire guidance from industry experts to broaden their knowledge on highway engineering.

Mr. Sakitha Kumarage, an alumnus of the University of Moratuwa, currently reading for his PhD at the University of Queensland, Australia joined as the resource person for the session. He delivered a presentation

on “Exploring the aspects of Traffic Engineering”. Mr. Kumarage is an expert in modelling transport systems and control of large-scale traffic networks. His current research interests are in traffic flow theory and intelligent transport systems. Mr. Kumarage shared his experiences as a traffic engineer and showcased the novel trends of his study area. It was an enlightening and inspiring session for the Civil Engineering undergraduates.

The session lasted about 02 hours with the participation of more than 100 enthusiastic undergraduates and concluded with a Q&A session. The Q&A session was interactive as the audience raised questions and expressed their interest in the subject. The session was concluded with a promise of bringing another interactive session on the “Chat with an Engineer” series soon.



fields such as engineering, architecture, information technology and business with over 25% of them at post graduate level including 16 graduands receiving PhDs.

Faculty	First Degree	Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma
Architecture	352	62 (including 2 PhDs)
Engineering	821	375 (including 11 PhDs)
Information Technology	292	31
Business	-	25 (including 3 PhDs)

University of Moratuwa graduates are in high demand among both state and private sector employers. In fact, most of the study programmes have recorded almost zero unemployment within three months after graduation. Having earned internationally recognized accreditation status from a number of international accreditation bodies, University of Moratuwa degree programs are considered qualitatively equivalent to those offered by the world’s best universities.

More information

• Visit for Convocation eTabloid (Convocation Messages and the Graduant list) - <https://uom.lk/slideshow-entry/convocation-e-tabloid>

• Visit <https://uom.lk/hot-events> for the Convocation Videos (All 8 sessions)



Conferences & Symposia

Civil Engineering Research Symposium 2021

[From Cover page]

Keynote Speakers



The Civil Engineering Research Symposium 2021 was successfully held at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa on 17th November 2021 with the participation of eminent academics, students and the industry from Sri Lanka and around the world. This is an annual symposium organised by the Department of Civil Engineering to showcase the latest research activities undertaken by undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Department.

The presentations and discussions focused on broad areas of civil engineering, from 3D Digital Image Co-relation to Cell Transmission Models using crowdsourcing data for expressway monitoring. 47 selected abstracts received for the symposium were also published in a proceeding.

The afternoon session of the symposium was a hybrid event dedicated to Emeritus Professor Priyan Dias. This session featured keynote speeches by two world renowned academics, Prof. David Thambiratnam



and Prof. Mahen Mahendran from the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. Prof. Thambiratnam enlightened the audience on “Structural Dynamics Research – Some Recent Projects”. Prof. Mahendran spoke on the topic of “On Connectivity – Continued: Cold-formed Steel Structures Research”, as a continuation to the famous farewell lecture given by Prof Priyan Dias on his retirement day.

A 03-Minute Thesis (3MT) Challenge was also featured for the first time in history of the Civil Engineering Research Symposium to demonstrate the latest research achievements of the postgraduate students in a creative manner. Out of over 25 submissions, four winners were selected, and were awarded with cash prizes. The 3MT challenge winners were, Pasindu Meddage (01st place), Ishan De

Silva (01st runner-up), Nalaka Jayantha and Sharon Gurupatham (joint 2nd runner ups). The afternoon session ended with a speech by Emeritus Professor Priyan Dias in which he discussed about his 40 years of experience as an academic at the department and also on the importance of engineering teaching.

Head, Department of Civil Engineering Prof. Chinth Jayasinghe stated that “The symposium is based on multi-faceted research that has been carried out at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, mainly by its undergraduates under the supervision of the staff members. With the research findings presented at the symposium, that some of the unsolved research questions could be addressed with a greater degree of confidence and effectiveness”.



International Conference on Information Technology Research (ICITR 2021)



Dr. Yogachandran Rahulamathavan, Senior Lecturer and the Programme Director for MSc Cyber Security and Data Analytics at Loughborough University's London Campus in the United Kingdom, Professor Sunny Joseph Kalayathankal, Jyothi Engineering College, Kerala India and Dr. Sadeep Jayasumana, Senior Research Scientist at Google Research, United States. In addition, this year's conference offered three pre-conference workshops, ten technical sessions, and an invited talk conducted by Mr. Rohan Fernando, Associate Director, Acuity Knowledge Partners.

The 06th International Conference on Information Technology Research (ICITR 2021) was held from 01st to 03rd December 2021. This is an annual event organized by the Information Technology Research Unit (ITRU), the research dissemination arm of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented challenge for society and has highlighted the importance of

scientific research. Therefore the theme of the conference was 'Digital Resilience & Reinvention'. The conference is well recognized as a forum to discuss the rapid advances being made in research and development in Digital Transformation.

This year's conference featured four keynote talks by prominent academic personalities, Professor Jiang Liu from Waseda University, Japan;

This year around 162 research papers, and 41 papers were accepted by maintaining the acceptance ratio of around 25%. ICITR 2021 is technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Sri Lanka Section and IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Sri Lanka Section Chapter. The papers accepted to the ICITR 2021 are indexed in the IEEE Xplore Database. The conference was financially supported by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), University of Moratuwa.

FARU 2021 – 14th International Research Conference Best Paper Awards from the Department of Architecture.



Students and academic staff members from the Department of Architecture won the Best Paper Awards in four sessions in the FARU 2021 - 14th International Research Conference, held on 03rd – 04th December 2021 as a virtual conference organized by the Faculty of Architecture Research Unit (FARU) of the University of Moratuwa. The Research Conference focused on the theme 'Beyond Sustainability: Reflections Across Spaces'.

Session 2

Paper ID : 106

Name : Rajapaksha I, & Sandamini RGP

Title: Appraising Indoor Thermal Perception of Elderly in Hot Climates: An Experimental Investigation of Free-Running Residential Aged Care Homes in Colombo.



Session 3

Paper ID : 105

Name : Abisheka Wijesundara & Wajishani Gamage

Title: An Analysis of Daylighting Performance of Learning Spaces in Local Government Sector Schools in Kandy.

Session 4

Paper ID : 86

Name : Weerakoon LRT & Perera NGR

Title: Vegetation Cover Effects on Outdoor Thermal Comfort Around High-Rise Developments A Case Study of Havelock City, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Session 6

Paper ID : 51

Name : Hettiarachchi A A & Perera DR

Title: Impact of Colour on Depression, Anxiety and Stress Levels of Physically Disabled Patients in Health Care Facilities. A Case in a Rehabilitation Centre at Ragama, Sri Lanka.





Providing an excellent forum for exchanging information and discussion on a wide variety of topics in Business Research, the 04th International Conference on Business Research (ICBR 2021) was held on 03rd December, 2021 at the Electronic and Telecommunication



Engineering Auditorium under the theme of “Entrepreneurism amidst COVID 19 - Thriving in Turbulent Times”. The event was graced by Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage as the Chief Guest and the Keynote Speaker, Prof. Ananda Jayawardane as the guest-of-honour together with Prof. Niranjan Gunawardena (Vice Chancellor) and Prof. PKS Mahanama (Deputy Vice-chancellor).

Out of 54 paper submissions, 28 papers were meticulously reviewed and published

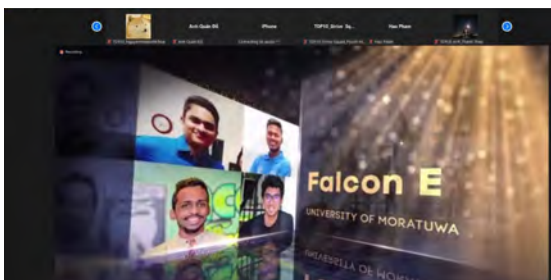
under four tracks namely, Economics, Finance, and Accounting (Track 01), Marketing and Management (Track 02), Entrepreneurship and Business Education (Track 03), Information Technology and Law (Track 04).

ICBR welcomes high quality empirical research papers, conceptual papers, and testing of alternative methodologies and theories that have significant contributions to the body of knowledge covering all areas of research in business.



Student Achievements

Team Falcon E Reaches Top 20 in VinUniversity Global Case Competition 2021



Team Falcon E, a group of students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, representing the University of Moratuwa emerged as one the best 20 teams in the VinUniversity Global Case Competition (VGCC) hosted by VinUniversity, Hanoi,

Vietnam. The awards ceremony was held on 04th December 2021 (virtually) with the participation of more than 500 contestants from 30 countries.

The members of the winning team are,

- Mr. Ramith Hewavithana
- Mr. Shenal Theekshana
- Mr. Akila Elangasinghe
- Mr. Ravindu Nawanjana

Most of the teams were with a background in Marketing or Business Administration

and Team Falcon E was the only team with an Engineering background among the top 20.

The VinUniversity Global Case Competition (VGCC) is an international event in which the best students from all over the world can compete to solve a business problem for a chance to engage with top industry leaders and academic scholars and win up to \$USD 10,000. This annual competition is hosted by VinUniversity, a not-for-profit university in Vietnam, with advice and mentorship from faculty and experts at Cornell University.

“Best Pitcher” at Maestro 2021

[From Cover page]



Maestro is an annual all-island business case study competition that expects competitors to provide analytical and strategic solutions to a provided business scenario. It was organized by the Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa and the event was held online on 19th December 2021.

Rajith Arulanandam, an undergraduate of the IT Faculty was awarded the “Best Pitcher” in this year competition. Alongside the Best Pitcher Award, Rajith Arulanandam and his team were placed First Runners-Up in the overall competition.

IT Faculty Students placed Finalists in Hacktron V1.0



Hacktron V1.0 is a game development bootcamp organized by the Computer Society of IEEE Student Branch of Sri Lanka Technological Campus. Team “Gladiators” consisting of Rukshan J Senanayaka (Team Lead), Nethmin Dulsara, Chethana Jayasinghe, Nimasha Madhushani and Nimal Perera who are undergraduates from batch 19 of the IT Faculty were able to secure a place among the top 10 teams after facing challenging competition. They were one of the two teams awarded scholarships by RAM Studios, an indie video game development studio located in Sri Lanka, which is a subsidiary of CodeGen International. Team Gladiators also won the 02nd runner-up of the “Most popular game trailer” contest, where the winners were selected based on Facebook reacts to the game trailer videos submitted by the teams.

The event was live-streamed via Facebook on the 12th November 2021, where they were announced as finalists.

IT Faculty Students win the Ideathon Championship at Thinkwave 3.0

[From Cover page]



‘Team Infiniti’, a team of level 03 undergraduates from the faculty of IT has won the Ideathon championship for the most innovative idea in the university category at the global ideation - Thinkwave 3.0. It is one of Sri Lanka’s Largest Platforms for young entrepreneurs and was organized by AIESEC of the University of Moratuwa. The team came up with an

Augmented Reality based solution to foster the preservation of ancient Sri Lankan architecture and ruins. They pitched their idea at the finals which were held on the 27th of November 2021 at the DHPL building in Colombo. The members of this innovative team are Sandali Senarathne, Abirame Ganeshamoorthy and Thilakshi Dinendra.

University of Moratuwa becomes the Champions at “AdCon 2021” Inter University Advertising Competition

[From Cover page]



A team of the undergraduates of the 2020 Intake of the Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa won the Championship of the ADCON 2021 Inter-University Advertisement competition, which was held on 19th November 2021 at the 80 Club of Colombo. The event was organized by the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance of the University of Ruhuna.

AdCon is an advertising focused inter-university competition in Sri Lanka which focuses on providing a platform for the young undergraduates in the State University system to unveil their creative marketing skills while forming a strong platform for creating a sound relationship with the corporate sector of the country.

Staff Achievements

Mr. Sasiranga De Silva Appointed to the UNEP Technical Committee of the Global Electric Mobility Programme



Mr. Sasiranga De Silva; an academic staff member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering has been appointed as a Technical Committee member to the Global Thematic Working Group of Electric Two and Three-Wheelers, a part of the UNEP's Global Electric Mobility Programme.

The Global Electric Mobility Programme aims to support low- and middle-income countries in the shift to electric mobility, and is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), European Union (through

the jointly implemented SOLUTIONSplus project), the German Climate Initiative, the FIA Foundation, Norway and Sweden. It consists of more than 50 country projects and global support activities. The global support activities comprise four Global Thematic Working Groups, which are implemented in partnership with the International Energy Agency, (electric light-duty vehicles; electric two and three-wheelers; electric heavy-duty vehicles; and charging infrastructure, batteries and grid integration), and four Regional Support and Investment Platforms (Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America & the Caribbean; Central and Eastern Europe, West Asia and the Middle East), which are hosted in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Centro de Movilidad Sostenible of Centro Mario Molina Chile.

Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara Receives SUSRED Award from NSF [From Cover page]



Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara received the SUSRED Award 2019 from the National

Science Foundation (NSF) for supervising the PhD of Dr. Viraj Muthugala within the normal duration of 04 years. The awards ceremony was held along with the World Science Day programme on 16th November 2021 at the BMICH.

The doctoral thesis titled “Enhancing Interpretation of Uncertain Information in

L. Arct. Shameen Dharmasena Awarded ‘Outstanding Green Professional of the Year Award 2021 – Honorable Mention’

[From Cover page]



L. Arct. Shameen Dharmasena, Lecturer (Probationary) of the Department of Architecture, was awarded ‘Outstanding Green Professional of the Year Award 2021 – Honorable Mention’ at the 10th Annual Green Building Awards Ceremony 2021 of the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka, held on 18th of December 2021 in Kandy. This is awarded in recognition of his commitment and impressive achievements in transforming the construction industry in Sri Lanka with green building practices and application of green technology.

Navigational Commands for Service Robots Using Neuro-Fuzzy Approach”, focused on interpreting uncertain human language and gestures. This was implemented on the Moratuwa Intelligent Robot (MIRob) platform. This is the first PhD degree of the intelligent service robotics group, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Workshop on Academic Literacy



A workshop on “Academic Literacy” was organized by the Faculty of Business under the English Language Skills Development activity of the AHEAD project as a step to achieve the objective of enhancing

competencies in diagnosing English language skills of the academic and academic-support staff on 22nd December, 2021 at FGS Board Room. The workshop was jointly conducted by Dr. Romola Rasool (Senior Academic Expert - English Language Skills Enhancement, AHEAD Operation) and Dr. Nadee Mahawattha (Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka).

Training Session on Online Teaching and Assessment Platforms

The Department of Building Economics, on 14th of December 2021, organized a training session on online learning protocols mainly targeting the newly recruited staff of the department. The lecture was conducted by Dr. Menaha Thayaparan, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Building Economics. The session mainly covered the applications of Zoom and Moodle in online teaching and assessment.

Workshop on Teaching in Higher Education

The Department of Building Economics conducted a full day workshop on teaching in higher education for the academic staff on 17th December 2021 at the New Building, Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa. The workshop was facilitated by the young and energetic staff members of the department, who shared their knowledge on teaching, learning, and assessment that they gathered through the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) training programme. The workshop comprised mini-lectures and various interactive sessions on the above areas.

Brain Wave 2021 Grand Finale - Society of Transport and Logistics

Brain Wave is the inaugural case study competition organized by the Society of Transport & Logistics Management. 38 teams representing 08 universities participated in the competition. Teams, Obsidian, Seekers, and Camcon secured 01st, 02nd and 03rd places respectively.

Cultural Events

Gangaramaya Temple Katina Pinkama in partnership with the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering



In line with new government initiatives, katina ceremonies of state functions were held on 08th November 2021 at the historic Gangaramaya Temple in the Colombo Electorate of the Colombo District

Clubs & Societies

“Are You Technically Ready For an Interview?” by INTECS



This useful session was organized by the Information Technology Society (INTECS), Faculty of Information Technology. The intention was to provide guidance on facing a technical interview after applying for a job. Mohammed Adheeb, a Tech Lead from Geveo Australasia and an alumnus of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa conducted this session through Zoom.

The session was held on 09th December 2021 and was conducted for two hours with the participation of 65 students. It mainly targeted the final year students, and the speaker talked on the manner in which the

content of a CV of a fresh graduate should be prepared. He explained the aspects examined during a technical interview, such as OOP concepts, algorithms, solution designing, database concepts etc. Further, he explained the importance of such concepts even after many years in the industry. He emphasised that that the manner of responding to and thinking about a question are more important than merely providing the correct response. This session was not a typical presentation with slides, but a discussion, from which participants received insights into the technical aspects of an interview.

The session was successfully concluded under the guidance of Dr. Supunmali Ahangama, senior treasurer of INTECS, and Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga, Senior Advisor of INTECS, and the participation of students representing batches 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Tips and Tricks Flyer Series by INTECS

This is a novel initiative organized by the Social Media Committee of the Information Technology Society (INTECS), Faculty of Information Technology, to raise awareness of tips and tricks that will be useful to IT undergraduates. This series was conducted from September to November 2021, and Season 01 of the flyer series consisted of 12 flyers which were published via WhatsApp and Facebook for 03 consecutive months.

The main purpose of this series was to provide tech-enthusiastic minds with new tips in an attractive approach to make their work less challenging.

The first season of the Tips and Tricks flyer series came to a successful conclusion anticipating an all-new Season 02 of the flyer series in the new year.

with the participation of the Maha Sangha representing all Buddhist traditions and the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

Prof. (Mrs.) Samudrika Wijayapala, of the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, an expert in natural dyes in Sri Lanka, shared her knowledge on using natural dyes to dye katina robes to be offered to Buddhist monks.



Katina Pinkama of the Kolombagama Sri Miyugunaramaya



The Katina Pinkama of the Kolombagama Sri Miyugunaramaya in the Panduwasnuwara Electorate of the Kurunegala District was held on 14th November 2021 under the patronage of his excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The robe dyeing process was carried out with the use of natural dyes under the guidance of Prof.(Mrs) Samudrika Wijayapala of the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, University of Moratuwa in both functions.

She is a member of the committee for robe dyeing of state Katina Puja ceremonies.



Sports

University of Moratuwa wins Inter University Online Men's Chess Championships 2021

[From Cover page]

In line with new government initiatives, katina ceremonies of state functions were held on on 08th November The Inter University Online Chess Championships 2021 were organized by the University of Moratuwa and conducted by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association on 06th and 07th November 2021 on the Tornelo platform. The University of Moratuwa (Men) Chess team emerged Champions convincingly after a great show of 06 wins out of 06 matches.

The University of Moratuwa beat Wayamba University of SL (6-0), University of Ruhuna (5 1/2 - 1/2), University of Peradeniya (4 - 2), University of Colombo (4 1/2 - 1 1/2),

University of Moratuwa Wins Inter University Online Taekwondo Championships 2021 in both Men's & Women's Categories

The University of Moratuwa Taekwondo (Men & Women) Teams dominated the above Championships and won the events convincingly. The event was held in the Taekwondo style of Pumsu only in four belt categories. Our men won two Gold Medals, one Silver Medal and one Bronze Medal while the women won one Gold, one silver and two Gold Medals to reach the top spot.

Medal Winners

Gold

1. LM Chathiyawardena, (Men)
2. GH Arundi HN De Silva (Women)

Silver

3. NGL Rashmika Lakshan (Men)
4. NLN Tharusha Lekamge (Men)
5. Vasukee Jayaweera (Women)

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (3 1/2 - 2 1/2) and Uva Wellassa University 6-0 to win the title. The team consisted of 1.KAPM Ariyawansa (Captain), 2.HNB Marasinghe, 3.Krishna Rahul Jeyanthan, 4. Chathulanka Gamage, 5. Kaveen Ishara, 6. PM Ranasinghe, 7. Anjana Herath, 8. Anjula Hearath

14 member Universities participated in the event. The University of Moratuwa (Women) were placed 04th out of 14 teams scoring 04 wins out of 06 matches.

2021 at the historic Gangaramaya Temple in the Colombo Electorate of the Colombo District.

Bronze

6. KA Shanika Wijesooriya (Women)
7. Yashodya Karunanayake (Women)

The other team members are

Men -

1. WGA Chandana, RDA Ranasinghe,
2. APD Vindula, IBAI Irugalbandara,
3. GISS Gunarathne and
4. HDAL Senadhipathi

Women-

1. NN Samarutilake, HGNP Amarathunga,
2. ASHSilva and SP Dias

Society & Community Responsive Activities

iNFLEXION 2021 & Civil Engineering Society Official Web Launch



With the Civil Engineering Society (CES) Official Website launch on 22nd of November, 2021, a significant accomplishment was made by the students of the Civil Engineering Department. On this memorable day, the Civil Engineering Society of the University of Moratuwa proudly initiated an official website to showcase the talents of students embracing the tides of new technology. All the staff members, graduates and undergraduates of the Civil Engineering Department witnessed this historic moment through a session conducted via Zoom.

The introductory session on "iNFLEXION", an annual mentoring programme for undergraduates, hosted by the 10th batch of the Civil Engineering Department in collaboration with the Civil Engineering Society, was also conducted successfully linked to this programme. Engineers Mr. Poorna Witharana and Mr. Geethanga Wijesinghe from the 2010 batch provided a stimulating introduction on the mentoring programme, opening a platform for the undergraduates to clarify their doubts as they journey towards their future career.

ADVISORY BOARD

Professor PKS Mahanama (Chairman)
Professor N Wickramarachchi
Professor. (Mrs) BMWPK Amarasinghe
Dr. DP Chandrasekara
Dr. GD Samarasinghe
Mr. BH Sudantha
Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara
Archt. Sithumini Rathnamalala

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara
Prof. (Mrs) DA Meedeniya
Prof. GD Samarasinghe
Dr. (Mrs) SSMR Samarawickrama
Mr. Sanath Gunawardena
Mrs. Thushari M Seneviratne
Dr. Niroshan Lokunaragoda
Ms. Chaturangi De Silva

NEWS TO BE SENT TO

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

Editor : Mr. Sanath Gunawardena
[E-mail: sanathg@uom.lk]
Published by : Library
University of Moratuwa
Page Layout : Mr. BMS Mendis



University of Moratuwa

Bimonthly UOM news

2021

November - December
Volume: 10
Issue: 06
ISSN: 2279-2023



ISSN 2279-2023