



ANNUAL COLORS AWARDING CEREMONY



The Annual Colors Awarding Ceremony of the University of Moratuwa was held on the 17 February at the Civil Engineering Auditorium under the patronage of Prof. Ananda Jayawardhane, Vice-Chancellor, and the participation of Mr. Rohan Fernando as the Chief Guest. [See Page 02]

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WORKSHOPS TO REVIEW AND UPDATE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE UNIVERSITY



Two workshops were conducted to update and review Strategic Management Plan of the University for the planning horizon of 2017 to 2021.

The first one was conducted as a two-day residential workshop on 6 and 7 January with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor, Members of the Council, Members of the Senate and selected Academic and Administrative Staff of the University at Citrus Hotel, Waskaduwa, Wadduwa.

The second one was conducted as a one-day workshop on 8 February with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Deans of Faculties and Acting Librarian with a selected staff in the categories of Academic Support and Non Academic Staff at Dampe Village, Piliyandala.



ANNUAL COLORS AWARDING CEREMONY

The Annual Colors Awarding Ceremony of the University of Moratuwa was held on the 17 February at the Civil Engineering Auditorium under the patronage of Prof. Ananda Jayawardhane, Vice-Chancellor, and the participation of Mr. Rohan Fernando as the Chief Guest.

There were 441 students who received University Colours for 2016. Outstanding performers were awarded the best player award in each and every Sport. University sportsmen and sportswomen had won the Following Inter University Championships for 2016: Inter University Badminton (Men) Championship, Inter University Carrom (Men) Championship, Inter University (Men) Karate Championship, Inter University Rugby Championship, Inter University Rowing (Men & Women) Championships.

The following Very Special Awards are also awarded at the event:

1. Malik Jhan Memorial Challenge Trophy for the 1st year Coloursman with the highest GPA - SAB Silva
2. Daham Anuradha Award for the 2nd year Colorsman with the highest 2nd year GPA - HBDH Ariyaratne
3. Most Outstanding Sportsman Representing Sri Lanka at the South Asian Karate Championships 2017 - LK Ishitha Piyawadani
4. The Most Outstanding Student (Sports & Academic) - KGT Kishani



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF MBA IN MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND MBA IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Inaugurations of both the MBA in Management of Technology (MBA in MOT) and MBA in Entrepreneurship were held on 10 January at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). The Chief Guest of the event was Mr Lalkeerthi Gunawardena, Chairman Lucky Lanka group of companies, and the keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Senevi Kiridena of the University of Wollongong.



DIPLOMA IN GEMMOLOGY

The inauguration ceremony of the first intake for the “Diploma in Gemmology” conducted by the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, was held at the Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo, on 20 February. Mr. Asanka Welagedara, Chairman of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority was the Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ananda Jayawardane and Dean Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Kapila Perera were also present to grace the occasion.



The Earth Resources has been offering part time certificate level courses in Gemmology and Geology for over 40 years and this is a remarkable step forward to extend its services to the local gem industry.

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS, WORKSHOPS & FIELD VISITS

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

The First International Conference organized by the Electrical Engineering Society (EESoc) of the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa was held at the Grand Ballroom of the hotel Kingsbury, Colombo. The conference was graced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Ananda Jayawardane.



EECon 2016 received 41 papers for this very first one day conference and the Programme Committee selected 18 papers for presentation in the conference programme. The Programme Publication Chairs and Programme Chairs coordinated the review process with the help of 33 members of the Technical Programme Committee. Additionally, 11 external reviewers assisted in the review process. Each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers. The selected papers were presented under three main technical sessions merging different areas of Electrical Engineering: Applied robotics and smart grids; Power system economics, planning and operation; Renewable energy

technologies and power electronics.

The conference was graced by the key-note speech by Dr. Aravinthan, Assistant Professor, Wichita State University, USA, on "Robust Cyber-Power Dependent Systems: What it Means to Future Grid." Prof. Sarath Perera, Professor, School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering, University of Wollongong conducted a tutorial on "Pathways for Management of Power Quality in Transmission and Distribution Networks," and Prof M E El-Hawary, Associate Dean of Engineering Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada conducted the IEEE PES Distinguish Lecture Programme as a part of the conference.

TYPODAY 2017

The Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture, hosted the "TYPODAY 2017"; 10th International Research Conference on Typography from 23 - 25 February in collaboration with the Industrial Design Centre (IDC), IIT Bombay with support from India Design Association (InDeAs) and Aksharaya. For the first time this research conference was hosted outside India.

The first day of the event was dedicated to sixteen parallel workshops on Type, Fonts, Unicode and Language, which were conducted by 21 international facilitators from India, Lebanon, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, USA and Sri Lanka. The second and third days were taken up for the conference of Typoday 2017, which consisted of research presentations with speakers from Hong Kong, UK, USA, Germany, South Korea, Poland, India and Sri Lanka. Keynote speeches were delivered

by Prof. Gerry Leonidas, University of Reading, and Prof. Gihan Dias, University of Moratuwa. A total of 26 peer reviewed papers were presented, including those by five industry personnel. to an audience of 250 – 300, among them were 150 were international participants. The conference also included presentations by eminent academics, industry professionals, research scholars and students. The event also hosted an exhibition of selected posters and typographic works of students and faculty members from Design Institutes.

The conference was co-chaired by Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama, Department of Integrated Design and Prof. Ravi Poovaiah, IDC, IIT-Bombay, India with the guidance of the Head of Department, Archt. Sithumini Ratnamalala.



EVOLUTION 2017



The Fashion Design Student's Society with the support of the first year undergraduates of Fashion Design and Product Development programme organized the 'Evolution 2017' exhibition, mainly including the design developments and final outputs of the first year students during their first academic year. There were a number of interesting design developments showcased through sketch books while the realization of design ideas was proven through actual garments and innovative textiles.

The opening ceremony was held on 25 January. Prof Kapila Perera, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dr. USW Gunasekara, Head of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology, Dr. Nirmali de Silva, Course Director, Fashion Design and Product Development degree programme, senior lecturers and lecturers of the Department were present at the ceremony. The exhibition was visited by large numbers of students and staff of the University as well as visitors from outside.

GOOGLE SUMMER OF CODE AWARENESS SESSION 2017 ORGANIZED BY INTECS

"Google Summer of Code" or GSOC is an annual opportunity given by Google, to students across the globe to become contributors in the open source community by undertaking such projects during the Summer holidays. The Google Summer of Code Awareness Session is an annual event organized by the Information Technology Society (INTECS) targeting students of the Faculty of Information Technology. For the first time, the session this year was opened to all other universities in the island and over 120 students participated from the Faculty of Information Technology and from other universities.

The event included four sessions conducted by Akshika Wijesundara, Malintha Fernando, Malith Jayaweera and Ramindu Deshapriya. Akshika Wijesundara who was a Google Ambassador for Sri Lanka in 2015 initiated the session by giving an introductory talk about GSOC. Malintha Fernando who completed a GSOC project a few years back with Mozilla explained how to initiate the connection between the company and the student. Malith Jayaweera being a person with the most recent experience in completing a GSOC project spoke on how to overcome the challenges that a student would face during the period of project. Ramindu Deshapriya who is a GSOC mentor and administrator shared his experience on what mentor organizations expect from a GSOC intern.

The feedback and enthusiasm of the participants proved the event to be a success.

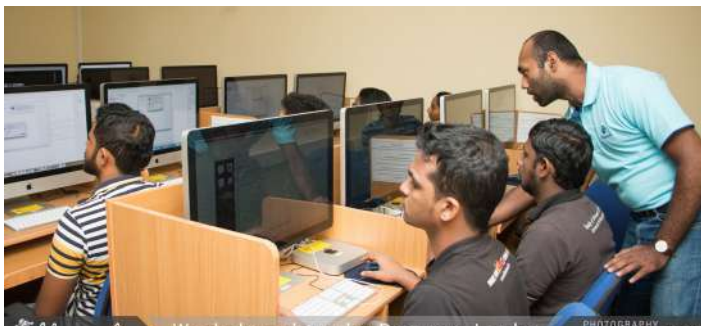


PEARSON TECH WORKSHOP AT THE FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Pearson Lanka, one of the leading Information Technology companies in Sri Lanka, organized a full-day tech workshop on February 03 at the Faculty of Information Technology. 80 final year students, both from the Faculty of IT and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering participated in the event.



There were four parallel interactive sessions on the day of workshop. “Mobile Application Development” was conducted in the Faculty’s Apple MAC laboratory targeting future iOS developers and including a crash course on the Swift programming language, and hands on training in developing a Swift application. “The Web Application Development” was based on NodeJS and AngularJS. “Big Data and Analytics” gave hands-on training with Apache Spark along with much insight into Apache Hadoop and basic machine learning algorithms “Scale Your App for the Enterprise” took a deep look into the issues and how to overcome them in the domain of scaling applications and making them enterprise ready.



The workshop was organized by Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga, Head, Department of Information Technology and Mr. Priyanka Suduge, Principal Software Engineer, Pearson Lanka and his team.

WORKSHOP ON OUTCOME-BASED TEACHING

The Department of Languages (DoL) conducted a workshop on 12 January under the direction of Prof. Prinath Dias, Head/DoL, to raise awareness on outcome-based teaching. The academic staff of the Department participated in the workshop which was aimed at streamlining courses offered by the Department of Languages with UTEL (University Test of English Language) benchmarks. The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Prasanna Rathnayake.

FIELD VISIT TO LOTUS TOWER

A special field trip to the Lotus Tower Project was organised for the staff of the Department of Building Economics on 20 February 2017. Prof. Samitha Manawadu (Coordinating Project Consultant) facilitated the visit. The visit started with an introductory lecture about the Tower design and construction & its current status and was followed by a tour within the structure. Both academic and non-academic staff of the Department of Building Economics participated in this field trip.



FIELD VISITS BY TLM



The Department of Transport & Logistics Management organized a number of field visits for their first year students. A field visit to the Ruhunu Cement Works factory of Siam City Cement in Galle was organized on 19 January. During the visit students learnt about the safety procedures and manufacturing and logistics operations of the factory. The students were accompanied by Eng. Nishal Samarasekera and Mr. Branantheesh Poopalaratnam, staff members of the Department.

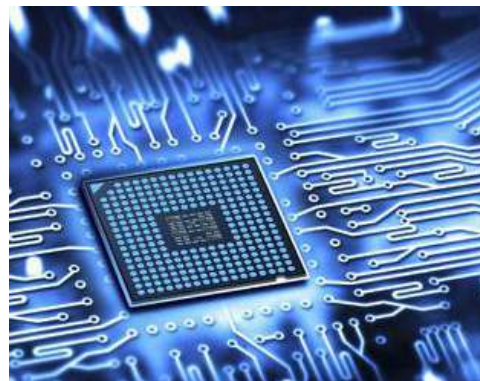
A field visit was organized to the Southern Expressway Extension Phase IV near Hambatota and Matttala Airport on 24 January. This visit was conducted as a requirement of the module “Transport Geography & Geomatics”. This visit was organized by Mr. S.N. Bentotage, lecturer of the module on behalf of the Department. Ms. Thivya (Lecturer) and Ms. Uthpalee Hewage (Instructor) also joined this visit.

A field visit was organized to understand geographical features, land transport infrastructure and traffic issues on 10 and 11 February. This visit was conducted as a requirement of the module “Transport Geography & Geomatics”. Students visited Watagoda railway loop near Thalawakale on the 1st day of the visit and conducted a survey to identify traffic issues in the Bandarawela town on the same day. They reached Poonagala, one of the best view points to understand Geographical setting of the terrain on the following day. This visit was organized by Mr. S.N. Bentotage, one of the lecturers of the module on behalf of the Department. Ms. Shashini (lecturer), Ms. Uthpalee Hewage, Mr. Naleen de Alwis (Instructors) and Mr. Dhammika Bandara (Research Assistant) also joined this visit.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GRANT FOR AEDFC

The Ministry of Higher Education has awarded a grant of Rs. 100 million to ENTC for the development of the Advanced Electronic Design Facilitation Centre (AEDFC) for 2017. The Department is now planning the activities to be implemented in this centre. The AEDFC would be a tool to strengthen Sri Lanka's budding chip design industry. It will provide employment opportunities in high tech jobs for skilful graduates and mitigate the problem of brain-drain. This grant will allow ENTC to elevate the activities of AEDFC to the next level, with the hope that in the future, the centre will deliver the first Integrated Circuit designed in Sri Lanka



THE FIRST SPIN-OFF COMPANY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA STARTS BUSINESS

Future Drones (Pvt) Ltd was established in the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering as the University's first spin-off Company, after a few years of consistent effort research and development in the area of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). The first job was received from the Land Use Policy Planning Department funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project involved creating an accurate land map of 100km² area in Kekirawa. Using the CeyBee drone, the aerial images of the area were taken within a two-week period, and the geo-referenced land map was created

accurately. LUPPD is now in the process of taking measurements from the map to assess the actual land uses by people for various activities. This assessment will lead to all important policy making on land use.

This project marks the first successful effort of the truly Sri Lankan UAV (Drone) technology in large scale aerial applications. Chief of Staff, Ministry of Defense, and the Civil Aviation Authority provided flight safety and flying clearance, whereas local Police facilitated the execution of the work. The villagers were very friendly and cooperative with the team.



Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean/Engineering, Intellectual Property Advisory Committee, and Enterprise unit of the University have been supporting entrepreneurship efforts of the University staff and students. Future Drones (Pvt) Ltd was born within the supporting environment created by them.

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Biomedical engineering related research is one of the upcoming areas at University of Moratuwa. Very recently, Dr. Angelo Karunaratne, senior lecturer at the department of Mechanical Engineering and his PhD student Mr Harshana Senevirathna visited Diamond Light Source, UK to perform cutting edge experiments. Diamond Light Source Ltd. is a particle accelerator and the biggest research facility in the UK that uses high brilliance synchrotron X-rays for multidisciplinary research. This experimental time was awarded to Dr. Karunaratne as a result of his continuous research collaboration with Imperial College London. Their research project title is "Development of a multi-scale functional model for early prediction of fracture risk in bone diseases". Our team managed to obtain osteoporotic bone specimens from Orthopedic surgeons in Sri Lanka and performed studies to understand nanoscale deformation mechanisms of diseased bone specimens to develop a model which leads to early clinical intervention.



COLLABORATIONS

MOU SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL MATHEMATICS

The Department of Computational Mathematics entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan. The MOU was signed on 10 January. Under this agreement, workshops will be conducted in both institutes. The first workshop is scheduled to be held in Japan in June. Five students from the Faculty of Information Technology will attend the workshop. The second workshop is scheduled to be held in the Faculty of Information Technology in August. The Coordinator of the workshops is Dr. Sagara Sumathipala, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Computational Mathematics. The provisions of the MOU give scope to build a good academic cooperation between the parties.

DISSEMINATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

RESEARCH PAPERS PRESENTED AT LLS 2017 SINGAPORE

Ms. Dilshani Ranansinghe, Senior Lecturer, and Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama, Lecturer, of the Department of Integrated Design presented papers at the “4th International Conference on Languages, Literature and Society” held on the 16-17 January at the Nanyang Executive Centre, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The conference was a joint collaboration of Ithaca College, New York, USA, International Centre for Research and Development, Sri Lanka, JK University, India and Unique Conferences Canada.



LECTURE ON INTELLIGENT BUILDINGS AT GBCSL

Prof Sisil Kumarawadu delivered a lecture titled “Intelligent Buildings” at the 16th Associate Professional Training (APT) programme conducted by the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka (GBCSL), which is the Sri Lanka representative of World Green Building Council. This lecture highlighted the concepts and technologies used in modern energy-optimal smart buildings. GBCSL APT programme was held at the Narayanasamy Conference Hall, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute during 20, 21, 27 and 28 January.

VISITS TO UOM

VISIT BY INDIAN DELEGATES

Prof. Tirthankar Bhattacharya, Professor of the Indian Institute of Science, and Prof. Satish Vasu Kailas, Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, India visited the University of Moratuwa on 3 February 2017 and held discussions on PhD Programmes, exchange programmes, joint research programmes and areas important to both parties. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa Prof R.A. Attalage presided at the meeting which was attended by Prof. Gihan Dias, Director, International Relations and Heads of Departments.



VISIT OF RIBA PRESIDENT TO FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

Jane Duncan, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), visited the Faculty of Architecture on 16 February. She was accompanied by Archt. Nela De Zoysa, RIBA International council member (2014- 2017) and Archt. D.H. Wijewardene, President of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA). Jane is the 75th president and the 3rd female president of RIBA. Her visit will be marked in history as the 2nd visit of any RIBA president to Sri Lanka.



The relationship between RIBA and the Department of Architecture dates back to 1986, the time which the Architecture Degree programme offered by the Department obtained RIBA full accreditation status. The Department of Architecture is marked in history as the third oldest international Architecture school to receive RIBA accreditation which is also the first in Asia. Since then, RIBA accreditation was renewed once in five years and the last accreditation panel visited the department in 2016. As specified by the performance criteria of the B. Arch Degree programme, the final Design Project (Comprehensive Design Project: CDP) of the final year, examined by an internal panel of examiners is moderated by an external panel headed by a member of RIBA accompanied by two other members from Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) and SLIA, allowing the department to maintain the quality of its graduates on par with RIBA standards.

At this historical event, Prof. Lalith De Silva, Dean-Faculty of Architecture, along with by Dr. Gamini Weerasinghe- Head of the Department of Architecture, Senior Professor Samitha Manawadu, Archt. D.P. Chandraseka, Archt. Sithumini Rathnamalala-Head of the Department of Integrated Design and Dr. Anishka Hettiarachchi-Director Undergraduate Studies, Faculty of Architecture were privileged to warmly receive the President and her team to the faculty. After a successful meeting, the team was taken around the Faculty for them to experience a cross section of the teaching and learning activities taking place as well as the learning environment. Meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ananda Jayawardane provided an arena to discuss possible future collaborations with RIBA and UOM. During the discussion Jane expressed her high level of satisfaction regarding the quality of work done by the Architecture undergraduates of University of Moratuwa.



This visit indeed will be decisive in building a much stronger relationship and collaboration between RIBA and Department of Architecture in future. This visit may also influence in the establishment of a new RIBA Sri Lankan chapter for the benefit of future Sri Lankan Architects who seek to obtain RIBA chartered membership and work in collaboration with RIBA at a professional level.

TESL EXPERTS VISIT DOL



The staff of the Department of Languages (DoL) headed by Prof. Prinath Dias met with Mr. Russell Barczyk and Dr. Liz England, who is an expert in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). The meeting was held at the DoL on 19 January. Among the issues discussed were the evaluation and upgrading of the English language curriculum of the DoL, planning of a technical writing programme and developing online teaching. The ultimate objective was to seek accreditation for the curricula. Dr. England is scheduled to visit the DoL again in August this year to provide necessary assistance to implement the above schemes.

VISIT BY PROF MATSUOKA

Prof. Takashi Matsuoka from Tohoku University, Japan, visited the University of Moratuwa and delivered a lecture on “Current Status and Future Prospects of Nitride Semiconductors for Energy Saving” on 5 January to an audience of academic staff and students.



VISIT BY PROF. VIJAY K. GOEL

Prof Vijay K. Goel is a Distinguished University Professor, Endowed Chair & McMaster-Gardner Professor of Orthopedic Bioengineering, and Co-Director of the Engineering Center for Orthopedic Research Excellence (E-CORE) at the Colleges of Engineering and Medicine, University of Toledo. Academic staff members and students of the Faculty of Engineering were privileged to listen to a speech delivered by Prof. Vijay on the topic of “The Engineer’s role in the Design, Development and Evaluation of Fusion Augmenting Spinal Hardware”. The event was held on 19 January at the seminar room of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering.



VISIT BY DELEGATE FROM QMUL

Ms. Rachel Dodd, Executive Officer International, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) visited University of Moratuwa on 31 January. QMUL is keen to have a collaboration with UOM on Research and double degree programs, Split degree programmes and Staff and Student exchange programmes. At present QMUL is conducting joint programmes with countries like China, France and India. Both parties agreed to initiate a student exchange program on the basis of mapping the curriculum of the provided courses of QMUL with ours and identifying the possibility of credit transfer. Furthermore, research projects will be initiated immediately using existing contacts with QMUL.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Ananda Jayawardane chaired the meeting which was attended by the Director, International Affairs, Prof Gihan Dias, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof Dileeka Dias, Dean, Faculty of Engineering Prof. Kapila Perera, Dr. Mohamed Firdhous, Dr. Surangika Ranathunga and Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga.



AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION VISITS UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

Prof Helen Klæbe, Dean of Research and Research Training, Division of Research and Commercialisation, Ms. Susan Gasson, Manager, Research and Research Training – Director’s office, Mr. Colin Melvin, Director Office Commercial Services, Prof Clevo Wilson, Professor Economics and Finance, Prof Aspro Jim Hogan, Associate Professor Data Science, Prof Neil King, Director Faculty – Health, Ms. Kitiwan Buabarn, International Promotions Coordinator – South & South East Asia, Middle East and the Pacific Queensland University of Technology International, Australia visited the University of Moratuwa on 8 February and discussed joint Phd programmes, fashion design, business studies, occupational safety and health, research programmes, exchange programmes and areas of mutual interest.

Director, International Relations of the University of Moratuwa Professor Gihan Dias presided at the meeting which was attended by Deans of Faculties and Heads of Departments.



VISIT OF PROF. THOMAS MATHEW

Prof. Thomas Mathew, Professor of Applied Statistics, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Maryland Baltimore Country (UMBC), Maryland, USA visited the Department of Mathematics from 26 December, 2016 to 25 January 2017 as a visiting professor. He worked on a project, “Confidence Limits for Compliance Testing Under Random Effects Models” with Prof. T S G Peiris and Dr. P M Edirisinghe. His visit was funded by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) under the project, “Hosting reputed academics at the University of Moratuwa for collaboration”.



During his visit he conducted two seminars on, “Statistical Tolerance Intervals: Methodology and Applications in Health & Engineering” and “Personal Experiences in Applied Statistics” on 11 and 21 January respectively at the Seminar Room of the Department of Mathematics.

GUEST LECTURES BY DR SENEVI BANDARA KIRIDENA

A guest lecture was held on 22 January at the Civil Engineering auditorium organized by the Department of Management of Technology for the students of the MBA in Management of Technology and MBA in Entrepreneurship. Dr. Senevi Bandara Kiridena of the University of Wollongong was the resource person for the event and discussed Technology Management and Innovations based on a case study.

Dr Kiridena also delivered a guest lecture organized by the Department of Transport and Logistics Management on the “Role of Analytics in Logistics and Supply Chain Management” on 25 January. This lecture explored the role and significance of advanced analytics in supporting logistics and supply chain decisions. In light of recent developments, the need for examining the suitability of alternative techniques, as well as their complementary contributions, was discussed in detail. The current status of research in this area highlighting the opportunities for future research were also presented.

USAID TEAM INTRODUCES DIV GRANT PROGRAMME

Representatives from the USAID Team visited the University of Moratuwa on 8 March to introduce the USAID Development Innovation Initiative (DIV) Grant programme. The team was accompanied by Dr. Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, as this was introduced as a part of the initiatives lead by the Ministry.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ananda Jayawardane welcomed the distinguished guests and Dr. Harsha De Silva delivered a speech on the value of such grant system for the propagation of innovation in Sri Lanka. Ms. Kaarli Sundsmo, Deputy Program Office Director of USAID/Sri Lanka detailed the DIV programme to the audience and Ms Passanna Gunasekera, Development Outreach and Communication Specialist presented other avenues available for innovation, entrepreneurship and R&D under USAID.

More details on the programme and application guide lines are available on <https://www.usaid.gov/div>

After the presentation by USAID representatives, eight undergraduate entrepreneurs, one postgraduate entrepreneur, two recently graduated entrepreneurs and one staff member who is also an entrepreneur introduced each other with a 2 minute elevator pitch on their innovations and business creations to the audience.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Rahula Attalage, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Prof Dileeka Dias, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof Kapila Perera, and Mr. P.M. Karunarathna, Dean of the IT Faculty also participated in the event. Ms Susan Gonzalez, Development Program Specialist of USAID also took part in the session.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

Dr. Lidula Widanagama Arachchige, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, received the President’s Award for Scientific Publications for highly-rated scientific research as evaluated by peers and published in 2014. The recognized paper was on “Voltage balancing and synchronization of microgrids with highly unbalanced loads” published in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 2014, Vol. 31, pp 907-920. The ceremony was graced by President Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Science, Technology and Research and State Minister of Science, Technology and Research.



SLIA ANNUAL ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH GOLD AWARD 2017

Arch. Sagara Jayasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Integrated Design was honoured with the Annual Architectural Research Gold Award 2017 by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) in recognizing his contribution to the field of architectural research and publication. Arch. Jayasinghe received the award at the inauguration ceremony of the SLIA National Conference and Annual Sessions 2017 which was held on 15 February at the BMICH, Colombo.



PRIZE FOR RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Under the Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees (SUSRED) of the National Science Foundation, Prof. T S G Peiris, Professor in Applied Statistics was awarded a prize for supervision of the PhD of AM Razmy. The thesis title is: Semi-elliptical exponentially weighted moving average scheme for jointly monitoring mean and variance of Gaussian processes.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

IT STUDENTS PRESENT PAPER AT ICCCT'17

A paper titled "Guide Me: An Innovative Mobile Application for Guiding Tourists" was presented at the Second International Conference on Computing and Communications Technologies which was organized by the Department of Information Technology, Sri Sai Ram Engineering College (NBA Accredited Institution), Chennai, India on 23 and 24 February by Level 3 students of the Faculty of Information Technology.

The research paper was based on their Level 2 project. R.K.O.Kaushalya (presenter), J.M.G.R Jayabahu, W.M.P.M Weerasinghe and A.M.C.P Herath were the students who carried out the project under the supervision of Mrs. Dilini Kulawansa, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Computational Mathematics and Dr. MFM Firdhous, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Information Technology. This paper has been selected for Journal of Engineering Science and Technology (JESTEC).

APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

NEW CHAIRPERSON OF CODL

Ms DEWV Nanayakkara has been appointed Chairperson of The Centre for Open & Distance Learning, with effect from 2 January 2017. She is a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Computer Science & Engineering.

LECTURER ON CONTRACT

Mr. Manula Senevirathne has been appointed as Lecturer on contract in the Department of Management of Technology with effect from 24 January. He obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting from the University of Colombo and a Master of Science degree in Applied Finance from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He is a passed finalist of Institute of Bankers Sri Lanka and graduate of the Institute of Chartered Corporate Secretaries of Sri Lanka.



Mr Amila Perera has been appointed Lecturer on Contract in the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology with effect from 1 February. He completed his BSc Engineering from the University of Moratuwa in 2009, and served the Department as a Lecturer (Probationary) until he resigned in 2012 to join the industry, which he served for over four years.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT EVENTS

STRATEGIC PLAN MEETING AND ANNUAL RETREAT OF TLM

The strategic plan meeting of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management was held on 26 January along with the annual retreat of the Department at the University premises. A fruitful discussion was held bringing out many important strategies for the development of the department. Set of indoor and outdoor activities had been organized including a cricket match and musical party. Most of the staff members as well their family members enjoyed the retreat.



ANNUAL DINNER FOR THE ERE-MENTORS

The mentoring session for the year 2017 was inaugurated with a dinner at the Fingara Town & Country Club on 04 February. The academic staff of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering and mentors were present on this occasion.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

TRANSPORT 2017

The Society of Transport & Logistics conducted its annual sports day “TranSPORTZ 2017” on 21 January at the University playground with the gathering of members of STL, undergraduates, alumni, non-academic staff and academic staff of department of Transport & Logistics Management. This was the sixth occasion this was held. The “TranSPORTZ 2017” consisted of a cricket tournament, tap rugby, volleyball and fun games including egg catching, sack relay, and balloon stamping. Participants competed under four groups named Navigators, Jet Wing Rebels, Black Birds and Rail Riders while creating an opportunity to demonstrate their sports skills. The team Rail Riders won the championship for the Cricket tournament and Tap Rugby. The team Black Birds won the championship for the Volleyball. The team Rail Riders won the title of overall championship for TranSPORTZ 2017. Mr. Mahesh Wijayantha led the winning team. Further the best performers were awarded under different categories.

The Society extends its heartiest thanks to the TLM Family and to South Asia Gateway Terminal, Exclusive Strategic Event partner and Expo Freight, Gold partner for their financial support.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Electrical Engineering Society (EESoc) of University of Moratuwa was held for the 21st time on 13 February at the University premises. Academic staff led by Emeritus Professor JR Lucas, and patron of the society and Head of Department, Prof N Wickramarachchi, together with the undergraduate students of the Department of Electrical Engineering were among the gathering. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016 and the financial report for the past year were read by the secretary and the junior treasurer respectively and were approved to be true and correct by the audience.

The new board of members for the year ahead was appointed and assumed their duties with the warm wishes of the retiring members of the board who served immensely towards the betterment of the society and the department through many successful events including the annual charity programme 'We Are With You', the International Conference EECon, as well as the impressive Round Table Conference. The new board is headed by Dr. Chandima Pathirana as President and Dr. Rasara Samarasinghe as Senior Treasurer, and consisting of eight members from the final year undergraduate students. The AGM was followed by an entertainment session which reflected the talents of the undergraduates of the Department of Electrical Engineering adding glamour to the event.

CULTURAL EVENTS

ANNUAL PIRITH CHANTING AND ALMS GIVING OF DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING ECONOMICS

The Annual Pirith Chanting and Alms Giving ceremony of the Department of Building Economics was held on 15 and 16 January 2017. The ceremony was organized by the Level 2 undergraduates with the support and contribution of the other students, the academic and the non-academic staff of the Department of Building Economics.



MORA VENTURES 1.0

The Pitching Challenge

Mora Ventures is a platform focused to encourage budding Entrepreneurs of University of Moratuwa. Our focus is not limited to tech startups but all other business ideas, social innovations and products which can make a difference in the world. This is different from a Hackathon which is a familiar concept, as Mora Ventures is a long term programme for entrepreneurs with a continuous follow up mechanism that goes beyond pitching event.

Mora Venture 1.0 is the first segment with a Pitching challenge where winners get a cash prize of LKR 100,000 with no strings attached. The competition will be repeated every quarter, and winners will get a chance to pitch their startups in front of a panel comprised of international level VCs / Angel Investors at the year-end 'Grand Pitch' Event.

The aim of the project is to build a strong committed set of Mora entrepreneurs who can change Sri Lanka within the next 10 years. Initially after looking at the commitment level support will be given to a selected set of startups to reach the valuation of USD 1 Million by end 2018.

The commitment does not end there. The aim is to strive till find Sri Lanka's first unicorn (USD 1 Billion Startup) is found by year 2027.



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