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Bimonthly

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New ITUM premises at Diyagama, Homagama ceremonially dedicated to the nation's student community

The sprawling, brand-new, state-of-the art educational compound of the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa at Diyagama, Homagama, built under the ITUM Relocation & Development Project, was ceremonially declared open by the Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, on 10th August 2017 with the participation of a distinguished gathering of eminent personnel, well-wishers, staff and students.

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Young Scientist Award-2017 by TWAS

Dr. Rangika Umesh Halwathura was awarded the Young Scientist Award-2017 by TWAS – The World Academy of Science under the recommendation of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka. The main objective of this award is to recognize and support individual scientists in developing countries who have made excellent contributions to the advancement of science, measured in terms of the number and impact of scientific research papers published in internationally recognized journals.

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New ITUM premises at Diyagama, Homagama ceremonially dedicated to the nation's student community

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The ceremonial official opening of the new comprehensive premises is a major milestone in the short history of the Institute of Technology, which was established in 2000 utilizing the provisions of the Universities Act to strategically streamline the academic and administrative operations of the National Diploma in Technology study program of the University of Moratuwa.

The new ITUM premises comprises a large main compound housing all the academic and administrative divisions and an interconnected student village comprising student hostels, an indoor sports arena and a medical centre. In addition, the neatly landscaped campus houses a massive multi-functional hall with a staff development center, a play ground with a modern pavilion, staff quarters, a guest house and a market complex. This architecturally beautiful building compound boasts of many unique features such as an inverted u-shaped main iconic building with a superbly laid forecourt, newly introduced window designs etc.

The state-of-the-art features of this new sprawling premises includes a comprehensive sewerage treatment facility, an Extra Low Voltage (ELV) system comprising a campus wide network supporting a data network, campus wide WIFI, PABx, a widespread IP camera system (CCTV), PA system, cable TV, satellite receivers etc, and a complete modern electrical power network with three 1000 KVA indoor transformers and three 650 KVA modern standby generators, in addition to a modern Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) facility with VRF as well as Chiller systems and a network of modern elevators.

This new lease of life to the ITUM is the result of the successful implementation of the ITUM Relocation & Development Project at a cost of Rs. 10,291 million, by the government of Sri Lanka, through the Ministry of Higher Education & Highway, UGC and the University of Moratuwa.

“Back2mora”

[From front page]

The Alumni Association organized the event – “Back2mora”, the first ever reunion of the Moratuwa family on the 02nd July 2017 from 2 p.m. -10 p.m. at the University premises.



Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

Colloquium by Dr. Arjuna Madanayake



Dr. Arjuna Madanayake, Associate Professor attached to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Akron, OH, USA, delivered an invited seminar on “Design and Implementation of a 16-Beam Digital Array Receiver”, a study funded by DAPRA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) at the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering at the University of Moratuwa on July 21st, 2017. The seminar is part of the monthly colloquium organized by the Department, and was on the invitation of Dr. Chamira Edussooriya.

TechMedImpact Forum 2017



IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) is the world's largest international society of Biomedical engineers. Branching in areas of Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Clinical Engineering, Information Technology, Instrumentation and Measurement, Radiology and Robotics, Bio Medical Engineers are the link between the pure science and life sciences. The IEEE EMBS Student Branch Chapter is the affiliated student body at the University of Moratuwa which functions in collaboration with the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering.

With the introduction of Biomedical Engineering into the Sri Lankan engineering sector, the EMBS affirms that there is huge potential in students, academics and industry experts to effectively participate in uplifting the quality of healthcare services in Sri Lanka. The TechMedImpact Forum 2017 was initiated with the goal of providing a platform for this purpose.

The TechMedImpact Forum, the first Biomedical Engineering Forum in Sri Lanka was conducted successfully under the theme of Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure on 17th of August 2017 at the IESL Wimalasurendra Auditorium with the participation of Academics, Biomedical Engineers, Medical Professionals and Undergraduates from Medical and Engineering Faculties.

The forum featured a panel discussion, introductory sessions, project demonstrations and a rapid prototyping session. Dr. Nuwan Dayananda, the coordinator of the Biomedical Engineering Program at the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering at University of Moratuwa and Dr. Pujitha Silva explained the significance of collaboration between Engineers and Medical Professionals, to adhere to the current complexities faced by modern Medical Sciences in terms of diagnostics and therapeutics.

Prof. Sirimali Fernando, the Chairperson of the National Science Foundation, Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Former Head of the Department of Clinical Medicine and Mr. Prasantha Kularatne, the CEO, Premium International Private Limited joined in the panel discussion, which was conducted by Dr. Anjula de Silva. The panel discussion was woven around the topic, “Opportunities and Challenges in Integrating Domestic Research and Technology into the Sri Lankan Health Care System”. Prof. Jayasinghe explained the limitations persistent in the Sri Lankan healthcare system and how domestic technology could contribute while, Prof. Fernando focused

on national level initiatives to bridge the gap between engineering and medicine. Mr. Kularatne mentioned the challenges and opportunities in biomedical engineering venture creation and the mitigation of risk.

The Forum ended with a rapid prototyping session conducted by Mr. Heminda Jayaweera for teams from medical and engineering undergraduates. The participants received training on brainstorming, prototyping and presenting a solution to a prevailing medical complexity. The session received a lot of positive feedback from the participants and the winners were presented awards at the end.

TechMedImpact Forum 2017 was a huge success having accomplished the objective of creating a platform for both medical and engineering academics and professionals to discuss issues in the medical sciences and how engineering can cater to them while creating visibility of the IEEE EMBS Student Branch.

Drone Symposium 2017



The Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering in collaboration with Future Drones (Pvt) Ltd. successfully held the first ever Drone Symposium in Sri Lanka on 28th August 2017 at the SLIDA main auditorium. The Hon., Minister of Megapolis and Western Development, Champika Ranawaka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, Vice Chancellor of the University was the Guest of Honour. Vidya Jyothi Prof (Emeritus) K K Y W Perera, Deans of Faculties, representatives from many institutions including the NSF, Survey Department, Civil Aviation Authority, NRC, ACCMT, MoST, COSTI, UNDP, and the Land Use Policy Planning Department, and representatives from the Police Department, STF, Army, Navy and Air Force, representatives from the organisations such as Dialog Axiata, Mobitel, IWMI also participated at the event.

The objectives of the symposium were to improve awareness among government and private organizations and the military and law enforcement institutions on the potential use of drone technology, and to unveil drones locally developed at the University of Moratuwa by the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering and its start-up company Future Drones (Pvt) Ltd.

Four locally developed ready-to-deploy drones named (1) CeyBee, (2) CeyTwin, (3) CeyHawk, (4) CeyHex and two experimental drones named (1) CeyHornet, and (2) CeyBeeetle were presented at the symposium. These drones are used for aerial surveillance, aerial surveying, precision agriculture, package delivery, disaster management, and industrial inspection.

Prof. Rohan Munasinghe made a presentation on the history of the development of drones in Sri Lanka, followed by presentations by Mr. Nilesh Sooriarachchi and Mr. Sominda Gamage on local drones and the present projects. The Hon Minister appreciated the recent developments in local drones and Prof. Ananda Jayawardane described the product development and commercialization process, which made drone deployment possible at the University of Moratuwa. Participants were encouraged to make use of local drones instead of importing them from abroad at huge costs with limited service afterwards.

Participation in the 2nd International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research 2017

Ms. W.M.N.D Ranasinghe, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture presented a paper and was a Session Chair at the 2nd International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research 2017. The Conference was held on 29th and 30th July in Colombo, and was organized by the Unique Conference of Canada and the International Center for Research of Sri Lanka. The keynote speakers were Prof. Tennyson Samraj, Burman University of Canada, Vithyajothi Prof. Nimal de Silva, Emeritus Prof. University of Moratuwa and Prof. W. Malalasekara, Loughborough, United Kingdom.

2nd International Conference on Research in the Transport and Logistics Industry (R4TLI 2017)



The Sri Lanka Society for Transport & Logistics (SLSTL), partnering with the Walkers CML organized 2nd joint International research conference on Research for Transport and Logistics (R4TLI) 2017 which was held on 22 July 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The R4TLI is an initiative that endeavors to promote research and development in the transport & logistics sector in Sri Lanka that would help diagnose its current issues and identify potential improvements based on scientific evidence. The event was successfully conducted with the participation of over 200 representatives from the industry, academia and the government sector as well as well-wishers from overseas.

Three undergraduates of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management, University of Moratuwa received awards in the categories of Best Research in Transport and Logistics, Best Undergraduate Research in Transport and Logistics and Best Research in Airport Transport and Logistics. Two postgraduate students from the same Department received awards in the categories of Best Research in Supply Chain Management and Best Research in Urban Transport and Road Safety. Mrs Shasini Sanjeevani (Lecturer, Department of Transport and logistics Management, University of Moratuwa) received an award for the Best Research in Transport Planning, Modeling and Policy.

The 6th World Construction Symposium 2017



The 6th World Construction Symposium 2017 under the theme “What’s New and What’s Next in the Built- Environment Sustainability Agenda?” was held from 30th June to 02nd July 2017 at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The symposium was jointly organised by the Building Economics Management and Research Unit (BEMRU) of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa and the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB).

The Associate Partners of the Symposium were the Liverpool John Moores University, UK; the Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Development (CICID); The University of Hong Kong; Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras); Northumbria University, UK; Robert Gordon University, UK; Western Sydney University, Australia; CIB-W122: Public Private Partnerships and the Colombo School of Construction Technology (CSCT), Sri Lanka.



Department of Building Economics shines at WCS 2017

Built Environment Project and Asset Management (BEPAM), a journal published by the Emerald Group Publishing, presented four awards, namely; the CIOB Best Paper Award, the CIOB Best Presenter Award and two BEPAM Highly Commended Paper Awards at the 6th World Construction Symposium 2017, which was held from 30th June to 02nd July 2017 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Members of the academic staff of the Department of Building Economics shone at the event winning three of the four awards presented.

Emerald BEPAM Highly Commended Paper Award at WCS 2017



Dr. T.S. Jayawickrama, a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Building Economics, won the Emerald BEPAM Highly Commended Paper Award for the paper titled ‘Assessing Sustainability of Road Projects in Sri Lanka’ at the 6th World Construction Symposium 2017.

CIOB Best Paper Award



Dr. Nayanthara De Silva, Senior Lecturer, and Mr. T.L.W. Karunaratne, Research Assistant, attached to the Department of Building Economics won the CIOB Best Paper Award

for the paper titled ‘Use of Energy Retrofits to Reduce the Energy Demand of Existing Office Buildings’ at the 6th World Construction Symposium 2017.

CIOB Best Presenter Award



Ms. Devindi Geekiyanage, a Research Assistant attached to the Department of Building Economics, won the Best Presentation Award

for the paper titled “A Study on the Application of Economies of Scale in the Construction Industry: A Sri Lankan Perspective”, at the 6th World Construction Symposium 2017.

International Conference on Advances in Highway Engineering and Transportation Systems and Transport Research Forum - 2017



The 5th International Conference on Advances in Highway Engineering and Transportation Systems (ICAHETS) and the 10th Transport Research Forum; organized by the Transportation Engineering Group of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa were held on 21st and 22nd of July 2017 at Hotel Jetwing Blue, Negombo.

The conference inauguration ceremony was held on the 21st July with a number of Talks and Presentations by experts. W.K. Mampearachchi (Conference Chair), Prof. Ananda Jayawardene (Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa), Prof. K.K.C.K. Perera (Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa), Prof. J.M.S.J. Bandara (Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa). Dr. John Abraham (HBA Spectro Canada) and Prof. Feipeng Xiao (Tongji University, Shanghai) also addressed the gathering.

A total of 20 papers were presented at the ICAHETS and 16 abstracts were presented at the TRF. In total, more than 20 foreign researchers participated in the event. A pre-conference workshop was held on 20th July 2017 at the University of Moratuwa which was conducted by Prof. Animesh Das (Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India), Prof. W. K. Mampearachchi (University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka) and Prof. M. Gunarathne (University of South Florida, USA).



Symposium on Natural Language Processing 2017



The Symposium on Natural Language Processing (NLP) organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering was held on 27th July, 2017 at the University of Moratuwa. The primary goal of the Symposium was to create a platform for sharing of on-going research work, new ideas, recent research development in the field of NLP, on national languages among NLP researchers and enthusiasts in Sri Lanka. The main research topics discussed included machine translation, linguistic resource building, speech processing, and information retrieval for the national languages of Sri Lanka.

Prof. H Y R Perera Presents a Paper at the 9th International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings held in Chania, Greece

Prof. H Y R Perera of the Department of Electrical Engineering participated in the 9th International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings – SEB'17 – held in Chania, Greece from 5th to 7th July 2017. He presented a paper on “Reduction of Solar PV Payback Periods Using Optimally Placed Reflectors”. The paper is co-authored by D T P Wijesuriya, K D S H Wickramathilaka, L S Wijesinghe, D M Vithana and H Y R Perera of the same Department. The paper was accepted for publication in the Elsevier Journal Energy Procedia.

Prof. Sisil Kumarawadu delivers a Keynote Speech at the IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Computing, Instrumentation and Control Technologies held in Kannur, India

Prof. Sisil Kumarawadu delivered a keynote speech titled “Second-Guessing: A Critical Attribute for Success in R&D in Engineering and Technology” at the IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Computing, Instrumentation and Control Technologies (IEEE ICICICT'17), that was held on 6th and 7th of July, 2017, in Kannur, India. Prabhir Biswas, IIT Kharagpur, Limsoon Wong, NUS, Singapore, M. Veerachary, IIT Delhi, Rogers Mathew, IIT Kharagpur, also delivered keynote speeches at IEEE ICICICT'17.

Guest Lectures

Sustainable Buildings Research Centre - UOW



Guest Lecture on Sustainable Buildings Research Centre - UOW and Team UOW entry into the Solar Decathlon by Dr. Duane Robinson, Deputy Director, Sustainable Buildings Research Centre, Innovation Campus, University of Wollongong, Australia, was conducted at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa on 7th July 2017. The University of Moratuwa is engaged in its first ever Joint PhD program with the University of Wollongong.

Scientific Writing and Proposal Writing



Seminar on Scientific Writing and Proposal Writing by Prof. Manjriker Gunaratne, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida, Tampa was conducted on 4th August 2017 at the Department of Civil Engineering. Prof. Gunaratne visited the University of Moratuwa in July 2017 on a short-term assignment under the "Hosting Reputed Academics" program. He was hosted by Prof. W. K. Mampearachchi of the Department.

Academic Programs

Students earn GPA credits for their own innovation! (EN 3210 Self-Initiated Innovation)



EN 3210 Self-Initiated Innovation is a new module offered under the OBE curriculum for Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering and Bio-Medical Engineering undergraduates of the University from 2016. This module aims to encourage students to engage in innovative projects on their own initiative apart from work prescribed in taught courses. Four students namely Achintha Iroshan (BME), Savindu Herath (BME), Charith Panangala (ENTC), and Wishwa Perera (ENTC) of Batch 13 designed a haptic blind support wearable, which enables passive reading using the well-known Braille language. Having successfully completed the project, the students presented and demonstrated the system to a panel of 4 academic staff members.

This innovation received several awards including the People's Award for the Best Innovation and 2nd Runner Up in the Disrupt FutureX 2.0, 1st place in SS12 Asia and 1st place in SS12 Asia Sri Lankan Section. Further, a research paper on the project has been accepted by the flagship conference, the IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics to be held in October 2017, Banff Canada.

Arrival of New Students to the Faculty of Engineering

The Inauguration ceremony for the B.Sc. Engineering, B. Design (FD & PD) and B.Sc. Transport & Logistics Management students of the 2017 Intake to the Faculty of Engineering was held on 23rd, 24th and 25th August 2017 respectively at the Civil Engineering Auditorium of the University of Moratuwa. Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, President of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest.





During the three inaugural ceremonies, a programme for the parents of the new entrants was also held in parallel with the student programme. This was mainly to make the parents aware of the University environment. The parents expressed appreciation for the organization of the programme and the hospitality extended. The inauguration was followed by a 3 day orientation programme for the freshers, during which many informative guest lectures and sessions were conducted by the University officials and guest speakers.

The Inauguration Ceremony, Parents' Programme and the Orientation Programme were organized by the Orientation Sub-Committee of the Faculty of Engineering headed by Dr. Gamini Lanarolle of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology, under the guidance of Prof. KKCK Perera, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Students of the 2016 Batch and the Engineering Faculty Students Union extended their cooperation for the organization and running of the programmes.

Foreign Visits

A Workshop on C-MOS Transistor Fabrication at Hiroshima University, Japan



As a part of an initiative to promote mutual understanding between Hiroshima University, Japan and the University of Moratuwa, Ashen Ekanayak, Sasindu Wijeratne, Gajalakshan Balakrishnar, Omega Gamage and Hasitha Algewatta five final year students of the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering were given the opportunity to participate in an all-expenses paid 7-day workshop on Complementary Metal-oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) Transistor Fabrication at the Research Institute for Nanodevices and Bio Systems of the Hiroshima University. In addition to the students from Sri Lanka,

13 students from other Japanese Institutes participated in this program. The program was held from 31st of July to 6th of August 2017.

During the program, students had the rare opportunity to witness the full fabrication process of CMOS transistors, from semiconductor doping to metal interconnect creation. This was carried out inside a Class 10 super cleanroom, which is a highly controlled uncontaminated environment virtually free of dust particles, to ensure a high success rate of the procedure. The students designed their own circuits and were involved in most of the steps in fabrication, making this experience the first ever for a group of Sri Lankan undergraduates.

On the first day of training, the students designed circuits which they would fabricate and test over the remaining days of training. Each student was allocated a 4mm² area on which to design their circuits. Special emphasis was given to designing CMOS circuits, as, for the first time in the program's history, CMOS fabrication was to be carried out. Over the next three days, the students were given the opportunity to visit the Class 10 super cleanroom and experience first-hand mask lithography, visual inspection of Silicon wafer for defects, etching, doping and metal interconnect formation. During the final two days of the workshop, the newly fabricated designs were tested for electrical characteristics. Subsequently, results obtained were presented and a discussion was held with the participation of Prof. Shin Yokoyama, Director of Research Institute for Nano-device and Bio Systems.

An opportunity to participate in this workshop is offered annually to a group of foreign students by Hiroshima University and this is the first time that Sri Lankan students were able to participate in this activity. This was facilitated and coordinated by Mr. Milantha De Silva, who is currently a PhD candidate in the Research Institute for Nano-devices and Bio Systems, Hiroshima University, and Senior Lecturer Dr. Tharaka Samarasingha of the University of Moratuwa.

Product Design students' visit to IDC, Mumbai



The Level III students specializing in Product Design of the Department of Integrated Design were invited to participate in the 'Expo PDi' Workshop, conducted by the Industrial Design Center, Mumbai from 24th-26th August 2017. The students visited the IDC, took part in the study sessions and initiated collaborations with IDC for future endeavors. Ms. W.M.N.D. Ranasinghe coordinated the visit.

Delegates from the University of Wollongong, Australia



Delegates from the University of Wollongong, Australia, including the Technical Director of the Australian Power Quality and Reliability Centre (APQRC), the Deputy Director of the Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC), and an academic of APQRC visited the University of Moratuwa (UoM) on 07th July 2017. Discussions were held on Joint Research, Joint Publications and Staff - Student Exchange Programmes.

Visit to China by Mr. S.N. Bentotage



Mr. S.N. Bentotage, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management participated in the "Belt and Road Rail Transit Education and Training: Annual Meeting of the China-ASEAN Rail Transit Education and Training Association" in Guiyang, China from 27th to 29th July 2017 on invitation by the Beijing Jiaotong University. Potential opportunities for collaboration in Railway and Logistics Education at Graduate and Post-graduate levels were discussed at the above event.

Visit from the Liverpool John Moores University, UK



Dr. Mohan Siriwardena, a Senior Lecturer attached to the Liverpool John Moores University, visited the Department of Building Economics on 27th July 2017. A lecture entitled "Research Methodology: Research Philosophy" was arranged during the visit, for the benefit of the junior academic staff members and the research students of the Department of Building Economics. During the session, Dr. Siriwardena discussed the history and evolution of different research philosophies.

Visit from the University of Salford, UK



Dr. Chaminda Pathirage, a Senior Lecturer and the Director of Postgraduate Research Studies of the School of Built Environment, University of Salford, visited the Department of Building Economics on 05th August 2017. A lecture on "Research Methodology: Philosophical Design" was arranged during the visit for the benefit of the junior academic staff members and the research assistants of the Department of Building Economics. Dr. Pathirage discussed different methodological frameworks and components of research philosophy during the session.

Student Achievements

Disrupt Asia 2017



Olivescript, a startup from the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa, became winners at the Startup Battle - Disrupt Asia 2017, the Premier Startup Conference in Sri Lanka organized by the ICT Agency (ICTA). The team developed a bio-medical device named "Clardia" which is an all in one comprehensive family health assistant. The device is able to extract key health parameters of the user such as the heart rate, blood oxygen levels, weight and ppg signals from the human sole. The team also won 2nd runner-up at the Microsoft Imagine Cup Sri Lanka Finals held this year.

Winners of the 24th International Mathematics Competition for University Students

Sahan Liyanaarachchi a student from the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering won the Honorable Mention status at the 24th International Mathematics Competition for University Students held from 31st July to 6th August, 2017 in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. Melanka Saroad a student from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Madhura Pathegama from the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering won the third place at the same competition. This was organized by the University College London, hosted by the American University in Bulgaria, and was coordinated by P.M. Edirisinghe, a lecturer attached to the Department of Mathematics. Students from 57 countries attended the competition.

INSEE Inter University Mix Design Competition

Undergraduates of the Department of Civil Engineering took part in the INSEE Inter University Mix Design Competition for the fifth consecutive time. The event was held at the INSEE Cement Factory, Galle on 30th August 2017. Students from University of Peradeniya, University of Ruhuna, University of Jaffna, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and the Open University of Sri Lanka also took part in the event. Fifteen students who participated in the competition showed exemplary knowledge on concrete mix design principles and application. Students were able to design high strength concrete mixes which had an initial setting time of more than three hours with the minimum use of admixes to optimise material cost. The final results of the competition are to be released at the end of September 2017 after being tested for 28-day strength of concrete.

The First Ever UoM Student To Enrol in a Joint PhD program



Mr. Pathum Maduranga Sudasinghe, the first ever UoM student to enroll in a Joint PhD program, commenced his second year of studies at the University of Wollongong on 29.8.2017. The UoW provides him a full tuition waiver and a University Postgraduate Award for living expenses for a period of 18 months.

Pathum commenced his PhD program at the University of Moratuwa in July 2017 where he completed the first year of studies. His supervisors at UoW are Prof. Sarath Perera, Assoc. Prof. Phil Ciufo, Dr. Jeff Moscrop and Dr. Phil Commins. His supervisors at UoM are Dr Upuli Jayathunga and Dr. W. D. Prasad.

Staff Achievements

Sri Lanka Leadership Excellence Award for Academic Leadership 2017



Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, the Vice-Chancellor, of University of Moratuwa was awarded the Education Leadership Award at the Sri Lanka Leadership Excellence Award for Academic Leadership 2017, organised by the World Education Congress, on 13th July 2017 at Taj Smudra Hotel, Colombo.



Award of the Endeavour Fellowship from the Australian Government

Dr. Udeni Nawagamuwa has been awarded the Endeavour Fellowship from the Australian Government to carry out research work at the University of Wollongong for a period of 6 months from 28th Aug 2017 to 27th Feb 2018. His research is on the field of geotechnical engineering.

Book launching Ceremony

Mr. Isuru Manawadu, Lecturer of Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, has written two books, namely “Ginumkarana Pramitha Saralawa” (Accounting Standards Made Simple) part one and part two. These two books were launched on 4th August 2017 in the Library Auditorium, University of Moratuwa. The welcome speech was delivered by Mr. P.M Karunarathna, Dean, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa. Professor Ananda Jayawardane, Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa, Professor Sampath Amarathunga, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Mr. Jagath Perera, Vice President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and the author, Mr. Isuru Manawadu addressed the gathering.

The objective envisioned through these books is to enhance the knowledge in accounting standards among teachers and students through practical examples. Ginumkarana Pramitha Saralawa part 1 was published by Sarasavi Publishers (Pvt) Limited and Ginumkarana Pramitha Saralawa part 2 was an author publication. The books have been recognized by the Ministry of Education as additional school texts through grant of a license.



Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Third Global Project Based Learning Workshop – August 2017



The Third Global Project Based Learning Workshop (GPBL) jointly organized by the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory of the Department of Computational Mathematics, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT), Japan was successfully held during the period from 22nd to 31st August 2017. There were 23 student participants from both universities of whom 9 were from SIT and the remaining 14 were from the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa. The workshop provided a forum to share and exchange knowledge and expertise in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.

The GPBL workshop organizing committee consisted of Dr. Sagara Sumathipala (Program Coordinator), Senior Lecturer, Department of Computational Mathematics, Mr. B.H. Sudantha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Information Technology, Dr. Subha Fernando, Head, Department of Computational Mathematics and Prof. Chinthaka Premachandra, Department of Electronic Engineering, Shibaura Institute of Technology.

Clubs & Societies

SNEHA 2017



Amongst many other annual events organised by the Society of Transport and Logistics (STL), 'Sneha2017' stands out as a major CSR activity carried out for the betterment of under-privileged children. The main objective behind 'Sneha2017' was to support a needy school and its students with financial and other material support, in addition to motivating them to study well and move up the ladder of success.

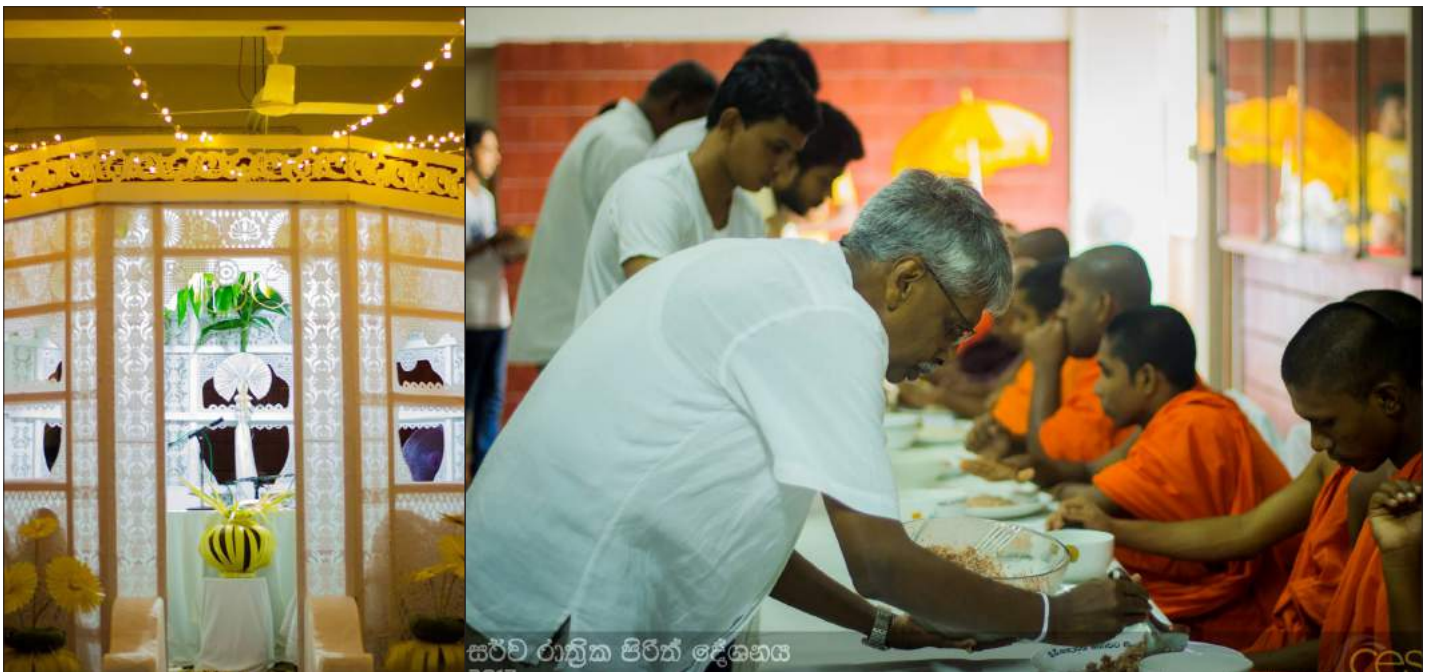
This year, the event was held at Diyagama Maha Vidyalaya, Kalutara on the 3rd of August for the 3rd successive time. Although this was a one-day event, members of STL planned and contributed to the organization of this event for months. The criteria of selection of a school this year slightly deviated from that of the previous years, since STL decided to consider a school which was affected by the devastating flood during the last monsoon season.

On the day of the event, in addition to donations, different activities were organised to inspire students to study better. Dr. Udaya Jayathilake from the University of Moratuwa delivered a lecture on Mathematics for grade 9, 10 and 11 students while TLM undergraduates conducted some motivational and confidence building activities for grade 6, 7 and

8 students. After concluding the sessions, the closing ceremony was held at the school main hall. The donations were distributed among the students and the staff at this occasion. Donations included academic work books for grade 11 students, story books for the school library, medicinal items, lunch boxes, water bottles and stationary items for students as requested by the school.

This event would not have been a reality without the sponsorship of Expolanka Freight (Pvt) Ltd, and the support of the TLM staff, Alumni and students. Their monetary and non-monetary contributions helped in different ways. Mr. Akalanka Herath was the project Chair for Sneha 2017. Together with him, the STL committee and members, worked hard despite their busy academic work schedules, to make this event a success. The success of this event was evident in the display of innocent smiles on the faces of the students at Diyagama Maha Vidyalaya during the event.

Pirith Chanting and Morning Alms giving Ceremony



An all-night Pirith Chanting and Morning Alms giving ceremony were organized by the Civil Engineering Society of the University of Moratuwa to invoke blessings on University students and staff. The event was held on 16th August 2017 at the Civil Engineering Complex with the patronage of the Maha Sangha. University students, academic staff and non-academic staff of the Civil Engineering Department were actively involved in organising the event.

Fashion Premier League - Annual Cricket Tournament



Fashion Premier League (FPL), Annual Cricket Tournament of the Fashion Design Students' Society (FDSS) of the University of Moratuwa was held on 7th August 2017 at the University Grounds as the very first event of the FDSS under the new executive committee for 2017/18.

The event commenced around 9.30am with the lighting of the oil lamp by the executive members of the FDSS and the batch representatives. Dr. Gayathri Rnathunga, the Senior Treasurer of the society addressed the gathering and pointed out the value of the event which creates memories for life .

Many passed out graduates from the Fashion Design and Product Development course employed in the Sri Lankan apparels industry participated in the event. Many students played cricket displaying their talents while others took part in enjoyable events organized by the FDSS. The pavilion of the University grounds was filled with smiling faces and cheerful voices, encouraging those involved in the

games. The day came to an end finishing the 7th FPL event successfully with memories to last a lifetime.

Appointments & Promotions



Appointment of New Head of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management

Mr. S.N. Bentotage, Senior Lecturer was appointed new Head of Department of Transport & Logistics Management with effect from 1st of August, 2017 on completion of term by Dr. T. Sivakumar. Dr. T. Sivakumar served the Department for 6 years as the Head and rendered an invaluable service to the Department. The Department organized a farewell for Dr. Sivakumar appreciating his remarkable service and welcomed the new Head on 09th August 2017.



Professor Lalith De Silva has been promoted to the post of Professor

Associate Professor Lalith De Silva has been promoted to the post of Professor in Built Environment in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 21st September 2016



Mrs. Kanchana Perera has been promoted to the post of Professor

Ch.QS. (Mrs.) Kanchana Perera has been promoted to the post of Professor in Quantity Surveying in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 29th September 2016.



PhD Completion

Dr. J.R. Gamage, Lecturer attached to the Department of Mechanical Engineering has earned his PhD at Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom. His PhD thesis is "Assessment of Environmental Performance of Electrochemical Machining and Electrodischarge Machining Unit Processes" and deals with developing life cycle inventories for key unconventional machining processes, which include Shaped Tube Electrolytic Machining (STEM), Capillary Drilling (CD), and Electrodischarge Machining (EDM). His research interests are Sustainable manufacturing, Unconventional machining, Environmental performance analysis, Manufacturing Systems, Industrial Engineering

Cultural Events

Immersion English Camp



The Immersion English Camp is an annual calendar event of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management organized for the enhancement of English language and communication skills of TLM undergraduates. This time, the Immersion English Camp was organized by Ms. Shashini Ranabahu for the 16th Batch and it was held from 31st of July, 2017 to 4th August in the Department auditorium. Gate Way Language Center facilitated the entire program and John Keells Holdings sponsored the facilitators for the 7th consecutive time.

The inauguration ceremony of the Camp was held on 31st of July 2017 with the presence of Mr. Prasad Warusavithana from John Keells Holdings. Ms. Wathsala Dissanayaka, Glendale De Silva and Mr. Wijanayaka,

the three facilitators from Gate Way Language Center, Dr. T. Sivakumar Senior Lecturer, Mr. S.N. Bentotage Head of Department,, and other academic and non-academic staff and students took part in the event. Mr. Ranil Sugathadasa, Senior Lecturer of the Department conducted a motivational session on the "Importance of learning a second language". The entire five days of the English camp comprised a series of different interactive activities including drama, songs, debates, spot speeches etc. to enhance, communication and presentation skills of undergraduates. The closing ceremony of the Camp was held on 4th August, in which the drama competition was the most prominent event. This was the first event held after the appointment of the new Head of Department, Mr. S.N. Bentotage.



The 22nd Chapter of Sarasavi Gee Sisila



The 22nd Chapter of the annual musical event 'Sarasavi Gee Sisila', organised by the Moratuwa University's Building Economics Students' Society was held on 03rd August 2017 from 6.00 pm onwards in the University premises. The event exclusively focuses on providing financial assistance to students by awarding scholarships, facilitating the publishing of books essential for academic purposes, and encouraging extra-curricular activities within the student community.

This musical concert featured Visharad. Victor Rathnayake, Visharad. Sunil Edirisinghe, Visharad. Edward Jayakody, Visharad. Amarasisi Pieris, Visharad. Nirosha Virajini and Kasun Kalhara. Mr. Wasantha Rohana anchored the show while Mr. Susil Amarasinghe directed the music.



Sports

The Inter University Tournaments

The University of Moratuwa emerged victorious at the Inter University Tournaments commenced in May 2017. The UoM teams won the championship in Men's Volleyball, Men's Rowing and Men's Carrom tournaments. In addition, the University won the Second place in Karate (both Men's and Women's), Rugby, Football, Women's Rowing and Women's Carrom, as well as Third place in Men's Tennis and Men's and Women's Badminton tournaments.

The University Volleyball Team performed excellently beating Universities of Ruhuna, Wayamba and Jaffna in the Preliminary Round. They also beat University of Sabaragamuwa and University of Colombo in the Quarter and Semi Finals and the University of Kelaniya in the Grand Finals at University of Rajarata Indoor Gymnasium on 30th July 2017.

The Men's Rowing team had a historic win beating University of Colombo Rowing team with a score of 36-06. The Inter University Rowing Championships 2017 was organized by the University of Moratuwa and was held at the Colombo Rowing Club on 06th August 2017.



The University Volleyball team with Coaches



University Rowing Crew with Coaches

The UoM Carrom Team won the Men's Championship for the fifth consecutive time this year. They emerged champions beating University of Colombo in the Finals. The Carrom Finals were held at the CFSL Headquarters, Kohuwala on 23rd of July 2017.

Congratulations Moratuwa and wish you all the best for the upcoming events!

Word of Praise for a Dedicated Editor



The Editorial Board of the UoM Newsletter wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Eng. S.N. Niles for his dedicated service as the Editor of the Bimonthly UoM News. Eng. Niles led the Editorial Board for four consecutive years from 2013 to 2017 and contributed immensely for the successful compilation of University's achievements in various aspects such as academic activities, research endeavors and extra-curricular activities, thereby raising and show casing UoM identity to the world outside.

While appreciating his untiring efforts, we wish Eng. Niles all the best in future endeavors!

Bimonthly

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Editor : Mrs WASN Wijethunga
[E-mail: sumuduw@uom.lk]

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NEWS TO BE SENT TO

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



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