



AWARDS CEREMONY- 2016



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AWARDS CEREMONY- 2016

The Awards Ceremony of the University of Moratuwa was held on 18 November at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. 59 awards for appreciation of outstanding Research Performance by academic staff, two awards for teaching excellence by academic staff and 68 student awards, eleven from the Faculty of Architecture and 57 from the Faculty of Engineering, were awarded. In addition recognition of international and national awards received by the staff and students was made as follows.

Faculty of Architecture

International level awards received by Academic Staff- 5 Awards

International level awards received by Students- 2 Awards

National level awards received by Students- 12 Awards

Faculty of Engineering

International level awards received by Academic Staff- 12 Awards

National level awards received by Academic Staff- 5 Awards

International level awards received by Students- 45 Awards

National level awards received by Students- 41 Awards

Faculty of Information Technology

International level awards received by Students- 28 Awards

VidyaJyothi Professor Janaka de Silva, Sri Lankan academic physician, Professor of Medicine at the University of Kelaniya, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine at the University of Colombo, and Chairman of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka participated as the Chief Guest and delivered an address on “Scientific Research in Sri Lanka”. VidyaJyothi Emeritus Prof. KKYW Perera, Chancellor of the University, presided over the awards ceremony and the Vice-Chancellor delivered the welcome address.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

INTAKE 2016 TO THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

The students of the 2016 intake to the Faculty of Engineering turned a new page in their lives as they were welcomed to the University of Moratuwa. The number of students enrolled this year for the study programmes of the Faculty of Engineering is 907. The Orientation Committee organized to hold the inauguration ceremony on three consecutive days: 26, 27 and 28 October for three groups of students due to limitations in space and other facilities. In parallel to the inauguration ceremony of the students, a programme to address their parents was also organized.

The Faculty of Engineering has been organizing the above event followed by an orientation programme for the new intake for many years under the guidance of the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. The students were made aware of the study environment, the nature of the university life, rules and regulations etc., by the Vice – Chancellor of the University. The academic programme was explained to the students by the Dean of the Faculty. Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, President of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Chief Guest and informed students on the services provided by the IESL, event organized and the importance and the procedure of ‘how to become a student member of IESL’. This event was an opportunity for the parents to experience the university atmosphere and to listen to various speeches related to the University education and the role of parents in the education of their children. The Orientation programme for students was followed by the pre-academic term that commenced on 03 November.



MSC IN AI / PG CERTIFICATE IN DATA ANALYSIS AND PATTERN RECOGNITION

The MSc programme in Artificial Intelligence offered by The Department of Computational Mathematics for the 9th intake commenced on 26 November. The primary objective of this program is to impart the knowledge of theory and applications of modern Artificial Intelligence techniques to devise intelligent software solutions thereby ensuring multifaceted career paths for the candidates. The 2016 batch consists of 14 selected students representing several academic and professional institutes of the country.

For the first time the Department of Computational Mathematics offered a Postgraduate Certificate in Data Analysis and Pattern Recognition. The course was inaugurated on 05 November at the Faculty premises. The primary objective of this Postgraduate Certificate is to impart the knowledge of theory and applications of modern Statistics and Machine Learning techniques to solve critical problems in the field of data science.

VIVA VOCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN PROJECT OF FINAL YEAR BARCH STUDENTS



The final year students of the Department of Architecture excelled in the viva voce examination of the “Comprehensive Design Project” (CDP). Out of a cohort of 52 students who faced the viva voce examination, six students received “A-” grades for their design projects while Mr MM Abdulla and Ms Gayathmi Hettiarachchi received the highest marks. The CDP examination was held in two stages: Internal Assessment and External Moderation from 15 to 23 November. Prof Alexander Wright of the University of Bath, United Kingdom, Archt Bijoy Ramachandran, Hundred Hands, Bangalore, India and Madhura Prematilleke, Chartered Architect and Principal of Team Architrave, Sri Lanka were the external moderators at the 2016 examination. The CDP is the culmination point of the five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree programme which is accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) UK and exempted from their part two examination.



BUILDING ECONOMICS WELCOMES THE 32ND QS AND 11TH FM INTAKES

The inauguration ceremony of the 32nd intake of BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and the eleventh intake of BSc (Hons) in Facilities Management organised by the Level 2 undergraduates of the Department was held on 22 November at the Department of Building Economics. Prof Lalith De Silva, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Members of the academic and non-academic staff of Department of Building Economics participated in the event.



FIELD VISIT TO ADVANTIS 3PL PLUS

Field visits are a part of the curriculum of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management, the purpose of which is to develop an understanding of the principles of supply chain management in a Logistics Company. Dr Pradeepa Jayaratne organised an industrial field visit on 22 of December to Advantis 3PL plus located in Kelaniya for the students of Level 2. Mr Branatheesh (Instructor), Ms Chaami and Ms Bhagya (Visiting Instructors) also participated in this visit.

PRE ACADEMIC TERM: 2016

The Department of Languages successfully conducted the Communication Skills Development Programme (CSDP) to the new intake of students from 03 November to 22 December. Classes were conducted in two sessions. Sixteen visiting lecturers/instructors were recruited to work on the programme. Grouping of students on the basis of their grades for English at the GCE A/L exam was a new feature of the programme. The students who had obtained “A” passes were offered a newly designed programme in which many of the lessons involved interactive activities which also included making presentations. The other students were placed at two levels - regular and foundation. Those who had obtained “B” or “C” grades for English at the GCE A/L exam were offered the regular programme while those with “S” passes or “F” were placed at the foundation level. Two different sets of lesson materials were made available for the two levels. The lesson modules were well received by the students. In collaboration with Pre-Academic Coordination Committee the Library conducted a Basic Information Literacy Programme from 7 November to 5 December. Preliminary sessions were held in the Civil Auditorium. Access to information sources via Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) along with a Library Tour, Effective Internet search strategies and Google Applications for learning were the topics of interest.



CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS & WORKSHOPS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH (ICITR) 2016

The first International Conference on Information Technology Research organized by the Information Technology Research Unit (ITRU) was held at the Faculty premises on 15 and 16 December. Under the main objective of the conference which is to provide a focal point to share latest research achievements and practical experiences in order to face problems of the present day knowledge society, the theme of the conference in 2016 was “To Connect, Collaborate, Differentiate”. On the first day preconference workshops were conducted to enrich the knowledge of the participants regarding popular domains in Computing. These included a workshop on “Intelligence Computing using Rough Set and Fuzzy Logic by Prof Koichi Yamada and workshop on “3D Imaging” by Prof Janaka Rajapakse. Prof Ananda Jayawardane, Vice-Chancellor graced the ICITR 2016 as the chief guest. Eminent researchers, delegates from foreign universities, industry experts and students participated by sharing ideas in the area of Information Technology. The keynote address titled “Mining Satellite Images for Census Data Collection: A Study Using the Google Static Maps Service” was delivered by Prof Frans Coenen of the Department of Computer Science, University of Liverpool, UK. Invited speakers of the ICITR 2016 were Prof Yoshiki Mikami, Executive Director, Vice President (International and Industry Relations) of Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan, Prof Koichi Yamada, Head, Department of Information and Management Systems Engineering of Nagaoka University of Technology of Japan, Prof Janaka Rajapakse, Associate Professor at the Graduate Institute of Animation and Film Art (formerly named Graduate Institute of Sound and Image Studies in Animation), Tainan National University of the Arts, Taiwan, Prof Chinthaka Premachandra, Image Processing and Robotics Lab, Department of Electronic Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Prof Hiroharu Kawanaka, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Mie University, Japan, Prof Kouji Hirata, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Kansai University, and Prof Tomotaka Kimura, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Tokyo University of Science. The main sponsors for ICITR 2016 were CodeGen and IFS. ICITR 2016 concluded with the Conference Banquet in the evening at Palm Beach Hotel, Mt Lavinia.

CIVIL ENGINEERING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM – 2016

The 5th Civil Engineering Research Symposium was held on 08 December at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. The main purpose of organizing this annual event is to provide a platform for students to present their final year research projects. Thus 16 such authors from the 2011 batch representing all fields of Civil Engineering presented their research findings to an audience composed of invited industry representatives, academic staff, and students.

Dr. Asiri Karunawardena, Director General of National Building Research Organization (NBRO) delivered the keynote lecture on Development of Hazard Zonation Maps. The symposium was held with the blessings of the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean, Faculty of Engineering. Addressing the gathering the Vice-Chancellor, stated that the Civil Engineering Research Symposium plays a major role in the university’s goal of having a thriving and sustainable research and innovation culture in its march towards becoming a world class university.

ADAPTIVE REUSE IN THE NETHERLANDS

An exhibition titled 'Adaptive Reuse in the Netherlands' was held on 06 November at the New Architecture Department building. It was facilitated by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka and organised by the Dept. of Architecture.



The Chief Guest at the exhibition was the Ambassador for the Netherlands in Sri Lanka Her Excellency Mrs. Joanne Doornewaard. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Prof Ananda Jayawardane. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Rahula Attalage, Dean, Faculty of Architecture Prof ML De Silva. Head, Department of Architecture and staff of the Department of Architecture were also present during the inauguration ceremony. The exhibition was open for public viewing from 06 November. Apart from the students of the Department of Architecture, many students from various Faculties in the University visited the Exhibition. The exhibition was greatly appreciated for both its content & organization. It was a follow-up to the Seminar and exhibition jointly organised by the Embassy of France, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the European Union titled 'Living Heritage' held at the Galle Face Hotel on 02 November, addressing issues of "Heritage of the Future" related to smart cities, intelligent integrated design and architecture.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

The International Conference on Technology Management, organised by the Department of Management of Technology, was held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on December 27. Former Head of the UN Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Professor Krishnamoorthy Ramanathan was the keynote speaker of the session. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, Professor Ananda Jayawardane attended the event as the Chief Guest. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof R. A. Attalage, Dean of the Engineering Faculty Prof. K.K.C.K. Perera, and Prof. N.D. Gunawardena representing the proposed Faculty of Business also attended the session. The Conference covered generic themes of technology management issues in emerging economies including technology transfer, innovation, techno-entrepreneurship and general management issues in sustainable technology management.

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION ARCHITECTURES



Dr. Indika Kumara, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, who is also a PMC member at Apache Systems at Apache Software Foundation, successfully held a seminar on "Enterprise Application Architectures" on 24 November in the Seminar Room of the Department of CSE. The key points covered in the seminar were: IT (Information Technology) and Business Alignment, Enterprise Applications, SOA (Service-Oriented Architecture), REST (Representational State Transfer), WS-* (Web Services Stack), ESB (Enterprise Service Bus), EDA (Event-Driven Architecture), and Business Process Management.

ADVANCEMENT IN ACADEMIC CAREER AND ENHANCING RESEARCH



The Building Economics Management Research Unit (BEMRU) of Department of Building Economics organized a workshop on advancement in academia and enhancing research for the academic staff of the Department on 20 December. The workshop was a full day programme covering topics such as 'Aspiring to be an Academic' (by Ch.QS. Indunil Seneviratne), 'Ultimate goal of being an academic' (by Ch.QS. (Mrs.) Kanchana Perera), Research Collaboration and Funding (by Dr. (Mrs.) Yasangika Sandanayake), 'Research Dissemination and Recognition' (by Dr. (Ms.) Thanuja Ramachandra), 'Post graduate Pathways' (by Dr. (Ms.) Sachie Gunatilake), and the 'Journey towards PhD' (by Dr. (Mrs.) Anuradha Waidyasekara and Dr. (Mrs.) Chandanie Hadiwattage). The workshop concluded with an open discussion on the BEMRU strategic plan for 2017-2020, where the academic staff shared their views and proposed strategies on academic progression and research enhancement.



EXPANDING HORIZONS



In celebration of ten successful years since the inauguration of the BSc (Hons) in Facilities Management Degree Programme, “FM Symposium 2016: Expanding Horizons” was organized by the Department of Building Economics with the support of the FM alumni on 25 November. The event took place at OZO-Colombo. The keynote address on “Commissioning and Operation of Smart Buildings” was delivered by Dr Hari Gunasingham, Managing Director, Eutech Group, Singapore. Prof Ananda Jayawardane, Vice-Chancellor, was the Chief Guest of the evening while Dr Chitra Weddickara graced the event as Guest of Honour. Prof Rahula Attalage, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Lalith de Silva, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Mr Elmo Fernando, President, Institute of Facilities Management Sri Lanka, invitees from different industrial sectors, FM graduates of the degree programme, academic and non-academic staff of the Department of Building Economics also graced the occasion.

QS SEMINAR ON ‘UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, RATINGS & BRANDING STRATEGIES’



The University of Moratuwa organized a seminar on QS Quacquarelli Symonds ‘University Rankings, Ratings & Branding Strategies’ on 04th November 2016. Mr. Ashwin Fernandes , Regional Director, QS Quacquarelli Symonds who is responsible for Middle East, Africa, India and Sri Lanka operations of QS was the resource person. He delivered an address on ways to improve university ranking by increasing the performance of key areas including academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty student ratio, international faculty and international students. Representatives from other state universities, deans of faculties, heads of departments, selected academic staff and administrative officers participated in this event.

COLLABORATIONS

RESEARCH COLLABORATION OF DEPT OF TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ON 4ONSE’

The Department of Town & Country Planning together with the Institute of Earth Sciences of University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland has initiated a research project on setting-up a fully accessible, royalty-free and low cost climate monitoring system based on open hardware, software and standards. The Institute of Earth Sciences of University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland is the main coordinator of this project. In addition, Institute of Space Technology of Pakistan and University of Gadjah Mada of Indonesia will participate in the project for system testing and dissemination. The project duration is three years. The climatic observation data provided by the system will enable researchers to better understand local phenomena, test hypothesis, improve existing processes and cope with natural disasters. Hence, in this project, the data will be applied to develop an extreme drought events warning system and tank management model for Deduru Oya catchment area.



PUBLICATIONS

BHÚMI RESEARCH JOURNAL (SPECIAL ISSUE ON DEVELOPMENT)

Bhúmi is a biannual, international refereed, planning research journal of the Department of Town and Country Planning Research Unit. Volume 5, No 1 of Bhúmi was released as a special Issue on Development. The special issue was guest edited by Prof Nihal Perea and Jeffrey M. Lauer of Ball State University, USA. The articles of this issue demonstrate, in various cases, the notion of ‘development’ as an import of Western colonialism enmeshed with political, economic and cultural histories, melding with movements of national independence, and “becomes modern”. By exploring fissures and gaps in the results of current development practice, the editors and contributors of this volume open up the necessary space by which room is made available to imagine new alternatives.

VISITS TO UOM

49TH BEMRU COLLOQUIUM ON POST OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF BUILDINGS



Dr Ushalyer-Raniga (BArch, MASA, PhD), Deputy Head - International School of Property, Construction and Project Management of RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia visited the Department of Building Economics on 14 December. The 49th research colloquium of the Building Economics Management Research Unit (BEMRU) was delivered by Dr Ushalyer-Raniga on the same date at the Faculty of Architecture Boardroom. The colloquium was on Post Occupancy Evaluation of Buildings discussed the concept, advantages, disadvantages and issues of post occupancy evaluation of green and sustainable buildings through case studies. Members of the academic staff of the Department of Building Economics participated in the session.

VISIT BY MALAYSIAN DELEGATES

His Royal Highness Crown Prince of Malaysia who is the Chancellor of the University of Malaya Perlis, the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and some officials including the Malaysian High Commissioner visited the University of Moratuwa with 25 of their university students on 29 November and signed a Memorandum of Understanding.



VISIT OF DAAD DELEGATES



German delegates including Ms. Heike Mok, Director, DAAD New Delhi and Ms. Shikha Sinha, Senior Advisor, International Corporation of DAAD visited University of Moratuwa on 29 November. The DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, German Academic Exchange Service) is the world's largest funding organization for the international exchange of students & researchers which consists of regional offices funding exchange programmes all over the world. The delegates discussed the granting of funds as individual scholarships and institutional scholarships, German academic exchange programme, German research foundation and institutional collaboration. This was their second visit to University of Moratuwa. The university is already conducting different student exchanging programmes and workshops with German universities such as Hochschule Niederrhein and Munster university.

Prof. Dileeka Dias, The Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies visited Germany from 02 to 12 November and delivered a detailed presentation regarding the programmes available in Germany for Sri Lankan students, academics and administrative officers. The Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting which was attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Director, International Affairs, Prof. Gihan Dias, Deans of Faculties and Dr Janaka Wijesundara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, who is the Research Ambassador for DAAD, and other academics.



VISIT FROM TOYOHASHI UNIVERSITY

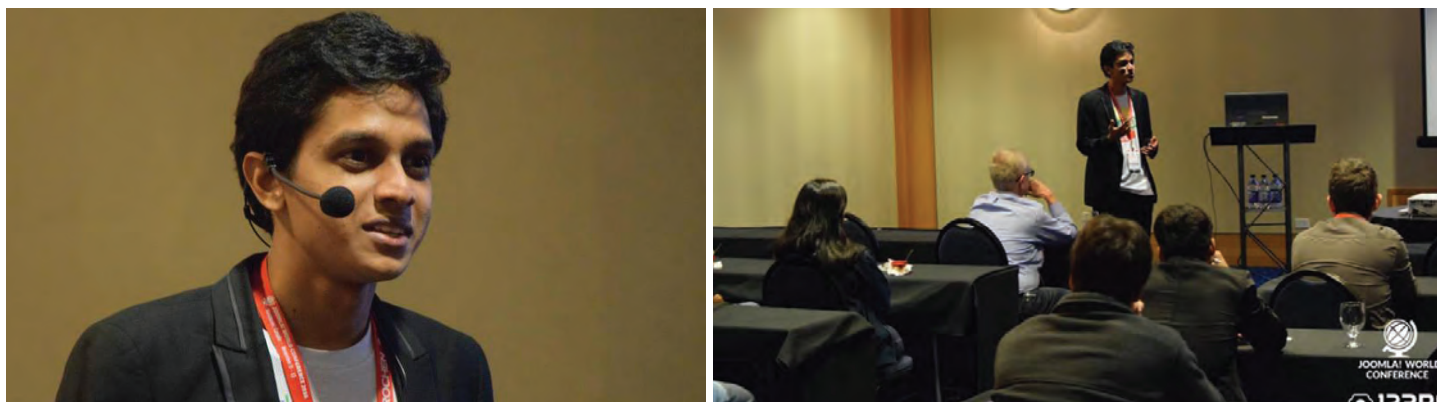
Japanese delegates from Toyohashi University of Technology visited University of Moratuwa on 16 December and discussed about mutual areas of interest. They delivered a descriptive presentation on their university which is a state university ranked within the top 14 out of 86 national universities in Japan. Presently, twinning Masters programmes (two years) and double degree programmes are conducted by the Toyohashi University. The University of Moratuwa emphasized its interest in Collaborative Degree programmes and Exchange programmes. An invitation was extended to make contacts with professors from Japan which is important for admission to Masters programmes in Japan. Area of mutual interest were found to be robotics and sustainable energy.



INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

JOOMLA! WORLD CONFERENCE

Thanuditha Ruchiranga Wickramasinghe, an undergraduate of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering took part in the Joomla! World Conference held from 11 to 13 November at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center, Canada. The session was based on the GSoC project which collaborated with Joomla! Organization in 2016. Joomla! being primarily a PHP based project has about 7% of its code base written in JavaScript. Ruchiranga's project was to introduce a JavaScript unit testing setup to Joomla! and achieve a test coverage of over 90% on the set of custom JavaScript libraries it has.



PROF. T S G PEIRIS SERVED AS THE OVERSEAS QUALITY ASSURANCE EXPERT

Prof. T S G Peiris, Head of the Department of Mathematics was appointed as the foreign quality assurance expert by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He recently conducted the quality assurance review of the Department of Mathematics of BUET.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

VICE-CHANCELLER UNIVOTEC

Prof GLD Wickramasinghe of the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Vocational Technology from 01 December 2016. Prof Wickramasinghe is a graduate of the first BSc Engineering batch of the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology, and the first of its graduates to be appointed Vice-Chancellor of a University. Prior to his appointment he served as Chairman of the Centre for Open & Distance Learning, and was earlier Head of the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology.



WINNER – ENERGY GLOBE AWARD



Dr Rangika Halwathura of the Department of Civil Engineering was selected as the National Winner of the Energy Globe Award 2016 for developing mud-concrete blocks to incorporate both the strength and durability of concrete into mud-based constructions with little impact on the environment. The award ceremony was held on 19 December.

The novelty in Dr Halwathura's method is that concrete is combined with mud. These blocks can help tremendously in reducing the environmental impact, energy use and capital expenditure. The natural earth color, texture, and proportions of mud-concrete also added permanent beauty to the building form, creating unity with nature while adapting to the context of space. The easy production process, new appearance, low-cost constructions, and little energy consumption have attracted people to embrace the technology.

With more than 170 participating countries and over 1500 project submissions annually the Energy Globe Award is today's most prestigious environmental prize worldwide. It distinguishes projects regionally, nationally, and globally that conserve resources such as energy or utilize renewable or emission-free sources.

BEST PAPER AWARD

Mr. Shalinda Adikari, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of IT, Faculty of Information Technology won the best paper award for the paper titled "Temporal feature grouping based campaign optimization in real-time bidding digital advertising" at the Workshop on Information Technology and Systems (WITS) held in conjunction with the ICIS2016 conference in Dublin, Ireland from December 15 to 16. The authors of the paper are Shalinda Adikari, Kaushik Dutta from University of South Florida, USA and Jungpil Hahn from National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore. This study was carried out by Shalinda as part of his thesis research as a PhD candidate of NUS.



CONVOCATION KEYNOTE SPEECHES BY PROF MALIK RANASINGHE



Prof Malik Ranasinghe was the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote speech at the Convocation of the School of Accounting and Business, the degree awarding arm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka. The event was held on 25 November. Prof Ranasinghe was also invited as the Guest of Honour and delivered the keynote addresses at the Convocation of the City School of Architecture of the Institute of Architects, Sri Lanka on 14 December, and at the General Convocation of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 20 December. Prof Malik Ranasinghe is a Senior Professor in Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. He was the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa and is currently a member of the University Grants Commission.

PHD COMPLETION

Dr MFM Firdhous, Senior Lecturer Grade I in the Department of Information Technology has been awarded the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" from the University of Utara Malaysia (UUM) with effect from 12th November 2016.

AWARD OF FELLOW TO PROF. T S G PEIRIS

Prof TSG Peiris, Professor in Applied Statistics and Head of the Department of Mathematics has been awarded a Fellowship from the Institute of Applied Statistics Sri Lanka (IASSL) at the Annual General Meeting of the IASSL held on 20 December at the OPA. Prof Peiris is a founder member of the IASSL and he has held various key posts in the Executive Council of the IASSL, being President of the IASSL in 2014 and Chairman of the 2nd International Conference held in 2014 organized with the collaboration of the Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics at the University of Louisville, USA. He has also been appointed as the Chairman of the 3rd International Conference of IASSL which will be held during 28-29 December, 2017 in Colombo in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Maryland Baltimore County(UMBC), USA and the Department of Mathematics, University of Moratuwa. Prof Peiris has made a significant contribution to popularize Applied Statistics in Sri Lanka and to the development of the IASSL. His research area is Applied Statistics in particular Multivariate Analysis, Regression Modelling, Time Series Modeling, and Climate Change Analysis.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

MS.USE WINS A MERIT AWARD AT THE APICTA'16



A team comprising Thuan Shafer Preena, Supun Harsha Priyadarshana, Ramindu Rusara Senarath, and Tharindu Senanayake of Batch 12 of the Faculty of Information Technology won a merit award at the Asia-Pacific Info-Comm Tech Alliance Awards 2016 (APICTA'16). Their project “Ms.USE - An IoT Based Smart Wearable for Women Violence, Abuse and Harassment Prevention” competed under Tertiary Student Projects category with 29 other teams from 16 Asia-Pacific Countries. The event was held in Taipei International Convention Center - Taipei, Taiwan from 02 to 05 December.

IOT WAND WINS 2ND RUNNERS-UP AWARD AT ULTIMATUM 2016 - GAME OF CODES

Thuan Shafer Preena, Supun Harsha Priyadarshana, Ramindu Rusara Senarath, Tharindu Senanayake and Aqeel Hashim Mufthy, Batch 12 students of the Faculty of Information Technology bagged 2nd Runners-Up award under IoT category at the “Code Ultimatum 2016 - Game of Codes” competition organized by Dialog Ideamart. The competition was held on 19 and 20 November at Dialog Axiata Iconic Centre. Their project titled as “IoT Wand”, is an IoT and Mobile based universal switch to control home appliances using Wi-Fi triangulation positioning in office environment. It was mandatory to use Dialog’s recently released automation platform called ‘I Say You Do’ (ISYD). Moreover, the team’s “iWRAP” project competed under Tech Gadget category won the 2nd Runners-Up place at the CIMA Launch Pad 2016 held on 26th November, 2016 at the Trace Experts City - Bay 7. The project “iWRAP” is a mobile based smart optic wearable for road accident prevention caused by drowsiness and fatigue.



UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA AMONG THE BEST 33 PAPERS AT 2016 IEEE SENSORS CONFERENCE

A paper titled “Design and Development of a Novel 3D Printed 1-DOF Tactile Sensor with Conductive Polymer Based Sensing Element” presented at the 2016 IEEE SENSORS Conference held from 30 October to 02 November in Orlando, USA was selected as one of the best 33 papers and the authors received a monetary award from IEEE Sensors Council for their novel approach of designing and fabricating a tactile sensor using 3D printers. Nowadays tactile sensors provide vital information of robotics, manufacturing, and day to day household electronic appliances where off-the-shelf force sensors are generally not cohesive to specific industrial applications and/or consumer requirements, resulting subsequently in sensor modules with unsuitable dimensionality, output characteristics, and mechanical properties. Addressing these concerns 3D printing was utilised and integrated to design and develop a highly customisable tactile sensor. The inherent problems in conductive polymer piezoresistive characteristics such as operation range deviation with respect to chemical composition has been mitigated by this approach.



This research was primarily conducted by Mr AHT Eranga De Silva, Mr WHP Sampat and Mr NHL Sameera as an undergraduate research project under supervision of Dr YW Ranjith Amarasinghe of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and extended with the help of Mr TDI Udayanga from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Mr VSC Weragoda from the Department of Materials Science & Engineering and Prof A Mitani from Sapporo City University, Japan.

APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr. P.M. Edirisinghe has been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Mathematics with effect from 01.11.2016.

Dr. (Ms.) P.A.G.T.S. Jayawickrama has been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 01.11.2016.

Ms. N.H.C. Manjula has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 01.11.2016.

Ms. R.M.N.U. Rathnayake has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 01.11.2016.

Ms. F. Mathusha has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 01.11.2016.

Dr. K.D.P. Dharmawansa has been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I in the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering with effect from 01.12.2016.

Dr. C.U.S. Edussooriya has been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering with effect from 01.12.2016.

PROMOTIONS

Dr. RAMP Ranaweera has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Mechanical Engineering with effect from 29.07.2016. He earned the BSc Engineering from the University of Moratuwa in 2006 and a PhD from Loughborough University, UK in July 2016.

Dr. (Mrs.) S.J. Sooriyaarachchi has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering with effect from 01.10.2016. She earned the BSc Engineering from the University of Peradeniya in 2006 and a MSc in Computer Science from the University of Moratuwa in 2010, followed by a PhD from the same university in October 2016.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

BESS BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN 2016

The annual blood donation campaign of the Department of Building Economics was successfully organized by the Building Economics Student Society (BESS) on 09 November at the Department. The campaign was held from 9 am to 3 pm. The event was inaugurated with a Dhamma Sermon. 207 donors participated in the blood donation.



“MEHEWARA” 2016

The final year students of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology have taken the lead in organizing a series of charity events by the name Mehewara with the patronage of the Textile Engineering Students’ Society (TESS). These events are a way of giving back to the society what they have received.



The event was conducted in two phases. The initial step of conducting a five-day seminar series for students facing the GCE Ordinary Level Examination in December 2016 at the Magallagama Rajabima College was a huge success. The final year undergraduates of the Department conducted the seminars which mainly focused on past paper discussions. The seminar series had the participation of more than 200 students from six schools in the division of Nikaweratiya who were underprivileged in terms of access to good education. As the second undertaking of this initiative, a programme to distribute stationery items, library books and sports equipment to students of Thanamalwila Nalanda Secondary School, Monaragala was carried out in December. This school, with only basic facilities, educates 98 students whose families are also in straitened circumstances. TESS distributed school stationery and school bags to all students for the upcoming year while donating new and used books to the school library.



The academic and non-academic staff of the Department along with other benefactors provided immense assistance and guidance to make this endeavor a huge success.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLUB ACTIVITIES



The Grand Finale of Speech Olympiad X was successfully held at the Civil Auditorium, University of Moratuwa on 22 December. This official intra university speech contest of the University of Moratuwa was organized by the Gavel Club of the university, an affiliate of Toastmasters International. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, presided over the event while Prof. K.K.C.K Perera, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Mr. P.M. Karunarathna, Dean, Faculty of IT, and TM Punsirimewan Kamburawala, Gavel Club Coordinator of Toastmasters District 82 attended as guests of honour of the evening. "Speech Olympiad X" was the 10th installation of the competition since its inception in the year 2005. A group of eminent Toastmasters served as judges from the preliminary rounds and the panel of judges at the Grand Finale was led by DTM Piyakara D Jayaratne whose support played a vital role in the success of the event since the beginning.



The finalists were Kanchana Ranasinghe (Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering), Kasun Ranasinghe (Department of Chemical and Process Engineering), Sandaru Seneviratne (Department of Computer Science and Engineering), Shenali Welikala (Faculty of Information Technology) and Yasoda Gamage (Department of Transport and

Logistics Management), electrified the evening with both their prepared and impromptu speeches. Kasun Ranasinghe emerged as the winner after his prepared speech "I love you" which had a humorous start but a heart touching ending with a deep message, as well as an exhilarating performance at the impromptu session spiced up by his gifted 'theatrical' skills. Sandaru Seneviratne emerged as the first runner-up while Yasoda Gamage became the second runner-up. The contest for the most popular speaker attracted numerous supporters for the finalists from both within and outside the university. This much sought after title was awarded to Shenali Welikala who won it by a wide margin of votes.

"Dream Big 2016", a series of workshops held in advance to Speech Olympiad X aimed at getting several accomplished speakers to groom the budding speakers within and outside the University was a new addition to the competition this time. The workshops were conducted by TM Tharindu Amarasekera, TM Sandun Fernando, TM Kaishika Rodrigo and Shanuki de Alwis. The sessions empowered the participants to take their oratory skills to a whole new level with the expert guidance. Several weeks of untiring efforts led by the President of the club Merl Chandana, Two Project Chairs Rochelle Silva and Piyumi Bandaranayake, and the Assistant Project Chairs, Praveen Kumarasinghe and Chathuranga Amunugama, culminated in an event of unprecedented grandeur. They were constantly supported by all the present and the past members of the club. Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka's largest telecommunication service provider, acted as the Official Award Sponsor while CAD Drafting Services Lanka (PVT) Ltd acted as the Silver Sponsor for the event.



TESS TRIP - 2016

The annual trip of the Textile Engineering Student Society, the most anticipated event in the TESS calendar, took place on 3 and 4 December with the participation of all the four batches of students together with academic staff members. On the first day the participants visited Bopath Ella and Hirikatu Oya, and reached their destination in Diyatalawa after lunch. The participants gathered at the hall before dinner to relax while singing and performing a drama. The next day the group headed towards the Lipton's Seat



NETHADARA 2016



The University Nature Team organized "Nethadara 2016 – photography competition and exhibition" for the 10th consecutive year. This was held at the Old Gymnasium from November 25-26. Prof Rahula Attalage, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, was the Chief Guest. Around 1400+ entries were received from schools, universities and public and 127 best photos were exhibited. Winners were awarded with mementos and certificates.

CULTURAL EVENTS

YAYA PADURA

“Yaya Padura”, a musical evening organized by the Level 1 undergraduates of the Chemical and Process Engineering Department, was held on 08 December. The Head of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, Dr. (Mrs.) S.H.P. Gunawardena, graced the occasion, along with the academic staff and the undergraduates of the University of Moratuwa. The event showcased the talents and abilities of the undergraduates as well as the academic staff in a spectacle of song, dance and drama that invoked feelings of nostalgia for all to enjoy.



CIVIL NITE 2016

One of the most awaited events of the Department of Civil Engineering calendar, “Civil Nite 2016” was held successfully on 15 December at the Old Gymnasium, University of Moratuwa. Following tradition, the final year undergraduate students organized this event to spend a delightful night and to ease up from busy schedules while strengthening the brotherhood among the batches of the Department. The Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Head of Department and Senior Lecturers in the Department were warmly welcomed along with the immediate junior batch of the 2013 intake.

The splendour of the “Civil Nite 2016” was an endeavor of intake 2012, who expended their skills, time, and hard work towards its success. The unification of dramas, dancing and singings made the night truly memorable.



INGENIUM 2016

The annual talent show of the Faculty of Information Technology “Ingenium 2016” organized by the students’ union of the Faculty of Information Technology (ITFSU) in collaboration with all the students and staff members was held on 3rd November 2016 in the Old Gymnasium. The show which was held for the second time concluded as another successful event in the history of Faculty of Information Technology. The event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of the faculties. It was a great opportunity to exhibit the numerous aesthetic skills of the students as well the staff members of the faculty. As a tribute to the veteran musician late Dr Pandith WD Amaradeva, a portrait of him was painted by four students of the faculty within 8 minutes while the orchestra played a symphony of his songs as background music throughout the period. This item grabbed the attention of the whole audience and it was appreciated as a novel and unique experience in the university history. The event further strengthened the unity and brotherhood among the students of all batches of the Faculty of Information Technology, everyone leaving with the memories of a great event and expectations for the next chapter, “Ingenium 2017”.



ALUMNI NEWS

QS ALUMNI DONATES PROJECTION SYSTEM WITH LED DISPLAY UNITS TO DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING ECONOMICS

The graduates of the 18th Quantity Surveying alumni batch, in celebration of their 10th anniversary, donated a projection system with LED display units worth Rupees 1 Million to the Department of Building Economics on 17 December. This is the biggest donation of this nature that the Department has received so far and expected to greatly benefit the enhancement of the student learning environment. The academic staff of the Department of Building Economics, and the graduates of the 18th QS alumni batch together with their families participated in the official launch of the system and the 10th anniversary celebrations.



SPORTS

CHAMPIONS OF MEN'S A DIVISION, SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT SERVICES BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

The Combined University Team led by Dr. Thilina Lalitharatne, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, won the "Men's A division" Sri Lanka Government Services Badminton Championship 2016 that was held on 28, 29 and 30 November at the Mercantile Badminton Association Indoor Stadium. The championship was organized by the Government Services Sport Association. The combined university team which comprised Mr Chaman Wijesiriwardana, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Information Technology, Mr Anusha Nirmal, a physical education instructor at the University of Ruhuna and Mr. Dayanidu Gunathilake, a physical education instructor at Sabaragamuwa University together with Dr. Thilina was able to beat the Sri Lanka Police Team at the final encounter 3-1. Parallel to this team event, an individual badminton tournament was organized and Dr. Palitha Dassanayake, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering was able to become one of the semifinalists in the "Over 50 Men's single" event.



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