



RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

NEWSLETTER

2015 Volume 01 Issue 01

Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) and Young Members Forum (YMF) of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) successfully held the Career and Entrepreneurship fair- Career Lead 2015 on 10th & 11th September in the Rajarata University premises.



The 15th General Convocation was held at the premises.....



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Acknowledgements

Deans of five faculties and all Heads of units are greatly acknowledged for their support in this event. Also special acknowledgement is offered to; Mrs. A.S. Siriwardene, Mr. E.W.M.S.U. Wijesinghe, Dr. (Mrs.) B. I. Priyadarshani, Mr. J.D. Rathnayake, Mr. J. Mallikarathne

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Published by

Statistics & Information Division
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Publication and learning event on

Environmental Friendly Rice Farming

It was a fascinating and important day for scientists, professionals and practitioners in agriculture sector; sharing knowledge filled with Environmental-Friendly Rice Farming, among the gathering.

The programme was held on 31st March 2015, at the field lecture halls of Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The six hour programme started at 9.15 am to culminate at 3.15 pm. Lighting of the oil lamp opened the gates to about 150 participants who took part in the event. Welcome speech was delivered by Dr. MGTS Amarasekara, in his capacity as the Dean Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL.

After a thought provoking welcome speech by the Dean, the audience was graced by Dr. PB Dharmasena, National Consultant of Food and Agricultural Organization, as the guest speaker, with an inspiring speech on “Present status and future trends of environmental friendly rice farming in Sri Lanka”. Dr. PB Dharmasena was followed by Dr. GAS Ginigaddara with her thought provoking introduction to the compilation on “Location specific SRI research in Anuradhapura District”.

The end of her speech paved the way to the most important event of the programme, the Launching of the research publication on “Location specific SRI research in Anuradhapura District”. The publication was presented to the distinguished invitees and farmers by Dr. GAS Ginigaddara who authored this important publication.

This was followed by presentations of invited panel members. In that setting Dr. Amitha Bentota, Director of Rice Research Institute,



Bathalegoda made her presentation on “Key criteria of sustainable rice farming and role of sustainable rice platform to face the present and future challenges in Sri Lanka”. Mr Amal Arunapriya, Director of Agriculture, Kegalle District, presented his experience on “Lessons learnt from re-cultivation of abandoned lands with traditional rice”. Mr. Preethi Priyadarsha de Silva, Director, Ran Sahal Pvt Ltd, was the last presenter who shared his hands-on experience with the audience on “Organic rice farming experiences from a private sector perspective”.

The following half an hour was spared for the panel discussion on environmental-friendly rice farming, which was chaired by Dr. Abhaya Balasuriya, Head, Department of Plant Sciences of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. During the session, the audience (Farmers/Students) was given an opportunity to express their ideas on the issues raised by the presenters. It proved to be very useful and enthusiastic participatory event.

After a sumptuous lunch, the audience gathered back with the aim of “Establishment of the sustainable rice platform framework”. The discussion session was chaired by Mr. Sandun Thundugala who is the Programme

manager for Oxfam Australia. The core objective of the event was to develop a rice platform framework with the collaboration of Government sector, Private sector and paddy farmers. The discussion forum provided an energetic base to initiate the platform in the dry zone (Anuradhapura). The programme was concluded by Dr. GAS Ginigaddara with her thought provoking comments to all those who were keen to see this happening on ground, including all the supportive personnel, for the accomplishments thus far.

FARMER DAY



Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is one of the momentous institutes, which has been producing competent and skillful graduates since 1998. In core curriculum of the degree program, the faculty offers field course experience for its students with the expectation of improving their farming skills and knowledge. At the end of their respective semesters, students are supposed to conduct an Agricultural Extension program

and 400 university students. The sponsorships offered by A.Baur & Co (Pvt) Ltd, Sun Agro Foods, Foton Truck and Chinthana Bakers pushed the programme along its success story.

the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, all the heads of Departments and the Research Publication and Higher Degrees Committee. All the academic staff extended their committed support for the success of this event.

The temporary staff of the Departments of Plant Sciences and Animal and Food Sciences of Faculty of Agriculture played a major and active role from the beginning of the course, targeting this event. The organizing committee recognized the



The dedicated organizing committee comprised of Dr. AMJB Adhikari, Dr. DMD Dissanayaka, Dr. WCP Egodawatta, Dr. (Mrs) DMSH Dissanayaka, Mr. SMCB Karalliyadda and Mrs. RHGR



called **“Farmers' Day”**, dedicated for knowledge seekers.

In the academic year 2015, **“Farmers' Day”** was conducted by the 3100 series students on 20th of May at the Faculty Farm premises. This year it turned out to be a well-planned, heavily successful piece of work, which served nearly 1500 school students around Anuradhapura area, 200 farmers



Wathsala. This organizing committee was ably guided by a supervisory panel, which included

contribution and valuable support extended by Mr. JS Mirando Ms. Nirmani, Mr. KDR Jayasekara, and all the demonstrators in this programme. The support received from staff of the farm can be second to none and therefore, the organizing committee thanks all the staff of the farm for their invaluable assistance throughout.

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES BECOMES A REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR ADVANCED LEVEL STUDENTS

The Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Rajata University of Sri Lanka organized a workshop for GCE Advanced Level students from schools of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts with the aim of elevating the standards of advanced Level education in the

North Central Province of Sri Lanka. This workshop specifically focused on laboratory component of physics, chemistry,

biology, ICT and newly introduced technology streams. The laboratories of the Faculty of Applied Sciences were opened for these students on 23rd, 24th and 25th of June to learn and to get familiarize with the practical experiment and equipment in the



considered as more important as schools from Polonnaruwa district were included and students who study newly introduced



A/L syllabus under the supervision of university lecturers and students.

This workshop was first conducted in 2007. Since then, this has become an important community event in the annual calendar of the Faculty of Applied sciences as it provides an opportunity for faculty staff and students to contribute to the development of the education in communities in the region.

This year workshop can be



technology subjects were also given opportunity to get laboratory experience according to their syllabus. With these new developments, over 4000 students participated in this workshop within three days and learned about the practical component of A/L exam.

Faculty of Applied Sciences Reaches New Heights with New TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Faculty of Applied Sciences has been selected as one of the few faculties from universities in the country to start a BSc Technology degree for students who follow technology stream in GCE A/L. The curriculum and degree program developed by the Faculty of Applied Sciences has already received University Grant Commission (UGC) approval to initiate the preliminary work to establish the degree program. Subsequently a new department, **Department of technology**, will also be formed in the faculty of Applied Sciences increasing the

total number of departments in to three. The financial allocations and the cadre positions for the new department have already been done and the preliminary work to establish a department is currently underway.



Training of School Laboratory Staff

Faculty of Applied Sciences, according to the request of Provincial Education Ministry of North Central Province, organized a training workshop for newly recruited laboratory assistants to schools in the province. This workshop was conducted on 05th of Aug 2015 and attended by more than 50 laboratory assistants. During this workshop, the participants learned about laboratory safety, handling and maintenance of laboratory equipments and organizing laboratory procedures.

Workshop with International Resource Persons to improve Curriculum for BSc Technology Program

Workshop on Curriculum Development Programme for Technology was held on 08th and 09th of August 2015, at the Avasta resort, Anuradhapura and was organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



The guest of honor was the Vice chancellor, Prof. Ranjith Wijewardana and Prof. Benjt - Erik Mellander from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden and Dr. Ingvar Albinsson from University of Gothenburg, Sweden attended as advisers

for the Technology Degree programme.

In addition to the academic members from the Faculty of Applied Sciences, group of experts on the field from other universities and industries from Sri Lanka attended this workshop and supported to the development of the curriculum. The group included Dr. L. Ranathunga and Mr. T. Jayawardena, Dr. H.M.A.M.C. Herath, Dr. T.C. Bamunuarachchige, Dr. K.G.P.B. Jayathilake, Mr. K.G.T.Jayawardena, Prof. R. Weerasooriya.

During this workshop, proposed BSc Degree program curriculum was developed to include Engineering Technology the Bio- Process Technology, Electrical and Electronics Technology, ICT Technology, Water Technology, Minerals and Mineral Processing Technology and Nano Technology as major fields. Prof. Benjt - Erik Mellander & Dr. Ingvar Albinsson shared their valuable experience on Technological Studies on a Swedish context.

Collaboration between Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and the Health Promotion Unit of the Faculty of Applied Sciences

Prof. Arun Chockalingam, Professor of Epidemiology and Global Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto visited Health Promotion Unit, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 2nd and 3rd August 2015. During this period, he held discussions with Health Promotion staff members, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dean of the Faculty regarding potential future collaborative works with Toronto University and York University in Canada. Prof. Arun is a senior

professor and a leading expert in global health with enormous international experience. The proposed collaboration will serve both universities to improve and expand capacities. Public health and Health Promotion students from Toronto University and York university will visit Faculty of Applied sciences to learn about community based health promotion programs. Similarly, an opportunity will be created for Rajarata University to receive support to train staff and students through future exchange

Ethics Review Committee to Improve Research Capacity

The faculty board of the Faculty of Applied Sciences has approved a proposal to establish an Ethics Review Committee (ERC) in the faculty and appointed members. Dr. C Bamunuarachchige was elected as the chairperson and Dr. D L P Senarathna was elected as the secretary. The other appointed members of the committee represent a range of specialties essential for reviewing research proposals.

In addition to the permanent members of the committee, an external expert panel supports the committee in reviewing ethics applications from non-clinical research studies including health promotion, public health, environmental health, one health concept, eHealth, biology and other research topics which are relevant to the available academic programs in the faculty.

The Forum of Ethics Review Committees of Sri Lanka (FERCSL), a forum under the Sri Lanka Medical Association has accepted the applications from the ERC of Applied Sciences Faculty to become a member of FERCSL and recognized the Committee on the meeting held on 17th July 2015. Dr. C Bamunuarachchige, Dr. D L P Senarathna and Dr. Manoj Fernando are now members of the Central Management Committee of the FERCSL. Together with this National Level Recognition, The ERC of the Faculty of Applied Sciences will improve the ethical conduct of the research studies conducted by students and academic staff members of the faculty.



A New Company is Established in Faculty of Applied Sciences

The Faculty of Applied Sciences has established a service oriented company – “APPLIED SOLUTIONS CONSULTANCY SERVICES”. This company was registered under the company registry of Sri Lanka. The Purpose of this company is to offer services in various fields in information and telecommunication and computer technology.

ICT Unit of the Faculty of Applied Sciences to Develop an Operating System for Port Authority of Sri Lanka

Faculty of Applied Sciences was selected to develop and implement a Computerized Vehicle Terminal Management System for the Hambantota Mahinda Rajapaksh Port. This was achieved through the development of the relevant system by ICT unit. Several rounds of discussions were held between the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Sri Lanka Port Authority and the agreement will be signed in the near future to initiate this project.

NRC Provides Funding for Research at Rajarata University

National Research Council, Sri Lanka has approved the project proposal “Enhancement of shelf life of fish and fishery products by gamma irradiation” forwarded by Dr. Ranjith Edirisinghe, Senior lecturer of the Department of Physical Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences for funding. The total cost of the project, Rs. 3.86

Million, will be provided by the NRC. The project will be implemented by the department of Physical Sciences, RUSL jointly with the Atomic Energy Authority of Sri Lanka and the Department of Food Sciences and Technology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura.



An International Competition win for ICT Students

Students from the ICT degree program of the Faculty of Applied Sciences won the second runner-up for the Telecom Application Developer Hackathon International Competition-2015 held in Colombo.

Faculty of Applied Sciences of Rajarata University Participates in Global Research Activity on Marine Environment

The Department of Physical Sciences of the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka participated in a global research activity on marine environment "Ocean Sampling Day". This simultaneous sampling of the world's oceans was the single biggest attempt to gather information on the marine environment. On June 21, 2014, and 2015 the summer solstice, thousands of scientists all around the world joined together to participate in Ocean Sampling Day (OSD), an international collaboration to study the marine microbial life in the oceans. The event, coordinated by the University of Oxford United Kingdom and the Jacobs University of Germany, encompassed more than 165 marine research locations, belonged to 40 different countries. The event enables to gather

oceanic data to understand the conditions of the oceans simultaneously on a single day, like a huge snapshot of the world's oceans. The scientists, led by the Dr. Ranjith Edirisinghe from the Department of Physical Sciences participated in the event in both 2014 and 2015, and the project will continue till 2017.



Collaboration between Health Promotion Unit, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMed), Singapore

Twelve Medical Students and their professor Claire Canning from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMed), Nanyang Technological University in Singapore visited the Health Promotion Unit, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 14th July 2015 to learn Health Promotion approach in order to implement interventions to address CKDu in Medawachchiya MOH area, Anuradhapura district. This visit was facilitated by the Provincial Department of Health Services of the North Central Province.

After this successful first visit and the next visit will target in implementing health promotion interventions as a collaborative work with Rajarata University and Lee kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMed) in Singapore. This proposed collaborative project will lead to the establishment of research collaboration and student/staff exchange programs under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Currently, Dr Manoj Fernando from Health Promotion Unit of the faculty of Applied Sciences coordinates the current collaborative works.

Country Representative (Sri Lanka) of World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Arvind Mathur visited Faculty of Applied Sciences

Country Representative (Sri Lanka) of World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Arvind Mathur visited the Health Promotion Division, Department of Biological Sciences of Faculty of Applied Sciences on the 25th of May 2015. Dr Mathur is a senior WHO official and the main objective of his visit to discuss the ongoing collaborative research activities on gender based violence in Estate section in Sri Lanka and to discuss other avenues to initiate formal working collaborations. There was an agreement during this visit to recognize the Health promotion

unit of the faculty of applied sciences as a WHO collaborative Center. This will be a greater opportunity for the faculty and the university as there are only two W H O collaborative centers currently operating in Sri Lanka.



World Health Organization (WHO) fellowship students from South East Asia Region in Health Promotion Unit

WHO regional office in New Delhi has selected Health Promotion Unit of the Faculty of Applied Sciences as a training centre for their fellowship students. The first student under this program Mr. Mang Nang joined the faculty in June this year. Mr. Mang Nang Sian is a World Health Organization (WHO) Fellowship Student who is currently enrolled to the Diploma in Health Promotion programme (Diploma in Health Promotion is especially designed for those employed in the health related public and private sectors to provide them with the necessary health promotion skills to enhance the mastery of health promotion through different learning activities) at the Health Promotion Division, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata

University of Sri Lanka. Mr. Mang Nang Sian is from The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and by profession he is a Health Education Officer. He has been awarded this fellowship from the WHO, Regional Office for South-East Asia. The duration of the training is twelve months (06th July, 2015 to 30th June, 2016) and the total cost of the training is borne by the WHO.



Mr. Mang Nang Sian

Faculty of Applied Sciences Sign a MoU with Shimane University - Japan

An Agreement of cooperation was signed between the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering of Shimane University, Japan. This was signed by Dr. Yasunao Hattori and Dr. B.A. Karunaratne the Deans of the respective faculties. The collaboration between the universities was initiated and carried out by Prof. Hiroaki Ishiga and Dr. S.M. Young also from the respective faculties. Currently about ten researches are being carried out within the two Universities and also in March

2015 one Japanese student visited and was involved in field work in Sri Lanka. Prof. Hiroaki Ishiga has provided instruments and chemicals to carry out research work for the students at the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Prof. Hiroaki Ishiga is expected to visit Rajarata University in mid September for further activities.

Contribution to the conservation of endangered species

Academic members from the Department of Biological Sciences are selected to the Expert Panel of National Red Data Listing of Sri Lanka by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for 2015/16. This group includes Dr. W. m Sriyani, Dr. W.M.G.A.S.T.B. Wijerathne, Prof Sanath Hettiarachchi, Dr. P.L. Hettiarachchi and Dr. T V Sundarabharathy



The Annual Workshop and Survey of Birds

The annual workshop and Survey of Birds in North Central Province was conducted by the Department of Biological Sciences with the collaboration of Bird Science Circle under the supervision of Prof Sarath

RUSL Quiz Challenge 2015, Department Accountancy and Finance

A seminar was held on 28th July 2015 for giving awareness regarding knowledge and current trends of Sri Lankan Capital Market. It was successfully completed with the students of 14 schools around Anuradhapura District. According to the feedback of the students and the teachers who have participated, the seminar was so important to the students and School teachers too. They are waiting for the quiz competition to be held.



A Quiz competition will be held for GCE Advanced Level students on 11th September 2015 by the Undergraduates of the Department Accountancy and Finance who study the Subject of Sri Lankan Capital Market, Department Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The objective of the programme is to gain and disseminate the knowledge of Sri Lankan Capital Market to the society.

Events of the Faculty of Management Studies

Possessing exceptional technical skills and having practical exposure to real world experience of Tourism and Hospitality Management graduates are absolutely necessary to determine their future in the respective industry. With this objective in mind the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management is making an effort to bring the world of work experiences to the forefront of its teaching under the theme of beyond the theory of knowledge. The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management organizes productive and interactive practical sessions in the university premises through obtaining service of industry experts. At the same time we do field visits are organized to selected places of interest.

"Beyond the Theory of Knowledge"



Celebrating World Tourism Day 2015 (27th September 2015)



Organized by
Department of Tourism & Hospitality
Faculty of Management Studies
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Background of the Program

Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management of Faculty of Management Studies is expecting to organize a number of events, which align with the world tourism day

theme with the participation of students, lecturers and stakeholders. Being an academic Department in the field of tourism and hospitality, it is timely significant to demonstrate the capacities and capabilities of the students to the industry people, academia and other relevant parties.

Upcoming events aligning with world tourism day

Date	Event	Venue
10 th Aug	Forming the Subject Association	Faculty Auditorium
25 th Aug	CSR project in Mihintale (Shramadana Campaign)	Mihintale (Katu Seya)
28 th Aug	Guides/tourism service providers training program	Sigiriya world heritage site
28 th Aug	CSR project in Sigiriya (Shramadana Campaign)	Sigiriya world heritage site
28 th Aug	RUSL THM Walk 2015	Dambulla Rock Cave temple to Dambulla
1 st Sep	Business Etiquette program	Faculty Auditorium
4 th Sep	Cooking with chef Pubilis	Faculty theatre
4 th Sep	Home-stay awareness program	Faculty Auditorium
4 th Sep	MICE tourism workshop	Faculty theatre
4 th Sep	Launching the shadow program	Faculty Auditorium
4 th Sep	Launching the E-job bank program	Faculty Auditorium
4 th Sep	German cultural show	Faculty Auditorium
4 th Sep	Cocktail competition	Faculty Auditorium



CREATING PHILANTHROPIES THROUGH MANAGEMENT EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The Department of Business Management is proud to be the inspiring source of skill improvement of its third year students through this program, where students complete independent mini – projects. Small groups covering education, health, information technology and development sectors under subject of Project Management have ventured lots of undiscovered area of philanthropy in the Projects.

The main objective of this program is the application of theoretical knowledge, which students acquire in the classroom to address practical issues of the society for the wellbeing of country and society at large.



In 2015, during last four months, nine groups consisting 144 third year students of Department of Business Management completed 1.1 million worth mini projects in Anuradhapura district as follows;

No	Project
01	Donation of Rs.200,000 to “KularathnaHelaWedaGedara” for purchasing an Auto Analyzer for testing blood reports of kidney patients in the area.
02	Donation of Herbal Grinding Machine to Anuradhapura Ayurvedha Hospital
03	Construction of a Bus Halt in front of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
04	Renovation of Library Building and Book Donation to PandukabayaMahaVidyalaya Labunoruwa, Maradankadawala
05	Renovation of Computer Lab and Donation of Computers to GamunuMahaVidyalaya, Mahakanadarawa
06	Renovation of Science Lab of KammalakkulamaVidyalaya, Mihintale
07	Creating a Suitable Learning Environment in AllewewaVidyalaya, Allewewa
08	Establishing a Water Purification System at Eppawala primary school
09	Establishing a Water Purification System of Ralapanawa Vidyalaya, Ralapanawa

Funds for the projects were collected by the students through various fund raising programs such as selling of T- shirts, stickers, book marks, lottery draw and donations. Projects were completed with the collaboration of lecturers, general public in the area and other students of the university.

Mr. P.D.N.K. Palihena - Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Dr. P.M.B. Jayathilaka- Head, Department of Business Management and all academic staff of the Faculty participated. The program was coordinated by Mr. I.M.S. Weerasinghe - Lecturer in charge (Project Management) of Faculty of Management Studies of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Curriculum Revision, Business Information Technology Degree

Computing degree programmes are classified under five broad areas, namely; Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Information Technology and Information Systems as identified in ACM guidelines. Recently Faculty of Management Studies decided to change the curriculum of their Management degree programmes to satisfy the emerging needs of the business industry. The curriculum of the degree programme of the B. Sc. (Business Information Technology) Special degree which is conducted by the Department of Business Management was also changed to align with ACM guidelines.



Number of graduates bestowed in this convocation faculty wise

Faculty of Agriculture	85
Faculty of Applied Science	187
Faculty of Management Studies	261
Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences	172
Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities	185



CONVOCATION 2015

The 15th General Convocation of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was held on 28th May 2015 at the University premises, Mihintale. A large number of distinguished invitees including the Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Dr. Leel Gunasekara and the Vice Chancellor Prof. K.H. Ranjith Wijayawardhana participated in the event. The keynote addresses of the event were delivered by Prof. Narada Warnasuriya and Prof. S.V.D. Gamini Samaranayaka respectively in the morning and evening sessions. At this convocation, degrees were conferred on 947 Graduands. Among them 48 were graduated in Master of Business Administration and 9 were graduated in Postgraduate Diploma in Management.



FIGHT AGAINST CURRENT INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

Sri Lanka is experiencing a large outbreak of influenza, with an alarmingly high death rate specially among pregnant women. In response to this outbreak, department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine launched a programme to fight against the malaria epidemic. This programme included training of medical officers on early identification, containment of disease, prevention and control. This training was carried out in the Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura. The second approach was public education through 210 field health promotion officers. This training was conducted at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences. Third approach was direct public education through mass media and this health education message specially on cough etiquette is broadcast with the collaboration of Rajarata Sevaya several times per day for more than two months (still going on). In addition, health education materials prepared by the

department was made available for any health professional interested in engaging in health



education programmes and available in web. The awareness programme was carried out through social media by sharing information as well as IEC materials.

“Jeewaka Yathra” Medical camp

The Medical Students' Union of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences conducted “JeewakaYathra” Medical camp on Poson poya day at Ruwanweliseya premises for the fifth consecutive time. This programme has been on since 2011 and nearly 5000 pilgrims are treated annually.



The programme provides emergency medical care for pilgrims and also a health promotion programme. This year's health promotion programme was on “Preventing oral cancer”, launched with the guidance of department of Community Medicine. Purpose of this health promotion activity is to make



people aware of the most common cancer in Sri Lanka and the risk behaviors. It included health promotion talks, screening and distribution of information leaflets.



Awards

Dr BTB Wijerathne, Dr SB Agampodi and Dr TC Agampodi were commended for the best poster Presentation paper titled "Can Dermatoglyphics be useful in screening of hypertension ? : A systematic review" award in the 2015 annual academic sessions of the Sri Lanka Heart Association. The session was held during 16-18 of July 2015 at Cinnamon Grand Hotel – Colombo, Sri Lanka



Health promotion for elderly people in Anuradhapura district

Elderly care is a neglected area of public health in Sri Lanka. Anuradhapura district is the only district having a community based elderly care programme as a pilot project of Centre for Education and Research of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CERCAM) and Anuradhapura district community based Ayurveda health promotion programme. Through this collaboration, department of Community Medicine launched a health promotion programme to improve health of elderly in Anuradhapura district by training field

health workers on Tai Chi. Tai chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for both its defense training and its health benefits. A program of Tai chi training has been initiated by Dr Bimba Goonupenuwela of Department of Physiology for the academic staff of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences (FMAS). Later the programme was extended to the Ayurvedic health promotion officers to improve health of elderly. Training component is still underway and the implementation of the programme at field will be launched in August 2015.

Promoting Reproductive Health among Adolescents

Lack of knowledge on sexual and reproductive health is a major issue in Sri Lanka and it is believed that awareness programs will help to solve many of the social problems in the country. High incidence of teenage pregnancies in Anuradhapura district is also attributed to this knowledge gap. An awareness programme on Sexual and Reproductive health is being conducted by the department of Community Medicine of FMAS targeting the school children over 12 years of age in Anuradhapura district. This programme is in effect since 2012 and in 2015 January to June more than 50 student adolescents were reached.

Promoting maternal mental health and well-being of pregnant women in Anuradhapura district

Department of Community Medicine launched an innovative programme based on the mindfulness based lifestyle teaching of Buddhism. The programme is aiming at incorporating mindfulness based activities to day to day life of pregnant women. The programme is a collaborative programme with the Medical Officer of Health, Nuwaragampalatha Central and department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences. The feasibility testing programme was launched with 16 pregnant mothers and the public health midwives providing services in the field practice area of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences.

Mental health promotion programme to prevent deliberate self-harm

Sri Lanka once had the highest rate of suicide and the North Central province is having the highest suicide incidence in Sri Lanka. Deliberate self harm is one of the top reasons for hospital admission in all hospitals. Psychological support for those patients are not routinely available. Department of Community Medicine of FMAS with the collaboration of South Asian Toxicology Research Collaboration, (SATRC) launched a mindfulness based mental health promotion programme for survivors of suicide attempts and also to young school leavers in high risk areas. This programme is offered to all deliberate self harm attempt patients in five MOH areas in Anuradhaputra district. The first counseling program has been conducted on 20th July at St Marks Church Thalawa.

Preventing suicide through training pesticide venders

In Anuradhapura district, 30-35% of suicides are due to agrochemicals brought from shops specifically for that purpose. An intervention to prevent access to pesticide through shops is launched by graduate student of department of Community Medicine. This programme includes training of pesticide venders on how to identify buyers with suspected activities, and how to avoid selling of agrochemicals to those buyers. Since a significant portion of suicide attempts are "impulsive" in this area, preventing the access from shops will be able to reduce suicide attempts. This intervention is funded by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and a collaborative project between the Department of Community Medicine and South Asian Toxicology Research Collaboration.

LMS Workshop Series



HETC - IDAS granted a workshop series on Introducing Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Material Development for the Academic staff of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was held at the Main Computer Lab on 25th and 26th May 2015. The key objective of the workshop was to aid academic staff on using LMS to the current teaching - learning practices and material development in to LMS system. Mrs. Vishaka Nanayakkara, Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa was the resource person for the 1st workshop and Mr P.B. Rathnayake, Lecturer (Temp), Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was the resource person for the 2nd workshop.

E-youth workshop



E-youth workshop for undergraduates organized by Microsoft Sri Lanka and HETC project was held at the Hotel Waters Edge, Battaramulla on March 24th 2015. Dr.J.M.S.B. Jayasundara, Mr. P.B.N. Abeywardena, Mr. N.D.T.M Siriwardana, Mr. T.G.A. Thalwatta, Mr. H.A.B.W. Hettiarachchi, Mr.P.B. Rathnayake and a group of students from various disciplines were participated in the event.

Completion of Ph.D. Degrees Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities



Dr M.K.L. Irangani, of the department of Humanities has successfully completed her PhD at the University of Kagoshima, Japan

Dr R.P.I.R. Prasanna. has successfully completed his PhD research study in the area of Economics at the University of Saga, Japan.



Dr. C.R. Withanachchi has completed his PhD research study in the area of Irrigation Archaeology at the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya.

Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE) Meeting

The 14th meeting of Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists (SLFUE) was held successfully at the Main Auditorium of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 05th June 2015. Chairperson-of the meeting was Prof. KHR Wijewardana, Vice Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Other invitees were Dr. M.S.S.Perera/Chairman of SLFUE, Mr. PDK Palihena /Dean Faculty of Management Studies, Mr. AMGB Abeysinghe/ Registrar, Dr.PPAW Athukorala/Guest of Honor and the event was organized by the Dept. of Social Sciences, RUSL



Establishment of New Departments

New Department of Environmental Management and Department of Languages under the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities have been established. It was a great achievement of the Faculty and the students who are specializing in the relevant fields.



POTTERY ANALYSIS FORUM (මැටි බදුන් විශ්ලේෂණය)



Pottery Analysis forum organized by the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management was held on 29th and 30th June at the Faculty premises. Dr. S.U. Deraniyagala was the resource person of the forum. All the staff members of the department and interested personnel from different Universities participated in the event.

ON GOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF RUSL

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is actively engaged in developing of infrastructure facilities of the University in order to fulfill the needs of students of the university as well as staff. Infrastructure development is diversified in different sectors such as providing facilities for academic activities, providing facilities for university administration, providing students residential facilities and sports and recreation facilities. Capital Works Division and Maintenance Division of the University play an immense role in the development of the infrastructure under the Guidance of Vice Chancellor, Registrar and the relevant committees. And also, these major construction projects are carried out with the support of the State Engineering Corporation and Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau.



A hostel building for 250 female students at Faculty of Agriculture at Puliyankulama is under construction. The Total Cost Estimate for the project is 154 Mn. The main objective is to provide residential facilities to the students since most of the students stay in rented or leased houses.

Auditorium with Balcony Stage-II is under construction in the Faculty of Agriculture to provide better facilities. The Total Cost Estimate of the project is 30.8 Mn



A building complex for the Faculty of Agriculture is under construction to provide better academic and administrative facilities to the University. The Total Cost Estimate for the project is 143 Mn.



ON GOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF RUSL



Sports and Recreation Stage-II building is under construction to provide better facilities for the indoor sports of the university students. The Total Cost Estimate for the project is 42 Mn.

Examination Hall Stage – II building is under construction. Stage-I has been complete and it can accommodate 1200 students and presently the convocation ceremony is held in this building. The Total Cost Estimate for the project is 39.6 Mn.



Construction of Laboratory and Lecture Hall for Faculty of Applied Sciences at Mihinthale is an ongoing construction project to provide a better study environment to the Faculty. The Total Cost Estimate for the project is 47 Mn.

Construction of a Swimming pool is underway. The swimming pool is constructed to develop the swimming skills of the university students and to earn an additional income from outsiders who are willing to use the swimming pool. The Total Cost Estimate for the project is 168 Mn.



Ayurvedic Medical Center

Ayurvedic treatment
with Special Treatment of
Keraliya Pancha Karma

Procedures

1) Shiro Abyanga (Head Massage)

Treatments for headache, hair loss, gray hair, Insomnia & to reduce stress is available everyday.

2) Shirodhara

Oil is poured in a drip over forehead for a specific time period, which is good for headache, insomnia, depression. During the last 3 months many patients underwent Shirodhara treatment.



3) Shiro Basti

Medicated oil is retained on head by special leather cap for a specific time period. It can be used to get mental relaxation.

4) Nasya

It is a main panchakarma procedure, medicated oil inserted to body through nostrils. Nasya Karma is done for cervical spondylosis (Neck pain) , headache, rhinitis



Ayurvedic Medical Center

Diabetic?

Awareness programme



An awareness programme on diabetes Mellitus was conducted for the University staff in September.

A yoga programme is available for students 3 days per week at Aurvedic Centre of RUSL.

Career Guidance events and programs at a glance

“Leaders in you” -OBT training



Career guidance unit of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka conducted a outbound training on “Leaders in You” for final year students of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on 10th of July 2015 at 8.30 am - 9.00 pm in the University premises.

Career Lead 2015 on 10th and 11th September 2015 at RUSL

Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) and Young Members Forum (YMF) of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) successfully held the Career and Entrepreneurship fair- Career Lead 2015 on 10th & 11th September in the Rajarata University premises.

CGU is very pleased with the Career Lead 2015 and acknowledges that those objectives determined from the outset have been accomplished. Due to this event, employers were exposed to their future workforce in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Connections were established between employers and employees (undergraduates, graduates, school leavers and unemployed youth) and both parties started to process of planning for their future. Youth were provided with the opportunity to develop a greater awareness of the world of work and career options available to them; labour market information and trends were provided to participants to help overcome barriers for employment.

45 private sector companies were on board at RUSL Mihinthale premises representing Banking and Finance; Agro-based, Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare, Information Technology and Tourism and Hospitality related companies that were looking for candidates for the positions from managerial level to the office assistants. Approximately 3000 job seekers participated in the Career Fair including school leavers, students of technical colleges, graduates and undergraduates from Rajarata University, Jaffna University, South Eastern University, Eastern University, Wayamba University, Peradeniya University.

Nearly 2000 school students attended the career guidance programs which were conducted parallel to the career fair representing 38 regional schools. In addition, there were four special seminars for undergraduates that dealt with personal grooming, balancing career and personal life, how to be an entrepreneur and how to reach ones dream job.



Programs conducted Weekly

HOSTEL PROGRAM - "SKILLS FOR LIFE"

Skills for life program helps to improve graduate attribute such as academic abilities, personal qualities and transferable skills of all the university students learning at RUSL.



ENERGIZE YOUR LIFE WITH SALSA"

Career Guidance Unit of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is conducts "Energize your life with Salsa Dancing" program for the University staff and students on every Tuesday at 04.30 in the Examination hall.



Prime objectives of this program

**blow off stressful day
increase energy, vitality and
quality of life**

Lots of students and RUSL staff members are joining the program and a reputed resource person is conducting the program



SPORTS NEWS

To promote and improve the students sporting abilities and provide them opportunities to develop team and individual sports in the University, the department of physical education organized the following sports and recreational activities in this period.

Successively for each faculty's fresh students, separate physical education programs were conducted allocating a specific day for each faculty. Such sessions were so designed to give all fresh students some theoretical knowledge about the importance of physical activities, relevant information on Universities, Sports system and some outdoor activities which acquired lots of interest from the participants. Freshers' Meet was conducted in February 2015 including games with the faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was victorious in the meet.

Freshers' Tournament 2015

Inter University Games commenced in the month of May 2015. Elle, Cricket, Road Race, Chess, Carrom, Rugby, Wrestling, Volleyball and Hockey were conducted and few games will be continued. University undergraduates participated in several games representing the Rajarata University and secured places.

In the month July and August University men & women Volleyball teams participated in Inter University Volleyball Championship. Both teams performed well and women team secured 3rd place after beating five Universities.



- ✦ Road Race
- ✦ Cricket
- ✦ Table Tennis
- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Football
- ✦ Elle
- ✦ Netball
- ✦ Athletic
- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Rugby
- ✦ Volleyball
- ✦ Carrom

Inter University Games - 2015



In the month of April we conducted American Football Coaching Camp with the contribution of Sri Lankan American Football Society.



The department of physical education organized the Inter University Hockey Championship in the month of June. Hockey men team won 3rd place. Women team could not obtain a place. But they have shown tremendous performances in the game.



MEANWHILE OUR UNIVERSITY TEAMS HAVE PLAYED FRIENDLY MATCHES WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY TEAMS & OTHER RECOGNIZED CLUB FOR IMPROVE SPECIFIC SPORTS SKILLS AND UPDATED KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE IT IS VERY ESSENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEAM MEMBERS.