



Newsletter

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Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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General Convocation 2010

GENERAL CONVOCATION 2010



Awarding the gold medal to the student of the year

The 12th General Convocation of the university was held on 29th January 2011 at BMICH, Colombo. The Chief Guest of the convocation was Hon. Prime Minister D. M. Jayarathna.

The Guest of Honor of the convocation was Hon. Minister of Higher Education S.B. Disanayaka. Prof. Y.D.A Senanayaka, Prof. C.M. Madduma Bandara and Prof M.W. Wickramarachchi were conferred with Honorary Degrees at the convocation. The student of the year was Ms. E.J. Chandrika Niranjali Karunarathna. Gold medals were also awarded to the outstanding students under different disciplines of the faculties.

the Vice Chancellor and the university staff. The "Uni-center" was declared open by the Vice Chancellor marking it the first special event of the day.



Opening of the Uni-center

On the University Day, the Vice Chancellor delivered a speech on the progress of the university giving more emphasis on special projects started and the service rendered to the community through such projects. As the next event, an appreciation was given to the staff members who have rendered their services to the university for a longer period of time.



Mr. P.P.R. Ranasingha

Sabaragamuwa Province and also to the university.

A token of appreciation was also handed over to Mr. P.P.R. Piyatissa Ranasingha for his valuable contribution to the

University publications of the university staff were also presented to the Vice Chancellor at the ceremony and the Presidential award winners of the university for the year were given special appreciation too.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AT THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA.

The Center for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD) has been established at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka with effect from January 2011. Apart from teaching, the university academics are entrusted to explore the novel knowledge through advanced research activities and to serve the community through various activities towards national development. Therefore, the CRKD has been established, to formalize the ongoing research activities for an efficient service. Among the many objectives of the establishment of the CRKD are to promote research among the academics within the university, to provide opportunities for presenting and publishing research findings at local and international levels and to disseminate knowledge to the community.

The center consists of five main committees: Research Grants Committee, Publication Committee, Symposium/Conference/Workshop Organization Committee, Extension and Public Awareness Committee and International Relations Committee. Awarding research grants to the SUSL academics to promote research culture of the university, assisting publishing the SUSL journal and other publications of the university like newsletters, organizing National/International symposia and conferences to exchange knowledge among local and international scientific community, organizing extension and public awareness programmes to disseminate knowledge to the community and to coordinate international collaborative activities of the SUSL are among the many of the goals of the center. Dr. J.M.C.K. Jayawardana has been appointed as the first Director of the center. More information of the center can be gathered at <http://www.sab.ac.lk/crkd/>

CELEBRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY DAY - 2011

The "University Day" of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was celebrated on 28th February, 2011 with the participation of

DEYATA KIRULA EXHIBITION 2011



Exhibition stall of the Faculty of Geomatics

Sabaragamuwa University was represented at the Deyata Kirula exhibition which was held in February 2011 at Buttala by its five faculties. Faculty of Agricultural Sciences contributed to Deyata Kirula Exhibition in many aspects of the field of agriculture. Among the exhibits presented at the faculty stall were demonstrations on new approaches to control Weligama coconut leaf wilt disease, mushroom cultivation at commercial scale and domestic level and yoghurt production. Faculty of Geomatics stall was arranged to reflect the themes "History of Surveying in Sri Lanka" and "High Tech Instruments used for Surveying". Faculty of Applied Sciences exhibited a stall representing its five departments. Several newly invented food products by the students which can be used to initiate new small and medium scale industries, posters to make the public aware of environmental issues related to Sri Lanka at global scale, a Bio fuel manufacturing process and newly invented electronic devices were some of the areas exhibited at the stall.



A demonstration at the exhibition stall of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

The Department of Sport Sciences and Physical Education exhibited posters, distributed leaflets to make the public aware of the new degree programmes offered by the department. Faculty of Management Studies organized an exhibition stall with the theme of "Towards a Green Economy", along with the message to the general public "It's Good to be Green". Global and local trends and new concepts in Environment Friendly Business Management (Eco-Business Management), Green Marketing,

and Eco-labeling concept were demonstrated in posters and in multimedia presentations. The faculty of Social Sciences and Languages exhibited the museum items relevant to the Sabaragamuwa culture.

MAHAPOLA AWARDING CEREMONY 2011



Recipients of the Mahapola scholarships

Mahapola Scholarship awarding ceremony was held on 6th May, 2011 at the auditorium of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Prof. Mahinda S. Rupasinghe, the Vice Chancellor, was the Chief Guest. The Deans of the five faculties, Directors and Administrative officers also participated as invitees.

One hundred and ninety seven students were eligible for Mahapola Scholarship-2011, and they were awarded certificates along with the cheques at the ceremony.

FOREIGN CONSULTATIONS



Prof. Palipane with Nigerian Engineers

Prof. K.B. Palipane, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences was selected by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as International Expert in Rice Processing to provide advice to design and establish a rice processing plant in a remote village in Nigeria in June 2011.

MICROSOFT STUDENT AMBASSADORS (MSA)

Mr. Kalinga Thusara Gunawardana and Mr. Thilina Shanka Munasinghe, 3rd year students of the Department of Computing and Information Systems, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka have been selected as Microsoft Student Ambassadors by a panel of judges appointed by Microsoft



Microsoft Student Ambassadors

Sri Lanka. Microsoft Student Ambassadors is a special honorary title given to the student champs who are technology passionate with a drive for innovation and creative thinking. These students have proper track record of excellent technical, communication and leadership capabilities. MSAs are the leaders of the student champs community. They are also responsible for facilitating meetings, IT events in various universities, fun-activities for student community and running the Microsoft champ programme in coordination with the academic staff of their universities and Microsoft. This programme recognizes top young minds from around the country who are passionate about technology.

DONATION OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES ON HINDI AND TAMIL LANGUAGES FROM INDIA



A discussion between the Deputy High Commissioner of India and the Vice Chancellor

Mr. R.K. Misra the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Kandy visited the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 04th May 2011. The main purpose of the visit was to donate some Hindi and Tamil books to the Department of Languages, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. On his meeting with the Vice Chancellor, several matters were discussed relevant to the history and the ongoing development programmes of the university.

The Deputy High Commissioner attended a gathering organized by the Hindi and Tamil students of the Department of Languages and donated several Hindi and Tamil books for their use. Addressing the gathering Mr. R.K. Misra promised to give the students a chance to sit for the Hindi examinations conducted by the Deputy High Commission of India in Kandy.

SOME OF THE JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

De Silva, V. and Abeyssekara, R. (2011). "Empirical investigation on the impact of ethical advertising on building positive brand image for food and beverages", *International Journal of Commerce and Management*, Vol. 2, (4), pp 26-37.

Jayawardana J.M.C.K. (2011). Littoral macroinvertebrates in relation to native and exotic riparian vegetation in streams of central Victoria, Australia. *International Journal of Energy Environment and Economics* Vol.19, (6), pp 635-655.

Kumara, B.T.G.S. and Perera, A.A.I. (2011). Automated System for Nurse Scheduling Using Graph Coloring, *Indian Journal of Computer Science and Engineering (IJCSE)*, 12, (3), pp 476-485.

Natrah, F.M.I., Ruwandeepika, H. A. D., Pawar, S., Karunasagar, I., Sorgeloos, P., Bossier, P. and Defoirdt, T. (2011). Regulation of Virulence Factors by Quorum Sensing in *Vibrio harveyi*. *Veterinary Microbiology*. doi:10.1016/j.vetmic.2011.06.024, In press

Perera, S.J., Ratnayake-P., Proches, D. (2011). Vertebrate distributions indicate a greater Maputaland- Pondoland-Albany region of endemism. *South African Journal of Science*, 107(7/8), Art. #462, 15 pages. doi:10.4102/sajs.v107i7/8.462.

Rathnayaka, R.M.U.S.K. (2011). Effect of sample pre-enrichment and characters of food samples on the examination for the Salmonella by plate count method fluorescent in-situ hybridization (FISH) technique. *American Journal of Food Technology*, Vol. 6, (9), pp851-856.

Rathnayaka, R.M.U.S.K. (2011). Evaluation of Five DNA Extraction Methods in the Detection of Salmonella enterica from Meat Using Nested PCR. *The Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, vol. 6,(1), pp24-31.

Ruwandeepika, H. A. D., Defoirdt, T., Bhowmick, P. P., Karunasagar, I., Karunasagar, I. and Bossier, P. (2011). *In vitro* and *in vivo* expression of virulence genes in *Vibrio* isolates belonging to the Harveyi clade in relation to their virulence towards gnotobiotic brine shrimp (*Artemia franciscana*) *Environmental Microbiology* 13 (2), 506-517.

Udayakumara, E.P.N. and Shrestha, R.P. (2011). Assessing livelihood for improvement: Samanalawewa reservoir environs, Sri Lanka, *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, Vol.18,(4), pp 366-376.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE OF DR.D.M.ANIL GUNARATHNE



Dr. D.M. Anil Gunaratne

Dr. D.M. Anil Gunaratne is currently working on nutritional, antioxidant, quality and functionality of rice starch from traditional and newly improved rice varieties grown in Sri Lanka.

He has a continuous collaborative research program with Dr Harold Corke, university of Honk Kong. His research work has yielded several interesting international research papers in *Journals of Carbohydrate Polymers, Food Chemistry, Cereal Chemistry, Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture and Journal of Starch*. His research article "Gunaratne, A., and Hoover, R. (2002) Effect of heat-moisture treatment on the structure and physicochemical properties of tuber and root starches. *Carbohydrate Polymers*. 49: 425-437." has been Cited 121 times as at June, 2011.

ENGLISH WORKSHOP-ENHANCING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH EDUCATION IN RATHNAPURA DISTRICT



Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha addressing the gathering

The Department of English Language Teaching, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka conducted a four day workshop from 24th to 27th January 2011 on "Enhancing Primary and Secondary School English Education in Rathnapura District", at the Teacher Training Center in Balangoda, in collaboration with the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council under the decentralized capital budget programme of 2010.

Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha, a Member of Parliament, Prof. Mahinda S. Rupasinghe, the Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Mr. K.R.W.K.H. Abeywickrama, head of the Department of English Language Teaching of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka were among the participants at the inaugural session.

ENGLISH WORKSHOP-ENHANCING SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN KAHAWATTA ZONE



Participants of the Workshop

The Department of English Language Teaching, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka conducted a workshop on "Enhancing Skills in English Language Teachers in Kahawatta Zone" at Kahawatta Regional English Support Centre (RESC) on 03rd May 2011 in collaboration with the Senior English Language Fellow (SELF) Dr.V.S. Reardon from the USA.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE LIVESTOCK EXTENSION AND RESEARCH CENTER



A training programme for school children

In order to formalize the extension and training programmes conducted by the Department of Livestock Production of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences in more systematic and effective way, the Livestock Extension and Research Centre (LERC) was established in October 2010.

The staff members of the Department of Livestock Production are assigned duties in implementation of Livestock Extension and Research Centre activities and undergraduates are also invited to join the centre to take part in its activities. As a result, 85 Agricultural sciences undergraduates have obtained the membership in the Livestock Extension and Research Centre by July 2011 and actively participated in the activities. Since establishment, 15 training programmes for Ordinary level and Advanced level students from 19 schools and two seminars with the participation of 1100 students and 108 teachers were conducted.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CATTLE BREEDING CENTRE



Opening of the Cattle Breeding Centre

In line with the Ratnapura district development plan 2010-2019 prepared by the district secretariat, Ratnapura; the Sabaragamuwa University was invited to establish a cattle breeding centre to produce quality calves. It was expected to distribute calves among the dairy farmers in the area in order to increase the milk production in the district.

The project was handed over to the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, as it was proposed to establish the centre at the Faculty Farm. The Department of Livestock production prepared a proposal for the cattle breeding centre with a total cost estimation of SLR 5.8 million. The proposal was approved by the Minister of Economic Development on 20th September 2010. Accordingly the cattle breeding centre was established with 20 cows at the Faculty Farm by the end of December 2010.

The first four calves born in the centre were distributed to the livestock farmers of Weligepola divisional secretariat in June 2011. The calves were handed over to farmers in a function held in the farm with the participation of a member of parliament; officers from the ministry of Livestock development, Sabaragamuwa Provincial council, Department of Animal production and health, district secretariat and divisional secretariats.

The Vice Chancellor and the Deans were also present at the event together with academic, administrative and non academic staff members of the university.

ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Faculty of Geomatics

A new building for the Faculty of Geomatics is under construction and planned to be completed by April, 2012. The building will be completed in two stages. In the stage one, Labs for GIS, Remote Sensing, Geodesy, Photogrammetry, Computer and

Physics will be constructed. Further, it will consist of a study area for students within the ground floor and a sky observation center in the roof top. When the stage one is completed there will be 04 Lecture halls,



Construction of the new building of Faculty of Geomatics

02 Tutorial rooms, 39 separate spaces for the staff including rooms for department heads and the dean, 02 Store rooms, a Drawing room, a Board room and a faculty office in the four storeyed building. In the stage two a Main Lecture Theater, Library and the Student Union will be added to the building complex.

Faculty of Applied Sciences



New building of the Faculty of Applied Sciences

The new building for the Faculty of Applied Sciences is under construction and approximately 75% of the work is so far being completed. The total cost estimation for the building construction is Rs. 296 million. The new building consists of three levels and it supports several laboratories, seven lecture theaters and staff rooms to accommodate all academic, administrative and non-academic staff. The laboratories available at the new building are Earth Science, Soil and Hydrology, Environmental Science and Conservation Biology, Meat processing, Food Analysis, Food processing, Food microbiology, Chemistry (2 labs), Computing (4 labs), Physics (2 labs), Research labs (2) and a language lab.

Boys' Hostel Complex



New hostel complex being constructed

The new hostel complex for accommodating 240 male students is under construction and approximately 20% of the work is so far being completed. The total cost estimation for the building construction is Rs. 175 million.



University playground in progress

The university playground is under construction and about 70% of the work is so far being completed. The total allocated budget for the playground construction is Rs. 121 million. The Playground is for multipurpose use and ground surface will be covered with grass. It will also consist of standard a 400m track, a long jump pitch and a triple jump pitch. The middle area of the track will be used for Rugby, Hockey, and Football. A separate area of the ground will be allocated for the Cricket pitch.

SHIFTING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



Shifting of the Dept. of Social Sciences to the new building

The Department of Social Sciences was shifted to the new faculty complex of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages with the participation of the academic staff, non academic staff and the students on 20th January 2011.

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