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Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Annual Research Session 2020



The 10th Annual Research Session 2020 (ARS 2020) was held on 16th December, 2020 at the Faculty of Geomatics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. ARS of SUSL is a multidisciplinary scholarly platform that allows sharing an insight into the recent researches conducted by the University academics, the postgraduate students, and the undergraduate students. The conference was organized by the Centre for Research & Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD). ARS 2020 uncovered major areas of academic



disciplines, including Agricultural Sciences, Applied Sciences, Geomatics, Management, Medicine, and Social Sciences & Languages. This year the conference featured a renowned keynote speaker, Prof. Rangika Halwatura, attached to the department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, who presented the keynote speech on "Natural Science Vs Artificial Science".





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Donating Face Masks

Sabaragamuwa University handed over a bundle of disposable face masks to the Karagasthalawa Maha Vidyalaya, which was received as a donation from Huanggang Normal University of China. This event took place at the university premises on $01^{\rm st}$ July, 2020.





SUSL Payment Gateway

A workshop to introduce a payment gateway for SUSL was held on 30th July, 2020 at the university premises with the participation of financial officers of the university and the staff of the Center for Computer Studies. The BOC branch managers representing the Balangoda and Pambahinna branches contributed as the resource persons of this event.





Completion of Staff Development Programme

The certificate awarding ceremony for the academic staff members who completed the Induction Programme 2020/2021 conducted by the Staff Development Centre was held on $10^{\rm th}$ September, 2020 at the Prof. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium.





Herbs

Implanting of Medicinal plants under the "Hela Herbal Development and Conservation Project" took place on 17th September, 2020 at the Medicinal Garden of the university. The event was organized under the patronage of the Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Athula Gnanapala.







Celebrating National Reading Month

A public oration for celebrating the National Reading Month and the World Children's Day was held on 01st October, 2020 at the Main Library. The school children selected from the Keerapathdeniya Maha Vidyalaya, Pinnawala, Balangoda were the target group of this programme. This event was conducted by Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei, the Librarian of the university.



Intellectual Property Workshop

University Business Linkage Cell (UBLC) conducted a workshop on "Intellectual Property Protection and Technology Licensing" to make an awareness among the University researchers of the options available to protect and commercialize their intellectual properties. The workshop was conducted by Prof. D.A.I. Dayaratne, Director of UBLC on $21^{\rm st}$ October, 2020.





Appointment of New Vice-Chancellor

His Excellency the President has appointed Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake as the Vice-Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. He assumed duties with effect from 03rd November, 2020 as the 07th Vice-Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Prof. Rathnayake served as the Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka before taking up the new appointment.









Signing an MoU

In collaboration with the Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the University Business Linkage Cell entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cargills Ceylon PLC to commercialize two inventions titled "Cinnamon Tea Pod" and "A Healthy Cinnamon Latte" invented by AHEAD Grant RIC STEM HEMS 16. The MoU was signed on 17th November, 2020.







Katina Pinkama

The annual religious event "Katina Pinkama" was graciously held on 20th November, 2020 to invoke blessings upon the university under the patronage of Rev. Galagama Buddhananda Thero.





Entrepreneurship Development

"Upadhidari Vyavasayake Udanaya" is an entrepreneurship development programme of National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The Career Guidance Unit of SUSL launched this programme for the undergraduates and recent graduates of the university in collaboration with NEDA. The major objective of the programme is to encourage undergraduates and graduates for business field and create them for successful entrepreneurs. Four graduates of the university received the business development grant at the awarding ceremony which was held glamorously on 08th December, 2020 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH).





Mapping Archaeological Monuments

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka commenced an important collaborative programme with the Central Cultural Fund and the Department of Archaeology on 29th December, 2020 in order to formulate a digital map of the archaeological monuments across the island using novel technical tools. The inaugural project under the above programme is currently being implemented centered on the "Ramba Vihara" in the Hambantota District, and will subsequently be expanded district wide. The academic staff and the undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages are contributing to this programme, with the support from the Faculty of Geomatics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.





Faculty of Graduate Studies

Inauguration of a Master Programme

The inauguration ceremony of the 2020 intake of the Master of Ayurvedic Hospital Management of the Faculty of Graduate Studies was held on 05th July, 2020 at Hotel Grand Guardian, Kuruwita. Several distinguished guests participated in this event, including Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Acting Vice-Chancellor, SUSL and Prof. H.M.S. Priyanath. Dr. R.A. Jayasinghe participated as the Keynote Speakers of the ceremony.

A Workshop on "Evaluating the student performance in venture creation"



The workshop was organized under the AHEAD Project of Faculty of Agricultural Sciences on 07^{th} September, 2020 for the staff and the Agribusiness and Food Business Management students of the Department of Agribusiness Management.

Prof. Champika Liyanage, Professor in Facilities Management, School of Engineering, University of Central Lancashire, UK conducted the online workshop, basically focusing on enhancing the knowledge in venture creation and innovation.

An MoU



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Agribusiness Management and the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry was signed on 09th September, 2020 at the UBL Cell of the university. Prof. W.K.A.C. Gnanapala, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. D.A.I. Dayaratne, Director of the UBL Cell, Mr. J.C. Gunaseela, Director of the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Ajith Ranasinghe, CEO of the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in this occasion. In addition, Dr. S.H.P. Malkanthi, Mr. P. Sivashakar and Ms. K.K.A. Kiriveldeniya participated representing the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.





Workshops on "Venture Creation"



An online workshop conducted by Prof. Champika Liyanage, Professor in Facilities Management, School of Engineering, University of Central Lancashire, UK was held on 10th September, 2020 for the staff and the students of Agribusiness and Food Business Management. The workshop entitled "Develop assessment system to evaluate the student performance in venture creation" was also funded by the AHEAD Project of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.

Capacity Development

A workshop on "Capacity Development of the Academic and Technical Staff on Virtual Capsule for Teaching/Learning and Assessment (Use of Smart Classrooms)", organized under the AHEAD project of the Department of Agribusiness Management was held on 11th September, 2020 at the School of Computing, University of Colombo. The academic and technical staff of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences participated in the event conducted by Prof. K.P. Hewagamage and Dr. S.S.P. Mathara Arachchi.

Training on OBE and LCT

A programme to train 25 academic staff members of the Department of Export Agriculture on practicing "OBE-LCT" (Outcome Based Education–Learner Centered Teaching) in teaching, learning and assessment to uplift the quality of staff members was held on 15th September, 2020 at the Faculty of Geomatics. Designing Programme Learning Outcomes for study programs and enriching course units to align with OBE-LCT methods were the key objectives of this programme. Prof. Prasad Sethunga, Department of Education, University of Peradeniya conducted the

programme.



Curriculum Enhancement through OBE and LCT

Under the AHEAD Project of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, a workshop was organized for the academic staff to enhance the curricula of the departments focusing specially on OBE-LCT education through introducing of courses or by modification based on OBE-LCT. This workshop was conducted by Prof. Prasad Sethunga, Department of Education, University of Peradeniya on 16th September, 2020 at the Faculty of Geomatics.





Quality Management



Under the AHEAD Project, the Department of Agribusiness Management of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences conducted a workshop on "Applying Quality Management Principles for Commercial Level Agri-food Business Creation" on 19th September, 2020 for the third year second semester Agribusiness Management and Food Business Management students of the Department. Mr. M.H.G. Weerasinghe, Deputy Director, Sri Lanka Standard Institute, Colombo 08 participated as the resource person of the workshop.

Industrial Training Requirements

A workshop on industrial training requirements, organized under the AHEAD Project of the Department of Agribusiness Management was held on 20th September, 2020 for the 03rd year, 02nd semester students of the departments of Agribusiness Management and Food Business Management. The workshop was conducted by Prof. K.D.N. Weerasinghe, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.





Foundation Stone for New Faculty Complex (Phase I)

The Foundation Stone for the construction of the new faculty complex (phase I) of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences was ceremoniously laid on 21st November, 2020 at the university premises, Belihuloya by Senior Prof. Janitha A Liyanage, the Vice-Chairperson, University Grants Commission with the distinguished participation of Prof. Udaya Ratnayake, the Vice-Chancellor, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka; Senior Prof. R.P. Mahaliyanaarachchi, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Visual and Performing Arts; Prof. M.P.S. Magamage, the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences; and the Deans from the other faculties of the University.





This special occasion was also graced by the members of UGC, Academic and Non-Academic staff of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, and the Administrative staff of the university in addition to the participants from the construction company.

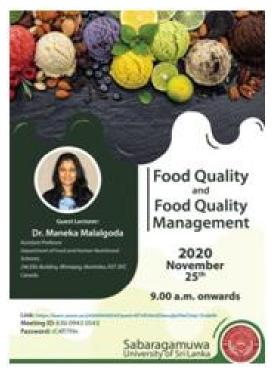




Public Speaking

Under the AHEAD Project of the Department of Agribusiness Management, an online workshop on "Public Speaking" was organized on 22nd November, 2020 for the third year second semester Agribusiness and Food Business Management students of the faculty. Ms. Suhashini Ihalagama, former president of the Sabaragamuwa Toastmaster Club participated as the resource person of this programme.

Guest Lecture: Food quality and Quality Management







The first online guest lecture of the AHEAD Project of the Department of Agribusiness Management was successfully completed on 25th November, 2020 for the third year second semester Agribusiness Management and Food Business Management students of the faculty. Dr. Maneka Malalgoda, Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba, Canada contributed as the resource person of this event.

Lab Equipment Handling and Management

A training programme organized by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences was held on 22nd December, 2020 at the Department of Agribusiness Management. The primary objectives of the programme were to train the staff members in scientific laboratory environment while providing an up-to-date knowledge of industry standards and novel approaches, to direct them to focus on active learning and engagement, and to ensure their continuous learning towards skill development and knowledge enhancement. The laboratory and technical staff of the faculty participated in the programme. A number of private companies, including Hemsons International, Analytical Instruments, Islandwide Scientific, and Avon Pharmo Chem conducted the training programme.



Faculty of Applied Sciences

A Workshop for Physical Training Instructors

A training programme for Physical Training Instructors of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Unit and Sri Lanka Military Academy was held on 09th and 10th July, 2020 at Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyathalawa to enhance the knowledge and practical applications of the Nutrient and Exercise methods in military training. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. T. S. H. Perera, Senior Lecturer, and Mr. D. S. L. Perera from the Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education.





Spirit of Sport

An online lecture on "Breaking Barriers through the Power of Sport" was conducted by Mr. Eli A. Wolff, Director of Power of Sport Lab, USA on 30th July, 2020. This event was organized by the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education.

Professional Talk in Sport

A webinar series entitled "Professional Talk in Sport", organized by the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education was held on 04th, 15th, and 31st August, 2020 for the undergraduates of the Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education. Dr. Geoff Dickson, Associate Professor of Sport Management, La Trobe University, Australia; Mr. Dulan Kodikara, Founder, De Power Physio Sports and Spine, Australia; and Dr. Ishanka Weerasekara, Lecturer, Department of Physiotherapy, University of Peradeniya participated as the resource persons of this webinar series.









Faculty of Applied Sciences

Anti-Diabetic Tea Product

A novel anti-diabetic tea product was introduced as a collaborative work between the AHEAD Project, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Nature (FADNA) Pvt. Ltd. The launching ceremony of the new product was held on 04th September, 2020 at the Staff Development Center, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.





Cargills Partners with SUSL

Reaffirming Cargills vision of creating markets for our youth to enhance and empower them as entrepreneurs, Cargills (Ceylon) PLC officially partnered with SUSL on 17th November, 2020. This collaboration expected to make a platform for the innovative undergraduates of the Department of Food Science and Technology to make their ideas commercially viable. The MoU was signed by Prof. R. M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the University and Mr. Imtiaz Abdul Wahid, Group Managing Director, Cargills (Ceylon) PLC on behalf of the Company.



Career Fair 2020

A virtual career fair organized by the Career Development Committee, Faculty of Applied Sciences was held on 24th and 25th November, 2020 via Zoom platform. Dr. R. Priyankara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Business Management, Mr. A. Kumara, Head of Cluster HR, Samson Rubber Industries (Pvt.) Ltd, and Mr. B.L.H. Perera, Academic Director, National Olympic Committee, Sri Lanka contributed as the resource persons of Career Fair 2020. The programme was funded by the AHEAD Project of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.





Faculty of Geomatics

Geomatics Industry Day

"Geomatics Industry Day – 2020", organized by the Industrial Training Unit of the Faculty, was held on 12th and 13th August, 2020 at the faculty premises. This program was especially conducted for the fourth year students of the faculty who were about to start their industrial training, with the objective of providing an awareness program about the current technological improvements and applications in the field of Geomatics such as Drone technology. During the workshop, industry representatives, including Bhoomi Tech Company Pvt. Ltd., Retail IT Pvt. Ltd., and Suleco Pvt. Ltd. provided a thorough knowledge on Drone Surveying, Terrestrial Scanning and Mapping applications, GPS – RTK techniques with practical exposures to the staff members and students of the faculty.



Faculty of Management Studies

Webinar for being a Game Changer

A webinar on "Covid-19 Pandemic and Recent Developments in the Banking Industry" was held on 07th July, 2020 especially for the Banking and Insurance students of 2015/2016 batch. Mr. Indika Dissanayake, Senior Manager, Credit Information Bureau Sri Lanka conducted the webinar that aimed to launch the mission of being a game changer and make an impact through a peculiar session concentrating on the Covid-19 pandemic and recent developments in the Banking industry.



Qualitative Research

A webinar on qualitative research organized by the Department of Accountancy and Finance under the AHEAD project was held on 14th and 20th July, 2020 for all the staff members of the Faculty and the third year second semester students of the Department. Dr. Iraj Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism Management contributed as the resource person of this event.



Intermediate Accounting

The second year first semester students of the Department of Financial Management attended a workshop on "Intermediate Accounting". This workshop aimed to enhance the awareness of the students on the application of accounting for investments in Associates and financial statement of a business combination. The workshop was conducted by Mr. W.A. Upendra Wijesingha on 16th July, 2020.

Improving Presentation Skills

A series of research talks on "Research Brief and Research Proposal Presentations" was conducted by Ms. Mihirani Dissanayake, Chief Executive Officer and Director, Survey Research Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. on 23^{rd} and 30^{th} July, 2020. This event aimed to enhance the students' presentation skills while giving undergraduates an opportunity to do their research brief and research proposal presentations in front of the industrial experts. The third year, second semester Marketing Management students participated in the presentation sessions.

Living the Dream

The Department of Marketing Management organized an event entitled "Achievers: Living the Dream" to motivate and prepare the students to welcome their future challenges. The programme was held on 26th July, 2020 and 02nd August, 2020 via Zoom platform. Mr. Thusitha Perera, General Manager/ Head of Human Resources, Dipped Products Plc. and Ms. Theja M. Hewage, Lecturer, University of Colombo contributed as the resource persons of this event.





Kaviya

A Zoom discussion on "Kaviya - Nidahasath Wonde", organized by the Department of Tourism Management was held on 01^{st} August, 2020 for the students of the Faculty.



A Workshop for Eco-Business Management

A workshop series entitled "Industrial Implications of Quality Standards" organized by the 2015/2016 BSc. (Hons) Eco Business Management Students of the Department of Tourism Management was held on 07th August, 03rd September, and 10th September, 2020 via Zoom platform.

Smart Marketer



An online awareness campaign on "Smart Marketer" was held on 11th August, 2020 to share the unfolding success story of "Propolisia Danthanarayana" promotion campaign, a novel phase of Sri Lankan marketing. The programme was organized by the 2017/2018 students of the Department of Tourism Management together with Hemas Consumer Brands.

Exclusive Academic Partnership

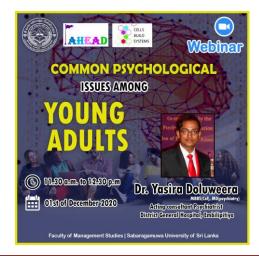


The Faculty of Management Studies was appointed as the exclusive academic partner of the South Asian Journal of Marketing (SAJM) published by the Emerald Publishing. The ceremonial launch was held on 30th September, 2020 at Hilton Colombo Residences where Prof. G. L. Pieris, Minister of Education graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Moreover, Mr. Tony Roche, Publishing & Strategic Relationships Director, Emerald Publishing; Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Chairman of the University Grants Commission; and Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Acting Vice-Chancellor, SUSL attended the event.





Psychological Counseling



A series of online workshops that aimed to develop a policy and procedure on psychological counseling within the Faculty to enhance the mental wellbeing of the community was held in November and December 2020. Brainstorming and discussion sessions were conducted with the guidance of Dr. Jayaprasad Welgama, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages and with the participation of the academic staff members of the Faculty.

In parallel, an awareness session on psychological counseling of young adults was conducted by Dr. Yasira Doluweera, Acting consultant Psychiatrist, District General Hospital, Embilipitiya for the academic staff of the Faculty.



Systematic Literature Review A webinar on "Systematic Literature Review" was held on 10th November, 2020 with the objective of uplifting the research skills of the emerging scholars in the South Asian region. This event was organized by the Faculty of Management Studies in collaboration with SAGE Publishing. Prof. Sudhir Rana from FIIB, New Delhi contributed as the resource person of the webinar.

Webinar on "Communication in Corporate Setup"

Another webinar on "Communication in Corporate Setup", organized under the AHEAD project, Department of Accountancy and Finance was held on 20th November, 2020 via Zoom platform. Mr. Thilan Perera, Head of Human Resources, Midas Safety Sri Lanka contributed as the resource person of this webinar.



The objective of this programme was to equip students with required written and oral communication skills needed to perform the duties and the responsibilities assigned in their future careers within the real industry environment. The second

year first semester undergraduates of the Department of Accountancy and Finance participated in the event.

Undergraduates' Research Session

The Management Undergraduates' Research Session (MURS) is a continuation of the process of enhancing the research culture of undergraduates' of the Faculty. The annual MURS is an opportunity for management undergraduates, local and international, to present their research experiences to a larger audience. The 02nd MURS held on 27th November, 2020, included presentations of the students from seven academic disciplines.







05th Interdisciplinary Conference of Management Researchers



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Cambridge TKT-CLIL

The lecturers of the Faculty of Management Studies participated in a training programme on "Cambridge Examination for Teaching Knowledge Test – Content and Language Integrated Learning (TKT-CLIL)". This programme was conducted by Australian College of Business and Technology, via Zoom from 12th December, 2020 to 07th January, 2021. The Cambridge TKT-CLIL exam will be held on 29th January, 2021 at the Faculty premises marking the end of the training programme.

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Business Insurance



A webinar series on "Business Insurance", organized by under AHEAD project, Department of Accountancy and Finance was held from 18th to 20th December, 2020. The event targeted to enhance the knowledge of the undergraduates on the key concepts, including underwriting process, claim process and practical application of property, engineering and motor insurance classes. The webinar was conducted by Mr. Udaya Kumara, General Manager (Technical), Cooperative Insurance Limited for the second year second semester and fourth year first semester students of the Banking and Insurance degree programme.

An online motivational session entitled, "Shape Your Future" conducted by Mr. Mohan Palliyaguru was held on 24th December, 2020 for the Business Management undergraduates of the Faculty. This programme aimed to prepare young graduates to take on challenges of the corporate world as the future corporate professionals and leaders.

SMART Lecturers

The academic staff of the Faculty of Management Studies participated in an online workshop on strengthening the digital teaching and assessment skills of the staff. It was conducted by Prof. Shalika Pathirathna, International Campus, Buckinghamshire, UK. This event was held on $18^{th}, 23^{rd}$ and 30^{th} December, 2020 via Zoom platform.



Shape Your Future



Paper Consumption Tracking Records

A project organized by the Sustainability Cell of the Faculty of Management Studies was conducted in December, 2020 with participation of the Faculty members. The project first traced the reasons and amounts of consumption of paper by the entire Faculty for the years 2019 and 2020. Accordingly, a "Paper Consumption Tracking Record System" was established to find out the ways to minimize the current paper consumption of the Faculty.

Faculty of Medicine

New Paraclinical and Administrative Blocks





The Foundation Stone for the construction of paraclinical and administrative blocks of the Faculty of Medicine was ritualistically laid by Honorable Minister of Education Prof. G. L. Pieris with the distinguish participation of Honorable Minister of Health Pavithra Wanniarachchi and Honorable Governor of Sabaragamuwa Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa on the invitation of Prof. Athula Gnanapala the Acting Vice-Chancellor of SUSL on 24th October, 2020 at Galkaduwatta, Newtown, Ratnapura.





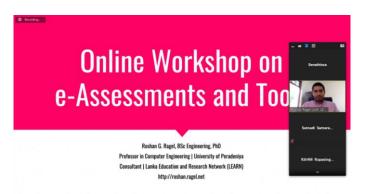
This memorable event was also graced by the Chairman, University Grants Commission Prof. Sampath Amarathunga, The Dean of Faculty of Medicine Prof. Nirmali Wickramaratne, and other distinguished guests along with the academic and non-academic staff members and the medical students of the Faculty.

Knowledge Dissemination

A knowledge dissemination forum with the regional administrative officers, including the Divisional Secretary, Imbulpe and the Directors of Imbulpe Divisional Secretary Office was held on 13th July, 2020 at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. This programme aimed to share the research findings of the final year undergraduates, with the administrative authorities of the region, in relation to Imbulpe Divisional Secretary Division to have policy oriented discussions. In addition, the event intended to initiate collaboration between the Department of Economics and Statistics and the Divisional Secretary Division of Imbulpe.

E-Assessment Tools

All the academic staff members of the Department of Economics and Statistics participated in an online workshop, named "How to conduct E-Assessment tools". This workshop was conducted by Prof. Roshan G. Ragel from the University of Peradeniya on 30th July, 31st July, 06th August, and 07th August, 2020. The participants of this event were educated on the modern e- tools used in teaching and assessment process, creating an attractive and effective online teaching-learning environment, delivering lectures interactively, and releasing the results of students' assessments.



Future Needs of Higher Education





A workshop on Brainstorming Session with Stakeholders to Identify the "Future Needs of Higher Education" was held on 15th August, 2020 at Waters Edge Hotel, Colombo. The ultimate aim of the activity in which the public, private sector executive officers, and the university senior academic members participated was to enhance the quality of undergraduate education in relation to the teaching and learning activities of the Bachelor of Arts study programmes. A report containing the future curriculum developing propositions that discuss learning outcomes, teaching methods, assessment methods, course units introduced, the credit structure, and so forth was presented as the outcome of the





A Workshop on Psychological Counseling

A workshop on "Psychological Counseling, Mentoring and Grievances Handling" was held on 15^{th} and 16^{th} August, 2020 at the Staff Development Centre. The academic staff members of the Department of Economics & Statistics were given a professional training on counseling, mentoring and grievance handling mechanism to assist its community. Dr. Kanthi Hettigoda from Sir John Kothalawala Defense University of Sri Lanka contributed as the resource person of this event.





Curriculum Development

The Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages organized a workshop on "Curriculum Development Strategies and Structure 2020" from 18th to 27th August, 2020 at Olympus Plaza Hotel, Haputale. The workshop aimed to enlighten the academic staff members on the general aspects of curriculum development, restructuring the existing curricular, and to discuss the management and evaluation process of the BA degree programme. Prof. Bandara Wanninayake, University of Kelaniya, Dr. D.M.R. Dissanayake, and Prof. Ranjith W. Pallegama, University of Peradeniya participated as the resource persons of the workshop.





Table Etiquettes and Manners

A training program on "Table Etiquettes and Manners" was held for the staff members of the Department of English Language Teaching on 02nd September, 2020 at the Bandarawela Hotel School premises. The training programme was organized by Mr. Chaminda Thennakoon, the Principal and the Senior Lecturer of Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management.





Farewell to Mr. Sivayesunesan

After thirty years of dedicated service to improve the English Language proficiency of thousands of undergraduates of Sabaragamuwa University, the Senior Instructor in English, Mr. Sivayesunesan of the Department of English Language Teaching, of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages retired on 05th September, 2020. Therefore, a farewell party organized by the Department of English Language Teaching to appreciate his enormous contribution to the department was held on 04th September, 2020 at Watergarden Resort, Belihuloya.



Seminar for Advanced Level Students



An online seminar for ICT, Economics, and Statistics for the Advanced Level Students of Ratnapura District was conducted by the Fourth Year

Students of the Department of Economics and Statistics on 21st and 22nd September, 2020. The outcome of this event supported the undergraduates to improve their knowledge by preparing the reading materials and model papers for the Advanced Level. In addition, the seminar enabled them to improve their presentation skills, group spirit through teamwork, and problemsolving skills. The participants were benefitted by receiving reading materials, model papers, and stationery through Zonal Education Office, Balangoda, and Rathnapura, while improving their skills on solving complicated issues pertaining to the disciplines of Economics, Statistics, and Information and Communication Technology.

A Workshop on OBE and LCT

A Workshop on "Outcome Based Education (OBE) and Learner Centered Teaching (LCT)" for all the academic staff of the Department of English Language Teaching was held on 21st September, 2020 at the Staff Development Center. The workshop aimed to inspire ESL lecturers to learn what OBE and LCT are and how to use them confidently in their academic environment. Dr. Sreemali Herath, Senior Lecturer of Post Graduate Institute of English, Open University of Sri Lanka conducted the workshop as the resource person.



Felicitation Ceremony for Mr. S. Sivayesunesan

A felicitation ceremony to honour the retirement of Mr. Sivayesunesan, a pioneer member of the university who has been an outstanding teacher with spirit, enthusiasm, and creative expression geared towards enhancing the English language proficiency of the undergraduates of the university for almost three decades was held at Dayandanda Somasundara Auditorium on 22nd September, 2020. The Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. W.K.A.C Gnapala, all Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, academic, non-academic, and administrative staff members of the university participated in the event organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages.







Literature, Society & Global Media

An international conference on "Literature, Society & Global Media" was held on 26th and 27th September, 2020 via Zoom platform. The conference was organized by Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Agra Collage, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India as a joint effort to cultivate the research culture among undergraduates. Dr. Sangeeth Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer in Hindi and Dr. Rohan Abeywickrama, Senior Lecturer in English steered the conference.





Chinese Festival



The Confucius Day and Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations 2020 was organized by the members of Confucius Class Room and the Chinese society of Sabaragamuwa University to share the beauty of Chinese culture and increase the cultural awareness among the students and staff of the university. The event was held on 29th September, 2020 at the Confucius Class Room, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages.



Handling Documentation and Interactive Communication

An online workshop on "Training Administrative and non-academic Staff on Handling Documentation and Interactive Communication with Stakeholders to Form a Smart Office" was held on 23rd and 26th November, 2020 via Zoom platform.





This event was organized by Mr. W.A. Senathissa (Activity Coordinator), Mr. R. Weerakoon, Mr. V.P.G. Priyankara, and Ms. H.H.T.P. Samarakoon from the Department of Economics and Statistics. Mr. Lal Fonseka, Consultant on Lean and Human Resource Management, Best Pacific Textiles (Pvt.) conducted the workshop.

Teaching Knowledge Test

The academic staff members of the Department of Economics and Statistics participated in a professional training programme on teaching in English medium, targeting the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), a series of internationally recognized modular teaching qualifications offered by Cambridge Assessment of English. The training programme organized by Dr. G.R.S.R.C. Samaraweera (Activity Coordinator), Mrs. M.D.J.W. Wijesinghe, Mr. R. Weerakoon, and Mr. N.M. Wijesekara from the Department of Economics and Statistics was conducted by Australian College of Business and Technology (ACBT). This programme lasted for two months starting from 24th November, 2020.



Writing Project Proposals

A workshop on "Project Proposal Writing for Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurship" was held from 08th to 24th December, 2020. This workshop was organized by the Department of Economics and Statistics targeting the 03rd year 02nd semester undergraduates who follow Economics as a subject in their degree programme. Dr. R.P.Herath, Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya and Mr. Janaka Lakpriya, Deputy Manager, National Development Bank contributed as the resource persons of the workshop.





The 6th SSLSAS



The 06th Sabaragamuwa Social Sciences & Languages Students' Annual Symposium (SSLSAS), organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages was held on 17th December, 2020 at the faculty premises. Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha and Ms. Kasturi Chellaraja Wilson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Hemas Holding PLC, participated in the symposium as the Keynote Speaker and Guest of Honour respectively. This event provided the undergraduates the opportunity to (a) share their research findings and discuss the implications of them with academics within and across disciplines, peers and the greater community (b) enhance their knowledge and soft skills that may be useful for their future career, and (c) publish their abstracts in the 6th SSLSAS abstract book.







Academic Literacy in English

A workshop on "Improving Academic Literacy in English" was held online with a view to provide satisfactory knowledge on the use of key concepts in academic literacy. The workshop that was conducted by Mrs. N. U. Mahawatta, Senior Lecturer in English, Faculty of Management Studies from 18^{th} to 20^{th} December, 2020 and from 26^{th} to 28^{th} December, 2020 aimed the 03^{rd} year 02^{nd} semester students who follow Economics, Statistics, and ICT for their degree programme. This event was organized by Dr. G.R.S.R.C. Samaraweera (Activity Coordinator), Mrs. R.M.L. Rathnayaka, and Mr. V.P.G. Priyankara from the Department of Economics and Statistics.

Faculty of Technology

Orientation Programme

Faculty of Technology held the Orientation Programme of the 2020 intake of the students. The new intake included 150 students dispersing 75 students for each department. The Inauguration Ceremony was conducted at the main auditorium at the Faculty on 08th September, 2020. The Acting Vice-Chancellor Dr. W. Manoj Ariyarathna enlightened the occasion as the Chief Guest and all the academic and non-academic staff members of the Faculty participated in the occasion. The students successfully completed a three day faculty orientation programme, including a mentoring session by Dr. W.M.J. Welgama, Director of Sith Arana Counseling Unit, an informative session by Mr. D. Jasingha, Senior Student Councilor, and an out bounding session by Mr. P. Weerakkodi, Faculty of Applied Sciences.



Quality Assurance Webinar

The quality assurance unit of the Faculty of Technology organized a series of webinar from 11th November, 2020 to 27th November, 2020. This programme aimed to enhance the knowledge of the academics of the Faculty on quality assurance procedures handled in the university systems. The webinar programme covered multiple topics, including "Introduction to the Quality Assurance", "Outcome-based Education and Student-centered Learning: Principles and Best Practices", "Evaluation & Examination Procedure", "Assessment Methods and Developing Effective Assessment Rubrics", and "Introduction to Procurement Process".

Staff Achievements

Asia's Award

Mrs. A.A.L. Madhushani, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education, Faculty of Applied Sciences received the Sri Lanka's Outstanding Young Sports Academic Award 2020/21 under the Asia's Outstanding Young Sports Academic category.



New Appointments

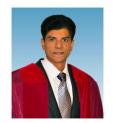
Dr. R.S. Sabaragamuwa, Senior Lecturer, Department of Food Science and Technology, has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.



Dr. M.A.C.S.S. Fernando, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics & Statistics, has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages with effect from 13th October, 2020.



Dr. WSM Senevirathne has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Food Science and Technology.



Dr. Chaminda Badhuraliya has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology.



Dr. R.A.H.M. Rupasingha has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics with effect from 13th October, 2020.



Mr. D. Jasinghe, Head of the Department of Marketing Management, has been appointed as the Director of the CODL. Also, his appointment as the Senior Student Counsellor of the university was extended further.



Prof. A. Aruna Shantha, Department of Economics & Statistics, has been appointed as the Director of the Staff Development Centre with effect from 02nd September, 2020.



Prof. Sangeeth Rathnayake, has been appointed as the Director of Student Support Services and Welfare for the period starting from 01st September, 2020 to 31st August, 2021. Also, he has been appointed as the Director of Sabaragamuwa University Arts Centre for the period starting from 01st September, 2020 to 31st August, 2021.



Mr. H R Sampath, Senior Lecturer, has been appointed as the Coordinator of Diploma in Financial Management, Faculty of Management Studies. Also, he has been appointed as the Project Coordinator of the AHEAD / ELTA-ELSE – Department of Accountancy



Mr. H.M.C.G. Bandara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing Management, has been appointed as the Deputy Senior Student Counsellor of the Faculty of Management Studies.



Dr. Dewasiri Narayanage Jayantha, has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer (Gr. II) at the Department of Accountancy and Finance.



Dr. K.D.C.A. Banagala has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer (Gr. II) at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine.



Dr. K.M.G.M.K.K. Kulathunga has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer (Gr. II) at the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine.



New Appointments

Prof. Kumudu Wijewardena has been appointed as a Consultant on assignment basis at the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Nelun De Silva has been appointed as a Consultant on assignment basis at the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine. Prof. Malik Goonewardene has been appointed as a Consultant on assignment basis at the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Ranjan Dias has been appointed as a Consultant on assignment basis at the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine.

Promotions

Prof. Lal P. Vidhana Arachchi, Department of Export Agriculture, was promoted to the post of Senior Professor.

Dr. (Ms.) H.A. Darshanee Ruwandeepika, Senior Lecturer, Department of Live Stock Production, was promoted to the post of Professor with effect from 31st July, 2020.

Associate Professor H.M.S. Priyanath, Department of Economics and Statistics, was promoted to the post of Professor.

Dr. A. Sarath Ananda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, was promoted to the post of Professor.

Dr. K.V.D. Edirisooriya Menike, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, was promoted to the post of Professor.

Dr. Sangeeth Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages, was promoted to the post of Professor with effect from 14th July, 2020.





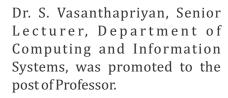






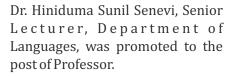


Dr. Manjula P. Sumith Magamage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Live Stock Production, was promoted to the post of Professor in Livestock Production with effect from 06th December, 2019.



Dr. A. Aruna Shantha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics and Statistics, was promoted to the post of Professor.

Dr. K.P.L. Nishantha Patabendi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, was promoted to the post of Professor.













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Prof. M.L.M.C. Dissanayake

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Deans, Heads of the Departments, Directors, all Academics & Administrative staff members and students are greatly appreciated for providing the information and pictures for this newsletter.

Do you wish to publicize any significant news related to your Faculty, Department or Centre of the SUSL, in the Newsletter

Please send us your news to Editor of the Newsletter, Center for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD)

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Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka is at the door step of commemorating her Silver Jubilee of excellence in the year 2021. Its celebration is scheduled to be held at Prof. J. W. D. Somasundara Auditorium of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, in the presence of the university community on the propitious day of 02^{nd} February, 2021. This ceremony will run with the sessions of awarding the Best Student of the year 2020 from each faculty who proved their ability in the academic field and of course with staff appraisal in different categories, distinguishing academics, administration, and non-academics who are continuously performing a tremendous service to this University delivering their best towards the betterment of the students. This ceremony will further award the Best sportsman/woman of the university for making the university proud with their tremendous strength and efforts. In this anniversary year another special award is given in appreciation of the benevolent service of the Artists in the Sabaragamuwa Province adding more grace to this occasion. All the awards will warmly salute the winners.

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