

## University Day 2024

The 28<sup>th</sup> University Day of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) was celebrated with great pride on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, at the Faculty of Management Studies auditorium. The event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, esteemed guests, Deans of the faculties, Heads of the departments, and dedicated members of the Academic, Administrative, and Non-Academic staff, along with the enthusiastic students.



A key highlight of the ceremony was the university's heartfelt tribute to Mr. Saman Upasena, recognized as the Best Entrepreneur of the Sabaragamuwa Province, for his remarkable contributions to the national economy. Adding prestige to the occasion, Mr. Mahinda S. Weerasooriya, Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council, honored the event as the Chief Guest.

Furthermore, the university took this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the invaluable efforts of its Academic, Administrative, and Non-Academic staff in advancing the institution's standards and fostering its sustainability. The celebration featured multiple award sessions, recognizing excellence and dedication across various fields, making the University Day 2024 a truly memorable occasion.





# University Events

## Welcoming 2024 with Harmony

A special event to welcome the New Year 2024 was held at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka premises on 01<sup>st</sup> January 2024, under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Sunil Shantha. The ceremony was enriched with multi-religious blessings, invoking prosperity, success, and well-being for the university and its community. Various religious observances were conducted, fostering unity and spiritual harmony as the university embarked on another year of growth and excellence.



## Housewarming Ceremonies

The housewarming ceremonies of the Academic and Non-Academic Establishments Branches at their new locations within Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka were held on 01<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, respectively. The events, attended by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Sunil Shantha and some other members of the university community, marked a significant transition aimed at enhancing administrative efficiency and operational effectiveness.





# University Events

## Teaching Practice

The Staff Development Centre of SUSL organized a Teaching Practice Programme on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## More Programmes

On 01<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council and the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to offer Certificate and Diploma programmes, enabling Grade 9 to 11 students from the Ratnapura and Kegalle districts to develop essential programming skills.



## Internet Launch at Nonperial



An event to launch the internet facility at the Nonperial residential premises was held on 05<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



# Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

## Crop Improvement

The Department of Export Agriculture, in partnership with the Sampath Farmer Society of Bulathgama, organized a farmer awareness programme on key rice cultivation issues on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. Held in Thumbagoda, Bulathgama, and Jasinkanda, the program attracted over 25 paddy farmers. The event offered practical solutions for pest and disease management, weed control, and fertilizer use in rice cultivation, while introducing farmers to new technologies like the parachute planting technique. The Dean, Prof. P.M.A.S. Karunaratne, faculty members, and the third-year students specializing in Crop Improvement and Plant Protection participated in the interactive program, which allowed farmers to engage in discussions, creating a productive and informative experience.



## Web launch: AgInsight 2024

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences announced the launch of its website for the 05<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Agricultural Sciences (AgInsight 2024) on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at the Vice Chancellor's Office. This year's conference theme, "Agricultural Research to Address Future Challenges of Climate Change<sup>th</sup> and Food Security," aimed to provide a platform for researchers, academics, and industry professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss advancements, and explore solutions to critical agricultural challenges in a changing climate.

The website launch ceremony was attended by notable guests, including the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Sunil Shantha; the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Prof. P.M.A.S. Karunaratna; and other esteemed faculty members. Serving as a central hub, the website offers information on the conference theme, calling for papers, registration, important dates, and other relevant details, marking a significant step toward the success of AgInsight 2024.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## FOUNTAIN Project

Senior Prof. Udaya Rathnayake, Prof. E.P.N. Udayakumara, and Dr. Deepchandi Lekamge from the Faculty of Applied Sciences attended the second consortium meeting of the FOUNTAIN project, supported by ERASMUS+, in Thailand from 08<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Representatives from the ten partner institutions in Europe, Thailand, and Sri Lanka reviewed the project's future direction, concluding the meeting successfully.



## Bharatanatyam

The Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education organized a three-day Bharatanatyam Dance workshop, aiming to provide students with a holistic educational experience. Going beyond traditional classroom learning, the workshop fostered creativity and cultural appreciation.

## Empowering through Sports Science

A comprehensive one-day workshop on biomechanics, physiology, and psychology aimed at empowering Sri Lanka Navy sailors through sports science was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The workshop featured expertise from the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Personal Development

Dr. Ivan Salazar Chang, a professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, and a European representative of the SPIRIT Erasmus project, visited Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Prof. Chang conducted a workshop on 'Personal Development and Inclusive Education' for external students of the Higher Diploma in Physical Education and Sports Coaching.



## Workshop on Education Practices

The SPIRIT Erasmus project team of SUSL in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya and the Ministry of Education conducted a one-day workshop for school teachers on "Promote the inclusive education practices in Sri Lanka through teachers' awareness" on 09<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka.



## TT Championship

Current students and alumni from the Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education actively participated in various capacities at the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2024 held in Kandy. The event was organized by the Table Tennis Association of Sri Lanka and Asian Table Tennis Union. Their roles ranged from Organizing Committee members and executive members to lady chaperones, umpires, liaison officers, and more.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Erasmus Spirit

The Erasmus+ SPIRIT Team of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, organized a remarkable event that brought together around thirty foreign academics from partner universities in India, Indonesia, Cyprus, Spain, and Switzerland. This workshop and series of meetings demonstrated the spirit of cooperation, knowledge exchange, and academic excellence among the participants.



## NR Webinar

The Department of Natural Resources and the Society for Natural Resource Studies (SNRS) jointly organized two successful webinars on "Circular economy and Carbon Neutrality". The events were conducted by Dr. Lakmini Edirisinghe and Eng. Sujeewa Fernando, two prominent researchers in the field on 30<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 respectively.

**Advancing the Circular Economy:  
Opportunities and Research Directions  
in the Sri Lankan Context**

**Eng. Lakmini Edirisinghe**  
Researcher, University of Moratuwa  
Senior Research Specialist, Anvarta, Melbourne, Australia  
Secretary, Responsible Care Council, Sri Lanka

**ONLINE WEBINAR**

JOIN US VIA

Zoom Link :  
<https://learn.zoom.us/j/91670660838?pwd=MTVPQUhCdkV4emJze-G1hWVR2Y0orQT09>  
Meeting ID: 916 7066 0838  
Passcode: 8csrX0.L

Thursday  
30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

10.00 A.M - 12.00 P.M

Organized by :

- DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- SOCIETY OF NATURAL RESOURCES STUDIES

SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA



**Towards a Carbon Neutral  
Sri Lanka by 2050**

**Eng. Sujeewa Fernando**  
EnMS Expert UNIDO Certified,  
Accredited Energy Auditor - SLSEA, RECP Consultant,  
Consultant in Quantifying GHG Emissions and Serving as GHG  
Verifier, Assessor on ISO/IEC 17029:2019 & ISO 14065:2020

**ONLINE WEBINAR**

JOIN US VIA

Zoom Link :  
<https://learn.zoom.us/j/91670660838?pwd=MTVPQUhCdkV4emJze-G1hWVR2Y0orQT09>  
Meeting ID: 916 7066 0838  
Passcode: 8csrX0.L



Thursday  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

10.00 A.M - 12.00 Noon

Organized by :

- DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- SOCIETY OF NATURAL RESOURCES STUDIES

SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Collaborating with Salford

The Department of Natural Resources facilitated the signing of an MoU between SUSL and the University of Salford, United Kingdom, to collaborate on fostering multidisciplinary research in disaster resilience and integrated natural resource management.



## Community Outreach

The faculty community engaged in numerous community outreach and social welfare initiatives during the first half of the year 2024 that included SIPSARA 2024, a community outreach programme to Ihala Galagama Vidyalaya in Belihuloya.





# Faculty of Computing

## Cyber Risk Management

An online workshop on "Blockchain-based Secure Framework for Supply Chain Management" was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, in parallel with the 04<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing. Using supply chain management as a case study, the workshop aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of blockchain technology and its application in designing and implementing cybersecurity frameworks and strategies. Dr. Windhya Rankothge from the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity (CIC), Faculty of Computer Science, University of New Brunswick, served as the resource person. The event attracted undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in cybersecurity concepts, cyber risk management strategies, blockchain technology, and its practical applications.

## Dynamic Data Retrieval

A tutorial titled "Elevating Literature Reviews through Dynamic Data Retrieval from Publication Databases using Python" was held on 08<sup>th</sup> February 2024, to introduce participants to advanced data retrieval techniques for conducting literature reviews. The session focused on using Python to automate data extraction from academic and research databases, featuring hands-on practice and interactive discussions to apply these skills to real-world literature review tasks. The tutorial was conducted by Dr. Janaka Wijekoon (VIT, Australia, and Keio University, Japan) and Ms. Rashini Liyanarachchi (UNSW, Australia).

## AI and ML

**4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing ICARC 2024**  
21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024  
"Smart and Innovative Trends in Next Generation Computing Technologies"

**WORKSHOP ON**  
**Machine Learning for Wireless Communications**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) stand out as some of the most pivotal technologies today. Notably, deep learning has spearheaded numerous breakthroughs across diverse domains, including computer vision, natural language processing, and speech recognition. Translating this into a series of questions to ask: what role will AI/ML play in the domain of wireless communications? This tutorial aims to shed some light on this question by introducing fundamental concepts of deep learning and discussing their applications for wireless communications.

**SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Samiru Gayan**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering  
University of Moratuwa

**Dr. Sampath Perera**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering  
University of Moratuwa

**DATE** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
**TIME** 09:00AM - 12:00PM

**SCAN ME for Registration**

**Inquiries** Prof. Vasana Chandrasekara (Workshop & Tutorial Chair - Tel: +94(0) 772090265 | Email: secretary@icarc.sab.ac.lk)

**4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing ICARC 2024**  
21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
"Smart and Innovative Trends in Next Generation Computing Technologies"

**WORKSHOP ON**  
**Blockchain based Secure Framework for Supply Chain Management**

Using Supply Chain Management as a compelling case study, this workshop aims to provide an understanding on blockchain technology and how it can be leveraged to design and implement cybersecurity frameworks and strategies.

**SPEAKER**

**Dr. Windhya Rankothge**  
Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity (CIC)  
Faculty of Computer Science  
University of New Brunswick, Canada

**DATE** 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024  
**TIME** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**SCAN ME for Registration**

**Inquiries** Prof. Vasana Chandrasekara (Workshop & Tutorial Chair - Tel: +94(0) 772090265 | Email: secretary@icarc.sab.ac.lk)



**4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing ICARC 2024**  
21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024  
"Smart and Innovative Trends in Next Generation Computing Technologies"

**TUTORIAL ON**  
**Elevating Literature Reviews through Dynamic Data Retrieval from Publication Databases using Python**

This tutorial is designed to introduce and deepen the understanding of dynamic data retrieval techniques for literature reviews. It will cover the usage of Python programming to automate and streamline the process of extracting relevant information from various academic and research publication databases, specifically Google Scholar and PubMed. Participants will engage in hands-on sessions and interactive discussions to apply the learned skills in real-world scenarios.

**SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Janaka Wijekoon**  
Visiting Institute of Technology, Australia and Keio University, Japan

**Ms. Rashini Liyanarachchi**  
The University of New South Wales, Australia

**DATE** 08<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
**TIME** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**SCAN ME for Registration**

**Inquiries** Prof. Vasana Chandrasekara (Workshop & Tutorial Chair - Tel: +94(0) 772090265 | Email: secretary@icarc.sab.ac.lk)

An online tutorial titled "Machine Learning for Wireless Communications" was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, aiming to introduce fundamental concepts of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and deep learning. The tutorial explored the application of AI and ML, particularly deep learning, in various domains such as computer vision, natural language processing, and speech recognition. It also highlighted the potential of deep learning in wireless communications. Designed for students, researchers, and practitioners new to AI/ML and wireless communications, the session provided a str-

-ong foundational understanding of these emerging technologies. The event was conducted by Dr. Samiru Gayan and Dr. Sampath Perera from the University of Moratuwa.



# Faculty of Computing

## ComURS2024

The Faculty of Computing, SUSL, proudly concluded the 01<sup>st</sup> Computing Undergraduate Research Symposium 2024 (ComURS2024) on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. Centered around the theme “Smart and Innovative Trends in Next-Generation Computing Technologies,” the symposium brought together a vibrant community of researchers, academics, students, industry professionals, and policy makers, fostering a rich environment for the exchange of cutting-edge ideas and knowledge. The event aimed to provide a platform for the undergraduates of the 2017/18 batch from the Department of Computing and Information Systems to showcase their research findings and foster a culture of scholarly engagement among the university’s talented students.



## Ballerina

An online session was conducted via ZOOM on 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, to introduce participants to the Ballerina programming language and its role in seamless software integration. Led by Mr. Heshan Padmasiri, a Senior Software Engineer at WSO2, the session provided a comprehensive overview of Ballerina’s capabilities and practical applications. The objectives of the session included introducing participants to Ballerina, demonstrating how it can enhance their skills in software integration and development, offering insights into its practical applications to prepare them for future internships, and creating opportunities to connect with industry experts and expand their professional networks. The session combined theoretical knowledge with practical insights, equipping participants with valuable tools for their professional growth.

### Ballerina language for Seamless Integration

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024  
Time: 5 p.m.  
Venue: Virtual (Zoom)

**Agenda**

- API Fundamentals
- Evolution of Application Architecture
- Ballerina for seamless integration
- Fundamental Concepts of Ballerina

**What is Ballerina?**

Ballerina Swan Lake is an open source, cloud native programming language designed for seamless integration with a wide range of network protocols, data formats, connectors, and built-in visual capabilities.

**Who is this lecture for?**

This session is ideal for anyone interested in modern software development practices and eager to unlock the potential of the Ballerina programming language.

**Heshan Padmasiri**  
Senior Software Engineer, WSO2

Faculty of Computing  
WSO2  
Ballerina  
Swan Lake

## Unveiling Industry Expectations

An online workshop on "Industry Expectations from an IT Graduate" was conducted on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024, by Dr. Sankalpa Gamwarige, Managing Director at Nagarro, along with Mr. Thiru Dinesh, Head of AI at Rootcode Pvt Ltd, and Mr. Sudam Manudith, Technical Lead at Rootcode Pvt Ltd. The session aimed to provide students with valuable insights into succeeding as IT graduates, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge for their upcoming internships, and offering guidance on how to thrive in the IT field. The workshop facilitated meaningful interaction with industry leaders, providing participants with actionable advice and a deeper understanding of the expectations in the IT industry.

### INDUSTRY EXPECTATIONS FROM AN IT GRADUATE

**Dr. Sankalpa Gamwarige**  
Managing Director, Nagarro

**Mr. Thiru Dinesh**  
Head of AI, Rootcode

**Mr. Sudam Manudith**  
Technical Lead, Rootcode

DATE: MAY 31, 2024 | TIME: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | VMC ROOM

ORGANIZED BY: Nagarro

COLLABORATING WITH: rootcode, nagarro



# Faculty of Computing

## Full Stack Development

A workshop organized by the Professional Development Committee of the Faculty of Computing was held on 07<sup>th</sup> June 2024, to explore the intricacies of full-stack development. The session was conducted by Mr. Randika Hapugoda, Chief Technology Officer at OBM Digital Factory, and aimed to introduce participants to the fundamentals and complexities of full-stack development. The event focused on equipping students with essential skills to enhance their readiness for upcoming internships while providing them an opportunity to learn directly from an industry expert. The workshop offered a comprehensive learning experience, bridging academic knowledge and practical industry expectations.



## AR/VR/XR Development

An online workshop on "Exploring the Trends in AR/VR/XR Development" was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024, with participation of the third-year internship students and other interested undergraduates of the Faculty of Computing. The session was conducted by Mr. Poorna Perera, Lead XR Developer at LiveRoom, and focused on introducing participants to the concepts and technologies behind Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Extended Reality (XR) development. The workshop aimed to equip students with essential skills and knowledge to prepare them for the internships in these cutting-edge fields while fostering a deeper interest in and understanding of AR/VR/XR development. The event provided valuable insights into this emerging technology, enhancing participants' readiness for future opportunities.



## ERP

A webinar on "ERP System Development Essentials" was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024, for the third-year internship students. The session was conducted by Mr. Nilan Niyomal, Tech Lead at Hoist Global Tech Solutions Inc. The webinar aimed to introduce the participants to the fundamentals of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system development, equip them with essential skills and knowledge for internships focused on ERP systems, and raise awareness about the importance and applications of ERP systems in various business contexts. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students and other interested individuals to gain insights into ERP development and its role in modern business environments.





# Faculty of Geomatics

## MoU with IWMI

On 07<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Faculty of Geomatics signed an MoU with the International Water Management Institution (IWMI) to promote knowledge sharing and research in Remote Sensing through the Department of Remote Sensing and GIS. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both institutions, including Prof. M. Sunil Shantha, the Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Lal Mutuwatte, Deputy Country Manager of IWMI. As part of the collaboration, the Faculty of Geomatics received a donation of two GNSS receivers with accessories and a fixed-wing UAV, valued at over 10 million rupees.



## GLOBAL GIS Gives Back

GLOBAL GIS (PVT) LTD, a geospatial company, two graduates of the Faculty of Geomatics who founded visited Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to express gratitude for their education. As part of their contribution, they donated 70 safety jackets to the Faculty and committed to annual initiatives, including providing safety jackets to all incoming students, conducting awareness workshops for freshers led by alumni, and offering annual scholarships to selected students. This event took place on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



## Advancing Knowledge and Innovation

A significant conference organized by the Faculty of Geomatics took place on 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. The event brought together academics, professionals, and experts in the field of Geomatics to discuss emerging trends, share research findings, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges facing the industry. The conference served as an excellent platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among scholars and practitioners.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Faculty Development Webinars

A series of webinars were conducted from 02<sup>nd</sup> January to 04<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as part of the Faculty Development Programme 2023/2024, designed for the academic staff of the Faculty of Management Studies. The primary objective of this programme was to enhance the research and publication competencies of academic staff members, particularly those affiliated with universities in the South Asian region.

### Chiminiya



Dr. Deshabandu T. Pablis Silva, Director of Culinary Affairs at Mount Lavinia Hotel, shared his knowledge on the authentic gastronomy of Ceylon with the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It was an evening filled with abundance of entertainment and laughter together with delicious food, dance, and live music.



## Tip Talks

Tip Talks, Volume 06 launch was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, with the support of Dr. Jaeyeon Choe from the Glasgow School of Business and Society, United Kingdom, and Mr. Nalaka Amarathunga, CEO of the Destination Management sector at John Keells Holdings PLC. The event aimed to share fresh insights and knowledge on the global tourism industry.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Career Crafter

With an aim of empowering participants with the knowledge needed to shape the future of the country's tourism, a seminar was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, at the Faculty of Management Studies auditorium. Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, Chief Executive Officer and Dean of the International Hotel School at Mount Lavinia Hotel, shared unique perspectives and profound insights on the topic, "Essential Tools for a Successful Career in Tourism and Hospitality Management."



## Mind-to-Mind

The Sixth and Seventh Mind-to-Mind Sessions were held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. These sessions aimed to share the knowledge and experiences of faculty members who have successfully pursued PhDs, Master's degrees, and MBAs, inspiring younger members to approach their own journeys with confidence and better navigate challenges. Dr. Manori Pathmalatha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism Management and Dr. H.R. Sampath, Senior Lecturer, Department of Accountancy & Finance participated as the resource persons of the two events.



## Long Service Awards

Prof. Athula C. Gnanapala, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies; Prof. Dunusinghe G. Dharmarathne, Head of the Department of Accountancy and Finance; and Prof. D.A.I. Dayaratne, esteemed Professors at the Faculty of Management Studies, were honored with Long Service Awards for their remarkable 25 years of dedicated service to the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The award ceremony was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at the Auditorium, Faculty of Management Studies, to recognize their outstanding contributions to the university.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Destination Branding

A seminar on "Destination Branding" was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024, to provide final-year marketing management undergraduates with practical insights into creativity in tourism marketing. The session enhanced students' understanding of how to craft compelling narratives that resonate with potential visitors and help differentiate a destination in a competitive market. Mr. Aminda Lakmal, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and a tourism policy maker, was the resource person for the event.



## DTHM Intake

The inauguration ceremony of the seventh intake of the Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management (DTHM) was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024, with the distinguished presence of Mr. Nalaka Amarathunga, Chief Executive Officer of the Leisure Inbound Sector and Vice President at John Keells Holdings PLC.



## Study in UK

A seminar on scholarship opportunities for higher education in the UK was held on 04<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to equip the students with various scholarship opportunities awarded by the Bradford University. Prof. Vishanth Weerakkody, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, United Kingdom conducted the event.



## Accounting for Leases

A webinar titled 'SLFRS 16: Accounting for Leases' was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, via Zoom. The session aimed to enhance the knowledge of undergraduates regarding accounting standards, specifically SLFRS 16. The event was attended by the undergraduates of the B.Sc. (Hons) in Financial Management (2021/22 batch) of the Department of Accountancy and Finance. The resource person for the session was Mr. Niluka Abeygunaratne, a Fellow Chartered Accountant and Certified Forensic Accountant, who provided valuable insights into the subject.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## International Marketing



A webinar on "FMCG Industry and Trends in International Marketing" was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, aiming at providing students with valuable learning experiences and practical insights into the competitive field of international marketing. Mr. Mahima Alahapperuma, Senior Brand Manager of VIM at Unilever Sri Lanka, served as the resource person for this event.

## Empowering Communities

The first-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Management supported 75 student



monks facing economic challenges by providing educational materials, organizing a midday almsgiving, and hosting a New Year festival. They also launched a sustainable tree planting initiative and distributed essential assistive equipment to improve the living conditions and well-being of the individuals with disabilities. Additionally, they aimed to support the disabled women in Balangoda by enhancing their education, skills, and quality of life, fostering a spirit of equality, and promoting lasting positive change.



The initiative also focused on empowering disabled children by providing them with skills, confidence, and opportunities for social interaction, helping them realize their full potential. This event took place from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and 03<sup>rd</sup>, 05<sup>th</sup>, 06<sup>th</sup>, and 07<sup>th</sup> April 2024, under the supervision of subject lecturer Ms. Chathuri Ariyaratna.

## Coffee Evening

The academics of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka participated in an entertaining evening on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, held at the Faculty of Management Studies premises. The event featured various engaging activities and performances, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among the participants. It provided a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, allowing the academics to unwind and strengthen their professional and personal connections.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## CESTour

The Final CESTour Dissemination Meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to showcase the project's achievements and foster collaboration in sustainable tourism across Southern Asia. On the second day, participants proceeded to Nuwara Eliya, further promoting networking and knowledge exchange among stakeholders. Overall, the final CESTour Dissemination Meeting served as a platform for sharing best practices, fostering partnerships, and advancing sustainable tourism initiatives in the region. Relevant academics from partner universities in Nepal, India, Italy, and Sri Lanka were the target group for this event.



## SLFRS 8

An online workshop on 'SLFRS 8: Operating Segments' was conducted on 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 to enhance undergraduates' understanding of this important accounting standard. The workshop was led by Mr. Niluka Abeygunaratne, a Fellow Chartered Accountant and Certified Forensic Accountant. At the end of the session, participants gained comprehensive knowledge of SLFRS 8 and its application to operating segments in financial reporting.



## Travel and Tourism



On 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, Mr. Supun Welagedara, Manager – Sales and Marketing at Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort, delivered a guest lecture on 'Marketing Mix in the Travel and Tourism Industry' at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Management Studies.

The session was attended by the Year I Semester II undergraduates of the Department of Accountancy & Finance. The lecture provided practical insights into how organizations implement segmentation, targeting, and positioning (STP) strategies and manage the marketing mix in the travel and tourism sector.



## SLFRS 9



A webinar on 'SLFRS 9: Financial Instruments' was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 to enhance undergraduates' understanding of this key accounting standard. The session was conducted by Mr. W.A. Upendra Wijesingha, a Fellow Member of CA Sri Lanka, who provided valuable insights into the principles and application of SLFRS 9 in financial reporting.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## Advanced Certificate in Business Coaching

The Advanced Certificate Course in Business Coaching, in collaboration with the Australian-funded Skills for Inclusive Growth Project (S4IG), was officially launched on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This course aims to enhance the skills and capabilities of small-scale business owners and employees, promoting the growth of essential services for Micro, Small, and Medium-scale Entrepreneurs (MSMEs). The event featured several key personalities, including Prof. Athula C. Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies; Mr. Stephen Lodziak, Team Lead of the Australian-Aided Skills for Inclusive Growth Project; Prof. Michael Mathiyalakan, Skills Programme Specialist for S4IG; Prof. B. Nishantha from the Department of Management and Organization, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo; and Mr. Ranjan T. Hanchapola, Founder, Director, and CEO of CAP Organic (Pvt) Ltd.



## Our Culture



The INDIGENO 2k24 Exhibition aimed to highlight the significance of Sri Lankan culture, religious celebrations, and indigenous businesses while synthesizing historical and traditional indigenous practices with Sri Lankan organizational managerial practices for the younger generation. This year's highlights included the Pottery Corner, Kurahan Mandiya, Kithul Rajadahana, and Mud Studio. The event, held on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2024, was organized by the third-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Management under the guidance of Ms. Ishara Katuwandeniya.

## Fostering Friendships

The undergraduates of the Department of Marketing Management organized the Marketing Premier League 2024 on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at Hunduwa Ground, with the aim of fostering new friendships and rekindling old ones.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## New Intake

The Inauguration Ceremony for the 2022/2023 Academic Intake was held on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2024, via the Zoom platform. The event featured addresses from Prof. Sunil Shantha, Vice-Chancellor of SUSL; Prof. Athula C. Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies; Dr. H.U.S. Pradeep, Senior Student Counsellor; and Senior Prof. A.A.Y. Amarasinghe, Director of Student Support Services & Welfare, who warmly welcomed the new students.

## Digital Marketing

Mr. Chandranath Gamage, Manager of Paid Media at Ogilvy Digital, conducted a workshop on "Dive Deep Into Meta Advertising and Video Marketing" on 06<sup>th</sup> and 07<sup>th</sup> April 2024, aiming at enhancing practical knowledge and hands-on experience in digital marketing. The target audience for this event included the third-year, semester one marketing students and lecturers.



## Cross-Cultural Differences and Markets



A webinar on the "Influence of Cross-Cultural Differences in Understanding International Markets" was held on 08<sup>th</sup> April 2024, with the assistance of Mr. Thushara Nissanka, International Sales and Marketing Manager at JSF Group of Companies.

## Services Marketing

Dr. Sumith De Silva, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Airport and Aviation Services Sri Lanka, conducted another guest lecture titled 'Creating Differential Advantage in Services Marketing: From Aviation Industry Perspective'. The session aimed to provide undergraduates with practical knowledge of how organizations in the aviation industry create and sustain differential advantages in service marketing. Dr. De Silva shared valuable insights and real-world examples to enhance the participants' understanding of this critical aspect of marketing. This event was held on 09<sup>th</sup> April 2024.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Examination Practices for Academics

Mr. D. Jasinghe, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Marketing Management, and Mr. Upuldeniya, Senior Assistant Registrar of the Examination Branch, conducted a workshop for the academic staff of the Faculty of Management Studies on examination-related matters. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the competencies of academic staff in paper setting, moderation, marking, and the overall conduct of examinations. Additionally, the workshop aimed to address common issues related to examination processes, optimize examination workflows, and develop standardized document formats. This event was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## Orientation Programme

The orientation programme for the freshers of the 2022/2023 academic year was conducted online from 24<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The programme aimed to provide new students with a strong foundation for their academic and personal development journey at the university.

## Intensive English Programme

The Intensive English Programme 2024 for the newcomers of the Faculty of Management Studies was held online via Zoom from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The programme focused on enhancing communication skills, mastering grammar and vocabulary, improving academic writing, developing effective study skills, boosting public speaking and presentation abilities, and fostering social interaction.

## Venture Vista

Venture Vista 2024, an event showcasing the ideas and innovations developed by undergraduate students from the Department of Tourism Management, was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The event recognized the best innovations across several categories, including Food and Beverage, Technology, Art and Craft, Business Models, Health Care, and Beauty and Cosmetics.



## Greening Healthcare

A series of online programmes titled "Greening Healthcare: Enhancing Environmental Health and Safety Performance in Hospitals" was conducted from April to July 2024. The initiative aimed to introduce sustainability practices that can be integrated into hospital operations to improve their environmental, health, and safety performance. The sessions featured esteemed resource persons, including Eng. Eranga Dilhan, General Manager of the Lanka Responsible Care Council; Dr. A. P. R. S. Chandrasena, Medical Superintendent of the Base Hospital, Walasmulla; Eng. Lakmini Edirisinghe, Secretary of the Lanka Responsible Care Council; and Dr. Sampath Wahala, Senior Lecturer at SUSL; and a few more.



# ICARC 2024



The Faculty of Computing successfully hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing (ICARC 2024) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. Focused on the theme “Smart and Innovative Trends in Next-Generation Computing Technologies” the event brought together researchers, academics, students, industry professionals, and policymakers to exchange cutting-edge ideas. ICARC 2024 featured distinguished speakers, including Prof. Saman Halgamuge from the University of Melbourne, who gave a keynote on “Computer Vision with 21<sup>st</sup> Century AI.” Mrs. Jyotika Athavale, President of the IEEE Computer Society for 2024, and Mr. Ashique Ali, former Chairman of SLASSCOM, joined online, offering insights into AI, machine learning, and functional safety standardization, inspiring participants to explore emerging trends in computing.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Financial Instruments

On 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, a webinar titled 'Financial Instruments and Role of Financial Institutions Operating in Sri Lanka' was held to enhance the knowledge of undergraduates on financial instruments and the role of financial institutions within the country. The session featured Dr. L. Sritharan, Additional Director of the Macropprudential Surveillance Department at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, as the resource person, providing valuable insights into the topic.

## Sales in Practice



A workshop to enhance the practical knowledge in sales was held on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for the third-year semester I Marketing students and lecturers. Mr. Kumudu De Silva, Head of Sales at Radiant Marketing (Pvt.) Ltd conducted the workshop.



## Entrepreneurial Qualities

The TRAILBLAZER Workshop 2024, held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Faculty of Management Studies, aimed to enhance entrepreneurial skills among students and arouse creative and innovative potential in women from the Imbulpe Division. The workshop focused on raising awareness about entrepreneurship development organizations, fostering positive attitudes towards entrepreneurial careers, building managerial capacity in areas such as planning, organizing, leading, and controlling, and providing exposure to the success stories of eminent Sri Lankan entrepreneurs. It also sought to expand the social networks of participants. Organized by second-year students from the Departments of Business Management and Marketing Management, the workshop was guided by Ms. K.L.B.G. Buddika Dharmarathna, Mr. R.A.D. Ajith Ranasinghe, and the General Manager/CEO of the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



## Chauffeur Guide

A "Chauffeur Guide Training Program" was conducted in collaboration with Walkers Tours Limited on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. The programme aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of chauffeur guides, focusing on key areas such as responsible tourism, the relationship between nature and tourism, and advanced interpretation techniques for effective tour guiding. This initiative provided participants with valuable insights into sustainable tourism practices and equipped them with tools to deliver enriching and environmentally conscious travel experiences for visitors.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Thema Talks

"Sustainability at Thema Collection" organized a webinar titled "Empowering Sri Lankan Youth: Universities as Catalysts for Sustainable Tourism Development and Innovation," highlighting the contributions of Sri Lankan universities to sustainable development and tourism advocacy. The event also showcased success stories in the field. It was held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via Zoom.



# Faculty of Medicine

## Greening our Campus

A tree planting initiative to celebrate the 05<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine, was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the faculty premises. Organized by the Nature Society of the Faculty of Medicine, the event aimed to promote environmental sustainability and commemorate the milestone with a meaningful contribution to nature. The initiative brought together students, academic staff, and non-academic staff, who actively participated in planting a variety of trees to enhance the greenery of the campus. This event not only marked a significant occasion for the faculty but also reinforced the importance of environmental stewardship and collective responsibility.





# Faculty of Medicine

## *Dharma Deshana*



The Religious Society of the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL, organized a Dharma Deshana Ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to commemorate the 05<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine. The event was conducted with the aim of fostering spiritual reflection and promoting religious and cultural values within the faculty community. The ceremony brought together students, academic staff, and non-academic staff, creating an atmosphere of unity and reverence. This special occasion served not only as a celebration of the faculty's milestone but also as an opportunity to seek blessings for continued success and growth in the years to come.

## **Feelings**

The Aesthetic Society of the Faculty of Medicine organized "Feelings - Episode 4," a musical programme held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. The event provided a platform for students to showcase and develop their creative talents, offering a means of mental relaxation amidst the rigorous demands of the MBBS programme. The guest speaker was Mr. Nishantha Sandabarana, a renowned lawyer and song reviewer. The programme was successfully conducted with the participation of academic and non-academic staff members, as well as students from all batches.



## **Clash of GEO MED**

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, a cricket tournament was held between the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Geomatics at the playground of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The primary objective of the event was to promote active participation in sports among students while fostering a sense of unity and teamwork. This friendly competition not only provided an opportunity for students to showcase their athletic abilities but also created a platform for interaction and collaboration between the two faculties, further strengthening bonds within the university community.





# Faculty of Medicine

## New Intake FoM

The Inauguration Ceremony of the 06<sup>th</sup> batch (2022/2023 batch) was held on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine to officially welcome and induct the new cohort of students into the Faculty of Medicine. The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Deans of other faculties, the Director of Teaching Hospital Ratnapura, consultants, academic staff, the Registrar, Deputy Registrars, and non-academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine.



## Sahasra

An Ordinary Level Science workshop, organized by the Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Medicine, was held from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 08<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The workshop aimed to enhance science education among the students in the Ratnapura district while also commemorating the 05<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine. The event saw active contributions from consultants of the Teaching Hospital Ratnapura, academic staff, and students of the Faculty of Medicine, who worked collaboratively to make the workshop a success.



## Isivara Wasantaya

The New Year Festival 2024, organized by the 06<sup>th</sup> batch of the Faculty of Medicine, was held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the Batuhena School Ground. This event was organized to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, a cultural occasion symbolizing unity, joy, and tradition. The festival brought together students, academic staff, and non-academic staff of the faculty in a vibrant and inclusive celebration. The event featured traditional games, cultural performances, and festive activities, creating a joyful atmosphere that highlighted the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka while fostering camaraderie among the participants.





# Faculty of Medicine

## Cricket Encounter 2024

The cricket teams from the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL, and the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, participated in an exciting cricket tournament aimed at encouraging students to actively engage in sports while fostering unity and camaraderie among them. The event took place on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the Public Playground of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. This tournament not only promoted physical well-being but also served as a platform for building friendships and collaboration among students from the two institutions.



## Saving Lives

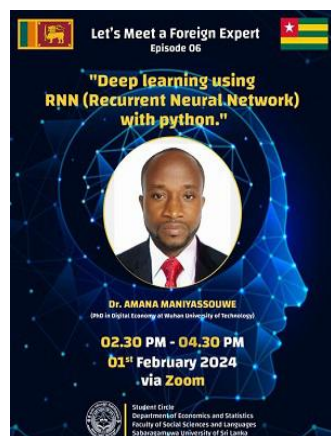
A blood donation campaign was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 at the Community Hall, Batuhena, to collect blood for the Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura, to support its inward patients. The event was organized by the Students' Union, Faculty of Medicine.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## RNNs workshop



"Let's Meet a Foreign Expert: Episode 06," organized by the Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, was held on 01<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The session explored the future of Artificial Intelligence, focusing on Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) powered by Python. A total of 50 participants, including the students and academic staff interested in AI and deep learning, attended the event. Dr. Amana Maniyassouwe from Wuhan University of Technology served as the resource person.

## Tamil Food Festival

With the aim of strengthening cultural ties within the university and promoting awareness of Tamil traditions

through food, the Tamil staff and students of the Department of Languages organized a vibrant festival, fostering community engagement and cultural appreciation. The event was held on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at the *Matta* canteen area.



## Expedition to Japan

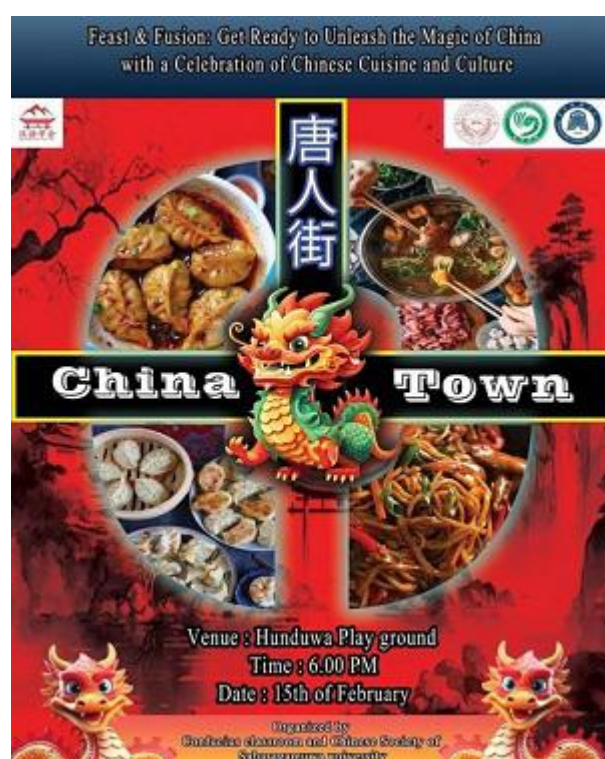


Silver Portal: Episode 10 – "Expedition to Japan" was held on 09<sup>th</sup> February 2024 via Zoom. The session explored Japan's values, transportation systems, waste management, infrastructure, and cultural background. Organized by the Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, the event welcomed undergraduates, staff, and participants interested in Japanese culture and systems.

## China Town

The Chinese Food Festival, organized by the Confucius Classroom and the Chinese Society of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages,

was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Hunduwa Playground. The event aimed to immerse attendees in Chinese culture through a culinary experience, featuring authentic Chinese dishes and traditional entertainment. Participants enjoyed a diverse range of Chinese cuisine, a traditional dragon dance, and interactive games, fostering cultural appreciation and community engagement. The festival served as a vibrant platform for celebrating Chinese heritage and promoting cross-cultural understanding.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Chat with Alumni

The 14<sup>th</sup> episode of “Our Success Stories – A Chat with an Alumni Member” was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, with the aim of inspiring and guiding students through pivotal career experiences, challenges, and insights shared by an accomplished alumni member. The session featured Miss. Janitha Dias (Senior Executive – HR, MAS Capital (PVT) Ltd.), representing the Student Circle & Alumni Association of the Department of Economics and Statistics, SUSL.



## Environment and Japanese Culture

On 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Mr. Kune Moriki and Ms. Yuka Minami from the JICA Overseas Cooperation Corps conducted a workshop on environmental education and Japanese culture. The session provided students learning Japanese with a hands-on experience, focusing on water-related environmental issues and traditional Japanese practices. Participants gained insights into water pollution, environmental conservation, and the importance of sustainable practices. Additionally, they engaged in cultural activities, including learning the Japanese language, calligraphy, and traditional customs such as proper chopstick usage. This workshop not only enhanced students' understanding of environmental challenges but also deepened their cultural awareness, enriching their overall educational experience.



## Academic Illuminations

The Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, organized a workshop titled “Academic Illuminations: The Essential Steps in Graphic Designing” on 05<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at the Skill Development Center. Participants gained hands-on experience in various aspects of graphic design, including finding inspiration, conducting research, sketching, using digital tools, understanding typography and color theory, collecting feedback, and engaging in iterative design processes.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## MA/PGD in English and Education

The Inauguration Ceremony of the MA/PGD in English and Education – 2024 was held on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at the Main Auditorium, Faculty of Geomatics, SUSL. This programme is designed to provide advanced knowledge and qualifications for teachers, teacher educators, ESL practitioners, and education administrators seeking to enhance their expertise in the field of English. Organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, the event featured distinguished speakers, including Prof. M. Sunil Shantha, Vice Chancellor of SUSL, Prof. Lalith Ananda from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Prof. Rohan Nethsinghe, Vice Chancellor of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts. The ceremony marked the beginning of an academic journey for educators committed to professional growth and excellence in English education.

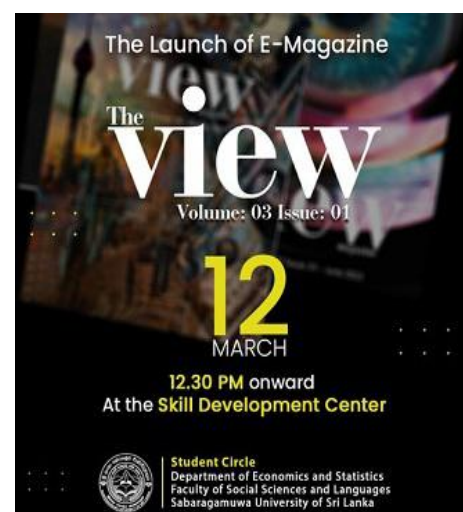


## Launching a Magazine

“The View” magazine (Volume 03, Issue 01) was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, with the aim of promoting creativity and curiosity through its content while fostering a literary community and intellectual engagement. The event was organized by the Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics.

## Indian Food Stall

The Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with local cultural associations, organized the Indian Food Stall and Mehendi Fest to celebrate Indian culture through its rich culinary heritage and traditional Mehendi art. This event provided attendees with a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy authentic Indian cuisine and cultural practices. Participants indulged in delicacies such as *Golgappa*, *Namkeen*, *Laddu*, and *Masala Chai* while also experiencing the intricate artistry of Mehendi. The fest fostered cross-cultural engagement, leaving attendees with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation for Indian traditions, while paving the way for future cultural exchange initiatives. Held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the event successfully highlighted the vibrancy of Indian heritage.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Hindi for Tourism

A field visit named, "Hindi for Tourism" was held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, Bandarawela, for students enrolled in the Hindi for Tourism course at the Department of Languages, FSSL. The visit aimed to provide students with practical insights into the tourism sector and its operational aspects while exploring sites associated with the Ramayana in Sri Lanka. Organized by the Department of Languages, SUSL, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, the event enriched students' understanding of the intersection between language, culture, and tourism, enhancing their academic and professional learning experience.



## DELT Awards

The DELT Awarding Ceremony, organized by the Student Circle of the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Geomatics. The event celebrated and recognized the exceptional achievements of students in the DELT Award Ceremony, honoring their literary and visual talents in the Article Writing and Short Video contests. This occasion highlighted the creativity and dedication of students, fostering a spirit of excellence in language and artistic expression.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Student Circle AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Student Circle, Department of Economics and Statistics, was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, to elect new leaders for the upcoming term. The event also featured discussions reflecting on the Student Circle's achievements and planning future initiatives.

## Website Launching



The official conference website for ICSSL 2024 was successfully launched on 08<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at the Vice Chancellor's Office, SUSL. It will serve as the primary source for information, updates, and announcements related to the conference.



## Entrepreneurship Full of Virtues

A workshop led by Mr. S.C. Weerasekara, Group Director and Chief Operating Officer of Capital Maharaja Group, was organized by the Practical Training Unit (PTU) of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, SUSL. The workshop provided students with essential tools and insights for navigating the entrepreneurial landscape, emphasizing the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset, the development of practical skills, and the application of entrepreneurial thinking to various professional pathways. Students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, SUSL, actively participated in the session on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



## Career Guidance Programme

Sampath Bank PLC. collaborated with SUSL to equip students with essential career skills, including corporate discipline, CV writing, LinkedIn strategies, and interview techniques, preparing them for success in the finance, management, and technology sectors. The programme, held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, targeted undergraduates in Statistics, Economics, and ICT from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## The Chinese Bridge

SUSL students achieved outstanding success at the Chinese Bridge Competition preliminary round in Sri Lanka, held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024, securing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the Talent Show and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in the Speech Contest. These remarkable results were made possible with the support of the Confucius Classroom and Chinese Language Lecturers. This marks the beginning of a promising journey, and we look forward to continued success in the future.



## International Mother Language Day

Undergraduates of Translation Studies, SUSL; undergraduates of the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna; and language scholars and enthusiasts from across Sri Lanka and India participated in an event celebrating International Mother Language Day. Organized to honor linguistic diversity and cultural heritage, the event fostered discussions on language, culture, and translation studies, emphasizing the role of mother tongues in preserving cultural identity.



The event was organized by the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the National Institute of Language Education and Training (NILET). The esteemed Chief Guest

was the Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, while the programme was chaired by Ven. Dr. Akuratiye Nanda Thera, Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna. The High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka, Tareq Md Ariful Islam, also attended.



# Faculty of Technology

## C60 Structure

The first batch (2017/2018) of the Faculty of Technology was honored for their remarkable contributions to the construction of the iconic Carbon 60 Buckyball structure at the new Faculty Building Complex. The structure, a symbol of their dedication, was ceremonially opened by the Dean, Prof. Kaveenga Koswattage, alongside Ms. Ishara Katuwendeniya and faculty staff. Prof. Koswattage highlighted the significance of the C60 structure, which will serve as a lasting tribute to the batch's legacy within the Faculty. The event celebrated the collective efforts of the students in enhancing the Faculty's environment. The event took place on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Research Building Complex, Faculty of Technology.



## Learning, Gender Equity, and Leadership Development

The Faculty of Technology held a transformative workshop titled "Learn to Learn, Gender Equity, and Leadership Development," facilitated by Dr. Rasika Priyankara, Dr. Thilini Kananke, and Mr. Pathum Weerakkodi. The workshop, held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024, aimed to equip freshers with essential skills for life-long learning, a deeper understanding of gender equity, and strong leadership capabilities.



## Volleyball Tournament

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the Faculty of Technology hosted an exhilarating Volleyball Tournament that united students, faculty, and staff for a day filled with intense competition and community spirit. Teams from all four batches competed at the mini playground, showcasing their skills and enthusiasm. The event featured exciting matches, individual awards for outstanding players, and a lively atmosphere that celebrated teamwork and athletic excellence. Organized under the guidance of Mr. P.P. Weerakkody, a lecturer from the Department of Sports Science & Physical Education, the tournament was a memorable showcase of sportsmanship and unity for the entire university.





# Faculty of Technology

## STEM Awareness Session

On 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, the Gender Equality and Equity Cell of the Faculty of Technology, in collaboration with resource consultant Dr. Thilini Kankanke, conducted an awareness session titled "Promote Interest and Awareness about STEM Subjects among Students" at Karagasthalawa Central College, Belihuloya. The interactive workshop aimed to inspire GCE O/L students by raising awareness of STEM fields and the diverse career opportunities available. The session provided valuable guidance as students prepare to select their A/L subject streams in the coming years.



## Mehewara

The students and staff of the Faculty of Technology have successfully renovated the university's temple as part of their *Mehewara* community project. Over three days from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, they cleaned the premises, applied fresh paint to the walls, and polished the floors.

## Personal and Professional Development



An adventure programme aimed at enhancing the personal and professional development of undergraduate students in the Faculty of Technology was successfully conducted by Mr. Pathum Weerakkodi, a lecturer from the Department of Sports Science & Physical Education, Faculty of Applied Sciences. The programme focused on building essential skills for students' growth. Mr. Aruna Jayasena and the volunteer students from the Department of Sports Science & Physical Education gave their valuable support in making the event a success.

## Exploring Future Collaborations

Prof. Ivan Salazar Chang from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, recently visited the Faculty of Technology to discuss potential collaborations in technology. He was part of a delegation involved in the project "Sport and Physical Education as a Vehicle for Inclusion and Recognition" across India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. The Faculty of Technology extended its sincere gratitude to Ms. Thanuja Liyanage and Prof. Kapila Ratnayaka for facilitating this valuable opportunity for future partnerships.





# Staff Achievements

## SUSRED Awards

Professors S.K. Gunathilake, E.P.N. Udayakumara, and Dr. L.V. Ranaweera were honored at the SUSRED (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) awards, hosted by the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka, for their academic contributions in 2023.

## Best Presenter



Dr. Vindya Perera, Lecturer, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine achieved the Best Oral Presenter at the Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference 2024.

## Best Researcher Award

Dr. R.M.M.K.N. Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine received the best researcher award in the 28<sup>th</sup> University day.

## Best Researcher from Geo



Dr M.D.E.K. Gunathilake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Surveying and Geodesy, was honoured as the Best Researcher of the Faculty of Geomatics for the remarkable contributions made in the year 2023.



# Staff Achievements

## Best Researcher Award Management Studies



Prof. Thilini C. Gamage from the Department of Marketing Management was awarded the Best Researcher of the Faculty of Management Studies at the University Day Awards 2023 held on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

## Best Senior Researcher

Prof. K.R. Koswattage was recognized as the Senior Best Researcher for his outstanding contributions to academia. In 2023, he published 11 SCI-indexed journal articles and several conference papers, marking a significant achievement in his career. He was also awarded the Top-Tier Publications Medal for publishing five Q1-ranked articles, further solidifying his reputation as a leading researcher.



## Best Inventor

Dr. N.P. Liyanawaduge was honored with the Best Inventor Award at the 28<sup>th</sup> University Day Celebration 2024, for his remarkable achievement in securing a patent for his innovative Meter Stick Calibration system. His dedication to advancing practical solutions through research has earned him this recognition for excellence in invention.



## Shining the Faculty



Mr. Ashan Induranga was recognized as the Best Researcher in the Faculty for his exceptional contributions to research and innovation. In 2023, he published four SCI-indexed journal articles, including two Q1 publications, underscoring his commitment to advancing knowledge in his field. This was awarded at the 28<sup>th</sup> University Day Celebration, 2024.



# Staff Achievements

## Top-Tier Journal Publication

Congratulations to Mr. Vimukthi Vithanage for receiving the Excellence in Top-Tier Journal Publication Award. His remarkable achievement of publishing three Q1-ranked journal articles in 2023 highlights his dedication to producing high-impact research and contributing to academic excellence.



# Student Achievements

## Best Students Awards

Ms. B.A.P.D. Balasooriya from 17/2018 Batch, Ms. I.M.B.M Illangakoon from 19/2020 Batch of the Department of Business Management and Mr. M.O.R. Makavita from 20/2021 Batch of the Department of Business Management received the Student of the Year awards at the University Day Awards 2023.

Ms. M.Y. Sasanki of the Department of Tourism Management was awarded the Best Student of 2018/19 batch of the Faculty of Management Studies at the University Day Awards 2023, held on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.



## Best Sportsmanship

The Faculty of Applied Sciences proudly congratulates Ms. Ridma Abeyrathne and Mr. Roshan Ranathunge for their outstanding sportsmanship. Both undergraduates from the Faculty secured the titles of 'Sportswoman of SUSL 2023' and 'Sportsman of SUSL 2023,' respectively, continuing the Faculty's winning tradition this year.





## New Appointments



Dr. Shashi Naotunna has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Business Management.

## Promotions



Prof. G.M.L.P. Aponso, Department of Physical Sciences and Technology, was promoted to the post of Senior Professor.



Dr. Sandun J. Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Natural Resources, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Dr. G.R.S.R.C. Samaraweera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics & Statistics, was promoted to the post of Professor.



# Promotions



Dr. S.J.M.N.G. Samarakoon, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics & Statistics, was promoted to the post of Associate Professor.



Ms. P.L.G.S.D. Piumali, Lecturer (Confirmed), Department of Marketing Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Mr. Hiran Dinusha, Lecturer (Confirmed), Department of Tourism Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Mr. Chandimal Ranathunga, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Tourism Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).





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## Acknowledgement

Prof. R. S. S. W. Arachchi

Director,

Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD)

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.

**If you wish to publicize any significant news related to your Faculty, Department, or Centre at SUSL in the Newsletter, please send us your news to Editor in Chief of the Newsletter, Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD).**

[newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk](mailto:newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk)

Tel- 045 2280013 |Fax- 045 2280013



## ICSSL 2024

The Second International Conference on Social Sciences and Languages (ICSSL 2024) is set to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024, within the university premises. This highly anticipated event shall welcome distinguished guests, esteemed keynote speakers, special guest speakers, renowned researchers, industry leaders, academics, students, and dedicated members of the university community, all converging to engage in profound intellectual discourse.

This year, ICSSL shall be further enriched by a series of insightful pre-conference workshops, led by the experts in their respective fields. These workshops shall explore a diverse spectrum of contemporary topics, providing participants with a platform to refine their knowledge, engage in critical discussions, and gain hands-on experience in emerging methodologies.

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages along with the Organizing Committee of ICSSL 2024 extend a warm invitation to scholars and researchers from across the globe to contribute their latest and most innovative research findings. The conference shall embrace not only the traditional themes and methodologies of social science research but also the transformative impact of emerging technologies in the domains of social sciences and languages. Discussions shall delve into how advancements in digital tools, artificial intelligence, and data-driven approaches are reshaping the landscape of these disciplines, expanding their boundaries, and unlocking new possibilities for scholarly inquiry.



# NEWSLETTER SUSL



Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Volume 21 Issue 01 May 2025 ISSN 2012-5844

### COMPUTING & DESIGNING

Mr. R.L. Dangalla



### PUBLISHED BY

Center for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD)

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka  
PO Box 02, Belihuloya. 70140

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