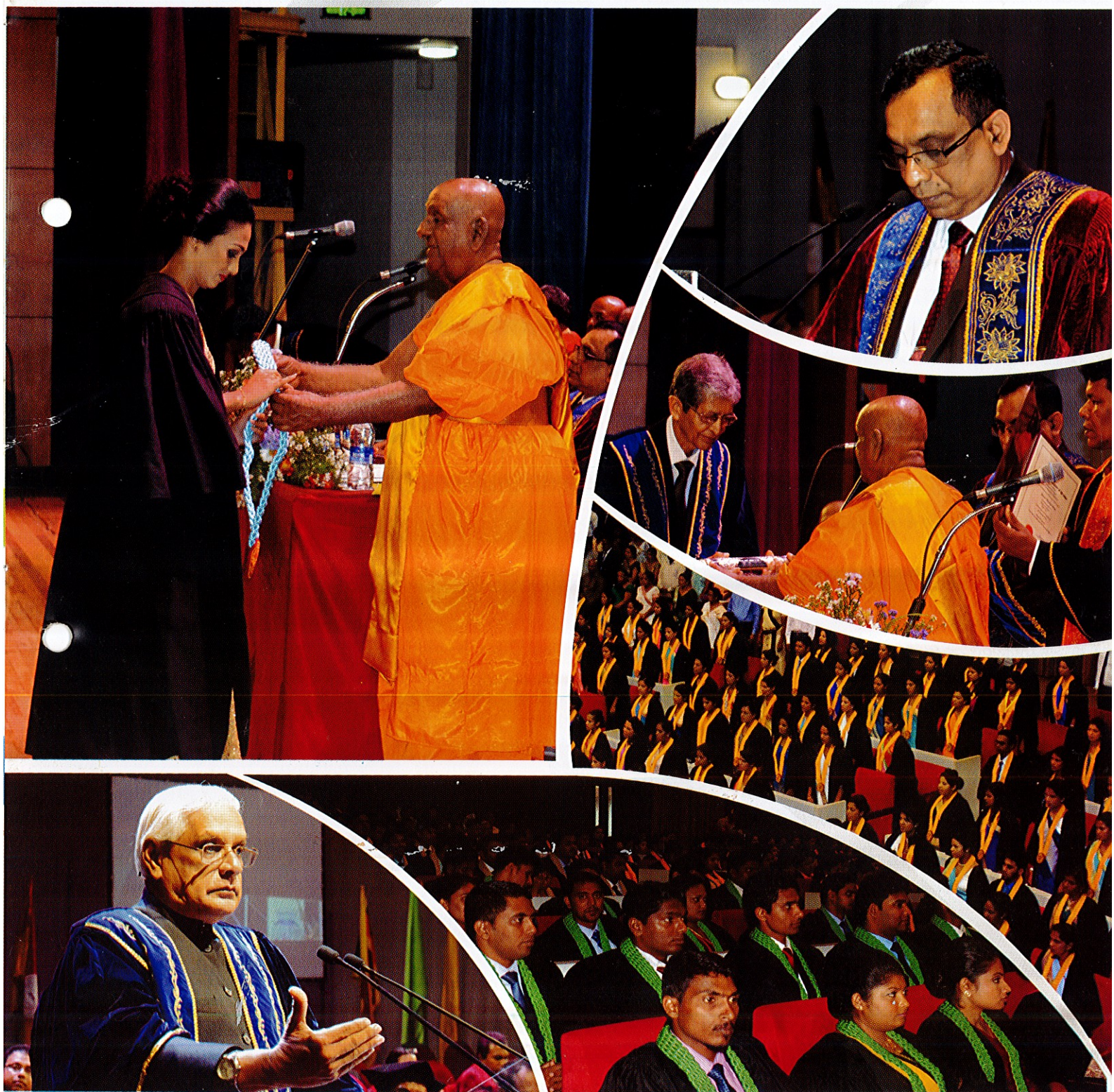




General Convocation of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka 2014



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Staff Achievements

Ms. DS Munasinghe of the Department of Surveying & Geodesy, Faculty of Geomatics, obtained the corporate membership [M 324] of the Institute of Town Planners of Sri Lanka as of March 28, 2015. This will enable her to practice as a professional town planner.

The Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT) conducted the Business and Technology (BAT) Conference on April 9, 2015. On the day of the conference, sixteen (16) research papers were presented and thirteen (13) papers were showcased. At the end of the conference, BAT 2015 recognized the quality and research contribution of papers submitted, and the APIIT Research Excellence Award was presented for both Business and Computing Tracks. The Business award was won by Mrs. Shashika Naotunna attached to the Department of Business Management of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for the paper titled Perceived Supervisory Support and Non-managerial Employees Commitment to Change in Sri Lankan Apparel Firms

Student Achievements

Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2015



The Government of Japan had decided to invite a youth delegation from Sri Lanka to join the Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2015 The Ship for World Youth Leaders which was held from 14th January to 29th February 2016 with the aim of developing the ability to understand and cope with different cultures, develop communication skills, and to improve leadership and management skills.

There were 12 countries participating in the program, and for the team representing of Sri Lanka, only 08 undergraduates were selected from the whole university system Ms. WH Thejani Madhuhansi from the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka won this rare opportunity of being selected for the 12-member team to represent Sri Lanka.

International Recognition

The Bachelor of Science Honours in Surveying Sciences in Hydrographic Surveying, awarded by the Faculty of Geomatics, has been recognised by the International Board on Standards of Competence (IBSC) for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers in Category B level (FIG/IHO/ICA-Cat B), as of April 2, 2015. This recognition is valid for a period of six (06) years.

Activities

The students of the Faculty of Management Studies had organized a Street Drama Workshop on Sabare Api on 06th June 2015 at the Faculty auditorium.

The Annual Badminton Tournament organized by the Students Union of the Faculty of Geomatics was held at the Gymnasium on June 16, 2015, from 12 noon onwards.

The Faculty of Management Studies had organized a Library Awareness Programme for all 1st Year students on 25th August 2015 at LT 307. The program was conducted by Mrs. T.N. Neighsoorei Librarian, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

Transcendence of Knowledge

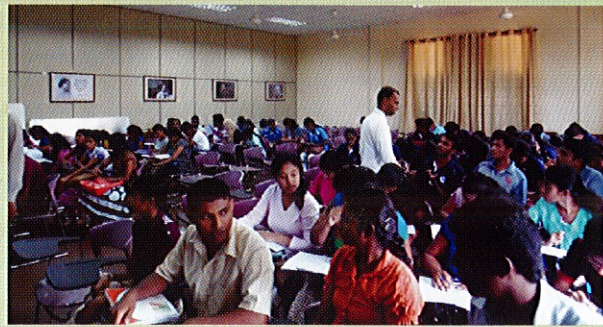
Workshop on Soft Skills and Student Centered Learning from June 9-11, 2015



A workshop on soft skills and student centered learning was successfully completed under the HETC/IDAS project for the academic staff of the Department of Economics and Statistics, Department of Geography and Environment Management, Department of Social Sciences, Centre for Computer Studies and Department of Languages and English Language Teaching. The workshop was completed in four sessions, with the first being allocated for the introduction of soft skills and student centered learning with the second for the pedagogical category, small group and Student Centered Learning (SCL) and Team Based Learning (TBL). The final day of the workshop was conducted for all students of the Faculty at the Faculty Auditorium. Self-learning, learning environment, identifying and coping up with distracters, reading skills, scan, Skim and Survey, improving reading speed, direction of reading (horizontal), summarizing information, mind mapping, listening skills, note taking skills and Cornell system of note taking were discussed. The students involved actively and enthusiastically in this session, and it helped to solve most of the problems regarding lectures, studies as well as preparing for the examination.

How to Invest in Equity Market - Capital Market and Money Market Awareness Programme 2015

With the collaboration of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Sri Lanka, the students of the Department of Accountancy and Finance organized a workshop to enhance the awareness on Capital Market and Money Market activities. This programme was held at the premises of the Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, on June 16, 2015, with Mr. Hemal Wijesekara as the resource person.



Soft Skill Enhancement Workshop for Students

Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages successfully completed a three day workshop on developing undergraduate personality and communication skills, which was held from July 22 to 24, 2015, with the financial support from IDAS. This was a significant workshop that was extremely fruitful for the improvement of undergraduate personality and communication skills, and was conducted by Mr. Mahesh Jayasinghe and his team. Mr. Mahesh is a well-known personality and communication skills development speaker, specialist and trainer in this field.



Banking and Insurance (BI) Day - 2015

The 3rd Banking & Insurance Day was successfully held on 11th & 12th August 2015 at the Faculty of Management Studies, in collaboration with the Insurance Association of Sri Lanka (IASL).



Additionally, a BI Quiz Competition was held for the first time, and the winning team was awarded the BI Quiz Award with a cash prize. The Chief Guest was Dr. Wasantha Rathnayake, Dean of Faculty of Management Studies, and the Guests of Honour were; Mr. Thilan Perera, Former President of HR Sub Committee of IASL Mr. Dammika Nanayakkara, Director, Finance Research



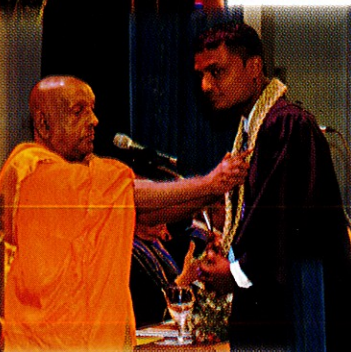
Division of Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Mr. Sumedha Mirihana, Head of Marketing of Amana Takaful Insurance PLC. The Heads of Departments and lecturers graced this special event.

COVER FEATURE

General Convocation 2014 Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

The General Convocation-2014 of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held on 29th December 2015 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). The Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University, Prof. Ven. Kumburugamuwe Vajira Nayaka Thero, preceded this event at which over 700 students graduated from five faculties. The Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, distinguished invitees, Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, academic and administrative staff of the university, and graduands with their parents also participated in this event.

The convocation ceremony was held in two sessions. The chief guest of the morning session was Emeritus Prof. JB Dissanayaka and the chief guest of the evening session was Prof. HHDNP Opatha. Honorary degrees were conferred on Mr. ST Herat and Prof. HHDNP Opatha. Two PhDs and Master of Science in Ayurvedic Hospital Management were also conferred in this occasion.



President's Award for Scientific Publications

Prof DM Anil Gunaratne, attached to the Department of Livestock Production, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was a recipient of the Presidents award for scientific publication for the year 2013. The awarding ceremony was held at the Waters Edge on 18th November 2015.

He received this prestigious award for the following scientific publications.

1. Antioxidant activity and nutritional quality of traditional red-grained rice varieties containing proanthocyanidins-published in the Journal of Food Chemistry.

This study has demonstrated the excellent nutritional and phytochemical profile of eight red-grained traditional rice varieties compared to those of new varieties. Health beneficial Proanthocyanidins has been found as the dominant antioxidant in red-grained Sri Lankan traditional rice varieties.

2. Effect of parboiling on the formation of resistant starch, digestibility and functional properties of rice flour from different varieties grown in Sri Lanka- published in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture.

- This study has demonstrated that the partial gelatinization is sufficient to produce high quality parboiled rice with high head rice recovery.



National Home Stay and Farm Stay Conference 2015

National Home-Stay and Farm-Stay Conference 2015 was held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on September 15 & 16 of 2015. The event was sponsored and organized by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan, and implemented by the Department of Agri Business Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of Sabaragamuwa University in collaboration with the National Productivity Secretariat (NPS) of Sri Lanka for the second consecutive year.

The Conference was organized with the objectives of creating greater awareness among policy makers, economic planners and key stakeholders in the agriculture and tourism sectors on the concept of Agri-tourism as a strategy to create alternative income opportunities for farming communities, and as a tool for revitalizing the rural economy, changing ideas and experience on homestays and farm stays in Sri Lanka, Asia and the world with regards to its benefits, requirements and applications and identifying best practices of selected models of homestays and farm stays enterprises that can be developed and promoted in Sri Lanka

Second Annual Student Research Session

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages organized its Second Annual Student Research Session on Social Sciences and Languages on 20th October, 2015. In this research session, the final year students who completed their final year dissertations were given an opportunity to present their research findings. The prime objective of this research session was to provide the students with an opportunity to enhance their ability in doing empirical research, and thereby to inculcate a research culture in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Entrepreneurship Development Programme



The Career Guidance Unit of Sabaragamuwa University, in collaboration with the National Entrepreneurship Development Authority (NEDA) Sri Lanka, conducted an Entrepreneurship Development Programme, the first of which was launched on November 27, 2015 with the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences chosen as a pilot project.



NEDA offers entrepreneurship grants to undergraduates to start their own businesses, and on the same day, interviews were conducted to select the best and strongest candidates based on the business proposals submitted by the students of Agricultural Sciences. It is expected that each winning candidate would receive a grant of Rs.150000.00.



PhD Completion



Dr. R.A.D. Priyanka Weerasekara, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Languages, completed her PhD at the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Community Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Her research topic is The Vedda Language: A Linguistic Study with Special Reference to Dambana, Sri Lanka.

Dr. (Mrs.) RK Mutucumarana, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Livestock Production, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, earned her PhD from Massey University, New Zealand. Her PhD title is Measurement of true ileal phosphorus digestibility in feed ingredients for poultry.



Miscellaneous

Congratulations to Dr. H. Divithure for being appointed as the Senior Student Counsellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, as of October 6, 2015.

Faculty of Geomatics

A Surveying Camp for the undergraduate students following the BSc in Quantity Surveying, University of Moratuwa, was held at the university premises from September 21 to 25, 2015. It was jointly coordinated by Dr. Duminda Welikanna and Mr. Waruna Kannangara.

Short Training Course on Power Line Surveying for CEB Staff, a two-day course was successfully conducted on October 1 and 2 of 2015, targeting some 20 staff members of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), and was coordinated by Dr. Eranda Gunathilake. The objectives of the course were; (i) to provide substantial understanding of the principles involved and methods used for surveying transmission lines, and (ii) to provide hands-on experience in conducting power line survey and production of final topo and profile drawings.

Faculty of Management Studies

Industry Exposure Visit for 1st Year Students

First year students from the B.Sc. Banking and Insurance degree program participated in an industry exposure field visit. The visit was organized with the purpose of giving an initial exposure and idea to shape their attitudes towards Banking and Insurance industry before commencing studies in the field of Banking and Insurance. A total of 37 students, with one academic staff member, visited the HNB Assurance Plc Head office, adding a novel experience to their career.

Commerce day program chair by Head of the Department Mr. DG Dharmaratne

Faculty of Applied Sciences

The Department of Food Science & Technology participated in the Pro-Food / Pro-Pack 2015 International Exhibition at the BMICH, Colombo, from August 7 to August 9 of 2015. The Hon Minister of Finance, Mr. Ravi Karunanayaka, was the Chief Guest of this event.

Community Services

Seminar for G.C.E. A/L Students in Balangoda Educational Division

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages held an A/L Seminar Series under the IDAS project. This was done with two objectives in mind; (i) providing community service from the Faculty, and (ii) the development of soft skills of the undergraduates.

The seminars were conducted by the final year undergraduates with the participation and guidance of academic staff. Four seminars for Economics, Geography, Political Science and Sinhala were held from 06th July 2015- 9th July 2015. The participation of the A/L students was at a highly satisfactory level, and more than a thousand students participated for the event. This helped to develop the soft skills of the undergraduate students, including communication skills, presentation skills, aesthetic skills, team work, teaching and learning skills, creativity/innovations, decision making, analyzing skills, management skills, adaptability to sudden circumstances, leadership and professional ethics.



Participatory Rural Appraisal Programme at Badulugala

Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages successfully conducted a PRA programme at Baduludena isolated village on 21st of July 2015 to increase community sensitivity among staff and students for enhancing interpersonal skills of students and staff and to introduce pragmatic community interaction to the curriculum.

Conference Participation

- ❖ Oral presentation by Manjula Wijewickrema at the 3rd International Conference on Social Sciences Research (ICSSR 2015), held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from June 8-9 2015 under the theme, A Three Dimensional Model for Selecting the Most Appropriate Journal Outlet for Manuscript Submission
- ❖ Participation of Dr. IM Nawarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian, Main Library, at the 2nd International conference on Advances in Economics, Social Science and Human Behaviour Study - ESSHBS 2015 held at Hotel Lebua Bangkok, Thailand from August 28-29, 2015, organized by the Institute of Research Engineers and Doctors (IRED), United States of America.
- ❖ Five staff members of the Department of Accountancy and Finance of the Faculty of Management Studies had represented Sri Lanka for the International Conference organized by the Sambhram School of Management in Bangalore, India, on July 29 and 30, 2015 under the theme, Creating a Sustainable Lens for Higher Education: The New Urgency. Three articles were presented at that conference by Sri Lankan participants.
- ❖ Oral presentation by C.A. Karadana at the Urban Quest South Asia - South Asia Urban Forum 2015, held at Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo, from September 21-22, 2015. Land Valuation System Using GIS Technology: Case Study in Matara Urban Council Area by PGRNI Pussella, DS. Munasinghe, MDEK Gunathilake, CA Karandana.
- ❖ Oral presentation by AKRN Ranasinghe at the 36th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) Fostering Resilient Growth in Asia held at Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, from October 19-23, 2015. Identification of Urban Expansion Through GIS and Landsat Data by Ahangama Kankanamge Rasika Nishamanie Ranasinghe, Deepika Samanthi Munasinghe, Udeni Gnannpriya Anuruddha Puswewala.



8th Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference 2015

The group of 12 lecturers representing the Dept. of Tourism Management, with the Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University actively participated for the 8th Tropical Tourism Outlook conference, "Balancing Development and Sustainability in Tourism Destinations" held in Lombok, Indonesia, 29-31 July 2015. Hosted by the University of Mataram (UNRAM); Universiti Teknologi Mara, Northern Arizona University, James Cook University, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Tourism Commission, International Graphical Union. Our academic members, Dr. Wasantha Rathnayake, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies won the best paper award, and Dr. Iraj Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism Management and Mr. Mahesh Hapugoda, the Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Languages won the best presenter award.



Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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