

UoR HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA - SRI LANKA



January - June 2025

Volume 15 - Issue I

ISBN 2279-2392



FEATURE ARTICLE

Abuse of Older Adults in Sri Lanka: Implications in Nursing Practice

Dr. B.I. Wickramarachchi
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
University of Ruhuna.

Academic Sessions and Vice-Chancellor's Awards-2025

The University of Ruhuna successfully held its prestigious Academic Sessions and Vice Chancellor's Awards 2025 on 4th June 2025, at the Faculty of Agriculture. The event was organized under the theme "Innovating Across Boundaries: Bridging Knowledge for Global Impact," celebrating academic excellence and innovation within the university community.

The Academic Session, an annual event of the University of Ruhuna, has become more than just an academic gathering; it is a celebration of the intellect, curiosity, and creativity that define the academic spirit of the university. This session brings together scholars and students from different faculties, each bringing their own unique lens to common challenges. It is this diversity of thought and experience that makes this forum rich, dynamic, and essential in today's world. In conjunction, the Vice Chancellor's Awards serve as a moving tribute to those who embody the highest levels of dedication, innovation, and impact in their disciplines. These awards reflect the unwavering dedication to developing talent, instilling intellectual curiosity, and cultivating a culture of excellence that transcends boundaries and inspires future generations at the University of Ruhuna.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, whose esteemed presence graciously elevated the occasion. The event was graced by the presence of deans from different faculties, academic and administrative staff, non-academic personnel, invited guests, and students, forming a diverse assembly that reflected the breadth of the university community. Their collective presence underscored the significance of the occasion and embodied the spirit of collaboration that fosters meaningful dialogue and innovation.

Senior Professor Rangika Halwatura, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was the keynote speaker of the inauguration session, and his remarkable speech on "Past Forward: A Cross-disciplinary Road to Sustainability" invited the audience to move past forward to reimagine the future by learning from the past, and to explore sustainability as a shared journey across disciplines, cultures, and time.



Dr. P.W.D. Wasana, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, delivered the invited oration titled "Pharma-nature Fusion: Integrated Approaches for Effective Treatment."

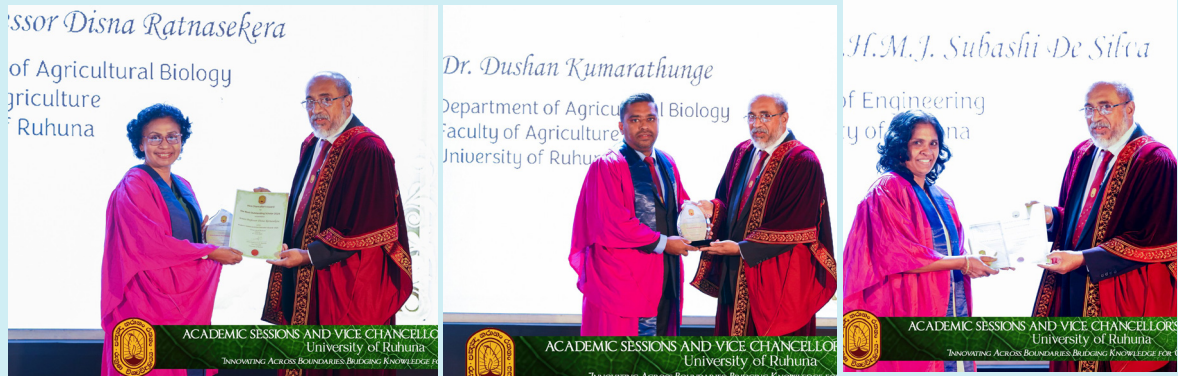
Conferment of Emeritus Professorship

This honor is bestowed in recognition of the unwavering contributions made by eminent professors to the University of Ruhuna and to Sri Lanka's academic and societal landscape. Senior Professor PLAG Alwis and Senior Professor Mangala De Soya, Faculty of Agriculture, and Senior Professor Sarath Lekamwasam, Faculty of Medicine, were conferred Emeritus Professorship.



Vice-Chancellor's Awards

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards recognize exceptional achievements in research, innovation, and international collaborations, honoring the university's most distinguished contributions to academic excellence. Senior Professor Disna Ratnasekera from the Faculty of Agriculture received the Most Outstanding Scholar award, while Dr. Dushan Kumarathunga, also from the Faculty of Agriculture, was honored as the Most Outstanding Young Researcher of the University.



UOR Tier 4* Awards

The Tier 4* Award represents the highest level of recognition from the University Grants Commission for academics who have demonstrated exceptional performance in research and publications. This year, the UOR Tier 4* was awarded to Professor Subashi De Silva, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna.

Best Presenter Awards (Oral and Poster Sessions)

The Best Presenter Awards honored extraordinary and outstanding oral and poster presentations in technical sessions of the previous year's event. The award winners of the Academic Session in 2024 were recognized during the ceremony.

Agriculture, Environment and Biological Sciences : Dr. L.N. Wijewardene,
Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Education, Humanities and Social Sciences : Prof. H.I.G.C. Kumara,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Human Health, Pharmaceuticals and Medicine: Mrs. W.N.D. De Silva,
Faculty of Medicine

Economics, Finance and Management: Mrs. B.B.D.S. Abeykoon,
Faculty of Management and Finance

Engineering, Technology and Applied Sciences: Mr. P.H.T. Maduranga,
Faculty of Engineering

Poster Session 1- Mr. H.M.P. Bandara, Faculty of Engineering

Poster Session 2- Mr. H.M.S. Sanjaya, Faculty of Engineering



The organizing committee of the Academic Sessions and Vice Chancellor's Awards 2025 was chaired by Professor Menaka Fernando and secretary of the committee was Dr. Chathura Perera of the Faculty of Agriculture.

Abuse of Older Adults in Sri Lanka: Implications in Nursing Practice

The proportion of older adults in the Sri Lankan population is increasing causing a number of health, economic and social consequences. Abuse of older adults is becoming a global public health issue and Sri Lanka is no exception. Social security and social benefits for older Sri Lankans are minimal, placing them an economically unstable and dependent population segment. Traditional family structures in the country are undergoing drastic changes due to demographic and social changes that affect intergenerational relationships and care processes. There is an increasing trend of institutionalization of older adults. These factors would expose older adults to experience various forms of abuse and neglect. The prevalence of chronic diseases and disabilities are comparatively high among old-old adults (Aged 80+ years). The majority of them are totally depend on caregivers and those older adults are more prone to be the victims of neglect and abuse.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines elder abuse as "a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person." Abuse of older adults could take multiple forms; physical, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect and abandonment. Although family connectedness and caring of older adults place high social values in the contemporary Sri Lanka, the demographic transition towards a nuclear family structure, westernization of the society and weak policies and legal actions influence how the abuse of older adults is perceived and reported. Very often older abuse is neglected and underreported.

Prevalence and causes of abuse of older adults in Sri Lanka

Reliable estimates of the abuse of older adults in Sri Lanka are not available. Cultural norms and societal values often discourage families from revealing instances of abuse, as it is perceived as bringing shame to the family. The older adults themselves may be reluctant to report abuse due to fear of retaliation, dependence on the abuser, or societal stigma. However, studies indicated that about 50% of older Sri Lankans are subjected to abuse, either physically, psychologically, or verbally, at least once during their old age.



There are several underline causes associated with this growing public health problem. Changing nature of family structures, economic hardships, urbanization and related weakening of social networks, lack of awareness about law and policies, caregiver burnout, and changing social attitudes towards elderly care are placed at the top of these causes.

The traditional extended family system, which provided a safety net for the elderly, is gradually being replaced by nuclear families as a result of demographic transition and westernization of the society. This shift has contributed to reduce the support system available for older adults and increased their vulnerability. Financial strains amplify this situation. In low-income households, older adults may be seen as a burden, leading to negligence or financial exploitation. As a result of economic crisis experienced by low and middle-income people, adults in the productive age categories tend to move to urban areas or abroad for better prospects leaving their older adults isolated in their traditional environments without adequate care. The situation has caused many older adults subjected to neglect and abuse.

Caregiver burnout has become a major concern in this public health issue. Caregivers, often family members, may experience stress and frustration, leading to unintentional neglect or abuse. Most of the time, the caregiver is the breadwinner of the family and holds multiple tasks within the family, bearing a lot of hardships. This causes caregiver burnout and, leads to neglect and abuse of older adults. Although older adults are experiencing various forms of abuse, many individuals remain unaware that their actions constitute abuse, particularly in cases of emotional or financial exploitation. Similarly, older adults may not always recognize neglect or mistreatment as abuse. Although, in the Sri Lankan society, there are cultural values and attitudes for treating older parents well and respecting them, those values are rapidly changing within the society.

Older adults are sometimes perceived as unproductive or burdensome, leading them to experience discrimination and mistreatment.

Consequences of abuse of older adults

Numerous adverse consequences of the abuse of older adults can be seen and such consequences affect the victims, their families, and the whole community. Physical abuse and neglect can lead to injuries, chronic health conditions, and even premature death of older adults, emotional abuse and neglect could result in depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. The social isolation often experienced by abused older adults exacerbates these problems. Financial abuse of older adults depletes the resources of the older adults, leaving them impoverished and unable them to meet their basic needs. Abuse of older adults erodes social cohesion and places a strain on healthcare and social welfare systems. As a low and middle-income country without sound policies and programs for the care of older adults in the country, Sri Lanka is currently facing dilemmas in tackling the health and well-being of the Sri Lankan elderly population.

Policy actions and preventive strategies

Sri Lanka has taken steps to address the abuse of older adults, but significant gaps remain in policy and implementation. National Council for Elders and National Secretariat for Elders have been established under the Protection of Elders Rights Act No. 9 of 2000. The objectives of the two institutes were to encourage the participation of older persons in social development and to ensure their independent care, participation, self-fulfillment, and dignity, and to protect the rights of older adults through awareness programs. The Elders' Maintenance Act mandates that children or close relatives should provide financial support to elderly parents. Although violations to this can result in legal actions, enforcement is limited by cultural factors and the reluctance of older adults to file complaints. Elderly societies have been established in every Divisional Secretariat Division in Sri Lanka by the government to foster the health and wellbeing of older adults. Community organizations and NGOs play a critical role in supporting older adults through home care services, counseling, and advocacy.

Implications for Nursing Practice

Nurses have a significant role in preventing abuse of older adults and caring for the victims. However, the nursing interventions should be based on the evidence and should be culture sensitive.

Nurses are responsible for reporting any suspected or confirmed cases of abuse of older patients to appropriate authorities. Several actions need to be taken by nurses when dealing with older patients who were subjected to neglect or abuse. The major actions include preventing further harm, safeguarding the victim and directing the victim to appropriate services, reporting the incident to relevant authorities, educating and supporting the victim, caregivers, and family members, and evaluate and record the outcomes of care. Providing emotional support and comfort to the victim would immensely help to bring out both physical and psychological health consequences. The nurse also should refer the older person and the caregiver to appropriate services such as geriatric services, social care services, and legal services that can provide further assessment, treatment, support, and follow-up. Although geriatric care services and legal support services for abused older adults are available in the country, such services have not been materialized properly. There is an urgent need to incorporate education and care services of abused older adults into nursing education and practice. The majority of victims do not receive the needed holistic and culturally sensitive care and support. Nursing and law enforcement authorities should work together to plan and implement effective and sustainable policies and strategies to tackle this emerging public health concern.

Dr. B.I. Wickramarachchi,

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences,

University of Ruhuna

Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, Assumed Duties as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna

Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, with effect from 8th March 2025, for a tenure of three years.

The official oath-taking ceremony was held on 8th March 2025 at 7:30 AM at the University premises. Following religious observances, Prof. Jayantha formally assumed duties as the Vice Chancellor.

The ceremony was graced by the Chancellor of the University, Most Venerable Dr. Akuretiye Nanda Thero, along with the Registrar, Librarian, Deans of the Faculties, Council members, academic staff, and administrative and non-academic staff. This appointment marks a significant moment in the leadership journey of the University, and we extend our best wishes to Prof. Jayantha for a successful and impactful tenure.



University of Ruhuna Celebrates International Mother Language Day 2025



The Department of Sinhala at the University of Ruhuna commemorated International Mother Language Day 2025 with a scholarly and cultural event on 21st February 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. The two-session event was presided over by the University Chancellor, Most Venerable Dr. Akuretiye Nanda Nayaka Thero. Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Ratnayake, the Competent Authority of the University of Ruhuna, served as Chief Guest, while Mr. Andalib Ilyas, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

A significant highlight was the keynote address by Prof. Md. Rejaul Karim Talukder from the Department of Bangla at Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh, who emphasized the global importance of linguistic diversity and preservation.

The program featured a series of insightful academic lectures by leading scholars, including Prof. Ratnasiri Arangala, Dr. Maduranga Kalugampitiya, Dr. Lokeswari Karunaratne, Dr. Rangana Kuruwita, Mr. M. Rubawathanan, and Mr. Chamila Liyanage. Each presentation offered unique perspectives on language, identity, and cultural heritage, contributing to a deeper understanding of mother languages' role in contemporary society. The event concluded with a musical performance by renowned vocalist Nadeeka Guruge, adding a cultural dimension to the academic discourse and celebrating the spirit of linguistic and artistic expression.

Ruhuna Engineers Celebrate 25 Years with Grand Jubilee Night

The Ruhuna Engineers' Jubilee Night 2025 was held in grand style on the 29th of March at the Wave n Lake Navy Hall, Ragama, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna. The event brought together generations of engineers in a memorable evening of nostalgia, fellowship, and pride.

Organized by the Ruhuna Engineering Faculty Alumni Association (REFAA), the event aimed to honour the founding members of the Faculty, as well as the many academic and non-academic staff who have contributed to its growth over the past 25 years. It also served as a meaningful platform to bring together the alumni community, re-connecting past graduates and celebrating the shared legacy of the Faculty.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. P.A. Jayantha, attended as the Chief Guest, along with many distinguished guests, including founding academic staff, faculty members, and senior professionals from industry and academia.

Over 600 alumni from across the country and beyond gathered to reconnect with former colleagues and teachers, celebrating the strong bonds formed through their shared educational journey. The event featured speeches, multimedia retrospectives, musical performances, and tributes to individuals who played key roles in the Faculty's development.

A special segment was dedicated to recognizing the pioneers and long-serving staff whose dedication laid the foundation for the Faculty's enduring success.

In addition to the celebrations, a significant milestone was marked by the official handover of a PLC training kit worth LKR 5 million to the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. This generous donation was made by MSN Engineering and facilitated by Eng. Sanjeeva Sumeera (3rd batch). The donation was received by the Dean on behalf of the faculty, underscoring the ongoing support of industry partners in advancing the Faculty's educational capabilities.



The evening reflected the strength and unity of the Ruhuna Engineering community and reaffirmed REFAA's ongoing commitment to supporting the Faculty's future in education, research, and innovation.

RUHUNA ENGINEERS' JUBILEE NIGHT - 2025
ORGANIZED BY RUHUNA ENGINEERING FACULTY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Inter Faculty Sports Meet – 2025

The University of Ruhuna marked a triumphant return to inter-faculty athletics with the commencement of the Inter-Faculty Meet 2025, following a three-year hiatus since its last edition in 2022. The much-anticipated event began on 17th May 2025 with a vibrant opening ceremony that showcased the unity and competitive spirit of the university's nine faculties.

Organized by the Physical Education Unit in collaboration with the Sports Advisory Board and the Sports Council, the meet heralds several weeks of spirited competition and athletic excellence. The opening ceremony, held on university grounds, was a colorful and lively celebration of student talent, teamwork, and institutional pride. Chairman of the Sports Advisory Board, Prof. A.C. Karunaratna, Acting Director of the Physical Education Unit, Mr. Keerthi Kumara, Members of the Sports Advisory Board, Academic Staff, Non-academic staff members, and students attended this ceremonial event.

Running through 13th July, the Inter-Faculty Meet features 27 sporting events, drawing hundreds of student-athletes into friendly but fierce competition. More than a showcase of athletic prowess, the event stands as a celebration of perseverance, camaraderie, and the enduring spirit of Ruhuna Sports. With cheers echoing across the fields and the vibrant colors of faculty flags flying high, the 2025 meet is poised to be a landmark season in the university's sporting history.



Staff Badminton Tournament - 2025

The University Staff Badminton Championship, organized by the Ruhuna University Staff Badminton Association together with the Physical Education Unit, was conceived with the vision of promoting camaraderie, wellness, and friendly competition among staff members across the University of Ruhuna on 17th May 2025.

While academic collaboration has long been a cornerstone of university relations, this championship introduces a vibrant platform where athletic spirit and mutual respect take center stage.

Beyond the court, it encourages physical well-being, fosters lasting friendships, and nurtures a sense of unity across faculties. This event is a celebration not only of badminton but also of teamwork, sportsmanship, and the shared commitment of university staff to personal and professional growth through sport.



STAFF BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP - 2025

Photography by
Ruhuna Media Unit

Staff Sports Meet: Faculty of Technology

The Faculty of Technology Staff Sports Meet, themed "Harmony through Sports," was successfully conducted on 7th January 2025, at the University Gynasium at the Wellamadama Premises. Faculty staff enthusiastically participated in various sporting events, competing in four teams: Fury, Orbit, Tackler, and Rally.

All participants demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the day, creating a joyful and memorable experience for everyone involved. The event successfully fostered stronger bonds, unity, and harmony among staff members while promoting healthy competition and team spirit.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Competent Authority of the University, Senior Prof. Udaya Rathnayaka, who attended as the Chief Guest. The Faculty Sports Club organized this engaging initiative, which proved to be an excellent platform for staff interaction and relationship building beyond the workplace environment.



Intensive English Conversation Program: Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ruhuna recently concluded yet another landmark initiative aimed at enhancing student competencies beyond the technical realm. The Intensive English Conversation Program, organized by the Career Guidance Unit in collaboration with PNP Global (USA), was held from 17th to 21st March 2025 at the Faculty Auditorium with resounding success, drawing remarkable participation and enthusiasm.

Sessions were conducted by a dedicated team of USA citizens representing PNP Global, who brought international perspectives and dynamic teaching methods to the camp. Their expertise and enthusiasm created an engaging environment that encouraged participants to step beyond their comfort zones and develop greater fluency, confidence, and global awareness.

Over the course of several engaging sessions, students were immersed in an interactive learning environment designed to sharpen their English communication skills, a critical asset in today's globalized world. Participants actively took part in structured discussions, practical exercises, and dynamic conversations that fostered both linguistic fluency and personal confidence.

Participants expressed overwhelming appreciation for the interactive format and the supportive guidance provided by the trainers. The noticeable growth in communication confidence among attendees stands as a testament to the camp's lasting impact.

The Career Guidance Unit extends its sincere gratitude to PNP Global for their collaboration and to all participants for their commitment. Initiatives such as the PNP Global English Camp 2025 reaffirm the Faculty's mission to nurture engineers who are not only technically skilled but also poised to become confident communicators and leaders on the global stage.



"Speaksphere": A camp to empower English language skills of HRM Undergraduates

The English Club of the Department of Human Resource Management, University of Ruhuna, hosted Speaksphere: The English Camp on 04th June from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the University Gymnasium, exclusively for HRM undergraduates. The main goal of Speaksphere was to create a supportive space that builds both English language skills and essential soft skills.

Students actively participated in a range of creative, skill-building activities, including team discussions, group challenges, storytelling, and public speaking. Fun team-building games and friendly competitions also encouraged collaboration, problem-solving, and stronger peer connections.

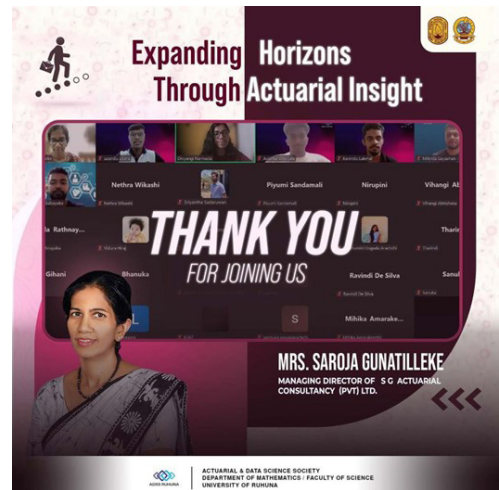
These activities provided a valuable platform for students to express themselves confidently, develop leadership qualities, and enhance their communication skills in a practical setting. Speaking at the event, Dr. Hemamali Ganewatta, Senior Treasurer of the English Club, highlighted that "Speaksphere" provided valuable opportunities to empower students, not only to enhance their English proficiency but also to build the confidence and soft skills essential for future career success. Dr. Jayarani Ramawickrama, Head of the Department of Human Resource Management, together with several staff members, graced the occasion and joined in awarding certificates and gifts to the winners.



Expanding Horizons through Actuarial Insight

The Actuarial and Data Science Society (ADSS) of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, recently hosted an inspiring virtual session titled "Expanding Horizons Through Actuarial Insight" on the 16th of May 2025 via the Zoom platform, which brought together students to delve into the ever-evolving world of actuarial science.

The session featured Mrs. Saroja Gunathilleke, Managing Director of SG Actuarial Consultancy (Pvt) Ltd, who is widely recognized as a leading figure in the actuarial field in Sri Lanka. With her vast experience and deep industry knowledge, she provided a clear and engaging overview of the actuarial profession, its growing demand globally, and its importance in today's data-driven world. Participants gained valuable insights into the qualifications required to become an actuary, available career pathways, and the essential skills needed to succeed in the field. The session also highlighted how actuarial science blends mathematics, statistics, and business to solve real-world financial and risk management challenges.



This initiative reflects the commitment of the Department of Mathematics and the entire support system of ADSS in preparing students for globally relevant careers and fostering strong industry connections. It opened doors to expand their horizons while interacting with the speaker and stepping confidently into future-ready professions. Events like these not only enrich the academic experience but also inspire students to pursue excellence in their professional journey.

Workshop on Bonsai

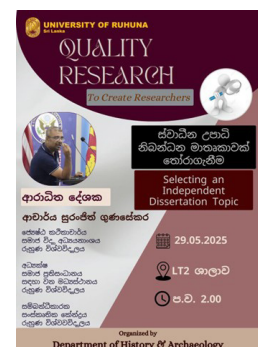
A special Bonsai Workshop was successfully held on 8th June 2025 at the Faculty of Agriculture, proudly organized by the Department of Crop Science. This initiative further demonstrates the University's commitment to delivering practical, hands-on education that complements academic learning.

Designed to expand students' practical knowledge and appreciation for the art of Bonsai, the workshop drew enthusiastic participation from undergraduates, staff, and nature enthusiasts. Expert resource persons guided participants through fundamental techniques from pruning and wiring to shaping and long-term maintenance highlighting the blend of science and creativity involved in Bonsai cultivation.



Guest Lectures for Quality research

The Department of History and Archaeology organized two guest lectures under the theme "Quality Research," emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of academic discourse within the scholarly community. On 28th May, 2025, Mr. Upul Sanjeewa from the Department of Sociology delivered a guest lecture on contemporary and emerging trends currently shaping the field of Social Science research. The following day, 29th May 2025, Dr. Suranjith Gunasekara, also from the Department of Sociology, facilitated a guest lecture focusing on topic selection strategies for independent research dissertations.



Excavation study at Matara Fort

The systematic excavation endeavor that has been undertaken at the historically significant Matara Fort has been progressing steadily in conjunction with the collaborative efforts of the Central Cultural Fund of Matara, a partnership that has been actively operational since the 2nd of June in the year 2025, specifically designed to provide an immersive and practical learning experience for the students who are currently enrolled in the archaeology special degree program at the 3000 level.



Guest Lecture on “Advanced Machine Learning Techniques for Processing Complex Data”

A special guest lecture on “Advanced Machine Learning Techniques for Processing Complex Data” was successfully held on Monday, 2nd June 2025, at 12:30 PM at the Computer Science Auditorium of the University of Ruhuna. The event was organized by the Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSS) in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics. The resource person of the session was Dr. Dixon Vimalajeewa, Assistant Professor in Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), USA. Dr. Vimalajeewa is a proud alumnus of the University of Ruhuna, where he completed his BSc Special Degree in Mathematics.

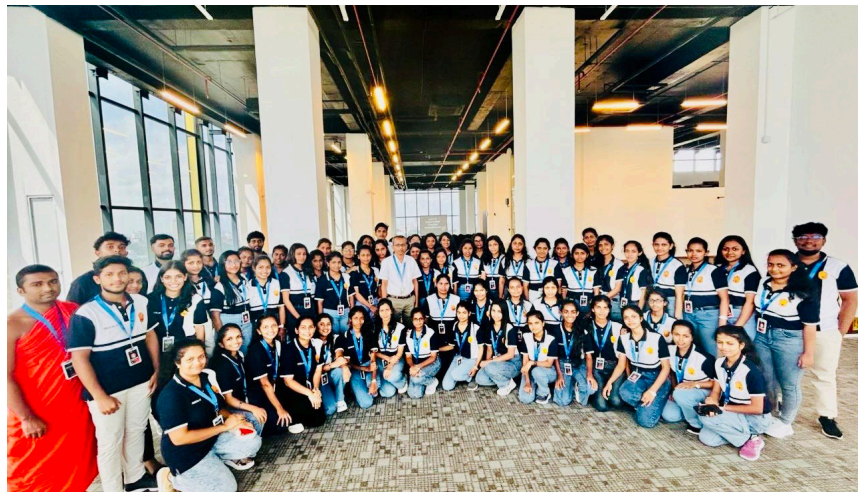
Approximately 200 undergraduates from various departments, along with academic staff, participated in the session. During the lecture, Dr. Vimalajeewa shared valuable insights into modern machine learning methods used to process and analyze complex data structures. His presentation was both engaging and informative, offering students and academics a deeper understanding of the growing role of machine learning in statistical research and practical applications. It was a proud and inspiring moment for the University of Ruhuna community to reconnect with a distinguished alumnus now making significant contributions on a global stage.



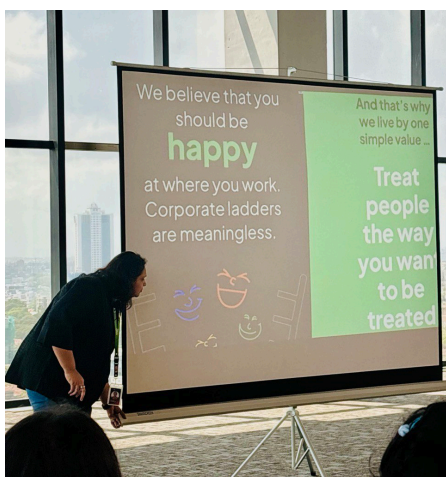
Industry Knowledge Sharing Sessions 2025

The Department of Information Technology organized Industry Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing Sessions to enhance second-year undergraduates' understanding of industry expectations and strengthen their professional skill set. The sessions focused on bridging the gap between academic learning and industry demands through soft skills development, effective communication, career guidance, and corporate ethics.

Session Highlights Mr. Suvin Nimanka, Senior Software Engineer at WSO2, conducted a session on “IT Industry's Expectations from the Undergraduate.” He emphasized cultivating soft skills, building confidence, identifying career paths, and gaining competencies beyond classroom learning to succeed in the IT sector.



Ms. Zaitoon Bin Aahamed, Head of Corporate Communication at WSO2, delivered a presentation on “Corporate Ethics and Communication,” focusing on workplace ethics, interpersonal communication, and professional behavior expected in modern organizations. Ms. Dhivya Balakrishnan from People Operations at WSO2 shared insights into HR practices in the IT industry, covering recruitment expectations, workplace culture, employee engagement, and how students can prepare to become industry-ready from an HR perspective.



The series provided students with comprehensive exposure to technical, interpersonal, and organizational dimensions of the IT industry. It was particularly beneficial in equipping students with essential soft skills and communication abilities, which are increasingly critical in professional environments. Recognizing the positive outcomes, the Department of Information Technology plans to conduct these sessions annually to ensure ongoing engagement between academia and industry, better preparing students for the dynamic IT workforce.

Empowering Future Agri-Technologists: 5-Day Training on Agricultural Machinery

The Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology at the University of Ruhuna successfully conducted a five-day intensive training program on agricultural machinery from March 24th to 28th 2025. Held in collaboration with Browns & Company PLC, this initiative enriched the academic experience for 60 third-year students from various BSc (Hons) programs. As part of course module EN32204, which carries two credits, the training included both theoretical lectures and practical fieldwork. Participants gained foundational knowledge in machinery operation, safety practices, maintenance, and project planning, supported by modern equipment and expert guidance provided by Browns & Company PLC.

The hands-on practical sessions featured a wide range of agricultural machinery including two-wheel and four-wheel tractors, ploughs, harrows, levellers, seeders, trans-planters, weeders, and harvesters. Students were trained in implement harnessing, operational adjustments, and safe usage under varying field conditions. A notable enhancement this year was the integration of drone technology. Learners explored the role of drones in precision farming and monitoring, combining classroom instruction with real-time drone operation in the field—an important step towards smart agriculture practices.

Assessment of student competence involved both practical examinations and viva sessions. Those who demonstrated proficiency, received certificates acknowledging their academic and practical achievements. The Department expressed sincere gratitude to Browns & Company PLC for their continued collaboration, underscoring the program's commitment to producing industry-ready graduates. This annual training stands as a testament to the faculty's efforts in advancing sustainable and mechanized agriculture in Sri Lanka.



Sociology Day 2025

The Department of Sociology at the University of Ruhuna marked a significant milestone by celebrating Sociology Day on 29th April 2025 under the theme “Sociology for Change: Understanding Society, Shaping the Future.” The event, held at the Faculty Auditorium, brought together academic staff, students, alumni, and invited guests for a day of reflection, celebration, and academic engagement. The Chief Guest, Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, graced the occasion, while the keynote address was delivered by Senior Professor Wasantha Subasinghe, Director General of the National Institute of Social Development. Her thought-provoking lecture emphasized the relevance of sociology in addressing contemporary societal challenges and promoting social development.

A heartfelt tribute was paid to Senior Professor A.K.G. Jayasinghe, the department's founding Head, in recognition of his 12 years of dedicated leadership and lasting contributions. Another key highlight was the launch of the documentary “Journey of Three Decades,” reflecting on the department's growth over 30 years. Several e-publications featuring collaborative research by staff and students were unveiled, demonstrating the department's commitment to academic di-

alogue and research dissemination. The event also featured a panel discussion with distinguished alumni, who shared their professional journeys and illustrated the practical applications of sociological knowledge. The recent gold medalist in Sociology was honored during the ceremony, and a special publication, “Samaja Sampradana,” featuring final-year student research, was launched. Student competitions in debating, photography, and poster presentations added a vibrant dimension, with winners awarded for their creative contributions. The day concluded with a cultural show, “Damsara Sedewa,” highlighting student and alumni performances in music, dance, and drama. Sociology Day 2025 successfully fostered community spirit, celebrated academic excellence, and reaffirmed sociology's transformative role in society.



Pre-Symposium Webinar Series Strengthens Global Dialogue Ahead of ISAE 2025

The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, proudly concluded seven impactful sessions of its pre-symposium webinar series in preparation for the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE) 2025. Organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, this forward-looking initiative successfully positioned the University of Ruhuna as a hub for scholarly engagement, global collaboration, and research excellence.

The webinar series featured distinguished experts from academia and industry, both locally and internationally, sparking critical conversations on global agricultural and environmental challenges. The sessions addressed diverse and timely topics such as climate-smart agriculture, food system resilience, AI in agriculture, sustainable construction, and global dairy sustainability. The series opened with Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake (Curtin University/University of Peradeniya), who presented "Empowering Sustainability: The Role of Green Entrepreneurship in Driving Global Change." This was followed by notable speakers including Senior Prof. Udaya Rathnayake, Prof. Sigrid Agenäs, Senior Prof. H. D. Karunaratne, Prof. Martin Anda, Prof. Roshan G. Ragel, and Dr. Maria Sanchez (IDF), each bringing fresh insights and global perspectives.

All sessions were moderated by past ISAE coordinators, ensuring academic rigor and continuity. E-certificates were awarded to participants, encouraging widespread engagement from students, academics, and professionals. With four more webinars scheduled before ISAE 2025, the university remains committed to fostering innovation and bridging research and practice.

This successful webinar series not only reinforced the University of Ruhuna's leadership in addressing sustainable development goals but also enhanced its reputation as a credible and dynamic academic institution in the region. The initiative sets a strong foundation for ISAE 2025, promising a rich, impactful experience for all attendees.



Discussion on the Role of Mindfulness in Academic Life

the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies successfully hosted a thought-provoking online lecture on the fundamental role of mindfulness in academic life on 10th February 2025. The resource person of the event was Prof. H.C.P. Karunasena, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna. The session drew attention to how mindfulness can be developed as a vital skill to enhance cognitive focus, emotional regulation, and psychological well-being among academics.

Prof. Karunasena offered an in-depth analysis of mindfulness practices and shared evidence-based strategies to support improved concentration, reduced stress, and greater productivity. His insights provided participants with practical tools to enrich both their intellectual and emotional capacities within academic settings.



Training on Underwater Archaeology

Mr. Amalka Wijesuriya, a distinguished figure in the field of underwater archaeology, alongside a cohort of final-year students who are nearing the culmination of their academic endeavors, has been actively participating in a comprehensive and meticulously structured training program in underwater archaeology that has been orchestrated by the Centre for Conservation and Fieldwork (CCF) located in Galle. In order to provide a visual representation of the engaging and educational experiences that transpired during this rigorous underwater archaeology training program designed specifically for final-year students.



Guest Lectures on Child Protection and Child Abuse

The comprehensive awareness initiative aimed at addressing the critical issues of child abuse, enhancing child protection measures, and promoting the fundamental rights of children was conducted in a collaborative effort with the esteemed child protection authority of Sri Lanka, thereby underscoring the importance of joint ventures in tackling such significant societal challenges. This meticulously organized program unfolded over a two-day session, specifically scheduled for the 18th and 19th days of June, which allowed for an in-depth exploration of the subject matter and facilitated meaningful discussions among participants. The distinguished resource person who led this enlightening session was none other than Mr. Guruge Eranda, a highly regarded divisional child protection officer, whose expertise and insights were instrumental in enriching the overall learning experience of the attendees.



The 4th Mini-Symposium and Poster Competition of the Department of Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics, partnering with the Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSS), successfully hosted the 4th Mini Symposium and Poster Competition on 12th March 2025, commemorating the International Day of Mathematics declared by the International Mathematical Union.

The event began with an inaugural session at the Computer Science Auditorium, followed by four parallel technical sessions. Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, the newly appointed Vice Chancellor, served as Chief Guest, while Professor D.H.N. Munasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Science, attended as Guest of Honor, demonstrating the university's commitment to academic excellence. Dr. Sithum Munasinghe delivered a virtual keynote address, sharing insights into contemporary mathematical research developments. Certificates were also awarded to outstanding presenters from the 3rd Mini-Symposium during the inaugural session.

A tree-planting initiative at the Mathematics De-

partment symbolized the university's environmental commitment, with students, faculty, and organizers participating together.

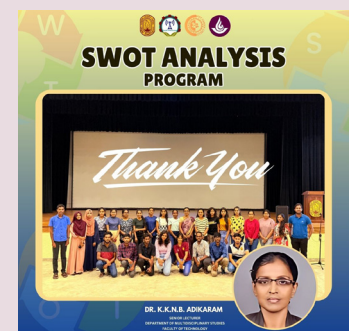
The poster competition, themed "How Mathematics and Statistics Can Transform Sri Lanka," welcomed undergraduate participation from mathematics and statistics departments across all state and non-state universities in Sri Lanka, fostering nationwide academic collaboration.



Workshop on SWOT Analysis

To equip students with essential career development skills, the Career Guidance Unit of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, successfully conducted a "SWOT Analysis Workshop" on 19th February 2025 at the faculty auditorium. The event was jointly organized by the Career Guidance Cell (CGC) and the Faculty of Technology Career Council (FOTCC).

The workshop was coordinated by Mrs. Chamali Madushika, a member of the CGC, and facilitated by Dr. K.K.N.B. Adikaram, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Technology. A total of 26 students participated in the session, supported by several committed undergraduate volunteers from FOTCC. The workshop engaged participants in an interactive exploration of their personal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, aiming to enhance strategic thinking and foster personal and professional development. It served as a valuable platform for students to gain insight into self-assessment techniques and refine their decision-making abilities, ultimately contributing to their long-term career readiness.



Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON 2025)

The Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, proudly hosted the 12th Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON 2025) on 22nd January 2025, reaffirming the university's status as a leading center for scientific excellence and innovation. First launched in 2002 and expanded internationally in 2014, RISTCON has evolved into a premier platform for sharing groundbreaking research and fostering global collaborations.

Themed "Advancing Science and Technology Research for a Better Future," this year's conference emphasized the vital role of research in addressing contemporary global challenges. RISTCON 2025 featured an inspiring keynote address by Prof. Archana Sharma, a distinguished senior scientist at CERN, Geneva, alongside plenary lectures by Prof. W. A. Priyanka P. De Silva from the University of Peradeniya and Professor Channa De Silva from Western Carolina University, USA.

The conference received 190 submissions, with 147 presentations accepted across diverse scientific fields, showcasing the dedication and expertise of Sri Lanka's research community. The event was graced by esteemed academic leaders, including Senior Prof. R. M. U. S. K. Rathnayaka, Competent Authority of the University of Ruhuna; Prof. D. H. N. Munasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Science; and other distinguished scholars, further highlighting the



university's commitment to advancing science and technology.

RISTCON 2025 exemplifies the University of Ruhuna's dedication to nurturing innovation, fostering collaboration, and promoting high-quality research. The conference continues to serve as a catalyst for scientific growth, elevating Sri Lanka's role in the global scientific landscape while inspiring future generations of researchers.

Workshop: "The Art of Corporate Event Marketing"



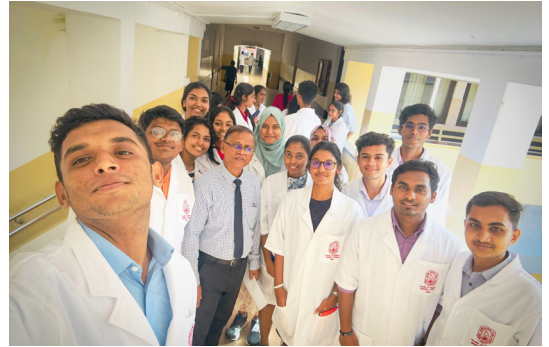
The Department of Marketing had the privilege of organizing a workshop on Event Marketing under the theme "The Art of Corporate Event Marketing", conducted by Dr. Tharaka Dias, the esteemed Managing Director of Ambrum Group of Companies. The workshop was held on 16th June 2025 for the 3000-level marketing special students. The workshop was held as part of the department's continuous efforts to bridge academic learning with industry practice, this session proved to be an intellectually stimulating and practically enriching experience for all participants. Dr. Dias, a highly respected industry professional with years of experience in corporate event planning and strategic marketing, delivered an engaging and insightful presentation that captivated the audience from beginning to end. He masterfully combined theoretical insights with practical experience, enabling students to grasp the nuances of event marketing within the broader scope of corporate event strategy.

The interactive nature of the session encouraged student participation, critical thinking, and dialogue, making it not only informative but also highly engaging. The students were particularly inspired by Dr. Dias's passion for innovation and his emphasis on attention to detail, creativity, and strategic execution. This workshop served as a valuable platform for students to expand their horizons, develop a deeper appreciation for event marketing, and explore how classroom knowledge can be applied to real-world corporate environments. It was undoubtedly a memorable and transformative learning experience.

Introducing Early Clinical Exposure (ECE) to Medical Students at Ruhuna

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, has taken a significant step forward by introducing Early Clinical Exposure (ECE) program into its revised curriculum. Traditionally, undergraduate medical curricular in Sri Lankan Medical schools have included inputs of basic sciences during the first two years separated from hospital-based clinical training which takes place from the third year onwards. However, modern educational approaches recognize the value of exposing students to real-life clinical environments early in their studies. ECE helps bridge the gap between theory and practice by allowing students to see how the knowledge gained in the classroom applies to real world patient care. It also fosters the development of essential qualities such as communication skills, empathy, and professionalism from the very beginning of their medical journey.

The ECE program was launched in March 2025 for the 47th batch of medical students as a structured 20-hour module included in their curriculum. The initial session began in their first term with introductory lectures, followed by small group visits to the National Hospital Galle and university-affiliated units in Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Paediatrics. During these visits, students observed real patient care under the guidance of both clinical and preclinical teachers. The clinical cases were carefully selected to align with the theoretical knowledge students had already acquired, helping them see the practical relevance of their academic learning during the initial study program of basic sciences.



Students were then encouraged to reflect on their experiences through written reflections, focusing on what they observed and how it shaped their understanding of the medical profession. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of students supporting the continuation of the program. The Faculty of Medicine takes pride in introducing this innovative step in medical education and believes that ECE will bring a valuable new dimension to the early training of future doctors graduating from the university.

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies Enhances Research Skills through Expert Guest Lecture Series

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna, successfully launched a comprehensive guest lecture series designed to empower undergraduate students with essential research skills and methodologies. The enlightening series commenced on 29th May 2025 with an engaging session on "Qualitative and Quantitative Research," expertly delivered by Mr. N.G. Upul Sanjeeva Wijepala, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). Building on this foundation, Mrs. Anuradha Gamage, Lecturer from the Department of Economics, Faculty of HSS, guided students through the intricacies of "Data Analysis" on 5th June 2025.

The academic journey continued with Mrs. K.V.J. Koshalee, Senior Lecturer from the Department of History and Archaeology, who shared her expertise in "Archaeological and Historical Research Methodology" on 12th June 2025, providing students with specialized insights into historical research approaches. A particularly valuable session on 19th June 2025 featured Mrs. Sakunthala Senevirathne, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Main Library, who unveiled the treasure trove of digital academic resources available through the university library system. The series concluded on 25th June 2025 with Mr. Wijepala returning to provide indispensable guidance on crafting compelling and academically rigorous research proposals. This initiative represents the department's commitment to nurturing well-rounded researchers equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.



Okayama-Ruhuna Student Exchange Program 2025

The Okayama-Ruhuna Student Exchange Program 2025 held from January 9th to 12th at the University of Ruhuna, marked a significant milestone in strengthening academic collaboration between Okayama University, Japan, and the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. The event was organized by the Ruhuna University Soil Science Club (RUSSC) under the guidance of Snr. Prof. D.A.L. Leelamanie (Patron, RUSSC), Dr. W.M.C.J. Wijekoon (Head, Department of Soil Science), and Prof. S.R. Amarasinghe (Senior Treasurer, RUSSC), along with the active involvement of the department's academic staff.

The program welcomed esteemed participants from Okayama University, including Prof. Morihiro Maeda and two international students. Designed to foster international academic exchange, cultural understanding, and collaborative learning, the program began with an opening ceremony that encouraged mutual engagement and knowledge sharing. A key highlight was the Okayama-Ruhuna Symposium on Soil and Environment (OASYS 2025), where young researchers present-



ed their work on soil science, environmental sustainability, and innovative practices, stimulating insightful discussions and future research prospects. The final two days offered field-based and cultural learning opportunities. A visit to Midigama Fruit Farm allowed participants to explore tropical agriculture, agroforestry, and sustainable land use. The program concluded with a Madu River safari and a tour of Galle Fort, providing students with a deeper appreciation of Sri Lanka's biodiversity and heritage.

The Okayama-Ruhuna Student Exchange Program 2025 exemplifies the University of Ruhuna's commitment to internationalization, fostering global academic partnerships and enriching student learning experiences.

Fire Risk Mapping and Projection in the Asia-Pacific Region with Big Data and AI

A groundbreaking international research project titled "Fire Risk Mapping and Projection in the Asia-Pacific Region Based on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence Techniques," led by Professor Jin-Soo Kim, unites experts across the Asia-Pacific to combat escalating wildfire threats driven by climate change. The event was held from 23rd March to 25th April.

Dr. Gayan Pathirana, Senior lecturer in the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology, represents University of Ruhuna. This project employs advanced machine learning and artificial intelligence to create fire risk maps and long-term projections spanning seasonal to decadal timeframes. By integrating satellite remote sensing, meteorological data, environmental monitoring, and socio-economic indicators, researchers aim to improve understanding of fire ignition, spread, duration, and intensity.

Dr. Pathirana's participation demonstrates the University of Ruhuna's commitment to international collaboration and climate resilience, highlighting the university's growing global presence in addressing critical environmental challenges.



Invited lecture on "Potentials of Firefly Ecotourism in South Asia"

Dr. W. M. C. Dammika Wijekoon, Senior Lecturer, attached to the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna was invited for a guest lecture on "Potentials of Firefly Ecotourism in South Asia" at the "Webinar on fireflies" organized by Fireflies Asian Association in connection with National Seminar-2025, Kannur University, India.

They invited Dr. Wijekoon for this event as he is an expert in firefly beetles in Sri Lanka. It was a virtual event and conducted with more than 100 international participants. Dr. Wijekoon delivered his lecture productively by highlighting the importance and available opportunities for developing firefly based ecotourism in South Asia.



Strengthening Global Academic Collaborations: A Visit from Kanazawa University, Japan



The University of Ruhuna had the distinguished honor of hosting a high-level academic delegation from Kanazawa University, Japan on 2nd April 2025, in a visit that underscored the growing global engagement of the university. The visit marked a pivotal step forward in strengthening academic bridges between Japan and Sri Lanka, paving the way for meaningful collaborations in teaching, research, and student mobility.

During the visit, both institutions engaged in fruitful discussions focusing on student exchange programs, collaborative research initiatives, and long-term academic partnerships. The delegation also had the opportunity to interact with university leadership, faculty members, and students, deepening mutual understanding and identifying shared goals across disciplines.



This engagement promises exciting prospects for cross-cultural academic exchange, exposure to cutting-edge research environments, and capacity-building initiatives that will benefit both institutions. As the University of Ruhuna continues to build its global academic footprint, partnerships like this highlight its commitment to fostering innovation, global citizenship, and inclusive development in higher education.

Collaborative study programme with University of Ruhuna and University of Amsterdam

The Sri Lanka–Netherlands Collaborative Study Program 2025 was successfully held from March 7th to 18th across multiple locations in Sri Lanka. It was organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, in partnership with the University of Amsterdam and the Young Researchers Network (YRN), and brought together aspiring researchers and final-year undergraduates from both Sri Lanka and the Netherlands. The program began at the University of Ruhuna, where students exchanged perspectives on agribusiness challenges, cooperative models, and intercultural dynamics between Sri Lanka and the Netherlands. It then continued to Sri Lanka's central highlands, where participants explored the country's iconic tea industry and plantation economy. Visits to the Tea Research Institute and nearby plantations provided valuable exposure to tea cultivation, processing techniques, sustainability practices, and the everyday realities of estate communities. Through hands-on training in interview and observation methods, students engaged directly with plantation workers and cooperative members, gaining a deeper understanding of socio-economic challenges and community resilience. The final



segment took place in Mannar, focusing on fisheries, aquaculture, and cooperative development. Field visits to local fishing communities offered insight into pressing issues such as sustainability, resource conflicts, and the impact of policy changes. The program concluded with group reflections and presentations, highlighting cross-cultural learning, practical research application, and a shared commitment to sustainable development. This international collaboration stands as a testament to the University of Ruhuna's leadership in fostering globally connected, locally relevant academic excellence.

Partnership in NSIS Erasmus+ Project

The University of Ruhuna Library is a partner in the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project titled "Developing Information, Research, and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal," co-funded by the European Union.

The NSIS Project aims to empower Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal to deliver enhanced information support for research, business, and innovation in their respective regions. The project recognizes the critical role that Library and Information Services (LIS) play in bridging the gap between academia,

business, and research ensuring key stakeholders have access to the knowledge and resources required to drive innovation and economic development.

The project's kick-off meeting was held from 10th to 12th March at the Shangri-La Blu Hotel, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal. All 14 partners participated in the meeting, including academic and administrative leaders and library experts. Two external evaluators from Nazarbayev University also attended the event. From Sri Lanka, Dr. Kokila Ramanayake, Head of the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, and Dr. J. J. G. Arachchige, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Engineering, represented the project. The meeting featured a detailed presentation of the seven work packages and the assignment of leadership responsibilities. It also included in-depth discussions on the project's financial framework and budget management, the introduction of the Project Management Handbook with guidelines for effective implementation, and planning for upcoming working group meetings in Romania, Germany, and Sri Lanka.



Global Agro Industry Forum 2025

On 9th May 2025, the FOUNTAIN Project convened the Global Agro-Industry Forum at gapHQ in Colombo as part of the Second International Conference on University- Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development. Prof. Dilantha Fernando (University of Manitoba) delivered the keynote, urging the nurturing of agro-entrepreneurs, creation of international technology-transfer partnerships, and restructuring of academic programs to tackle real-world challenges.



Strengthening Research Collaboration: Prof. Donella Caspersz Visits the University of Ruhuna

On 21st January 2025, the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, hosted Prof. Donella Caspersz from the University of Western Australia in a visit organized by Prof. A.C. Karunaratne from the Department of Marketing. Prof. Donella, a distinguished researcher in family business management and employment relations, visited to initiate a collaborative research project on the informal economy, particularly focusing on street vending, a vital sector in Sri Lanka's urban landscape. The visit featured a productive roundtable discussion at the Chamber of Commerce involving street vendors, local authorities, Urban Council representatives, and Chamber of Commerce members, providing valuable insights into challenges and opportunities in street vending while creating new recognition opportunities for vendors. Prof. Donella conducted an interactive session for 40 academic staff members from four faculties, Management and Finance, Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Engineering, with the Staff Development Centre generously sponsoring refreshments for participants who demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm. She also conducted a specialized session on Qualitative Research for undergraduate students, introducing them to qualitative methodologies in management research, with



students finding the emphasis on empathy, context, and narrative particularly valuable. This visit strengthened academic ties between the University of Western Australia and University of Ruhuna, establishing groundwork for community-based research addressing local issues. The Department of Marketing plans to continue this collaboration through joint publications, student exchanges, and further field research, reaffirming the University of Ruhuna's commitment to excellence in research, global partnerships, and community-relevant higher education

Visit of Delegates from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

A delegation of Pakistani university representatives, accompanied by Pakistan Higher Education Commission officials, visited the University of Ruhuna on 28th April 2025 to conduct an informational session regarding educational opportunities in Pakistan for Sri Lankan students. The visiting team engaged with the Vice Chancellor and Deans of the faculties, exploring potential collaborative frameworks between Pakistani institutions and the University of Ruhuna. Additionally, they organized an information session for undergraduate students, highlighting scholarship prospects at Pakistani universities and specifically presenting the "Allama Iqbal Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan Nationals" administered by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission



FOUNTAIN project: Workshop on Agro Tourism for Sustainability

On 19th February 2025, the FOUNTAIN Project hosted a vibrant one-day workshop titled "Agro-Tourism for Sustainability" at gapHQ in Colombo, drawing together a dynamic mix of students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and practitioners. This collaborative event aimed to explore the intersection of tourism and agriculture in promoting rural development, environmental conservation, and economic diversification across Sri Lanka.

Participants engaged in a series of immersive, hands-on activities and group reflection sessions designed to spark innovative thinking and cross-sector dialogue. Together, they conceptualized locally rooted agro-tourism models ranging from spice-garden homestays and community-run eco-lodges to farm-to-table culinary trails tailored to leverage regional strengths and address climate challenges.

A key outcome of the workshop was the agreement to form multi-stakeholder working groups, committed to piloting and scaling these climate-resilient ventures nationwide. This initiative marked a significant step toward building inclusive, sustainable livelihoods while fostering environmental stewardship through integrated rural tourism.



Consortium meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania

From 8th to 10th April 2025, the FOUNTAIN Project coordinators convened in Vilnius, Lithuania, for a consortium meeting hosted by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, aimed at strengthening sustainable university- industry techno entrepreneurial collaborations across Asia.

Over three exciting days, participants explored cutting-edge sites like the VilniusTech Campus and the city's Combined Heat and Power Plant, discovering firsthand how research meets real-world impact. Visits to dynamic hubs such as VITP Technology Park and LTG Group's railway project showcased breakthrough ideas in agriculture and sustainable transport, while the sleek Artery office building embodied the spirit of modern innovation.



Engaging expert talks and lively breakout sessions energized the group, fueling fresh ideas for mentoring, joint projects, and shared facilities. The meeting wrapped up with a warm networking evening in the charming Old Town, leaving everyone inspired and ready to take the FOUNTAIN Project to new heights together.

International Conference on University-Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD 2025)

The Second International Conference on University-Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD 2025), widely known as the Colombo Conference, was held on 9th and 10th of May 2025, at gapHQ, Colombo 07, under the FOUNTAIN and SECRA projects. Coordinated by the University of Peradeniya and chaired by Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, the event brought together academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals to explore innovations and partnerships that drive sustainable development.

The event commenced with a prestigious opening ceremony featuring distinguished guests including Prof. Emeritus Ranjith Dissanayake, Chief Guest Eng. Namal Peiris, and keynote speaker Prof. Guttilla Jayasinghe. The ceremony set the tone for a day dedicated to bridging the gap between academic research and industry needs.

The first day featured physical technical sessions and a high-level Global Agro-Industry Forum, while the second day was dedicated to fully online technical presentations, expanding global participation. The conference facilitated the presentation of over 150 research papers and case studies across key themes such as climate-smart agriculture, agro-industrial transformation, and digital innovation. ICSD 2025 strengthened the platform for university- industry-government collaboration and reaffirmed the role of academic networks in achieving national and global sustainability goals.



NSIS Project Meeting at Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania

The Didactic and Scientific Working Group Meeting of the NSIS Project Developing Information, Research and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal was held from 23rd to 26th June 2025, at Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania; and it was conducted under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education initiative, funded by the European Union.

The workshop brought together academic leaders, researchers, and coordinators from fourteen universities across Europe and Asia. Participants from Sri Lanka were Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi and Dr. Kokila Ramanayake from the University of Ruhuna.

Discussions of the meeting have centered around the design and development of training modules, the launch of a comprehensive online learning platform, the establishment of robust quality standards, and the harmonization of educational content across diverse academic and cultural settings.



University-Industry Exhibition & Job Fair - ICSD 2025 Colombo Conference

The University of Ruhuna, under FOUNTAIN work package 5, successfully organized the University-Industry Exhibition at the Colombo Conference as a featured event. Throughout the day, the exhibition showcased groundbreaking research, technological advancements, and innovative products from participating universities and industry partners. The event featured dedicated industry stalls from key industry participants including State Timber Corporation, Guidance Overseas Education Centre (Pvt) Ltd., Sathuta Fertilizer (Pvt) Ltd., Sathuta Ceylon Exports (Pvt) Ltd., and AgriOne Solutions (Private) Limited. These industry partners provided networking opportunities and career fair sessions that gave students and graduates direct access to recruiters and industry professionals across diverse sectors.

The exhibition successfully achieved its four key objectives: fostering university-industry collaboration, showcasing cutting-edge innovations, providing career opportunities for students and graduates, and promoting entrepreneurship through consultation services and access to innovation hubs. Industry representatives had the opportunity to discover talented students and researchers for internships, projects, and job opportunities, while academic members shared their research outcomes and explored potential industry partnerships.



Delving into the insurance industry: Insurance career insights 2025

Insurance career insights 2025 was held on 26th of June at the University of Ruhuna and was spearheaded by the Actuarial and Data Science Society, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science. This event was held to provide a guiding hand for students in choosing career paths in the insurance industry and to educate them on the valuable opportunities available in this field. Mr. Udeni Kiridena, CEO of the Sri Lanka Insurance Institute was the keynote speaker of this event and he conducted an enlightening session, explaining the ins and outs of the insurance world. Through his commendable efforts and the diligent work of the organizing committee, insurance career insights 2025 was successfully concluded, leaving the audience inspired and excited to pursue career pathways within the insurance profession.



Workshop on CV Writing

A CV Writing Workshop was organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna on 26th February 2025 for students of the Faculty of Technology. The event was held at the faculty auditorium and was facilitated by Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana and Mrs. Pubudu Malla-warachchi, Career Counsellor at the University of Ruhuna.

Approximately 150 students participated in the session, supported by three dedicated undergraduate volunteers from the Faculty of Technology Career Council (FOTCC). The workshop provided students with practical guidance on effectively presenting their skills, qualifications, and achievements to potential employers. Participants actively engaged in the discussion, gaining valuable insights into the structure and content of a professional curriculum vitae.

This initiative significantly contributed to enhancing the career readiness of undergraduates, equipping them with the necessary tools and confidence to navigate future employment opportunities.

Further, The Career Guidance Cell (CGC) and FOTCC recently facilitated a similar Workshop with collaboration with AIESEC in Uva Wellassa University upon their request. This session was featuring Ms Himasha Galbodage, a 4th year undergraduate at the ICT Department, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna on 25th March 2025 on online platform.



LinkedIn Workshop for AIESEC of the Uva Wellassa University

The Career Guidance Cell (CGC) and the Faculty of Technology Career Council (FOTCC) recently facilitated a highly anticipated LinkedIn Workshop for AIESEC of Uva Wellassa University based on their request. This session was featuring Mr. Amila Sandeepa and Mr. Minoka Wickramasinghe, 2nd year Undergraduates of the ICT Department, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna on 26th March 2025 on online platform. All the undergraduates from Uva Wellassa University were invited to this workshop. There was participation of over 100 undergraduates from various disciplines.



Pro Elevate: A transformative Session Series

The Actuarial & Data Science Society (ADSS) of the University of Ruhuna successfully conducted ProElevate 1.0, a transformative session series designed to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Phase 1 featured three impactful sessions. It kicked off with Resume Creation, led by Mrs. Andrea Fonseka (Junior Brand Manager, Unilever), who guided students in crafting impactful and professional resumes. This was followed by a session on the Recruitment Process by Ms. Adithya Senevirathna (Senior Executive – HR, Fintrex Finance PLC), providing a comprehensive understanding of hiring practices, from identifying vacancies to onboarding. The third session, delivered by Mr. Udara Sembukuttirachchi (Associate Lead QA Engineer, FCode Labs), focused on professional growth and offered practical insights into excelling in the tech industry.

Phase 2 continued with an inspiring session led by Mr. Priyanga Dassanayake (CEO) and Ms. Oshadhie Wengappuli (Head of CATBE) from Brandix Corporate Campus. The session emphasized the importance of personal branding, self-presentation, and career development, empowering participants to build a strong professional identity and stand out in competitive job markets.



Each session was met with enthusiastic participation, reflecting the eagerness of students to learn and grow. A heartfelt thank goes to all the esteemed speakers for generously sharing their time and expertise, and to the participants for their active engagement.

ProElevate 1.0 has set a strong foundation for future initiatives, fostering career readiness and confidence among undergraduates.

Workshop: Make Online Money

In an effort to empower students with essential career skills, the Career Guidance Unit of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna successfully conducted the session "Make Online Money Workshop" on 05th March 2025. The event was held at the Faculty Auditorium and provided a valuable learning experience for all undergraduates.

This workshop was coordinated by Ms. Mevuni Sarada Jayathilaka (CGC member) and facilitated by Mr. Samisa Abeyasinghe, Bord Member of ICTA. There were 113 students participating in the session, along with three dedicated undergraduate volunteers from FOTCC. Workshop provided participants with a structured pathway to succeed in freelancing, from foundational skills to advanced income diversification strategies. The session covered key aspects such as identifying marketable skills, building a strong online presence, managing freelance projects, and increasing revenue through strategic growth. A significant highlight was the facilitator's emphasis on the role of AI tools in modern freelancing, stressing the importance of understanding and utilizing them effectively to maximize earning potential. Attendees gained valuable insights into scaling their freelance businesses,



leveraging technology, and staying competitive in the evolving digital landscape. This workshop served as an empowering platform for individuals looking to establish and expand their online income streams. This session was a great initiative to enhance career readiness among undergraduates, ensuring they are well equipped to face future job opportunities with confidence.

First Aid Training for the Students: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna successfully organized a comprehensive First Aid Training Programme on 20th February 2025, exclusively for Level II students of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. This invaluable session was conducted with the generous support of medical professionals from the Galle Medical Association, who shared their expertise to equip students with essential first aid knowledge and practical skills. The programme focused on emergency response techniques, injury management, and basic life-saving procedures, fostering a strong sense of responsi-



bility and preparedness among participants. This initiative reflects the University of Ruhuna's commitment to holistic student development by integrating health and safety awareness into academic life, further enhancing the employability and resilience of its graduates.

Gongala Exploration – RUS Hikers' Club, Faculty of Science

The Ruhuna Science Hikers' Club (RUSH), initiated by undergraduates of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, successfully organized its first hiking adventure to Gongala Mountain, Deniyaya on 7th June 2025. A group of 40 enthusiastic students took part in this hike, which marked the beginning of a nature-focused journey. The event was filled with energy, teamwork, and appreciation for the environment, offering participants a refreshing experience beyond the classroom.

This initiative highlights the importance of extracurricular activities in building leadership, resilience, and environmental awareness among students. The University of Ruhuna proudly supports such student-led initiatives, which contribute to creating a well-rounded and vibrant academic environment.



Annual Business Launch- NovaBiz'25

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna offers the Business Startup course module (EC 3207) as a key component of the BSc in Agribusiness Management degree program. This course marks a significant milestone in fostering entrepreneurship among undergraduates. Students enrolled in the program since March 2025 have actively participated in a range of workshops, field visits, and related activities. Culminating these efforts, the Department proudly hosted NovaBiz'25 the Annual Business Launch on 2nd July 2025. The 44th batch of third-year students took center stage, with eight dynamic student groups presenting their innovative and sustainable business ideas. These ventures, ranging from value-added agri-products to smart farming solutions, showcased the students' ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical business applications.

NovaBiz'25 served not only as a presentation platform but also as a bridge between academia and the agribusiness industry. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and industry stakeholders, all united in recognizing the entrepreneurial potential nurtured within the University. Through such initiatives, the University of Ruhuna continues to shape the next generation of leaders poised to transform the future of agriculture and agribusiness in Sri Lanka.



Certificate Course in Announcing with SLBC

For the first time in history, a university in Sri Lanka has collaboratively organized a professional certificate course in Announcing with the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) from 16th May to 18th May 2025. This historic initiative was organized by Science Media Mosaic, the official media unit of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the SLBC Media Academy.

The course provided an enriching combination of theoretical learning and practical training in the field of radio and television announcing. The lecture panel featured several renowned professionals from the Sri Lankan media industry, including: Mr. Kapila M. Gamage, Mrs. Mayuri Abeysinghe, Mr. Prasanna Chandana Bandara, Mr. Saman Jayarathne and Mr. Kapila Kumara Araththana.

Their insights, experience, and hands-on guidance offered participants a rare opportunity to gain industry-standard knowledge and skills in media presentation and broadcasting.

The program concluded with a Certificate Awarding Ceremony on 2nd May 2025, which was graced by Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, who attended as the chief guest, making the occasion even more memorable and prestigious.



Siththam Ahasa – A Musical Evening

Siththam Ahasa, a musical evening organized for the first time within the university premises, was a collaborative effort by the Science Media Mosaic of the Faculty of Science and the Cultural Center of the University of Ruhuna. The event created a serene, immersive atmosphere that blended creativity with emotional resonance through music and performance.

Renowned television and radio presenter, as well as lyricist, Mr. Prasanna Chandana Bandara, hosted the evening of 24th June 2025 with elegance and charm. A diverse lineup of student performers showcased their vocal and musical talents, presenting both original and popular pieces that captured the audience's attention and admiration.

Graced by the presence of Senior Prof. P.A. Jayantha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, and Prof. D.H.N. Munasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Science, the event brought together academic and non-academic staff alongside a vibrant student audience. Their collective engagement underscored the value of student-driven initiatives within the academic space.

More than an evening of entertainment, Siththam Ahasa served as a meaningful platform to promote unity and mutual appreciation within the university. It highlighted the power of music as a creative and emotional outlet, helping students relax, reconnect, and re-engage with campus life beyond academics making it an important and memorable addition to the university's cultural calendar.



Valentine Movie Night 2025 - Adaraneeya Handawa

The Valentine Movie Night was successfully held on 13th Feb 2025 as part of the 'Adaraneeya Handawa' event series, a unique initiative by Science Media Mosaic to celebrate love, creativity, and meaningful engagement within the university community.

The 'Adaraneeya Handawa' series began in 2024, marking a historic milestone as the first-ever Valentine's celebration in the history of the University of Ruhuna. The inaugural edition featured a vibrant blend of performances, including a musical evening, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the university community.

Building on that remarkable success, the second edition in 2025 took a new and powerful direction. Instead of a concert format, this year's celebration transformed into a Valentine Movie Night, offering a more reflective and socially conscious experience. The featured film was the widely acclaimed "Sihina Sameekarana", renowned for its deep emotional narrative and meaningful social message.

The evening was enhanced by a live panel discussion featuring the Director Mr. Sasika Herath, Producers Mr. Dhammika Geekiyanage and Prof. Charith Jayathilaka, and members of the main cast, including a distinguished alumnus of the uni-



versity. The panel shared valuable insights into the film's creation process, its underlying themes, and the powerful social message it conveyed to audiences.

This innovative approach to Valentine's Day celebration demonstrated Science Media Mosaic's commitment to creating events that not only entertain but also inspire meaningful reflection and dialogue within the university community.

"Bites N Style": Department of Marketing

Creativity, tradition, and talent converged as third-year students from the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance, organized "Bites N Style" the department's flagship annual event. This year marked a historic milestone with the introduction of an elegant modeling show, the first ever held at the University of Ruhuna.



The event seamlessly blended Sri Lanka's cultural heritage with modern brand expression, creating a memorable experience for attendees. "Bites N Style" featured a vibrant street food festival showcasing traditional and contemporary delicacies, while the modeling show captivated audiences with its "Old Ceylon" theme through creative costumes and cultural expression. Musical performances added rhythm and energy to the evening's festivities.

Beyond entertainment, the event served as a powerful experiential learning platform, empowering undergraduates to develop essential professional competencies including collaborative teamwork, leadership, event planning, organizational management, and creative branding. Through hands-on involvement in conceptualization, organization, and execution, students transformed classroom knowledge into real-world experience, preparing them as innovative marketers of the future.



Nurturing Responsibility through Community Engagement

The Faculty of Management and Finance continues to demonstrate its commitment to developing socially conscious professionals through innovative experiential learning initiatives. Under the expert guidance of Prof. A.C. Karunaratne, Head of the Department of Marketing, and Mr. M.N.M. Nismi, Senior Lecturer, students enrolled in MKT 12053: Marketing Management undertook transformative community service projects that seamlessly integrated academic excellence with social responsibility.

These carefully structured initiatives empowered students to cultivate essential leadership qualities including empathy, teamwork, and civic engagement while making meaningful contributions to society. The comprehensive program encompassed six impactful projects:

Donation for Matara Buddhist Girls' Children's Home

Students provided nutritious meals and gift packs to residents at Matara Buddhist Girls' Children's Home, fostering empathy and collaboration skills.

"Senehasata Aruthak" – Visit to Thihagoda Elders' Home

At Thihagoda Elders' Home, they organized breakfast services and entertainment sessions, developing emotional intelligence while bringing joy to elderly residents.

Plant Donation Programme at Thalalla Hospital

Recognizing healthcare's holistic needs, another group donated 84 therapeutic plants and gardening equipment to Thalalla Hospital, enhancing patient well-being through environmental beautification.

First Aid Awareness Programme at Rohana Maha Vidyalyaya

Students conducted first aid awareness programs at Rohana Maha Vidyalyaya, donating essential medical supplies while promoting health literacy.

Hospital Cleaning Project at Matara General Hospital

Environmental stewardship was demonstrated through a comprehensive cleaning campaign at Matara General Hospital, instilling public hygiene consciousness.

Book Donation and Leadership Programme at Ruwanwella Primary School

The program culminated with a book donation and leadership development initiative at Ruwanwella Primary School, exemplifying corporate social responsibility principles.

These projects represent the University of Ruhuna's innovative approach to producing well-rounded graduates who understand their role as agents of positive social change. By integrating community service with academic coursework, the institution ensures students develop both professional competencies and ethical foundations necessary for responsible leadership in today's interconnected world. The Department of Marketing's commitment to experiential learning through community engagement positions University of Ruhuna graduates as empathetic, socially conscious professionals ready to drive meaningful change in their careers and communities.



Career and Internship Fair 2025: Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Ruhuna successfully concluded its Career and Internship Fair 2025 on 7th February 2025, held at the faculty premises. Organized by the Career Guidance Students' Society, the event served as a pivotal platform for students to engage with industry leaders, explore diverse career pathways, and secure valuable internship and employment opportunities.

The career fair attracted a distinguished range of leading organizations across various sectors, providing students with direct exposure to the professional world. Participants engaged in networking sessions, industry consultations, and on-site interviews, gaining critical insights into current industry expectations and emerging trends.

The initiative underscored the faculty's strategic commitment to enhancing graduate employability by strengthening industry-academic collaboration. The event was generously sponsored by a number of esteemed companies, whose support was instrumental in its success. Their active involvement provided valuable resources and further reinforced the strong ties between the faculty and the corporate sector. The Career and Internship Fair 2025 was highly commended by both students and industry representatives for its success. It not only facilitated meaningful connections but also reaffirmed the faculty's role in cultivating a career-ready graduate cohort equipped to meet the dynamic demands of the global workforce.



CLASH OF HEROES 2025: Outbound Training Program

The 'CLASH OF HEROES 2025' Outbound Training Program, organized by the Circle of Human Resource Development, Department of Human Resource Management, in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit, University of Ruhuna, was successfully held on 30th April 2025, at the university premises from 7.00 am to 09.00 pm. The program was hosted by Ms. Pubudu Mallawarachchi, Career Guidance Counselor from the Career Guidance Unit.

The program aimed at 3000-level HRM specialized undergraduates, providing experiential learning opportunities to enhance leadership skills and foster holistic development beyond the traditional classroom. Through engaging in outdoor activities, 'CLASH OF HEROES 2025' focused on strengthening crucial teamwork, communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills, preparing students for academic pursuits, professional careers, and life beyond the university.



Digital Marketing Awareness Session

In an effort to empower students with industry-relevant knowledge, the Career Guidance Unit at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), successfully organized an "Awareness Session on Digital Marketing" on 2nd April 2025. The event took place at the Faculty Auditorium and provided valuable insights into the evolving field of digital marketing.

This workshop was coordinated by Mr. Harshana Senavirathna, Academic Career Advisor, and facilitated by Mr. Tharindu Karunaratne, Senior Manager of Marketing & Communication at Phoenix Industries. He shared practical knowledge about digital marketing tools, strategies, and the growing importance of digital platforms in today's professional landscape. He highlighted key areas such as social media strategy, content marketing, SEO, and branding, providing students with useful guidance to boost their future career paths.



SLIM, as the National Body for Marketing in Sri Lanka, partnered with the Faculty to offer this learning opportunity, ensuring that students receive industry-based perspectives and exposure. Over 100 students from all academic years actively participated and engaged in the session. This session was a significant step in enhancing the career readiness of undergraduates, equipping them with knowledge to face the digitally evolving job market with confidence.

Inspiring Session on “Unlocking Global Opportunities with Your Degree”

The Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society proudly hosted an inspiring motivational session titled “Unlocking Global Opportunities with Your Degree” on 08th February 2025. The event featured an engaging virtual presentation by Dr. Janith Weerasinghe, a distinguished Post-Doctoral Researcher at the College of Engineering & Computer Science, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

A proud alumnus of Ruhuna University, Dr. Weerasinghe shared his remarkable academic journey and offered insightful guidance on how a local degree can open doors to international opportunities. His personal experiences and practical advice resonated deeply with students, inspiring them to dream big and aim globally. The interactive discussion fostered a forward-thinking mindset, encouraging students to look beyond borders and actively pursue international academic and career prospects.

This event not only highlighted the global potential of Ruhuna University students but also served as a powerful motivator for many to explore and embrace opportunities beyond our borders. It was truly a memorable and impactful occasion that energized students to aspire for a brighter, more international future.

A TALK ON
TURNING YOUR DEGREE
INTO GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

DR. JANITH WEERASINGHE
B.Sc. Degree in Biological Sciences, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka
M.Phil. Degree in Condensed Matter Physics, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Ph.D. Degree in Plasma Nanotechnology, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Dr. Janith Weerasinghe is a senior research fellow in the School of Engineering at the Australian National University, specializing in plasma nanoscience and advanced materials for aerospace. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the 2022 SRN Research pilot project grant and ANU seed funding for projects related to lunar dust mitigation and corrosion resistance in materials for LEO satellites, as well as the 2021 NRC Merit Award for Scientific Research (Sri Lanka) and the 2020 CNR-VIT Young Researcher Award (India).

February 08 2025
@ 9.00 a.m.

Via Zoom

zoom link : <https://zoom.us/j/96079366927?pwd=GN0xckhNXXR01Dk0T0c0V0Y7SPBbc.1>

Meeting ID : 960 7936 6927
Password : wg4%EcjE

Organized By Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSSI)
Department of Mathematics, University of Ruhuna

Sarasaviyen Sayuru Therata: A community engagement program

Marking the global themes of World Environment Day and World Oceans Day, the Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the Southern Provincial Fisheries Society and the Sarvodaya National Movement, organized a community engagement program titled “Sarasaviyen Sayuru Therata.” The event took place on Wednesday, 18th June 2025, at Shaila Bimbārāma Viharaya, Dodanduwa.

This initiative marked the first step in a broader series of outreach efforts aimed at bridging the gap between academic learning and ground-level social realities. The program aimed at immersing undergraduates in the lives, livelihoods, and cultural expressions of fishing communities, fostering a deeper understanding of their subcultures and environmental challenges. One of the main highlights was a keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Mohammed Mahees of the University of Colombo, who provided a scholarly yet engaging analysis of traditional fisherfolk songs. His insights enriched the cultural appreciation and critical understanding of coastal life among students.

Participants engaged in a series of interactive activities that encouraged dialogue with community members, including youth, elders, and women involved in the fisheries sector. Mr. Dulip Ranga-jeeva, Coordinator of the Southern Provincial Fisheries Society, played a key role in mobilizing community representation, while Mr. Manoj Silva and Mr. Indunil Hittatiya participated on behalf of the Sarvodaya Movement. The event was organized under the leadership of Dr. Gayathri Wijesundera, Head of the Department of Sociology, and guided by senior academic staff including Prof. N.V.G.A. Hemanta Kumara, Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala, and Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi, with the support of Assistant Lecturers and undergraduates. The Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD) and SAVIYA Development Foundation also extended their participation and



support. The event successfully highlighted the department's pedagogical commitment to cultivating socially and environmentally engaged sociologists.

Inter-Batch Sports Meet 2025 - Faculty of Science

The Inter-Batch Sports Meet 2025 of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, was held from 7th to 9th February 2025, showcasing a vibrant display of athletic talent, teamwork, and institutional spirit. Organized by the Sports Club of the Faculty of Science, the event united students from various batches in a celebration that transcended competition to emphasize unity, leadership, and community engagement. The three-day event featured an impressive array of 19 sports disciplines: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Carrom, Chess, Cricket, Elle, Football, Hockey, Kabadi, Netball, Powerlifting, Road Race, Rugger, Scrabble, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

Competitions were conducted at the university gymnasium and playground, providing students with platforms to demonstrate physical skill, resilience, strategic thinking, and collaboration. Throughout the event, a spirit of friendly rivalry and mutual respect flourished among participants. The enthusiastic student participation, supportive presence of peers and staff, and seamless event coordina-

tion contributed significantly to the meet's success. From the opening ceremony to final contests, the atmosphere remained energized and inclusive, reflecting the values upheld by the Faculty of Science. The event served as more than an athletic competition, functioning as a medium for strengthening inter-batch relationships, promoting mental and physical well-being, and enhancing students' soft skills including communication, leadership, and time management. The

Inter-Batch Sports Meet 2025 stands as a testament to the faculty's ongoing commitment to holistic student development and the promotion of a vibrant, cohesive academic community that values both academic excellence and personal growth.



Inter Batch Sport Meet: Faculty of Technology

The Inter-Batch Sports Meet was successfully held on 26th February 2025, at the Faculty of Technology playground, featuring competitive matches in volleyball, netball, and table tennis. The primary objectives of this event were to foster friendship among students across different academic years and to identify their sporting talents and abilities. The sports meet was organized by the Faculty of Technology Sports Club.



Prof. Dharmarathne Trophy Championship Cricket Tournament

The Prof. Dharmarathne Trophy Championship Cricket Tournament was held on 26th April 2025 at the Gamudawa Public Playground. This annual event features cricket matches between student teams and staff teams. This year, the championship was won by the Fourth-Year Student Team, while the Third-Year Student Team was the runner-up.



"Yathra" Project by the Soft Skills Society

The Soft Skills Society of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST), University of Ruhuna, completed its fourth annual "Yathra" community outreach project on 6th February 2025, at Akuressa Yahamulla Primary School.

The initiative supported Grades 1-5 students by providing essential school supplies and organizing interactive activities. The project included book donations to strengthen the school library and sports equipment to facilitate student activities. Prof. K.R. Gamage, Patron, and Dr. J.M.S.N. Rathnapala, Senior Treasurer, coordinated the event with members of the society and faculty guidance. Funding came from multiple sources: proceeds from a University Convocation food stall, contributions from FFMST undergraduates, alumni, and staff, with significant support from the Alumni of Science Batch of 1979, University of Kelaniya.

Mr. D.N.N. Samarasena, Principal of Akuressa Yahamulla Primary School, praised the initiative's positive impact on this under-resourced school. The Faculty remains committed to fostering socially conscious leadership through student-led community engagement initiatives like "Yathra."



EXPENDITUS'25 : Career Fair of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The Society of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, proudly hosted Expenditus'25 on 22nd February 2025; a dynamic career fair that united 14 prominent organizations from the fisheries, aquaculture, marine sciences, and limnology sectors. With the participation of over 200 undergraduates, the event served as a vibrant platform for students to explore career prospects, understand emerging industry trends, and establish valuable professional connections.

The inauguration ceremony, graced by the Dean of the Faculty Prof. K.H.M. Ashoka Deepananda, Head of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Dr. S.S. Herath and other esteemed guests, underscored the university's commitment to fostering academic-industry collaboration. Notably, Expenditus'25 also spotlighted volunteering in marine conservation, highlighting its role in skill development and career advancement. This successful initiative reaffirmed the University of Ruhuna's position as a leader in producing industry-ready graduates and contributing to sustainable development in aquatic sciences.



Miyasi Thothupola: A cultural Event of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

“Miyasi Thothupala” stands as the premier annual cultural spectacle of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, a grand artistic festival where not only students but also academic and non-academic staff get the opportunity to showcase their hidden talents. This year’s event was magnificently orchestrated under the leadership of the Faculty Student Union and the 16th batch of undergraduates, and the event was held on 3rd March 2025, at 7:00 PM onwards at the University Indoor Stadium. Breaking away from the rigors of academia, “Miyasi Thothupala” emerged as a vibrant celebration that unveiled the latent artistry in students—through dance, song, drama, instrumentals, commentary, and innovative ideas. It was an evening that transcended routine, allowing for the free expression of emotion, culture, and creativity.



Drawing inspiration from the theme of “village life,” the entire atmosphere echoed the serenity and spirit of rural culture. This was elegantly emphasized through the traditional oil lamp and further accentuated by the vibrant “Kolam” masks that adorned the stage each symbol weaving a deeper narrative of our roots.



DECENNIUM GLORIA – 10 years of excellence

This year marks a meaningful milestone in the journey of the Catholic Students' Society (CSS) of the University of Ruhuna, a proud celebration of 10 years of unity, spiritual growth, and service. Founded in 2015 by a small group of Catholic undergraduates, the society has grown steadily under the guidance of Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, and with the support of university staff. Over the past decade, CSS has become a dynamic community, organizing numerous religious, social, and charitable initiatives.

To honor this remarkable journey, CSS hosted a special celebration titled “DECENNIUM GLORIA” on 14th June 2025. The event was graced by the presence and blessings of His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe, Bishop of the Galle Diocese, Rev. Father Sampath Wilegoda, Chaplain, Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna, Dr. Krishan C. Wickramasinghe, Senior Treasurer of the Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna, Dr. Ruwan Appuhamy, Senior Editor of the Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna, along with Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, past members, and undergraduates from all nine faculties. The day was filled with prayers, unforgettable memories, and laughter. This milestone isn't just about looking back; it's about stepping forward with faith. Here's to continuing the mission of love, unity, and service for years to come.



Vesak Commemoration Dhamma Sermon

In honour of Vesak, the most sacred day in the Buddhist calendar that marks the birth, enlightenment, and parinibbāna (passing away) of the Buddha, the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna, organized a special Dhamma Sermon to commemorate this deeply significant occasion.

The sermon was conducted by the Most Venerable Induragare Dhammarathana Thero, Senior Professor at the Department of Sanskrit and Eastern Studies, University of Kelaniya. Renowned for his scholarly insight and spiritual wisdom, Venerable Dhammarathana Thero delivered an inspiring discourse aimed at fostering mindfulness, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the Buddha's teachings.

This meritorious event was held on 20th May 2025 at 4:00 PM at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, under the guidance of the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Ven. Dr. Makola Mangala.

The Department extends its sincere appreciation to all who participated in this meaningful observance and contributed to the spiritual atmosphere of the event. May this Vesak be a reminder of the timeless relevance of the Dhamma in our lives.



Thai Pongal celebration 2025: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Thai Pongal is a traditional Tamil festival celebrated by Hindu people all around the world. It is a harvest festival, typically observed in Mid-January, marking the beginning of the Sun's journey towards the northern hemisphere. The festival associates with the Tamil month of 'Thai' and 'Pongal' means 'boiling over'. It is a time for families to come together, share traditional food and express gratitude for the harvest.

Thai Pongal rituals are typically included 'Sun Worship' that people worship the sun god 'Surya' to acknowledge its importance in agriculture, preparing pongal, cattle worship, traditional Games etc.

In the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Thai Pongal is a major event which is celebrated every year. Students from different backgrounds come together to celebrate Thaipongal, promoting diversity and inclusivity. The celebration promotes unity, respect and understanding among students from different backgrounds. Students come together to create beautiful Rangoli designs, adding a vibrant and festive touch to the Thai Pongal celebration in the faculty. Rangoli is a traditional Indian art form that adds color and beauty to any occasion.

On this day students dress up in traditional Tamil Attire, with boys wearing Dhoti (Vetti) and Shirt, and girls wearing elegant Indian Sarees. It's a great way to showcase their cultural heritage and add festive atmosphere to the celebration. Tamil students prepare traditional Pongal dishes like Pongal rice, Vadai and sweets to their fellow students, sharing the flavors and spirit of Thai Pongal. It is a wonderful gesture of cultural sharing and friendship. Students dance together showcasing their cultural heritage



through traditional dances, modern dances and beautiful Tamil Songs. This cultural exchange can help breakdown barriers and build friendships among students from different backgrounds.

The academic staff's participation in the Thai Pongal celebration add a wonderful touch to the event. It also creates a sense of community and belonging among students and demonstrates the university's commitment to diversity and cultural appreciation. The celebrations of Thai Pongal in the faculty creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere, making Tamil students feel like they're home, surrounded by their culture and traditions. It's a beautiful way to foster a sense of belonging and connection within the university.

Community Awareness Programs by the Resus Club: Faculty of Medicine

The Resus Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, under the guidance of the current committee, successfully carried out several impactful programs in 2025, extending its outreach from institutions and communities.

Under the guidance of Dr. Upul Hapuarachchi and the leadership of the current president Ameesha Ehelamalpe, the year commenced with a training session for the 291 medical students of the 47th batch on 13th and 14th February. On 20th February, a session was conducted at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, for 62 of its undergraduates. Community outreach continued with a program on 26th February at the Gangarama Temple, Yakkalamulla, informing and educating 60 participants on emergency care.

On 19th March, the team visited the German Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital for Women to train 50 hospital supportive and clerical staff on emergency life-saving techniques. Subsequently, sessions were organized at Dharmashoka College, Ambalangoda, on 10th April for 152 students, Anula Devi College on 24th April for 141 students, and Siridhamma College on 8th May for 110 students, teachers, and non-academic staff, educating them on basic life support procedures and their importance.

The series continued on 26th June with a Ward CPR program at German Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital for Women, equipping staff with crucial resuscitation techniques. The impact of these training efforts was powerfully demonstrated shortly after this program was done on the 26th of June, when a maternal cardiac arrest occurred at GSFHW. The patient was successfully resuscitated, and the staff expressed their deep gratitude to everyone who contributed to the improvement of CPR skills in the ward, emphasizing how vital the training was in saving a life.



These initiatives continue to reflect the Resus Club's unwavering dedication to serving the community and educating the public and communities on the importance of emergency preparedness, prompt intervention, and lifesaving resuscitation skills.

Sahasak Nimavum - 2024 National Inventions Exhibition and Competition

Sahasak Nimavum - 2024 National Inventions Exhibition and Competition was held on 25th, 26th and 27th April 2025 at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exposition Centre with the intension of appreciating the excellent inventors under four categories as School, Universities and Tertiary Educational Institutions, Institutional and Open.

The product named as "Glue extracted from Rohu Fish (*Labeo rohita*) skin and scales" was exhibited under the open category by the team of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mrs. R.D.N. Wijesinghe (Senior Lecturer) Mrs. R.G. Sanuja (Lecturer) and Miss. K.H. Vithanage



(FM/FS/2017/541). The prototype named as "Obstacle to control the pests walking on the crop plant stems" was also exhibited in the open category under the same event by Mrs. R.G. Sanuja and Mr. U.G.S.C.B. Tennakoon.

Bond Beyond Boundaries 2025: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology recently came alive with vibrant colors, roaring cheers, and unforgettable memories as it hosted its much-anticipated annual event "Bond Beyond Boundaries 2025." Held with the vision of strengthening ties between current students and proud alumni, this lively celebration centered on a friendly cricket and volleyball matches those symbolized sportsmanship, connection, and tradition. Beyond the spirited showdown between current students and graduates, the event featured playful team activities, an explosion of color during the Holi party, and a vibrant DJ night that lit up the evening. Bond Beyond Boundaries was more than just an event, and it was a celebration of the faculty of FMST spirit that reminded participants that while we study the depths of the ocean, it is equally important to nurture the depth of human connection, creating lasting memories and friendships under the stars. This year's even was held on 15th February 2025 at the university playground.



From Lab Coats to Clean-Ups: A Shramadana Initiative by the Department of Chemistry

On a vibrant day, 18th June 2025, the Chemical Society of the Department of Chemistry organized a successful Shramadana campaign to clean and renovate the department premises in line with the World Environmental Day 2025. The initiative involved academic staff, non-academic staff, and Special Degree Level-I and Level-II students, aiming to enhance the department's environment and create a cleaner space for learning and research. The event included cleaning the drainage system, replanting old plants, arranging flower beds, trimming unnecessary branches, and removing old bathroom fittings & renovating the notice boards.

The academic and non-academic staff demonstrated remarkable teamwork by preparing a delicious lunch for all participants. Ceylon Cold stores PLC generously sponsored refreshing beverages, keeping everyone energized. The day concluded with a joyful evening. A heartfelt gratitude is extended to Dean Faculty of Science, Professor D.H.N. Munasinghe, Head of the Department, Prof. G.B.C. Sanath, Senior Treasurer Dr. M.S. Kodikara and Senior Editor Dr. C.N Ratnaweera and the officials of the Chemical Society.



Dhamma Sermon on "The Reality of the Universe"

In commemoration of the Poson month, the English Club of the Department of Human Resource Management (ECHR), Faculty of Management and Finance, successfully organized a Dhamma sermon on 25th June 2025, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, at the Faculty premises. The sermon was conducted in English by Most Venerable Professor Beligalle Dhammajoti Thero.

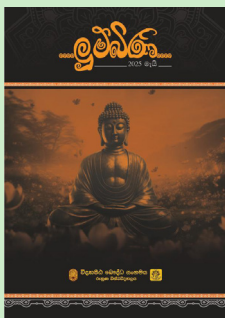
Centered on the theme "The Reality of the Universe," the session provided profound reflections on the nature of existence through the lens of Buddhist philosophy. It was a spiritually enriching and intellectually stimulating experience that inspired participants to reflect deeply on the realities of life.

Organized in the spirit of Poson, the session aimed to foster mindfulness, spiritual awareness, and reflective thinking among students and staff. It also aligned with the mission of the English Club to promote language development through meaningful and engaging initiatives, while contributing to the personal and academic growth of its members.

The English Club extends its sincere gratitude to Most Venerable Professor Beligalle Dhammajoti Thero for the noble presence and for sharing such insightful guidance, and to all who contributed to the success of this event.



Launching the Lumbini Magazine: Faculty of Science



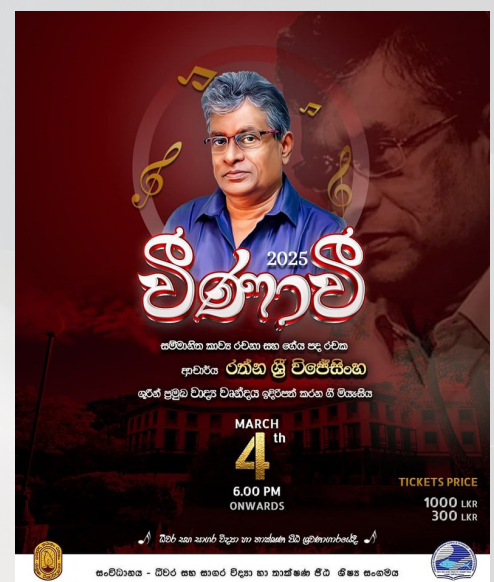
The Buddhist Association of the Faculty of Science published its first-ever magazine in the Buddhist year 2569. The magazine is issued biannually, with two editions released per year. The Chief Advisor of the publication is Senior Editor Dr. W. M. K. De Silva, while the Assistant Editor is Mr. Y. T. Edirisinghe.

The magazine's creation was mainly driven by the dedicated efforts of Executive Committee members Thesath Senula and Gayan Lenagala, who contributed significantly to the editorial process and under the valuable guidance of the esteemed advisory board.

Musical Event: Veenawi

"Veenawi", stands as another distinguished event organized by the Student Union of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. This melodious evening aimed to soothe troubled minds while enriching the appreciation of lyrical poetry through musical expression. The event featured renowned poet and lyricist Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe as chief guest, who shared insights into his creative process and offered thoughtful commentary on emotionally resonant compositions by other award-winning lyricists and musicians.

Held on 4th March 2025, at the Faculty auditorium, the occasion attracted substantial participation from academic and non-academic staff across all faculties. The event served a dual purpose providing cultural enrichment while strengthening the faculty's "Sisu Diriya" Scholarship Fund. The evening's success was achieved through the unwavering support of the Dean and dedicated faculty and staff members, demonstrating the institution's commitment to both artistic appreciation and student welfare initiatives.



Chittalokana Dhamma Sermon

The 46th student cohort of the faculty of Science successfully organized a Dhamma sermon, "Chittalokana" with the honored presence of the Maha Sangha at the Alawattagoda Premadasa Auditorium. This student cohort together with the Most Venerable Prof. Makola Mangala Thero of the Faculty of Pali and Buddhist Studies, extended an invitation to the Most Venerable Ankumbure Amitha Deepa Thero of the Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery, who graciously conducted the sermon on 28th January 2025. The event was broadcast worldwide via Shraddha TV and Lakvuru Radio Network, allowing devotees across the globe to listen to the sacred Dhamma taught by the Supreme Fully Enlightened.



Annual Christmas Get-Together 2025

On the 4th January 2025, the Catholic Students' Society of the University of Ruhuna joyfully celebrated its Annual Christmas Get-Together. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe, Bishop of the Galle Diocese, Rev. Father Ruwan Perera OMI, National Chaplain, of the Sri Lanka University Catholic Students' Movement, Rev. Father Sampath Wilegoda, Chaplain, Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna and Dr. Krishan C. Wickramasinghe Senior Treasurer of the Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna, along with Rev. Fathers and Rev. Sisters from the Matara and Galle parishes.

With their blessings, undergraduates from all nine faculties came together in unity and celebration. The day was filled with fun activities, heartfelt gift exchanges, dancing, and laughter, creating a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone who attended.



Ice cream dansala by Department of History and Archaeology

The event known as the ice cream dansala, which served as a delightful communal gathering, was meticulously organized by the Department of History and Archaeology on the 17th June 2025, a date that holds significance in the academic calendar. This particular event took place within the confines of the premises belonging to the Department of History and Archaeology, providing a suitable backdrop for the occasion. Furthermore, it is pertinent to note that this dansala was intricately associated with the culturally significant Poson Poya Day, a day that commemorates the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka and carries profound historical relevance.



Awareness session on Road safety

A comprehensive awareness program, aimed specifically at educating the public on various street rules and the significance of street indicators, was meticulously organized on 5th of June 2025, and executed in collaboration with the esteemed Department of Motor Traffic, which is a crucial governmental body responsible for overseeing and regulating vehicular operations and traffic safety. The individuals designated as resource persons for this informative initiative included Mr. C.W. Muthukumarana, who holds the prominent position of Assistant Commissioner of Development and Technical Services within the Motor Traffic Department, as well as the highly experienced and retired motor examiner, Mr. Nihal Kodagoda, whose extensive background in the field of motor vehicle examination adds considerable depth to the program's effectiveness and credibility.



Ruhuna University Rover Scouts Celebrate 2nd Batch Advancement & Awarding Ceremony

The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna successfully conducted the Advancement and Batch Awarding Ceremony for the 2nd batch of the CGU Rover Scout Crew on the 21st May 2025.

The event was graced by the presence of the Vice Chancellor of the University and several distinguished guests, Scout Commissioners, university staff, and well-wishers. A total of 67 Rover Scouts were formally awarded their badges in recognition of their dedication, training, and service. This milestone ceremony reflects the University's continued commitment to student leadership, skill development, and community engagement through scouting. The CGU extends its sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the success of this inspiring event.



Culture and Food : Food Exhibition

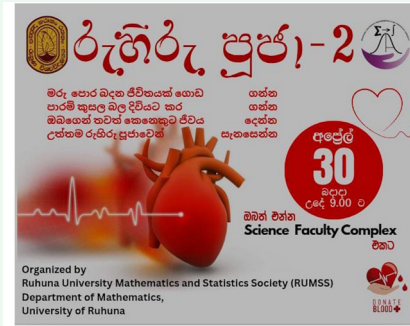
On 21st January 2025, the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna hosted a food exhibition themed Culture and Food, organized by the 3000 level class as part of the SLS32623 Contemporary Sri Lankan Cultural Studies course. The event was guided by Senior Lecturer Aparakka Sirisudhamma Thero and Senior Lecturer Mrs. Hasini Lanka. The exhibition highlighted Sri Lanka's rich culinary traditions, with students presenting a variety of regional dishes alongside informative displays explaining their cultural and historical significance. The initiative aimed to explore the deep connections between food, identity, and heritage. Academic staff members, non academic staff members and students attended this event and they enjoyed the taste of different food.



Blood Donation Campaign: Faculty of Science

The second Blood Donation Campaign organized by the Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSS) was successfully held on 30th April 2025, from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM, at the Science Faculty Complex of the University of Ruhuna. This event was organized with the noble aim of contributing to the national blood bank and promoting social responsibility among university students.

Over 130 donors, including undergraduates from different faculties, academic and non-academic staff members, voluntarily donated blood, showcasing the strong spirit of unity and compassion within the campus. A dedicated medical team of 15 professionals from the National Hospital in Galle, including doctors, nurses, and Public Health Inspectors (PHIs), joined hands with the organizing team to ensure the campaign was conducted safely and efficiently. The Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society extends heartfelt thanks to all donors, the medical staff, and everyone who supported the event. This campaign not only made a meaningful impact on the lives of patients in need but also strengthened the culture of service and solidarity within the university.



Erabadu Wasanthaya-2025

Giving priority to our rich Sri Lankan traditions, the Catholic Students' Society of the University of Ruhuna organized a vibrant New Year celebration titled "Erabadu Wasanthaya" on 1st May 2025. The event was honored by the presence of Rev. Father Ruwan Perera OMI, National Chaplain, of the Sri Lanka University Catholic Students' Movement, Rev. Father Sampath Wilegoda, Chaplain, Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna, Prof. Menaka Fernando, Senior Advisor, Catholic Students' Society, University of Ruhuna and with Rev. Fathers & Rev. Sisters. The celebration highlighted traditional rituals and included a variety of new year games that brought joy and excitement to all. The event was a beautiful blend of fun, culture, and togetherness.



Bread Dansala: Faculty of Science

Under the leadership of the Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Science, a Bread Dansala was organized on the Posa Full Moon Poya Day of 2025, near the main entrance of the University of Ruhuna premises at Wellamadama, in front of the Ambalama (resting pavilion). The event was held with the noble intention of alleviating the hunger of thousands of people, while also commemorating the legacy of Arahant Mahinda Thero's introduction of the Buddha's dispensation to Sri Lanka, and the many significant events that occurred in the noble Gautama Buddha's Sasana.

This meritorious endeavor was successfully carried out thanks to the unwavering dedication of the respected Chairman, Mr. R.K.P. de Silva, and with the generous support and cooperation of the Buddhist Society's executive members, fellow faculty students, and the valuable guidance and blessings of the esteemed Advisory Board. Furthermore, the event was conducted under the direction and supervision of the Dean, Prof. D.H.N. Munasinghe, and the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. P.A. Jayantha.



Marine Conservation Initiatives organized by the University of Ruhuna

In line with Sustainable Development Goals, students from the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology and Faculty of Medicine conducted a series of projects aimed at cleaning coastal marine ecosystems to support SDG 14: Life Below Water.

Project: Aquatrek Odyssey

Date: 1st February 2025

Organizers: Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG), University of Ruhuna

Partners: Leo Club of University of Ruhuna

The Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG) of the University of Ruhuna proudly organized Project: Aquatrek Odyssey, an impactful beach and reef cleanup held on 1st February 2025. As part of the university's continued commitment to environmental sustainability, the initiative brought together undergraduate students and marine enthusiasts to actively engage in coastal conservation and awareness. Spearheaded solely by students of the University of Ruhuna, the event focused on addressing the growing threat of marine pollution along the southern coastline. Participants worked across both beach and reef environments, removing plastic debris, ghost nets, and other hazardous waste that threaten marine life and ecosystem health.



Project: Sindu Nala Raksha

Date: 30th January 2025

Organizers: Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG), University of Ruhuna

Partners: Leo Club of University of Colombo

The Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG) of the University of Ruhuna proudly led Project: Sindu Nala Raksha, a landmark beach and reef cleanup campaign held on 30th January 2025. Demonstrating a strong commitment to ocean stewardship, the initiative brought together students, volunteers, and marine enthusiasts in a collaborative effort to restore and protect coastal ecosystems.

Organized in partnership with the Leo Club of the University of Colombo, the event reflected a shared dedication to environmental responsibility across institutions. Taking place along a sensitive coastal stretch and adjacent reef, the cleanup effort removed significant amounts of plastic waste, abandoned fishing gear, and other pollutants, helping to revitalize marine habitats and raise public awareness.

The event was spearheaded by SOMaG under the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, showcasing the University of Ruhuna's leadership in applied marine science and community-focused conservation.



Project: Connecting Dots

Location: Blue Beach Island

Organizers: Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG), University of Ruhuna

Partners: Young Biologists' Association (YBA) and Dots Bay House

The Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG) of the University of Ruhuna proudly collaborated with the Young Biologists' Association (YBA) and Dots Bay House to carry out Connecting Dots; a remarkable underwater reef cleanup at Blue Beach Island. Held as part of a week-long conservation campaign, the initiative exemplified the power of community-driven marine stewardship.

This impactful effort brought together local and international divers, enthusiastic snorkelers, and committed volunteers united by a shared passion for ocean health. Over 200 hazardous debris items, including discarded fishing nets, plastic bottles, and abandoned fishing lines, were meticulously removed from the reef. These pollutants posed serious threats to marine biodiversity, particularly coral ecosystems and marine megafauna.

The cleanup directly aligned with the UNEP Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, reinforcing the global message that collective action can lead to lasting environmental impact. Participants worked in teams underwater, documenting and removing debris while contributing to citizen science efforts on pollution tracking.



Project: Galle Seabath Beach Cleanup

Date: 25th May 2025

Organizers: The Explorers Club, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

Occasion: International Day for Biological Diversity

The Explorers Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, successfully organized a beach cleanup at Galle Seabath on 25th May 2025. This impactful initiative, held to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity, underscored the club's commitment to environmental conservation and community well-being.



The main goal of the program was to address the growing issue of marine pollution by developing a sense of environmental conservation in the youth. A group of 17 enthusiastic volunteers from the Explorers' Club engaged in this fulfilling service, which helped them build up leadership skills and develop team spirit. They collected a large amount of harmful waste and disposed of it properly, making the coastline cleaner and safer for marine wildlife. By actively engaging, participants not only revitalized a vital local area but also raised awareness about sustainable practices, fostering a healthier environment for all.

These initiatives demonstrate the University of Ruhuna's commitment to marine conservation and SDG 14 (Life Below Water), making tangible contributions through debris removal, habitat restoration, and community awareness programs. They highlight the active role students from multiple faculties play in protecting Sri Lanka's coastal and marine ecosystems.

Project Seascape '25: Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology

The Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG) proudly hosted Project Seascape '25, a landmark marine biology workshop held on the 09th of February 2025, reaffirming its leadership in oceanographic endeavours and environmental stewardship. This initiative was done in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of the University of Ruhuna, the event brought together students, and marine enthusiasts to tackle pressing challenges facing marine ecosystems. The workshop featured interactive awareness sessions and immersive field activities designed to deepen understanding of marine biodiversity and emphasize the urgency of conservation efforts.

Commenting on the initiative, Prof. Terney Pradeep Kumara, a leading figure in marine science and a key architect of the project, remarked, "This collaboration highlights our commitment to advancing scientific knowledge while addressing global environmental concerns. We are proud to be at the forefront of marine conservation initiatives in Ruhuna."



Awareness Sessions on Marine Ecosystems in Collaboration with Leo Club of Colombo Waters Meet

On the 5th of May 2025, the Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG) of the University of Ruhuna conducted a comprehensive awareness session for the members of the Leo Club of Colombo Waters Meet, focusing on coral ecosystems, their ecological significance, and the threats they face in today's changing marine environment. The session was part of the university's ongoing efforts to build environmental literacy and promote active conservation among students and the wider community.

Held under the guidance of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, the session brought together undergraduates, early-career researchers, and marine enthusiasts for an engaging exploration of coral reef dynamics. Topics included coral biology, their role as biodiversity hotspots, their contribution to coastal protection, and the socio-economic value of healthy reef systems in Sri Lanka.

In addition to highlighting the importance of coral reefs, the session emphasized the growing threats to their survival such as climate change-induced bleaching, ocean acidification, destructive fishing practices, and marine pollution. The discussions were supported by real-world case studies, recent scientific findings, and examples from local reef sites, helping students connect theoretical knowledge with on-ground realities.

SOMaG facilitators encouraged active participation through Q&A segments and interactive discussions, fostering critical thinking and personal responsibility toward marine conservation. The session also served as a platform to inspire future fieldwork and restoration initiatives,

Phase 01 Marine Conservation Online Webinar Series

Webinar 03

Topic : Whales & Dolphins in Sri Lanka
Speaker : Mr. Upul Liyanage
Date : 16/02/2025 (Sunday)
Time : 8.00 PM - 9.30 PM

Webinar 04

Topic : Prevention of Marine Pollution
Speaker : Mrs. Thalatha Ranasinghe
Date : 17/02/2025 (Monday)
Time : 8.00 PM - 9.30 PM

REGISTER NOW!

Phase 01 Marine Conservation Online Webinar Series

Webinar 01

Topic : Coral Eco-system of Sri Lanka
Speaker : Prof. Turney Pradeep Kumara
Date : 25/01/2025 (Saturday)
Time : 8.00 PM - 9.30 PM

Webinar 02

Topic : Conservation of Sea Turtles
Speaker : Mr. Thushan Kapurusinghe
Date : 25/01/2025 (Sunday)
Time : 8.00 PM - 9.30 PM

REGISTER NOW!

particularly among students specializing in marine biology and oceanography.

By organizing such focused awareness events, the University of Ruhuna continues to reinforce its reputation as a hub for marine education and environmental leadership in Sri Lanka, empowering the next generation to safeguard the nation's rich marine biodiversity.



Coral Replantation Program

The Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, in collaboration with Sampath Bank, successfully conducted a coral replantation program on 2nd April 2025, in Mirissa as part of a broader initiative to protect and restore Sri Lanka's marine ecosystems. This coastal conservation project aimed to rehabilitate degraded coral habitats through the strategic replantation of healthy coral fragments. Dr. L.N. Wijewardana, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, coordinated the coral replantation program, with 20 undergraduate students actively participating in the fieldwork. The primary objective focused on rehabilitating degraded reef areas by replanting healthy coral fragments on artificial substrates, thereby facilitating the recovery of damaged marine habitats. This initiative directly supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) by promoting marine ecosystem conservation, sus-



tainable ocean resource management, and coral reef restoration, critical components for maintaining healthy marine biodiversity and supporting coastal communities dependent on ocean resources. Students engaged in comprehensive activities including site preparation, coral fragment selection, underwater planting techniques, and monitoring protocols under expert supervision. This collaborative effort not only contributed to ecosystem recovery but also served as an educational platform to raise awareness about coral reef significance and the urgent need for marine habitat protection.

Beach Cleanup – Clean Sri Lanka Initiative

Students of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology participated in a beach clean up project on 09th February 2025, organized by MEPA to initiate Clean Sri Lanka project. Ninety students voluntarily participated in cleaning the Wellamadama coastal strip.



Cleanup Campaign at Dandeniya Tank

Dandeniya Tank, located in Dandeniya Village, Matara District, serves a vital 542-acre command area for paddy cultivation. Bordering the ecologically significant Dandeniya Forest Reserve, this protected area supports 455 woody plant species, including 8 endemic varieties, making it a biodiversity hotspot requiring careful conservation.

The Society of Limnology and Water Technology from the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) organized a comprehensive cleanup campaign on 1st February 2025, demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship. This initiative directly supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) by promoting sustainable water resource management and SDG 15 (Life on Land) through ecosystem restoration and biodiversity protection.

Over 20 dedicated students from the Faculty of FMST participated in the full-day campaign, systematically removing waste materials, invasive plant species, and debris from around the tank ecosystem. The initiative aimed to restore the tank's ecological integrity while raising community awareness about responsible water resource management practices. Dr. L.N. Wijewardane, Senior Treasurer of the Limnology and Water Technology Society, coordinated this impactful environmental restoration program, showcasing how academic institutions can lead meaningful conservation efforts that align with global sustainability goals.



Physical Education Session: Building Strength, Endurance, Confidence, and Teamwork

A full-day Physical Education session was successfully conducted for 3000-level marketing undergraduates from the Faculty of Management and Finance. The session was led by Prof. A.C. Karunaratne, with support from Ms. Dilupa Priyadarshani and Mr. Sanath Chandana. This initiative aimed to enhance physical endurance, boost confidence, and foster teamwork among students qualities essential for academic and professional success. Engaging in physical activities helps students build mental resilience, manage stress, and improve focus, skills increasingly vital in today's demanding environments.

Beyond physical fitness, the session promoted collaboration and unity, encouraging students to support one another and step outside their comfort zones. It reinforced that education extends beyond textbooks to include developing a healthy body and positive mindset. The Department of Marketing remains committed to holistic development, and sessions like these play a crucial role in shaping well-rounded, confident, and energetic future professionals.



Prana Swara Musical Evening: Faculty of Science

On the evening of 29th January 2025, the Faculty of Science resonated with rhythm, emotion, and cultural vibrancy as PranaSwara, a much-anticipated musical evening, unfolded in all its glory. The event was organized by the Kala Hawula of the Faculty of Science, with dedicated support from the Students' Union of the Faculty of Science. Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest was Senior Professor R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayaka (Competent Authority), whose presence elevated the significance of the event. In a thoughtful address, the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of nurturing creativity and the performing arts within academic spaces, a sentiment deeply reflected in the spirit of PranaSwara.



True to its name; PranaSwara, meaning "the breath of melody"; the event brought to life a series of captivating musical performances that transcended genres and languages. From classical renditions to contemporary musical pieces, each performance was delivered with passion, precision, and heartfelt expression.

The performers, comprised primarily of students and university community members, left the audience mesmerized. Notable highlights included drama and dance performances, each earning resounding applause and appreciation from the captivated audience. As the Faculty of Science looks ahead to a year filled with academic and extracurricular endeavors, PranaSwara stands as a shining example of how the arts continue to enrich campus life—fostering creativity, emotional well-being, and a strong sense of community among students and faculty alike.

Korean Ambassador's Cup – Taekwondo Championship 2025

We are proud to announce that three outstanding students from the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology P.A.D.D.S. Bandara, R.M.K.G. Rajapaksha, and K.M.S.C. Kapukotuwa have brought great honor to both the faculty and the university by competing in the Korean Ambassador's Cup, Taekwondo Championship 2025 and achieving remarkable success.

Among the trio, P. A. D. D. S. Bandara and R. M. K. G. Rajapaksha delivered exceptional performances in the Green Belt Poomsae category, each securing a gold medal. Their victories not only reflect personal dedication but also highlight the strength and spirit of our university's sporting community. We congratulate them for their hard work and commendable performance at this prestigious National Competition.



Citizen of the Ocean Summit – Nausicaá, France

In March 2025, Miss. U.G.S Sandahari (FM/FW/2020/ 170), a student of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology had an incredible opportunity to participate in the Citizen of the Ocean Summit held at Nausicaá in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. This international summit was organized by Nausicaá and its partner organizations under the Youth Ocean Leadership and Advocacy project, co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme. It was endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters," and The Sea in Common initiative.



SLUSA Colors for Basketball

The Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of Mlss. M. Tasheena Ureshani (FM/FW/2022/294), who has been awarded SLUSA Colors for her exceptional performance in the 2024 Inter-University Basketball Championship.

A dedicated athlete and inspiring student, Ureshani played a pivotal role in leading the university women's basketball team to victory in one of the year's most competitive tournaments. Her outstanding skill, team spirit, and sportsmanship earned her recognition through the prestigious SLUSA Colors, a symbol of excellence in Sri Lankan university sports.

Balancing academics and competitive sports demands is no easy feat, yet Ureshani continues to demonstrate that with discipline and passion, success is achievable. As a proud faculty member, her achievement serves as powerful inspiration to peers, encouraging many to pursue both academic and athletic dreams.

Her journey stands as testament to the university's commitment to nurturing well-rounded students who



excel in both classroom and sporting arena. Ureshani's success exemplifies the ideal of student-athletes who refuse to compromise on either academic excellence or sporting achievement, proving that dedication and hard work can lead to distinction in multiple fields.

Miss. S.B.Y.M.N.S. Siriwithana represent UoR at the FISU World University Games 2025

We are proud to announce that Miss. S.B.Y.M.N.S. Siriwithana (MF/2021/7159) has been selected to represent Sri Lanka at the Rhine-Ruhr FISU World University Games 2025, to be held in Germany from 16th to 27th July 2025.

This is a remarkable achievement, as Siriwithana is the only student from our university chosen to participate in this prestigious international sporting event. The FISU Games unite top student-athletes from across the globe, and her selection is a testament to her exceptional talent, dedication to table tennis, and the high standard of sportsmanship nurtured at our university.

Her journey reflects the values of perseverance, discipline, and passion. Representing one's country on an international stage is a significant milestone, and we take great pride in this accomplishment.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Siriwithana and wish her continued success as she competes among the world's finest. Her achievement not only brings honour to our university but also serves as an inspiration to the entire university community.

Faculty of Technology Won Bronze Medal for Innovative Food Product and Qualified for Sahasak Nimavum 2024.

The Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, celebrates a significant achievement at the Ruhuna Invention and Innovation Exhibition, where the Department of Biosystems Technology team won the Bronze Medal in the University Category. The recognized invention, "Development of Sweet Mixed Spicy Jam from Ripened Jackfruit and Banana Pepper," impressed judges with its creativity, sustainability, and commercial potential. The project was developed by Ms. Shahani Kavindya, a research student from the Department of Biosystems Technology, under the supervision of Dr. Wathsala Rajawatta and Dr. Kaushalya Wijayasekara, Senior Lecturers of the Faculty of Technology. This collaborative effort highlights the department's commitment to fostering innovation through research-led student engagement and academic mentorship.

This unique jam formulation transforms overripe jackfruit and banana pepper, two underutilized local crops, into a flavorful product combining natural sweetness with spice. The preservative-free, value-added food product promotes healthier consumer choices while reducing food waste and supporting agro-based entrepreneurship.

Following university-level success, the invention has been selected for presentation at Sahasak Nimavum 2024, the 13th Innovation Exhibition and Tournament organized by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology. This prestigious national platform will showcase the innovation to industry stakeholders and policymakers. This achievement demonstrates the innovative spirit and practical relevance championed by the Faculty of Technology. The university community congratulates the inventors and extends best wishes for continued success at Sahasak Nimavum 2024.



National Educator Awards 2024



Senior Prof. Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya was able to win a prestigious award in Education, the National Educator Award for year 2024 in the field of Applied Sciences (Bronze Award). The National Educator Award is a prestigious initiative dedicated to honoring outstanding educators across Sri Lanka who have made remarkable contributions to their respective academic disciplines.

This awards scheme is launched by SLIIT (National Educator Committee) along with the Ministry of Education & Higher Education.

The awarding ceremony was held on 4th December 2024, at Monarch Imperial, Sri Jawardhanapura, Kotte, jointly organized by SLIIT and the Ministry of Education.



National Agricultural Research (NARP) Grants by Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy

Prof. Rajika Amarasinghe, of the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, has been awarded a competitive research grant valued at Rs. 3.136 million for the project titled "Harnessing Azolla and Seaweed Extract for Sustainable Foliar Fertilizer Production to Address Soil Salinity Associated Problems in Sri Lanka," by the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) under National Agricultural Research (NARP) grants scheme.

The project is led by Prof. Rajika Amarasinghe as the Principal Investigator and the co-investigators are Prof. Lanka Ranawake, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Thilini Ariyadasa, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa, and Mr. Udaya Rathnayake, Grain Legume and Oil Crops Research and Development Center, Department of Agriculture, Angunakolapelessa.



Prestigious NRC Research Grant for Innovative Research on Sustainable Animal Feed: Faculty of Technology

Dr. Kaushalya Wijayasekara, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, has been awarded the prestigious 2024 Investigator-Driven Research Grant by the National Research Council (NRC) of Sri Lanka. Dr. Niranjana Kannangara, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Biosystems Technology, is the Co-Investigator of the research.

The funded project, titled "Animal Feed Derived from Fish Processing Waste", addresses a critical environmental and agricultural challenge in Sri Lanka, reducing fish waste while supporting sustainable livestock nutrition. This research will focus on converting underutilized fish by-products into high-value animal feed, contributing to both waste reduction and circular economy practices in the agri-food sector. This milestone marks the first time a member of the Faculty of Technology has received this highly competitive and nationally recognized grant, highlighting the faculty's growing contribution to impactful research and innovation.



Book Launch by Dr. Janithra De Silva: “උපන් ආබාධ වලින් තොර නිරෝගී දරු පරපුරක් වෙනුවෙන් අපේ යුතුකම”

A new book authored by Dr. Janithra De Silva, Senior Lecturer in Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, was officially launched on 3rd March 2025, at the SLMA Auditorium. The event was organized by the Expert Committee on Birth Defects of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) to mark World Birth Defects Day.

Titled “උපන් ආබාධ වලින් තොර නිරෝගී දරු පරපුරක් වෙනුවෙන් අපේ යුතුකම” (Our Responsibility Towards a Healthy Future Generation Free from Birth Defects), the book was published by the SLMA with the goal of supporting national efforts to prevent birth defects. It is being distributed among Public Health Midwives across the country as an educational resource.



The publication is based on Dr. De Silva's PhD research and addresses a critical gap in public health of Sri Lanka, in educating and empowering the Public Health Midwives on birth defects prevention at the community-level. Recognizing its value and relevance, the SLMA has released a second edition of the book to facilitate wider national distribution among frontline public health workers.

UoR Academics were invited for a High-level policy dialogue “Beyond Waste” Optimizing Food, Water and Energy for better nutrition in South Asia

The regional policy dialogue “Optimizing Food, Water and Energy for better nutrition in South Asia” which was being hosted by the Prime Minister's Office of Sri Lanka, supported by the South Asia Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING), was held from 18th to 19th June 2025 at ICT Rathnadipa Hotel, Colombo. Dr. K.T.K.M. De Silva, senior lecturer attached to the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, and Prof. Nilantha De Silva of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Ruhuna participated in the dialogue as invitees.

This forward-looking dialogue brought together policy experts, innovators, and agricultural stakeholders to explore integrated frameworks and circular economy principles for transforming food systems while advancing climate goals. Key focus areas included food loss and waste reduction, water conservation, climate action, and sustainable trade through synergistic policy approaches.

Experts emphasized the environmental costs of inefficient food systems and the need for policies addressing climate mitigation with co-benefits for public health. The session highlighted climate adaptation strategies, innovative technologies for resource efficiency, and cutting-edge circular economy solutions that convert food waste into valuable resources. These practical innovations underscore opportunities to create sustainable, resilient, and economically viable food systems.



Academic Staff

Recruitments

Dr (Mrs). S L A Gunawardana. Senior Lecturer-Grade-II. Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Dr (Mrs). B.C. Mallawarachchi. Department of Community Medicine. Faculty of Medicine

Dr (Mrs). A.W.K. Mithunika. Department of Pharmacology Faculty of Medicine. Faculty of Medicine

Dr. S.A.M.A.V.R. Senanayake. Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. H.M.C. Pushpakumara. Senior Lecturer, Grade-I, Department of Information & Communication Technology. Faculty of Technology.

Mrs. H.S.K. Nisansala. Lecturer (Probationary) Dean's Office, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Mr. G.H.H. Witharana. Lecturer (Probationary). Department of Electrical & Information Engineering. Faculty of Engineering.

Promotions

Chair Professors

Senior Prof. P.A. Jayantha. Professor of Mathematics. Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science.

Professors

Prof. H.C.E. Wegiriya. Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science.

Prof. U.A.D. Jayasinghe. Department of Limnology and Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology.

Prof. D. Michael De Silva. Department of History & Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. K.M.C. Fernando. Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture.

Prof. I.R. Palihakkara. Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture

Prof. G.S.N. Fernando. Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture.

Prof. S.R. Amarasinghe. Department of Soil Science. Faculty of Agriculture.

Senior Lecturer-Grade-I

Mr. R.M.D.D. Rathnayake. Department of Human Resource Management. Faculty of Management and Finance

Dr (Mrs). H.D. Jayasekara. Department of Chemistry. Faculty of Science.

Dr (Mrs). I.R. Akurugoda. Department of Public Policy. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mrs. R.D.N. Wijesinghe. Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Senior Lecturer-Grade-II

Dr. W.M.C.D. Wijekoon. Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science.

Dr. S.A. Mendis. Department of Pharmacology Faculty of Medicine

Dr. (Mrs.). W.B.N.T. Fernando. Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Mr. W.M.R. Laksiri. Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management and Finance.

Mrs. K.I.M. De Silva. Department of Pharmacy. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Mrs. K.V.J. Koshalee. Department of History & Archaeology Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mrs. N.E.H. Lanka. Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Mr. Anuda Kanchana Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Mr. Y.K.N. Kandewatta. Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mrs. I.R.N.S. Peiris. Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. N.G.U.S. Wijepala. Department of Sociology. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. M.A.G.J. Sameera. Department of Sinhala. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mrs. R.G. Sanuja. Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Ms. S.D.M. Dilshani. Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science.

New Appointments

Director of the Career Guidance Unit (CGU): Dr. Abeywardhana Arachchige Ravindu Priyanka, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies.

Retirements



Prof. L. A. Panangama
Department of Chemistry
Faculty of Science

The Department of Chemistry honors Professor LA Panangama, a distinguished academic, researcher, and mentor, upon his retirement. With deep gratitude and admiration, we reflect on his exemplary contributions to academia and the scientific community over the past two decades. Prof. Panangama began his illustrious academic journey with a B.Sc. Special Degree in Chemistry from the University of Peradeniya in 1984. He pursued post-graduate studies in Polymer Science, obtaining both his MSc and PhD from the University of the Witwa-

tersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1995. His pursuit of excellence extended to post-doctoral research at the New Zealand Forest Research Institute (1995-1997) and Iowa State University in the USA (1999-2000).

Throughout his career, Prof. Panamgama held numerous academic and research positions at prestigious institutions, including the Open University of Sri Lanka, the University of Kelaniya, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and the Southeastern University of Sri Lanka. In 2006, he joined the University of Ruhuna as a Senior Lecturer, where his dedication and scholarly achievements led to his promotion as Associate Professor in 2014 and Professor of Chemistry in 2020.

Prof. Panamgama contributed to the university through numerous significant roles. He served as Academic Warden of the Boys' Hostel (2013-2014), Senior Treasurer for several student societies, and member of the Science Symposium Organizing Committee in 2009 and 2012. Additionally, he served on various Technical Evaluation Committees within the Faculty of Science. His commitment to student development was particularly noteworthy, serving as Student Mentor from 2012 to 2024 and Student Counsellor from 2007 to 2008.

A passionate researcher in industrial polymers and wood adhesives, Prof. Panamgama made significant scholarly contributions with multiple publications in international journals and over 250 citations with an h-index of 7. His work advanced understanding in applied and theoretical polymer chemistry, composite products, formaldehyde-based adhesives, and the design of sustainable adhesives and materials from renewable sources. As we bid farewell to Prof. Panamgama upon his retirement, we celebrate a career marked by dedication, integrity, and academic excellence. His legacy will continue to inspire colleagues and students for generations to come. We wish him a joyful and fulfilling retirement, with many new adventures beyond the laboratory and lecture hall.

Non-Academic Staff

Promotions

Management Assistant

Mrs.N. Liyanage. Dean's Office. Faculty of Technology

Mr.K.K. Kumar. Dean's Office Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Mr.S.S. Jayaweera. Dean's Office, Faculty of Management & Finance

Mrs. P.R.M. Muthukumarana . Non Academic Establishment Branch

Mrs.M.K.S. Dilakshi. General Administration Branch

Ms. E.I. Neththikumara. Payments Branch.

Ms. I.S. Wijesiriwardene, Department of Public Policy.

Mrs.C.M. Pathirana. General Administration Branch

Mrs.D.R. Sanjeevani. Dean's Office Faculty of Graduate Studies

Ms.I.M. Wickramaratne. Salaries & Loans Branch

Ms.K.L.T. Thiyangi. Supplies Branch.

Ms.W.G.S.P. Kulathilaka. Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering

Mr.K.H.H. Mihiran. Corporate Management Branch.

Mrs. W.C. Thathsarani. Non Academic Establishment Branch

Mrs. R.K.W. Madubhashinee. Non Academic Establishment Branch.

Ms. N.D.I.U. Nakandala. Finance Division, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Mrs. S.A.K. Gimhani. Physical Education Unit

Ms. R.M.J Chathurika. Payments Branch.

Mrs.P.A.T. Rathnayake. Dean's Office, Faculty of Management & Finance

Mrs.N.K.C.R.S. De Silva. Dept. of History and Archaeology. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Ms. A.H.N. Rupika. Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Mrs. K.G. Manamperi. Dean's Office, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Mr.D.N. Akurugoda. Finance Division, Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. M.H.N.S. Dias. Dean's Office, Faculty of Science

Management Assistant (Shroff)

Mr.P. Wimalagunasekara. Payments Branch.

Management Assistant (Store Keeper)

Mr. M.G.G.D.D. Mahanama, Supplies Branch.

MS. U.L. Chathurika. Accounts Branch

Retirements

Mr. K.A.R.S. Jayakody (Bursar). Finance - Bursar's Office

Mr. K.S.M.L. Priyantha (Security Guard). Faculty of Medicine.

Mr.L.R. Wijenayake (Security Guard). Faculty of Medicine.

Mr. W. Jayantha (Full Time Sub Warden). Faculty of Agriculture

Mr. H.V.G. Chandradasa (Lab Attendant). Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture.

Mr. P.W. Sisira (Lab Attendant. Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Mrs.J.P. Chandrawathie (Management Assistant). Salaries & Loans Devision.

Mr. G.P. Anura (Lab Attendant). Department of of Inter Deciplinary Studies. Faculty of Engineering.

Retirements



Mrs. Priyantha Senani Kalugama
Registrar
University of Ruhuna

combined with her comprehensive understanding of various administrative branches, has contributed significantly to the university's operational excellence and institutional development. The University of Ruhuna acknowledges her invaluable contributions and wishes her well in her future endeavors following her well-deserved retirement.

The University of Ruhuna announces the retirement of Mrs. Priyantha Senani Kalugama, who concluded her distinguished service as Registrar on 18th June 2025, after an exemplary career spanning over thirty-three years in the administration of the University of Ruhuna.

Mrs. Kalugama commenced her illustrious career at the University of Ruhuna on 3rd February 1992, as an Assistant Registrar. Throughout her tenure, she demonstrated exceptional leadership and administrative acumen while serving in various capacities across multiple departments. She progressively advanced through the ranks, serving as Assistant Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrar, and Deputy Registrar across various branches, including the Student Affairs Branch (Academic and Publication Branch), Academic Establishment Branch, General Administration Branch, and Examinations Branch. She served as Acting Registrar from 10th September 2007, and was subsequently appointed as Registrar of the University of Ruhuna on 1st June 2009.

Mrs. Kalugama holds the distinguished honors of being the first female officer appointed to the position of Registrar at the University of Ruhuna, and she received her foundational education at Holy Family Convent, Wennappuwa, where she completed both primary and secondary education. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Economics from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Subsequently, she earned a Master's degree in Higher Education Management from the University of London as a Commonwealth Scholarship recipient, as well as a Master of Business Administration from the University of Ruhuna.

With over three decades of dedicated service, Mrs. Kalugama has been instrumental in shaping the administrative framework of the University of Ruhuna. Her extensive experience in higher education management,



Upcoming Events



Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON) 2026 will be held under the theme "Bridging Frontiers in Science and Innovation Towards Sustainable Solutions," focusing on the pivotal role of scientific breakthroughs and innovative technologies in achieving a sustainable future on 21st January 2026 at the University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama Campus,

For more details, please visit: <https://www.sci.ruh.ac.lk/conference/rist-con2026/>

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Acknowledgment:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, Vice-Chancellor of the University, for his continuous guidance and encouragement. We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Directors, Coordinators, and Administrative Officers for providing relevant information from their respective Centers, Units, and Divisions. Special thanks to the university's media unit for providing photographs.



Published by:

University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka

Contact Us:

Tel: +94412222682 : Fax:+94412222683

Email: newsletter@admin.ruh.ac.lk

Web: www.ruh.ac.lk