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Inauguration Ceremony of the New Batch (2020/2021 Intake, Masters)

The Inauguration Ceremony of the master's programme of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) was held on 19th September 2021 as a virtual event via zoom.



At the event, the UCSC welcomed 280 students who were admitted for Master of Computer Science, Master of Information Technology, Master of Information Security, and Master of Business Analytics programmes for its 2020/2021 intake. The enrolled 280 students were selected among 640 applicants through a selection test held on 14th March 2021 and subsequently, selection interviews which were held online in April & May 2021. The Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne presided over the function as the Chief Guest and Dr. Upali Mampitiya from the Open University of Sri Lanka delivered the keynote address. The Director, the Head of Postgraduate Studies, the Coordinators of each degree programme, and the Coordinators of E-Learning Centre and the Network Operating Centre also gave students insight into various aspects of the learning experience at UCSC. Academic activities of the new intake for semester 1 commenced on 24th September 2021 in online mode.



Establishing Dialog-UCSC 5G Innovation Centre

The emergence of data-intensive technologies has put increasing pressure on Internet service providers to meet the demand. Artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics, and many other technologies are limited by the ability to connect user devices to remote servers seamlessly. The next generation of fast Internet access provided by 5G networks is the game-changer in this context.

In order to facilitate research and entrepreneurial opportunities in the 5G arena, Dialog Axiata PLC joined hands with UCSC to establish a 5G Innovation Centre at UCSC premises. The centre is aimed to link the real-world problems of the industry with the university academics, researchers, and students to build novel solutions. Dialog Axiata PLC will be providing modern 5G equipment and network coverage to the 5G Innovation Centre while UCSC will bring together talented human resources to utilize the centre to build solutions.



As a part of the preparations to establish the Dialog-UCSC 5G Innovation Centre, Dialog Axiata PLC conducted an awareness session for the staff and students of UCSC on June 25th, 2021 via Zoom. The session started with a brief introduction of cellular technologies and then explained how it has been advanced to currently deployed 4G technology and the upcoming 5G technology. The promise of 5G technology in contrast to 4G was highlighted during the session. Furthermore, the current status of the 5G deployment was discussed both locally and internationally. The speakers who presented in the session included Ms. Vindya Keeragala and Ms. Dinushika Gunasekara from Dialog Axiata PLC, and Mr. Thiaw Seng Ng and Mr. Thomas Vidorrekto from Ericsson South East Asia, Oceania, and India. The 5G awareness session concluded with a Q & A session where attendees interacted with the presenters.

After multiple negotiations and discussions, the agreement for the Dialog-UCSC 5G Innovation Centre was signed between Dialog Axiata PLC and UCSC on October 27th, 2021. Prof. K. P. Hewagamage, Prof. G. D. S. P. Wimalaratne, and Dr. Kasun de Zoysa serve as the management committee members from UCSC for the 5G Innovation Centre while Dr. Asanka P. Sayakkara plays the coordinator role for the centre. The construction work of the centre within the UCSC building complex is currently underway with plans to start the projects soon.

The Undergraduate Industrial Training and Quality Improvement Program 2021

The Professional Development Centre (PDC) is one of the centers at UCSC, established to keep a close liaison with the IT industry to improve the academic activities through industry-academia partnership. The PDC carried out several activities amidst the COVID pandemic for the year 2021. The IT industry professionals were invited to conduct online tech talks on topics varying from technical to soft skill development. The sessions were aligned to make the undergraduates aware of the role that they have to play as professionals after being graduated. We successfully hosted around twenty-five (25) online tech talk sessions for the third-year undergraduates from May to August.

Fifteen (15) new companies registered under the UCSC internship program to provide internship opportunities for UCSC students. The new companies were evaluated via zoom due to the travel restrictions. The undergraduate internship program for 2021/2022 commenced on October 1st, 2021. Two hundred and seventy-nine (279) students were successfully placed in seventy-two (72) IT companies, two (02) government institutes, and seven (7) research and consultancy projects at UCSC for internship.

Distribution of Industrial Placement vs. Organizations

Type of Organizations – Placement	Number of Students Placed	Number of organizations/ projects
IT companies	252	72
Government Institutes	02	02
Research and consultancy projects at UCSC	25	07
Total	**279**	**81**

Several discussions were organized to explore the opportunities to enhance the industry-academia partnership and uplift the research culture with academic-industry collaboration with professionals from the IT industry. Meetings were held with London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), Virtusa, Wiley Pvt ltd, John Keels IT, Dazeworks/iLink Digital to plan future collaboration and engagement. During the discussions, processes to enhance the internship and career opportunities were discussed. In addition, strengthening the partnership between UCSC and the Center of the International Cooperation for Computerization (CICC) in Japan was further explored during the discussions with officials from CICC to identify IT Internship opportunities for UCSC students.

The PDC partnered with HUAWEI Mobile Services (HMS) to offer a Mobile App Development Training and Certification Course for free for UCSC students (Internal/External) as part of the Huawei Developer Ecosystem. The main aim of the program is to improve the hands-on skills and industry readiness of University undergraduates. The Mobile App Development Training and Certification Foundation course will be held online, and the course duration is five (5) weeks. The introductory webinar on "The Future of App Industry" was held successfully for the students and the academic staff of UCSC to bring awareness about app industry insights in line with the above certification program. Over 200 participants participated in the introductory webinar, and over 180 participants registered to follow the foundation certification course.

Obtaining the Certificate of Recycling by the UCSC

E-waste is electronic products that are unwanted, not working, and nearing or at the end of their "useful life." Computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, Telephones, Batteries, Lights, Toner Cartridges, fax machines, etc. are everyday electronic products. The ongoing challenge of how best to dispose of used and unwanted electronics isn't a new one and dates back at least to the 1970s. But a lot has changed since then, particularly the number of electronics being discarded today. E-waste is particularly dangerous due to toxic chemicals that naturally leach from the metals inside when buried.

The amount of this E-waste quantity in the University of Colombo School of Computing was increasing daily and it was decided to manage it by subjecting it to a proper recycling method. Under this, the E-waste will be collected, sored according to the proper standard procedures and handed over to the E-waste collection centers conducted by the government, UOC, or another recognized E-waste recycling center. Under the above E-waste recycling policy, we are pleased to inform you that the



Ceylon Waste Management
Green Citizens

Certificate No :210121

CERTIFICATE OF RECYCLING

University of Colombo School of Computing

In January 2021

Ceylon Waste Management Pvt Ltd hereby certifies that all items received have been recycled in accordance with environmentally responsible standards. Below is the summary of the items received.

ITEM	QUANTITY	ITEM	QUANTITY
CFL/Fluorescent Bulbs-Kg	52.6	Starters-Nos	54
Toners-Nos	15	Capacitors-Nos	06
Chalks-Nos	19	Laptop Batteries-Nos	02

Assistant General Manager

Director Administration

"Clean drinking water, Anti Poisonous foods and none Toxic Air breathing for everyone"

Awards:International Green Era Award by IMAC in France (2015), National Exporters Award (Bronze) Industrial Category (2015) N B EA Award (2014) Merit Award - NoneTraditional Manufacturing.N BEA Award (2017) Gold Award - None Traditional Manufacturing,NB EA Award (2017) Gold Award – Business and Financial Results, International Green Apple Award(2017)-UK, Global gold award for waste management-2018-UK

University of Colombo School of Computing obtained the Certificate of Recycling in January 2021 offered by the Ceylon E-waste Management. As a Government Educational Institution, our objective is to make the maximum possible contribution to building a more conducive environment for E-waste-free learning and employment through proper solid waste management.

Newly Promoted Professors of UCSC

We are pleased to announce the promotion of three senior academics to endowed professorship from senior lecturer (Grade 1) position. Here is a brief background to acknowledge their outstanding performance in academia.



Prof. Lakshman Jayaratne who obtained his B.Sc (Hons) degree from the University of Colombo in 1992, completed his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Western Sydney, Australia in 2006. At present, he is serving as the Director-General of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Institute. He has been the principal investigator of the project Automated Content-Based Audio Music Monitoring Approach for Radio Broadcasting Channels in Sri Lanka.

Prof. Jayaratne received the Vice Chancellor's Award of Research Excellence in 2013 and 2015, ICT Researcher of the Year in 2017, and the Information and Communication Technology Award in 2020. He was the President of IEEE Chapter of Sri Lanka in 2012 and the Chief of Panel of Judges of International Schools Software Competition conducted by the South East Asia Region Computer Confederation in 2012 and 2013. Prof. Jayaratne is engaged as the consultant for the Electronic National Identity Card project for the Department for Registration of Persons and a research advisor for the Centre for Research and Development, Ministry of Defense, Sri Lanka.



Prof. Damitha D Karunaratna obtained his B.Sc (Science) degree with a First Class in Statistics and Mathematics from the University of Colombo in 1985. He was awarded scholarships to follow his postgraduate studies namely the President's Fund to read for a Masters' degree in computer science at the University of Swansea, Wales, UK in 1990 and a Commonwealth scholarship in 1995 to read for a Ph.D. degree from Cardiff University, UK. Prof. Karunaratna completed his Ph.D. from Cardiff University specializing in Ontology Engineering in 2000.

He served as the president of section E3 of the Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science in 2013 and chaired the annual international conference conducted by the UCSC in 2019. He was the head of the Communications and Media Technologies department of the UCSC from 2005 to 2010, the Information Systems Engineering Computing department from 2011 to 2013, and the coordinator of the e-Learning center of UCSC from 2014 to 2018.



Prof. Prasad Wimalaratne earned his BSc Special (Hons) in Computer Science from the University of Colombo with first-class honours, securing the Mohan Munasinghe award for the most outstanding student in computer science in 1994. He received the award for the Student of the Year by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka in 1994. He completed his Ph.D. from the University of Salford, UK, specialized in Constraint-Based Virtual Prototyping with citations in US patents by Boeing, Siemens, and Cannon for his doctoral research. Prof. Wimalaratne was awarded the Presidential Awards for Research in 2016, Elite Award for the ICT Researcher of the Year in 2019, Vice-Chancellors Award for Research Excellence in 2018, and University of Colombo Senate Open Award for Research Excellence in 2016, 2017, and 2019. He has been serving as the Head of the Department of Communication and Media Technologies as well as the Head of Research and Higher Degree Programmes at UCSC since 2015. He was the Director, Career Guidance Unit of the University of Colombo from 2005 to 2011, member of the Advisory Council of National Archives Department, member of the Academic Affairs Board of National Institute of Education, Executive Council member of IEEE Sri Lanka Section, Computer Society of Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka Association for the Software Industry.

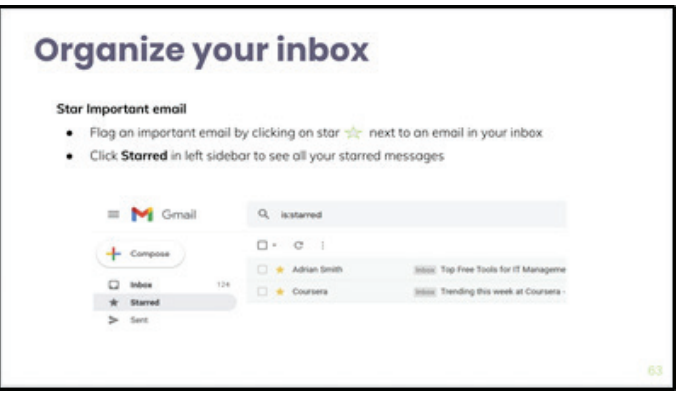
Online Workshop Series for All the UCSC Staff Members

A workshop series for UCSC staff organized by the Computing Services Centre (CSC) was initiated successfully on the 8th of September 2021 from 11 am to 1 pm with more than 50+ participants. The first workshop was conducted by the two temporary academic staff members, Hirasha Pooliyadda and Akila Gamage via zoom. The workshop was titled "Effective email communication in the workplace" and the session mainly focused on email security, email etiquette, and the effective usage of Gmail in professional email communication.

The participants were given awareness on how to create secure passwords for their email accounts and to manage them properly. Further, they were able to learn how to reset a password and to add a recovery phone number or email address to improve the security of their email accounts.



With the emergence of the work from home concept due to the pandemic situation, workplace communication could not be continued as before, and emails came into place as the official medium of professional communication within the workplace. Having a good understanding of email etiquette is crucial to creating effective communication. One of the main objectives of the workshop was to create awareness about etiquettes.



The discussion about the etiquettes covered the aspects like choosing the right email recipients, understanding the difference between CC and BCC, professional greetings and salutations, email tone, reminder emails, email attachments, etc. Moreover, participants were given awareness about new useful chrome extensions that can be used when sending professional emails.



The workshop also covered some important practical benefits of the Gmail account along with a live demonstration on both desktop and mobile. The discussion included aspects like the organization of the inbox and other folders in the Gmail account, reporting emails as spam, blocking email addresses, searching and filtering emails, adding labels to emails, etc.

Furthermore, participants were able to perceive advanced Gmail settings like sending emails in Sinhala, creation of email signatures and mail lists, automatic email forwarding, and deleting, which could be used to enhance workplace email communication.

The workshop recording can be accessed on Youtube:Workshop: Effective Email Communication - Part 1 (Sinhala)
Workshop: Effective Email Communication - Part 2 (Sinhala)

A Phenomenal Night with ස්වරාවකාශ - සයිබර් ස්වර සුයාමය



With the emerge of the Covid - 19 pandemic, the university had to run online this year as well. This put a lot of pressure on the students as well as the academic staff. Therefore, according to a concept of Prof. K.P. Hewagamage and Dr. M D J S Goonetillake, steps were taken to hold a virtual concert to alleviate this pressure. On that account, under the guidance of Dr. Shiromi Arunathileka, the "ස්වරාවකාශ - සයිබර් ස්වර සුයාමය" was brought to the fore.

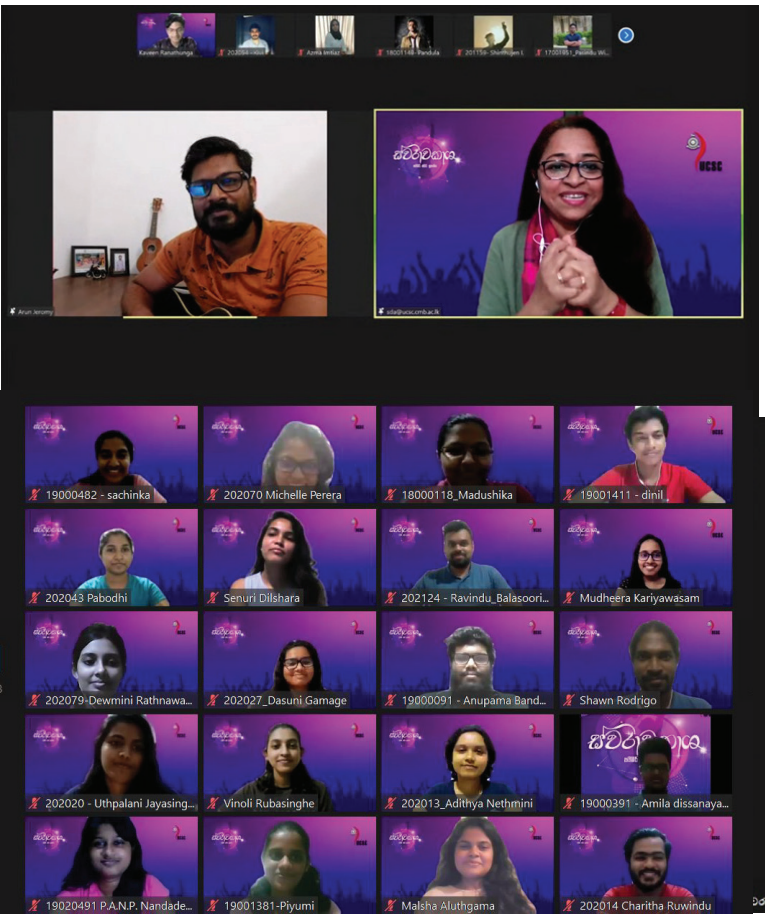
With a staggering and enthusiastic participation of nearly 150 from the zoom platform and about 7K from Facebook live and YouTube live, it is not exaggerating to say that this event was an immense success.

The event took place via zoom along with Facebook live and You Tube live on the 13th of August from 7p.m. to 9.20 p.m. All undergraduates from UCSC, regardless of the academic year they are in, took part in this united attempt for team spirit. The event thus kept brewing to be a fulfilling moment for the whole UCSC.

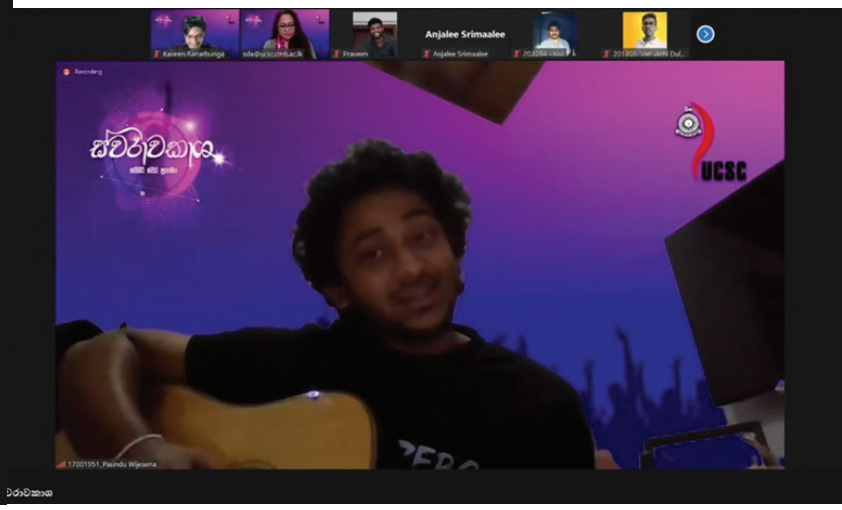
Moderated by Kaveen Ranathunga, a first year undergraduate from UCSC, it started off with a small introduction to the session followed by the first music session for the day which was carried out by four students from all years. Then it was time for the first game session which was "Guess the Song". With the active participation of all who were in, the game lifted up the spirits of the entire session. Afterwards it was another music session done by students from every academic year.

The music session was followed by yet another entertaining moment of singing by Arun Jeromy, one of the guest artists for the day. He amused the audience with his melodious voice while singing three songs. Next up, another engaging game session went on which was named "Guess the artist", followed by another showcase of UCSC talent by a music session handled by the students themselves.

Thereupon, the other guest artist, Tharindu Nirmana conquered the stage with his euphonious melodies while singing three songs. Before concluding the event, the participants all got together for a delightful moment of cooperation with the last session for the day, which was the game "Geethayen Geethaya".



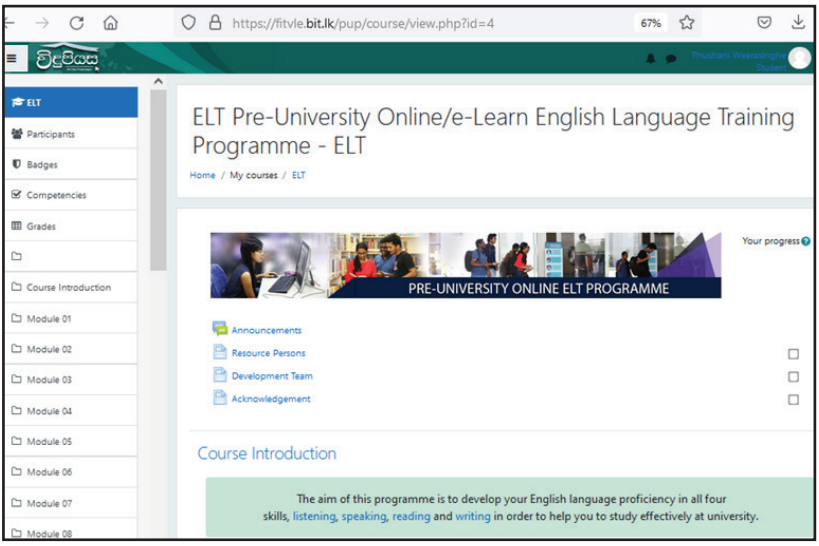
The incredible event "ස්වරාවකාශ" was finally drawn to an end after a night of funtertainment. With the goal of releasing the stress of the students during this Covid pandemic, as well as strengthening the bond between the undergraduates and the academic staff, this event fulfilled its motive by successfully unifying the bonds which were virtual - bound for over a year. It was a rather memorable episode for the entire UCSC as a happy pill amidst this calamity.



UGC-Funded Pre-University Online English Language Training (ELT) Programme

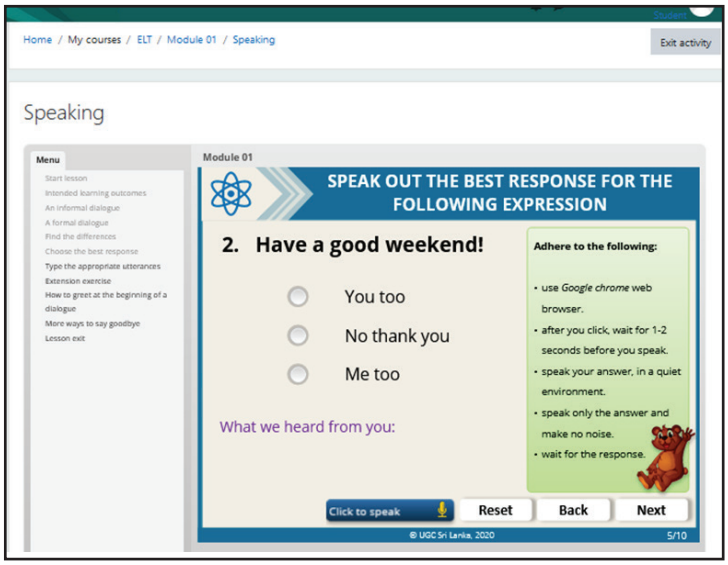
The University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka has assigned a project to the e-Learning Centre of the University of Colombo School of Computing to develop an online course for English Language Training. This programme aims to enhance the English language capability of new entrants to the universities in Sri Lanka. It will be offered to the eligible students of the university admission starting from the academic year 2020/2021. During the year 2021, the e-Learning Centre carried out the activities related to setting up a Learning Management System and developing the online course environment with multimedia-based interactive learning content.

The online course consisted of fifteen sections, each having four modules: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The modules have interactive learning content and activities with automatic feedback. There are some additional supplementary activities to lead the students to do some offline activities or engage with online discussions. Throughout the development, a team of resource persons recommended by the UGC worked collaboratively with the development team of the e-Learning Centre. The resource persons provided the learning content and reviewed all the online content developed by the development team.



The programme has been planned to be delivered with the support of a team of facilitators. Therefore, as the next step of this project, a team of facilitators need to be trained, and facilitators' guides need to be prepared.

The online course of the programme is accessible from https://fitvle.bit.lk/pup/ and the content of it can be best viewed using Google Chrome browser. The learners can practice their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills online.



The International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions

The International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions is the annual conference hosted by the University of Colombo School of Computing. This year the 21st Annual Conference was successfully held for two days on the 02nd and 03rd of December 2021. This was the second attempt of the University of Colombo School of Computing to host this significant event as a fully virtual conference supported by Zoom platform. This year the conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE. The inauguration of the event was followed by the Opening of the UCSC Research laboratory on the 01st December 2021. The chief guest of the event was the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne. At the Inauguration Prof. K. P Hewagamage, the Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing and the Conference Co-Chair Dr. Thilina Halloluwa encompassed the honour of Welcoming the Guests of the conference in the morning of 02nd of December 2021. The Conference Co-Chair Mr. Viraj Welgama declared the conference as concluded in the evening of the 03rd of December 2021.



The conference keynotes were delivered by Prof. Anton Nijholt from University of Twinte, Netherlands on the title Making Smart Cities more Playable, Prof. Prasad Wimalarathne from University of Colombo School of Computing, on the title Role of Metaphors in Information Visualization, Dr. Nhien–An Le-Khac from the University College of Dublin, Ireland on the title Artificial Intelligence for Internet of Things Security and Forensics, Dr. Daniela Hedwig from Cornella University, USA the title Elephants and algorithms - how computer science can revolutionize acoustic monitoring, Dr. Roshan Peiris from Rochester Institute of Technology, USA on the title Altered Reality: Designing Immersive Experiences Using Multisensory Approaches and Dr. Chathuranga Manamendra from IFS R & D International, Colombo on the title Today's students are tomorrow's workforce, So what?.











At the Conference 49 articles including 38 Full Research Papers and 11 Posters were presented. The presentations were scheduled as two parallel sessions each day. These articles were themed on the conference tracks Machine Learning, Physical Computing, Distributed Computing, Human Computer Interaction, Applications of IT, Industry R & D, Information Security, Natural Language Processing and Open Track.

A panel of five members serving as Senior Lecturers in Universities all over the country were appointed as the Best Paper Selection Committee and they identified 01 best papers from the articles presented at the conference. 09 other papers were designated as excellent mentions.



Retirement of Senior Professor N. D Kodikara



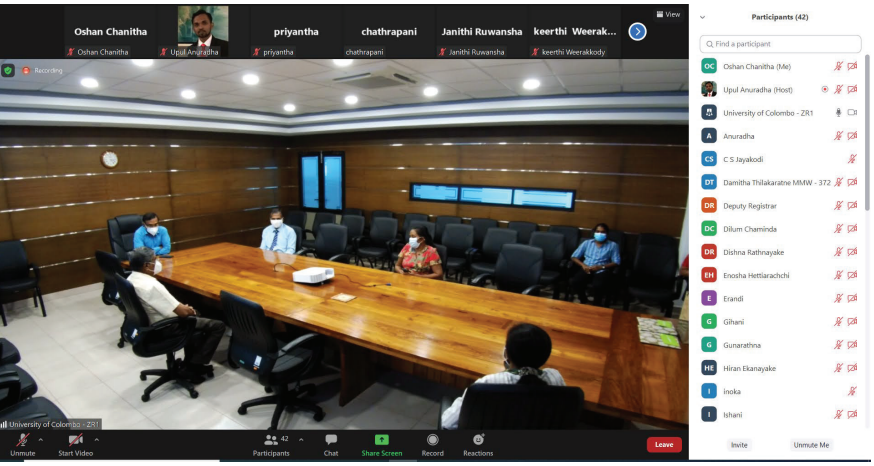
After providing an outstanding service for 42 years, Senior Professor N. D Kodikara, who contributed significantly to the institutional development of the University of Colombo as well as the UCSC in diverse capacities, retired in September 2021. Senior Professor Kodikara started his career as a Temporary Statistical Officer attached to the Statistical Unit of the Department of Mathematics, University of Colombo, in 1979. He obtained his master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Manchester in 1983 and joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Colombo as an assistant lecturer in 1984. Senior Professor Kodikara completed his Ph.D. in Computer Science, from the University of Manchester, UK in 1989. He has the distinct honour of being the first person in Sri Lanka to complete the first degree from the state university system and to obtain a doctorate in Computer Science.

In 1985, Senior Professor Kodikara joined the newly established Department of Statistics and Computer Science (DSCS) and he was appointed as a Senior Lecturer (Grade II). As the first academic who was qualified in Computer Science at the university and the first coordinator of the M.Sc. degree program, he played a major role in establishing



the very first M.Sc. degree program and the B.Sc. Special Degree program in Computer Science in Sri Lanka. In 1994, he was appointed as the Head of the Department of Statistics and Computer Science, and in March 1996 he was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade I). He took a leading role in the accreditation of the B.Sc. Special Degree in Computer Science & M.Sc. degree in Computer Science, and the establishment of the first external degree program in IT (BIT). Senior Professor Kodikara was the founding head of the Department of Computer Science when the Department of Statistics and Computer Science(DSCS) was split into two departments as the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Statistics in 2002. Senior Professor Kodikara played a significant role as the Head of the Department in the formation of the UCSC in 2002 by merging the Department of Computer Science and the Institute of Computer Technology(ICT). He was the first Deputy Director of the UCSC as well as the founding Head of the Department of Communication and Media Technologies (CMT).

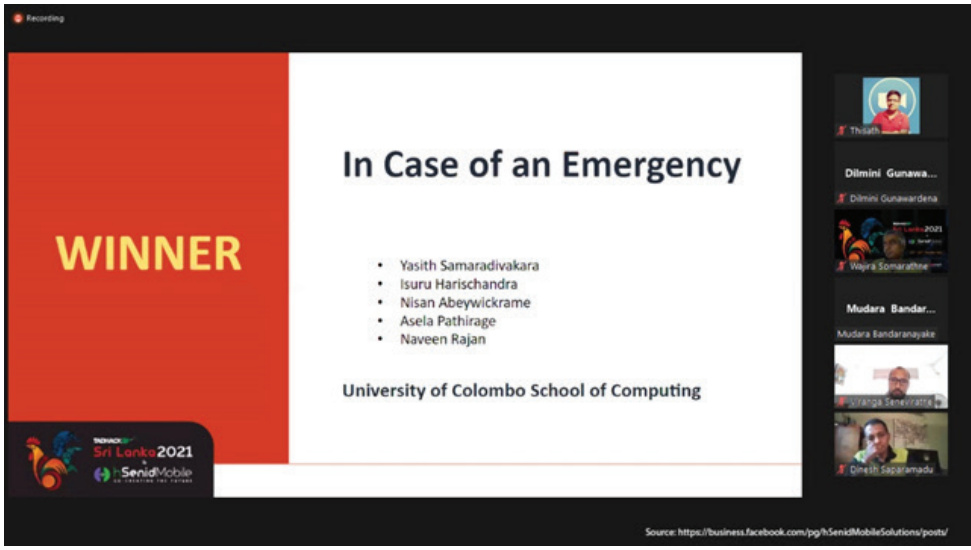
He significantly contributed to the commencement of the first undergraduate degree program in 2004, also the new Master's degree programs in Computer Science, Information Technology, and Advanced Computing offered by UCSC. He also served as the coordinator of the MPhil/Ph.D Degree programs and the overall Head of Postgraduate Studies at UCSC. Senior Professor Kodikara was the grant coordinator of the HETC/Window 4 grant for research commercialization from 2013 to 2016. And also he was appointed as the Coordinator of the AHEAD/ICE Grant in 2018. He has published over 100 publications in International Journals & Conference proceedings to his credit.



He was instrumental in setting up and heading Visual Computing Research Group (VCRG). Senior Professor Kodikara contributed to several colloborative projects with Sri Lankan security forces, and successfully completed projects such as VIDUSAYURA and SIERRA. He contributed to the development of the computing syllabus of in the school curriculum of the National Institute of Education, and both English and Sinhala versions of the Grade 11 ICT textbook compiled by the Ministry of Education. He was promoted to the posts of professor in 2009 and senior professor in 2017 respectively. Senior Professor Kodikara was honored with the Elite Award of "Educator of the Year" awarded by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) in 2018, for his excellent contribution to higher education.

Two teams of UCSC won "TADHack Sri Lanka 2021"

"TADHack Global 2021" is the world's largest telco application development hackathon, which is indeed a great opportunity for the developers as well as the society to experience and learn about high-demand modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and latest internet etc. With the collaboration of "Dialog Axiata" and the "hSenid Mobile", the competition was held on 25th and 26th of September with more than 1000 participants from 30 cities in 8 different countries including, the UK, USA and Germany. At this event, two teams of the University Of Colombo School Of Computing have won "TADHack Sri Lanka 2021" competition as well as the "TADHack Global award" for their innovations.





Among 150 competitors, "ICOAE" (Team In Case of an Emergency) from UCSC was the winner of "TADHack Sri Lanka 2021". The team members were 2nd year students, Yasith Samaradiwakara, Isuru Harischandra, Nisan Abeywickrame, Asela Pathirage, and a 1st year student Naveen Rajan. As well as, the 'Team Proktara,' has secured the 1st place and the team members were 3rd year students, Suvin Nimnaka Kodithuwakku, Dilhani Gamhatha, Nandula Perera, Dilan Perera, and George Raveen. Both these teams were supervised by Dr. Thilina Halloluwa, Department of Information Systems Engineering, UCSC and Mr. Pasindu Marasinghe, Department of Computation and Intelligent Systems, UCSC. This was the first-time that two Sri Lankan teams have won awards at the TADHack international hackathon.

Opening of the 2nd Phase – University of Colombo Computer Museum

The 1st phase of the University of Colombo Computer Museum was unveiled on the 21st of January 2021 in commemoration of 100 years of the establishment of the Faculties of Science and Arts of the UoC by Senior Professor Chandrika Wijeyaratne, the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, while the 2nd Phase of the Computer Museum was declared open by the Vice Chancellor on 1st December 2021. The 2nd Phase of the project consists of the Museum Gallery with a range of Computing Machinery of over a period of five decades with a photo gallery and the refurbished UCSC reception area.

Even though the Computer Museum was unveiled on 21st January 2021 with the urgent requirement of commemorating 100 years celebration, the project was planned to be completed within a period of 1 year. Therefore, there were several tasks yet to be carried out with respect to the Computer Museum.

The remaining tasks of the project included mainly the designing of the proposed two gallery spaces and display cabinet items, in a way which ensures that the Computer Museum showcases the proud history of the development of computing discipline at the University. Accordingly, the interior spaces of the two gallery spaces were designed to obtain a very elegant and an attractive environment, where the artifacts would be prominent. The colors, lighting and all the other material were also used to create such an environment for the museum exhibits.



As a result of the enormous contribution of the UCSC team who worked in coordination with the external consultants and contractors of the project, the whole project was completed and launched the 2nd phase of the University of Colombo Computer Museum on 1st December 2021 by Senior Professor Chandrika Wijeyaratne, the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo.





UCSC Research Laboratory



The opening ceremony of the UCSC RESEARCH LABORATORY was held on 1st December 2021 in blended mode. The Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Chandrika Wijeyaratne presided over the function as the Chief Guest.

Newly established Research Laboratory is a state-of-the-art facility with interactive research space consisting of over 1000 square feet with seating capacity of more than 100. Construction of the laboratory began in 2019 under financial assistance of UCSC research allocation and the research grants under Accelerating Higher education Expansion and Development Operations (AHEAD) project. The initiative aims to strengthen the existing research and development environment of UCSC by providing conducive research and development. The space will facilitate Faculty, research groups and research students of UCSC access to the new research work spaces, study areas, mini-library, conference room, discussion room, printing room, common areas and rest areas for students etc.





Multipurpose Computer Laboratory (Ground Floor)



The opening ceremony of the Multipurpose COMPUTER LABORATORY (Ground floor) of UCSC was held on 1st December 2021 in blended mode. The Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Chandrika Wijeyaratne presided over the function as the Chief Guest.

The construction of the computer laboratory at the ground floor began in 2020 in order to strengthen the

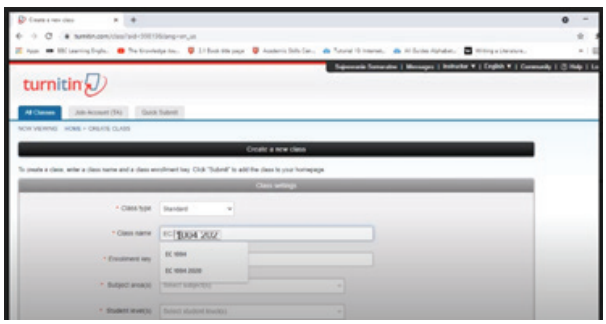
teaching and learning environment of the UCSC. The state of the art laboratory was refurbished by combining the former MSc lab and CSC room to cater the increasing demand for computer resources among undergraduate, master students as well as students of the short courses. The laboratory was designed for a blended learning environment and can be split into two smaller laboratories for parallel sessions. The multipurpose computer laboratory consists of over 1000 square feet with seating capacity for 50 students.

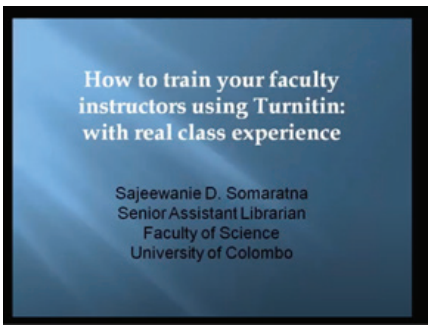


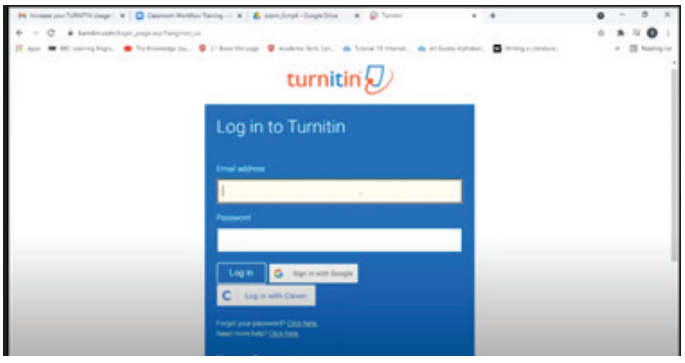


Workshop on "TURNITIN Software"

Having understood the importance of enhancing the quality of academic writing and of raising awareness on the "TURNITIN" similarity detection tool, UCSC Library took the initiative to organize a workshop on "TURNITIN software". The workshop was held on 2nd July 2021, via zoom and Sanjeewani Somarathna, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo was the key speaker of this event. The academic and non- academic staff of the UCSC actively participated in this event.







Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (APICTA) 2020/21

The team "Proktara", who represented the UCSC, brought remarkable reputation to the country as well as to the university by winning the Gold Medal of the "Tertiary Student" category at Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (APICTA) 2020/21. Sri Lanka was able to secure the 3rd place among 17 member countries. This event is organized by APICTA, which aims to increase ICT awareness in the community and assist in bridging the digital divide. APICTA 2020/21 award ceremony was held on 15th December 2021. The winners of the competition were 3rd-year students, Suvin Kodituwakku, Nandula Perera, Dilhani Gamhatha, Dilan Perera, and George Raveen.



SRE Hackathon "SRE Hack 2021"

The two teams of the 3rd year UCSC students have won the world's first-ever SRE Hackathon: "SRE Hack 2021", organized by the Virtusa Corporation. This event was held on 26th November and the teams were given a challenge related to Site Reliability Engineering (SRE). Accordingly, these teams were given 6 hours to complete and demonstrate the solution. The two teams





were able to win the challenge successfully. The team, "MisSprints" and the team"Unknown" won the 2nd and 3rd places at the SRE Hackathon, respectively. The members of the team "MisSprints" included Suvin Kodituwakku, Dilhani Gamhatha, Nandula Perera, Dilan Perera, and George Raveen. The members of the team "Unknown" included Theivendram Athavan, Balachandran Priyatharshan, Ahshaf Nisthar, Madona Dineshiya Sutharshan, and Nitharshana Sathyamoorthy.



UCSC

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