

UCSC

NEWSLETTER

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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SCHOOL OF COMPUTING



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Newly Promoted Professors of UCSC



University of Colombo School of Computing is pleased to announce the promotion of the two senior academics to an endowed professorship from the senior lecturer (Grade 1) position. The following is a brief overview of their exceptional academic performance.

Prof. M.G.N.A.S. Fernando obtained his B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Applied Science, from the University of Colombo in 1983 and earned M.Sc. in Computer Science and PhD subsequently. He started his career journey, at the University of Colombo as a Research Assistant, and later he pursued a position as a Systems Analyst at the UGC and University of Colombo in 1987 and 1995, respectively. Prof. Fernando was appointed a Consultant/ Chief Information Officer in the Ministry of Higher Education in 2008. Since he was appointed a Senior Lecturer of Information Systems Engineering at the UCSC, he has been involved in a number of notable academic and other activities as a student counsellor, student coordinator, senior treasurer, MSc. coordinator, and Computer Science Degree program coordinator of the UCSC. Also, he contributed significantly to many national operations in the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, State Ministry of Cooperative Services, Banking Sector etc. Data Mining, Machine Learning, ICT Education, and especially e-learning are his areas of research interest, and he has published several conference and journal papers. Prof. Fernando has over



Prof. Jeevani Goonetillake joined the University of Colombo in 1996 after graduating with a B.Sc. (Computer Science) first class honours degree from the same university. She then obtained her M.Sc. (Data Engineering) from Keele University, UK in 1998 and PhD from University of Wales, UK in 2004 respectively. Her PhD thesis was titled, "Managing Evolving Constraints in Collaborative Engineering Design Environment" and the research was based on exploring the issues relevant to collaborative engineering design environment. Her research interests include Database Security, Agricultural Technology, Wireless and Sensor Network Databases and NoSQL Databases. Currently, she is supervising several MPhil and undergraduate research projects in these areas.

In addition to her research contributions, she has also held different positions at UCSC such as head of the department, student counsellor and academic coordinator of the undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs. Moreover, she was the Secretory to the Board of Internal Undergraduate Degree Program for more than eight years which is the most important academic board for internal undergraduate degree programs at UCSC. She was also elected the President of the Staff Welfare Society, UCSC and she performed the responsibilities to uplift the welfare of the staff members at UCSC.



Staff Development Course for UCSC Staff Members - 2022

A Staff Development Course for UCSC staff organized by the Computing Services Centre (CSC) was initiated successfully on the 7th of October 2022, with more than 50 participants. This was an ideal opportunity for the staff members of the UCSC to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling their job roles. Fifteen academic and administrative experts representing many different fields/ disciplines, shared their valuable knowledge, contributing as resource persons of this course.

The duration of this course was 12 weeks (30 hrs.) and the practical sessions of the course covered aspects such as the Motivation of Employees, Creativity and Innovation, E- code and University Act, Disciplinary Procedures, Advanced Word processing, Spreadsheets, Internet and email, General Finance, Payments/ Accounts, and Procurement, Organizational Behavior and Psychology of Employees, Management Structure and Administrative Procedures, Work balancing and Counseling, and History of the UCSC.

At the end of the course, an examination was conducted, and the participants who completed the course successfully will be awarded certificates at the certificates awarding ceremony scheduled to be held on 2nd, January 2023.











The 22nd International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer2022)

ICTer 2022

30th November - 01st December 2022

Organized By : UCSC

Technical Sponsor: IEEE Sri Lanka Section

Sponsored By : RIZING, Creative Software, Entgra, NIMI, avtra, BOFFO, CodeGen, PARAQUM, vitalhub





The 22nd International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer2022) was held on 30th November and 01st December, 2022 at the Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranayake Auditorium of University of Colombo School of Computing. The conference was held in hybrid mode, where 40 peer-reviewed original research papers were published at the event, maintaining an acceptance ratio of 25%. In addition to research paper presentations, four distinguished speakers delivered keynote addresses at the event. Professor Wen Hu from the University of New South Wales (UNSW); Dr. Primal Wijesekera from the University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Nimesha Ranasinghe from the University of Maine; and Prof. K.P. Hewagamage from the University of Colombo School of Computing were the keynote speakers. Nearly 200 participants attended the conference held at UCSC both on-site as well as online. In addition to the 2 main conference days, there were 3 workshops held before and after the conference. A full-day workshop conducted by the Language Technology Research (LTR) group of UCSC introduced how to build chatbots, sharing their expertise on the domain. The Group Analytics at Dialog Axiata PLC conducted an online workshop where the new domain of MLOps was introduced. Another workshop conducted by the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering Technology of the Open University of Sri Lanka introduced Delay Tolerant Fog Computing Architectures and Applications to the participants.











UCSC Celebrate 20 Glorious Years

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC), the exemplary provider of Computing education in Sri Lanka, grandly celebrated the 20th anniversary on 2nd September 2022.

Numerous significant activities took place commemorating the 20 years of excellence of the UCSC. Amongst those, Senior Prof. H. D. Karunaratne, the Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo unveiling the commemorative plaque set up at the Na tree (Mesua nagassarium) planted in 2002 by the late Vidya Jyothi Prof. V.K Samaranayake marked the commencement of celebration. Afterwards, the Vice Chancellor participated in the launching of commercialized products at the UCSC Research Laboratory. He also addressed the staff of the UCSC to extend his wishes on the successful journey of 20 years.







Another significant activity that took place was the resourceful session titled "Experiencing New Trends in IT and Computing" which was organized by the UCSC and was conducted by Mr. P.K.M. Thilakarathna, with the help of Mr. T.N.B. Wijethilake and Mr. J.A.U.I.W. Jayalath. It was organized for school students in order to make them aware of the degree programmes offered by the UCSC since majority is barely aware of the importance and the demand for the Computing and IT professionals and academics in the country and the world.



Nearly 170 students and 15 teachers from 6 schools in Colombo participated in the awareness programme. They received the opportunity to witness the vast array of facilities the UCSC possesses and visit places including the Colombo University Computer Museum and the Research Floor. At the end of the awareness session, a competition was held. The team from Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, Colombo won the first place. The team from Visaka Vidyalaya, Colombo secured the second place while the team from the D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo secured the third place. All the winners were awarded with certificates and prizes in appreciation of their success.

The teachers had a meeting with the Director and the senior academic staff of the UCSC in which information regarding the demand for Computing and IT professionals and academics, and how equipped the UCSC is with facilities to mould the undergraduates into better versions of Computing and IT professionals or academics was imparted to them.

Another remarkable event that took place was launching of an e-souvenir in commemoration of the glorious 20 years of UCSC.

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the UCSC, it is planned to launch new projects facilitating learning Computing in Sri Lanka.









The Postgraduate Convocation 2020



The Postgraduate Convocation 2020 of the University of Colombo was held on the 11th of October, 2022 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall.

A total number of 191 postgraduate students of the University Of Colombo School Of Computing were awarded at the Convocation as follows;

1. Master's degrees - 158 [Master of Computer Science, Master of Science in Computer Science, Master of Information Technology, Master of Information Security, Master of Business Analytics and Master of Cyber security].
2. Master of Philosophy degrees - 03
3. Doctor of Philosophy degrees - 01
4. Postgraduate diplomas - 29

The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor (Chair) H.D. Karunaratne, the Director of UCSC, Dr. D. A. S. Atukolare, and other invitees of the University of Colombo.



Photos by FOS Media







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