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NEWSLETTER









University of Colombo School of Computing

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Honouring a Visionary

Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranayake Memorial Oration 2025



Late Professor Vidya Jyothi V.K.Samaranayake

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) proudly hosted the Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranayake Memorial Oration 2025, a distinguished event held in tribute to the late Professor V. K. Samaranayake—an iconic figure whose visionary leadership and enduring contributions have shaped the landscape of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Held at the UCSC auditorium, the event drew a distinguished audience comprising academics, students, professionals, and invited guests who gathered to reflect on the legacy of a pioneer whose influence remains deeply embedded in the nation's digital journey.

The evening commenced with a welcome address by Dr.Ajantha Atukorale, Director of UCSC. In his remarks, he reaffirmed UCSC's dedication to academic excellence and innovation, while extending heartfelt appreciation to all those who continue to support the growth of ICT education in Sri Lanka. He paid special tribute to Professor Samaranayake for laying the foundation upon which UCSC and the broader ICT community have flourished.

Following this, Senior Professor H.D.Karunarathne, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, addressed the gathering. He spoke warmly of Professor Samaranayake's vision, noting the transformative impact he had on computing education and research across the country.



Mrs. Sriya Samaranayake, wife of the late Professor Vidya Jyothi V.K. Samaranayake, seated among distinguished guests.

The highlight of the evening was the memorial oration, delivered by a distinguished speaker, Professor Frank Leymann from the University of Stuttgart, Germany on Cosmology and Data: Holes and Their Importance. Dr. Nalin Ranasinghe, Senior Lecturer at UCSC, had the privilege of introducing the orator, shedding light on his expertise and contributions to the field. During the oration, Professor Leymann provided deep insights into the intersection of cosmology and data, a topic that resonated with the audience.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Professor Kasun De Zoysa, Deputy Director of UCSC, who extended gratitude to all participants, organizers, and supporters who contributed to the event's success.

The Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranayake Memorial Oration continues to be a landmark event that celebrates the life and legacy of a true pioneer in ICT. As Sri Lanka continues to advance in the digital age, Professor Samaranayake's pioneering spirit continues to inspire generations to lead with knowledge, innovation, and purpose.



Professor Frank Leymann delivers the memorial oration on Cosmology and Data.

New Year 2025

Begins with Warm Wishes and Celebration at UCSC

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) warmly welcomed the new year with a vibrant New Year Celebration held on the 1st of January 2025. The event took place at the UCSC premises, bringing together academic, administrative, and non-academic staff to usher in the year with renewed energy and camaraderie. The event was organized by the welfare society of UCSC with the support of the staff members.

Organized under the patronage of the Director of UCSC, the celebration began at 8:00 a.m. and featured a lively and festive atmosphere, complete with traditional rituals, warm wishes, and moments of reflection.

As UCSC moves into another year of academic and research excellence, the New Year Celebration 2025 served as a reminder of the strength of its people and the collective hope for continued success and innovation in the field of computing.









The Director and staff members of UCSC celebrating the dawn of the New Year 2025 at the UCSC premises

Welcoming the Future:
UCSC Orientation Programme and Inauguration Ceremony for the 2025 Undergraduate Intake

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) commenced its orientation programme for the new undergraduate intake on 2025-04-21, spanning three weeks with a series of engaging, insightful, and well-structured sessions designed to support students in their transition to university life.
The programme began with a warm welcome from Dr. Ajantha Athukorale, Director of UCSC, who also delivered an informative talk on the computing degree programmes offered at UCSC. This was followed by Dr. S.T. Nandasara, who provided a historical overview of UCSC, highlighting its legacy and achievements.

On the second day, Dr. Chamath Keppitiyagama delivered a thought-provoking session titled "What is Computing?" That evening, students faced an exam to evaluate their existing knowledge in mathematics, Computing, and English, offering them both an early benchmark and an experience to the university's examination process.



New UCSC students at the 2025 Inauguration ceremony.

Throughout the programme, students attended a wide range of insightful sessions conducted by UCSC's academic and administrative staff, as well as industry professionals and expert guest speakers. Notable sessions included How to Graduate, conducted by Dr. Manju Wickramasinghe (CS Coordinator) and Dr. Lasanthi De Silva (IS Coordinator); University Life, presented by Dr. Kasun Gunawardhana, Mr. Isuru Nanayakkara, and Mr. Roshan Abeyweera; and an overview of Undergraduate Awards by Mr. Viraj Welgama. Prof. Kasun De Zoysa, Deputy Director of UCSC, gave an inspiring talk on university education and higher studies opportunities.

Dr. Dinuni Fernando delivered an evidence-based session on Student Performance Analysis, sharing insightful analytics from previous undergraduate cohorts. A session on Industry Expectations, conducted by Dr. Chaminda Ranasinghe and Mr. Pubudu Liyanage, offered students guidance on aligning their skills with current industry demands.

Administrative overviews were given by the SAR/Exams and the SAR/Academic and Publications, covering examination procedures and academic processes. Students also received introductions to services provided by the Network Operations Centre (NOC), UCSC Library, and Quality Assurance Cell. Support services were covered in sessions by the Student Counsellor, Senior Counsellor, Martial Office, and Physical Education Unit of the University of Colombo.

The UCSC Alumni Session featured Alumni members sharing their experiences, while the Student Union & UCSC Clubs Session introduced the variety of student-led activities available. The orientation programme was further enriched by sessions from external guest speakers: Dr. Kathiresapillai Tharshanan on Public Speaking, Mr. Chamil Jeewantha from SLASSCOM on Career Paths in IT, Mr. Chamantha Tharinda from ADIC on Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Prof. Priyantha Jayasinghe on Mental Well-being and Resilience, and Prof. Dhammika Silva on Being an Adult.

To ensure students received essential foundational knowledge in computing, five introductory lectures and five hands-on workshops were conducted by UCSC Assistant Lecturers and Instructors. These sessions covered areas such as computer hardware, software, algorithms, internet and networking, essential academic tools, and analytical problem-solving techniques.

Feedback collected by the Quality Assurance Cell indicated that the programme successfully familiarized students with university systems and provided a solid foundation in computing. The final day featured a vibrant Cultural Event organized by the new intake, showcasing group performances, songs, dances, speeches, and short dramas—highlighting the creativity and enthusiasm of the newcomers.

The entire orientation programme was coordinated by Mr. Rangana Jayashanka and Dr. Yohani Ranasinghe, under the guidance of Dr. Ajantha Athukorale, Director of UCSC, and Dr. Chamath Keppitiyagama, Head of the IUD.

The Inauguration Ceremony for the 2025 intake took place on 2025-05-19, at 9:00 AM in the UCSC Auditorium. Distinguished participants included the Senior Counsellor, Registrar, and Bursar of the University of Colombo, along with UCSC academic, administrative, and non-academic staff. The event began with a welcome speech by Dr. Ajantha Athukorale, followed by remarks from Dr. Chamath Keppitiyagama. Entertainment items by second-year students added color and energy to the event. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Rangana Jayashanka, Coordinator of the orientation programme.

UCSC Postgraduate Inauguration 2025

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) officially launched its postgraduate programmes for the 2025 academic year on March 1st, 2025 at the Prof. Vidya Jyothi V. K. Samaranayake Auditorium. The event marked the official commencement of academic activities for newly enrolled postgraduate students.

Students admitted to the following programmes took part in the inauguration ceremony:

- Master of Computer Science
- Master of Information Technology
- Master of Information Security
- Master of Business Analytics

This year, approximately 250 students have registered across these four advanced degree programmes, reflecting the growing demand for specialized education in computing and data-driven fields.

The inauguration was graced by the Senior Professor H. D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, who served as the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of postgraduate education in driving innovation, research, and national development in the digital age.

Also, in attendance were the members of UCSC's leadership and academic staff, including the Director and Deputy Director of UCSC, programme coordinators, the Deputy Registrar (Postgraduate), the Senior Assistant Registrar (Examinations), the Coordinator of the Network Operations Centre (NOC), and the Coordinator of the E-Learning Centre.

The UCSC Postgraduate Inauguration 2025 set a strong foundation for the academic journey ahead, inspiring students to pursue excellence in their respective disciplines and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of ICT in Sri Lanka and beyond.











The Vice-Chancellor, UCSC Director and Deputy Director, addressed the inauguration ceremony, with lecturers and students in attendance.

Honouring a Legacy of Excellence:
Professor G.K.A. Dias Celebrated for Over Four Decades of Dedicated Service

The University of Colombo proudly recognizes and celebrates the extraordinary career of Professor G.K.A. Dias, whose unwavering commitment and service to the institution have spanned more than 40 years. A distinguished academic, visionary educator, and mentor, Professor Dias has made enduring contributions to the fields of computing and ICT education in Sri Lanka.

Professor Dias began his journey at the University in 1982, joining the Department of Mathematics as a Trainee Programmer shortly after graduating from the Faculty of Science. His technical acumen and dedication led to a permanent appointment as a Systems Analyst/Computer Programmer in 1984. His academic path took an important turn when he pursued postgraduate training at the University of Reading, UK, in 1985—an experience that enriched his vision for computing education upon his return.

In 1986, at the invitation of Vidya Jyothi Professor V.K. Samaranayake, Professor Dias began coordinating the BASIC Programming Course using BBC computers. What began as a modest initiative with 30 students grew into a popular programme that eventually catered to over 240 students, reflecting his capability to scale quality education in a rapidly evolving field.
His early contributions include co-authoring a book on Data Structures under the Ruhunu-Keele Link Programme in 1987 and developing course materials in C++ and application software during the late 1980s and early 1990s. His dedication to academic excellence continued with the publication of a book on C++ for Open University undergraduates.

Despite facing the technological limitations of the era, Professor Dias successfully completed a split MPhil in 1995. The following year, he was awarded a prestigious CICC Japanese Scholarship to study Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) in Japan—before the formal introduction of Unified Modelling Language (UML). Upon his return, he played a pioneering role in incorporating OOAD into Systems Analysis and Design curricula across multiple programmes.

His first formal academic appointment came in 1996 when he joined the Institute of Computer Technology (ICT), University of Colombo, as a Senior Lecturer. There, he became instrumental in shaping the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) programme, contributing significantly to curriculum development and subject coordination. By 2000, he was managing three core subjects while assisting in the development of several others.

Between 2005 and 2010, Professor Dias served as the Coordinator of the Advanced Digital Media Technology Center (ADMTC) and led several internationally sponsored training initiatives,



Professor G.K.A. Dias with the collection of memorabilia presented to him as a token of appreciation.

including five Third Country Training Programmes (TCTPs) and ten In-Country Training Programmes (ICTPs) under JICA sponsorship.

From 2010 to 2015, he served as the Head of the Department of Communication and Media Technologies (CMT), and in 2017, he was appointed Professor in Computer Science. In 2018, he took on the important role of Chair of the ICTer Conference, ensuring its continued success and relevance in the region.

Professor Dias's contributions have been widely recognized. Notable accolades include:

- University of Colombo Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (2017)
- CSSL ICT Educator of the Year (2019)
- Multiple NBQSA and e-Swabhimani Awards for guiding student research to national recognition
- Long Service Award (2025) from the University of Colombo, marking over 40 years of continuous service

His visionary leadership, passion for teaching, and lifelong dedication to ICT education have left a profound legacy—not only within UCSC but across the Sri Lankan higher education landscape. Generations of students, researchers, and professionals have benefited from his guidance, and his impact will continue to inspire future educators and innovators for years to come.

The University community extends its heartfelt gratitude and admiration to Professor G.K.A. Dias for his extraordinary contributions and celebrates a career marked by innovation, integrity, and inspiration.

UCSC Welfare Society Hosts One-Day Get-Together at Saffron Beach Hotel

The Welfare Society of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) successfully organized a one-day get-together on the 10th of May 2025 at the Saffron Beach Hotel in Wadduwa. The event brought together academic, administrative, and support staff for a day of relaxation, camaraderie, and celebration outside the formal work environment.

The event provided UCSC staff with an opportunity to connect informally, strengthen bonds, and celebrate the collective spirit of the institution. One of the highlights of the day was the inclusion of Avurudu games—traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year activities that added fun, cultural flair, and a healthy dose of competition to the event.

Participants enthusiastically took part in a variety of Avurudu games, such as kotta pora (pillow fighting), kana mutti bindeema (breaking the pot), balloon dance and more. These games brought back fond memories for many and created an atmosphere filled with laughter, cheer, and team spirit.

This event reflects the Welfare Society's continued efforts to promote wellbeing, unity, and a positive work culture within the UCSC community. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciations for the thoughtful planning and enjoyable setting.

As UCSC continues to lead in computing education and research, initiatives like this play a vital role in nurturing a motivated and cohesive team—one that thrives both in and out of the workplace.



Highlights from the Avurudu games during the staff get-together.

Exploring the Future of Computing:
UCSC Welcomes Students to Open Day 2025

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) hosted its vibrant and informative Open Day 2025 on April 9th at the Vidya Jyothi Professor V.K. Samaranayake Auditorium. The event drew a large and diverse audience—including current Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) students, school leavers, A/L candidates, and parents—offering them a closer look into the exciting opportunities available in the computing and IT fields.

This annual initiative was designed to bridge the gap between academic ambition and career planning, particularly within the fast-evolving ICT landscape in Sri Lanka. Participants had the opportunity to engage with UCSC's academic staff, BIT programme coordinators, and administrative teams to better understand the structure, flexibility, and value of the BIT programme—an accessible degree that equips students with the theoretical foundation and practical skills essential for thriving in the IT industry.

A key highlight of the event was a special session dedicated to guiding students at the early stages of their academic journey. This session provided critical insight at a time when informed decision-making can shape long-term academic and professional success.

Renowned as a leader in computing education in Sri Lanka, UCSC used this occasion to reaffirm its role in shaping the next generation of IT professionals. The Open Day 2025 was not only a hub for knowledge sharing and exploration—it also served as a platform for inspiration, empowering attendees to take the next step in their educational journey with clarity and confidence.











Lecturers and department heads welcomed children and parents, providing information and addressing their queries.

UCSC Insight Day 2025:
Empowers Students to Explore Future in Computing

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) successfully hosted Insight Day 2025 on May 26th, welcoming a large gathering of enthusiastic students. The event provided an engaging introduction to the undergraduate computing programmes offered by one of Sri Lanka's most esteemed institutions in the field.

Organized under the theme "Explore Your Future in Computing," the session was designed to guide A/L students and school leavers as they consider pathways into computing and information technology. With a growing interest in ICT careers, the event offered much-needed clarity to those planning their next academic steps.

Participants had the chance to interact with UCSC's academic staff, including programme coordinators and senior lecturers, who presented in-depth overviews of the curriculum, entry requirements, and the dynamic student experience at UCSC. The presentations focused on helping attendees understand the different computing-related degree options and the exciting career prospects they lead to.

As a leader in computing education across South Asia, UCSC continues to invest in outreach initiatives like Insight Day to support informed decision-making among future undergraduates. This commitment ensures that prospective students are not only aware of their options but are also equipped to pursue them with confidence.

The response to Insight Day 2025 was highly positive. Students appreciated the opportunity to resolve their uncertainties and gain motivation to pursue computing.

In an era where the global demand for ICT professionals is steadily rising, UCSC remains at the forefront of preparing the next generation of tech leaders. Insight Day 2025 reaffirmed this mission, leaving students inspired and better prepared to chart their academic futures.












Lecturers and department heads welcomed children and parents, providing information and addressing their queries.

Workshop on preparation of the
UCSC Strategic Plan 2025-2027

The Strategic Plan 2025–2027 of UCSC is being developed to provide a clear direction for the coming years, enabling the institution to enhance its strengths, address weaknesses, capitalize on opportunities, and mitigate potential threats in its pursuit of its Mission and Vision.

Accordingly, the Management Committee of UCSC decided to obtain the feedback from all of its staff in setting the objectives, strategies and actions that ultimately lead towards the achievement of the goals, mission and vision. Since, it's a time-consuming activity and beyond the routine workload of the staff, the committee decided to organize the discussion of the Strategic Plan as a separate activity. Moreover, it was decided to use this discussion as an opportunity to strengthen unity—one of UCSC's core values—and to promote team building among the UCSC staff.

Accordingly, for the purpose of conducting the workshop and for enhancing the unity and conducting team building activities, the aforementioned Management Committee discussed suitable places within a distance of 50km to Colombo. After having discussed, the Committee decided to select Pearl Bay Leisure Park (David Peiris Leisure Private Limited), Bandaragama. In addition, based on the mode of activities to be engaged, the Management Committee decided to select only the Splash Bay (European standard water park). Since the staff has to arrange their own transportation to the workshop, the Committee decided that the location of the Pearl Bay Leisure Park (David Peiris Leisure Private Limited) would be ideal. Hence, the Committee decided to follow the procurement guidelines to obtain the service to conduct the workshop for preparation of UCSC Strategic Plan 2025-2027 and team building activities.

As decided by the 91st Management Committee Meeting held on 24th October 2024, the workshop on preparation of the UCSC Strategic Plan 2025-2027 was held on 11th January 2025 at Pearl Bay Leisure Park managed by David Pieris Leisure (Private) Limited, Bandaragama. In addition, the workshop and the activities made available at the park were used as a means of enhancing unity and team building activities among the staff of UCSC and their family members.

A total of 168 participants including UCSC staff members and their families, took part in the workshop and team-building activities. Moreover, as decided by the aforesaid Management Committee Meeting, the participants were offered with refreshments as well as lunch, which were provided by the restaurant operating inside the Pearl Bay Leisure Park.



Highlights from the Workshop

Research highlights

University of Colombo School of Computing

Publication List - 2024

Conference Publications

January to March

01. S Premnath, K Ekanayake, T Pieris, E Hettiarachchi, Prof. K P Hewagamage, "A New Era of Productive Learning Focused on the Retention of Attention Span: VerbaSure", 2025 5th International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing (ICARC), Date of Conference: 19-20 February 2025, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1109/ICARC64760.2025.10963237 (Local)

02. Eranga Bandara, Safdar H Bouk, Sachin Shetty, Sandip Roy, Ravi Mukkamala, Abdul Rahman, Peter Foytik, Xueping Liang, Ng Wee Keong, Prof. T N K De Zoysa, "Llama-Recipe—Fine-Tuned Meta's Llama LLM, PBOM and NFT Enabled 5G Network-Slice Orchestration and End-to-End Supply-Chain Verification Platform", 2025 IEEE 22nd Consumer Communications & Networking Conference (CCNC), Date of Conference: 10-13 January 2025, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1109/CCNC54725.2025.10976116 (Foreign)

03. Danishka Navin, Prof. T N K De Zoysa, Prof. D D Karunaratna, Buddika Harshanath, "A Secure Protocol for Computer-Based Assessments in Disrupted Environments", 2025 5th International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing (ICARC), Publication date: 2025/2/19, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1109/ICARC64760.2025.10963243 (Foreign)

04. K G J Shashimini, M A S H Mirihana, Dr. C R Wijesinghe, "Computational Discovery of Glycyrrhiza Glabra-based Anti-Androgen Drugs for the Management of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome Hyperandrogenism— Molecular Docking Study", International Conference on Transformative Applied Research (ICTAR) 2024, Publication date: 2025/1, Doi: https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.1201/9781003616368-8/computational-discovery-glycyrrhiza-glabra-based-anti-androgen-drugs-management-polycystic-ovarian-syndrome-hyperandrogenism%E2%80%94molecular-docking-study-shashimini-mirihana-wijesinghe (Foreign)

05. H M S A K Herath, M A S H Mirihana, Dr. C R Wijesinghe, "Identifying the Potential Effect of Citrus Reticulata on Anxiety Based on Network Pharmacology and Molecular Docking", International Conference on Transformative Applied Research (ICTAR) 2024, Publication date: 2025/1, Doi: https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.1201/9781003616368-9/identifying-potential-effect-citrus-reticulata-anxiety-based-network-pharmacology-molecular-docking-herath-mirihana-wijesinghe (Foreign)

06. Dushanee Gamage, Adeepa Bandara, Dr. Thushani A Weerasinghe, "A Conceptual Design Framework for an Enhanced Hearing Aid Application Using Selective Sound Amplification", 2025 5th International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing (ICARC), Publication date: 2025/2/19 Doi: https://doi.org/10.1109/ICARC64760.2025.10963115 (Local)

April to June

07. Buddhima Weerasinghe, Dr. Asanka P Sayakkara, Prof. T N K De Zoysa, Mark Scanlon, "Low-overhead and Non-invasive Electromagnetic Side-Channel Monitoring for Forensic-ready Industrial Control Systems", Publication date: 2025/4/1, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1145/3712716.3712722 (Foreign)

08. Priyatharshan Balachandran, Uthayasanker Thayasivam, Dr. B H R Pushpananda, Dr. A Ruvan Weerasinghe, "Towards Effective Emotion Analysis in Low-Resource Tamil Texts", Conference: Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop on Speech, Vision, and Language Technologies for Dravidian Languages, Publication date: 2025/5, Doi: https://aclanthology.org/2025.dravidianlangtech-1.101/ (Foreign)

09. Yadeesha Weerasinghe, Kavisha Gimhani Perera, Sanka Chandika Gallage, Soundarya Ramesh, Dr. K A K T Karunanayaka, Suranga Nanayakkara, "LexiLearn: Gamifying Learning for Dyslexia in a Novel Linguistic Context", Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Publication date: 2025/4/26, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1145/3706599.3720169 (Foreign)

10. Dr. Dilrukshi Gamage, Dilki Sewwandi, Min Zhang, Arosha K Bandara, "Labeling Synthetic Content: User Perceptions of Label Designs for AI-Generated Content on Social Media", Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Publication date: 2025/4/26, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713171 (Foreign)

12. Dr. Dilrukshi Gamage, Shiwei Cheng, Preeti Mudliar, Zhicong Lu, Shengdong Zhao, Nova Ahmed, Xiaojuan Ma, Uichin Lee, Ding Wang, "Bridging Gaps in HCI: Advancing Education, Research, and Careers in Asia", Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Publication date: 2025/4/26, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1145/3706599.3716298 (Foreign)

Journal Publications

January to March

01. Chathurika S Silva, Prof. G D S P Wimalaratne, "Navigation Framework for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons based on Sensor Fusion", Journal: arXiv preprint arXiv:2501.15819, Publication date: 2025/1/27, Doi: https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2501.15819 (Foreign)

02. Yasith Samaradivakara, Asela Pathirage, Thavindu Ushan, Prasanth Sasikumar, Dr. K A K T Karunanayaka, Dr. C I Keppitiyagama, Suranga Nanayakkara, "Tailored Real-time AR Captioning Interface for Enhancing Learning Experience of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) Students", Journal: arXiv preprint arXiv:2501.02233, Publication date: 2025/1/4, Doi: https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2501.02233 (Foreign)

03. H Rangala, S Samaraweera, Dr. K D Sandaruwan, Dr. T A Weerasinghe, D C Ranasinghe, "Athlete body power and strength estimation using skeleton point cloud", Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka, Publication date: 2025/1/8, Doi: https://doi.org/10.4038/jnsfsr.v52i4.12273 (Local)

04. P A L Nadeesha, Dr. T A Weerasinghe, W R N S Abeyweera, "Automatic Scoring of Knowledge Gained and Shared Through Discussion Forums: Based on The Community of Inquiry Model", Journal: Information Technologies and Learning Tools, Publication date: 2025/2/28, Doi: https://search.proquest.com/openview/382e73e526a26eb863f9d5d7a40d532e/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=6515896 (Foreign)

05. Tharindu Lakshan Yasarathna, Lojenaa Navanesan, Simon Barcque, Dr. Asanka P Sayakkara, Nhien-An Le-Khac, "Crossed-IoT device portability of electromagnetic side channel analysis: challenges and dataset", Vietnam Journal of Computer Science, Publication date: 2025/2/23, Doi: https://doi.org/10.1142/S2196888824500052 (Foreign)

06. Dr. Dilrukshi Gamage, Dilki Sewwandi, Min Zhang, Arosha Bandara, "Labeling Synthetic Content: User Perceptions of Warning Label Designs for AI-generated Content on Social Media", Journal: arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.05711, Publication date: 2025/2/20, Doi: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dilrukshi-Gamage-2/publication/389182690_Labeling_Synthetic_Content_User_Perceptions_of_Warning_Label_Designs_for_AI-generated_Content_on_Social_Media/links/67ecb4d19b1c6c48776f1fa5/Labeling-Synthetic-Content-User-Perceptions-of-Warning-Label-Designs-for-AI-generated-Content-on-Social-Media.pdf (Foreign)

07. Empirical Review of Performance Lapses of the Managers: Reference to Sri Lankan Government Universalities (2025), Henegama HP , International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation, ISSN (online): 2582-7138 Volume: 06 Issue: 02, Available online < DOI: https://doi.org/10.54660/.IJMRGE.2025.6.2.447-451> (Foreign)

April to June

08. Tharindu Narthana Bandara Wijethilake, Dr. C I Keppitiyagama, Sachintha Pitigala, Prof. T N K De Zoysa, "Telltale Twin: Mutual Information in Multipath TCP Subflows", The International Journal on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions, Publication date: 2025/4/17, Doi: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3668-5948 (Local)

Research highlights

Smart Screening for a Costly Disorder

How UCSC Researchers are Reimagining Thalassemia Detection

Thalassemia is one of the world's most common inherited blood disorders, impairing the body's ability to produce healthy haemoglobin and often leading to severe anaemia and lifelong transfusion needs. Although it affects a relatively small portion of Sri Lanka's population, thalassemia accounts for an estimated 7.5% of the country's annual health budget, placing a disproportionate burden on the healthcare system.

Current screening methods, based on red blood cell indices, blood smear evaluation by haematologists, and costly confirmatory tests like High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), are accurate but resource-intensive, making them hard to scale and exhausting for clinicians and laboratory staff. In response, the Bioinformatics and Systems Biology Research Group at the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) has developed an innovative, AI-powered screening system that combines Complete Blood Count (CBC) data with blood smear image analysis in a two-step machine learning pipeline. This approach promises a more accessible, affordable, and efficient solution to improve early detection while easing pressure on overburdened healthcare services.

Living with thalassemia is a lifelong struggle, for both patients and their families. From early childhood through adulthood, those affected endure frequent hospital visits, painful blood transfusions, iron overload complications, and strict medical routines. In Sri Lanka, more than 3,500 individuals receive ongoing treatment for transfusion-dependent thalassemia. "While preventive care is primarily coordinated and led through a network of designated thalassemia centres, haematology clinics and hospital wards across the country also provide essential clinical services and support. Thalassemia is the most common monogenic disease in Sri Lanka, passed on when both parents carry the mutated gene. To reduce the incidence of severe cases, the National Thalassemia Prevention Programme operates a proactive screening and counselling initiative that includes schoolchildren screening, pre-marriage testing, genetic counselling, and regular follow-ups.

Yet, the implementation of these programmes poses major challenges for frontline health workers. Researchers closely observed how overstretched laboratory technologists, haematologists, and nursing staff manage massive workloads during awareness campaigns and school screenings. Hundreds of blood samples may be received in a single day. Initial screening involves analysing red blood cell indices, after which blood smears are manually prepared and carefully examined under a microscope by haematologists to identify thalassemia-related features. Suspected cases must then be referred for confirmatory HPLC testing. The entire screening process, from initial sample collection and blood smear preparation to microscopic examination, is labour-intensive, time-consuming, and emotionally draining for clinical teams already stretched thin. These real-world challenges underscored the urgent need for a smarter, automated approach, not to replace experts, but to assist them in scaling their efforts without compromising quality or compassion.





Student's Events

Annual Pirith Ceremony 2025

The Annual Pirith Ceremony was held on May 31st, 2025, at the UCSC premises, commencing in the evening and continuing until the morning of the following day.

The event was organized by the fourth-year students, with the support of the entire UCSC community, as a spiritual initiative to invoke blessings and promote peace within the university environment.

The UCSC premises were beautifully decorated with lights, lanterns, and flowers, creating a calm and spiritual environment for the ceremony.

The event commenced with a procession (perahara) to respectfully welcome the Buddhist monks, marking the beginning of the religious observances. This was followed by an overnight Pirith chanting session, where sacred verses were recited to bless the participants and bring spiritual protection.

The ceremony concluded at dawn with the offering of morning alms (dana) to the monks, signifying gratitude and the completion of the spiritual proceedings.

The 2025 Pirith Ceremony brought unity, cultural reverence, and spiritual harmony among the undergraduates. It demonstrated the commitment of UCSC's students to uphold meaningful traditions. Special appreciation goes to the organizing committee, led by the fourth year students, and to all members of the UCSC family who contributed their time and dedication to make this event a spiritually enriching and memorable occasion.









Highlights from the Annual Pirith Ceremony

UCSC Awrudu 2025

The spirit of togetherness and cultural pride came alive as the staff and the students of UCSC, gathered to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, “UCSC Awrudu” on 10th of April 2025, at the university grounds.

The day began with the ceremonial boiling over of milk and lighting the oil lamp marking the start of the new year symbolizing prosperity and good fortune. These rituals, performed with grace, set the tone for a day filled with cultural expression.

Attendees were amused by mesmerizing dances, showcasing the aesthetics and the vibrant energy of the new year.

Next all the members were served with a beautifully arranged New year table with a variety of Sri Lankan traditional sweetmeats which provided the essence of awrudu.

The event’s excitement reached its peak when the traditional awrudu games started. The university ground was filled with enthusiastic cheers and laughter. Students took part in tug of war, pillow fights, balloon blowing, and many more games. The highly anticipated Awrudu Kumara and Kumariya competitions added elegance and charm to the event.

A special mention must be made of the decorations, which stood as a symbol of heritage and drew visitors in with their charm. Every element was captivating and added depth and beauty to the entire celebration.

This event was organized by the first-year undergraduates of UCSC, who worked tirelessly to ensure that every event and every decoration were perfect.

Their dedication transformed the university ground into a festive surrounding, leaving lasting memories for all who attended.









Highlights from the UCSC Awrudu Ceremony

The Freshers' Championship 2024

The Freshers' Championship 2024 was held at the University premises from January 25 to February 16, 2025.

A total of 11 institutions of the University of Colombo competed for the crown. The freshers got the opportunity to showcase their talent in 26 different sports.

As the days went by, the competition became intense. The stakes were high, and the pressure was up. Every sprint, every move, every goal was met with cheers from teammates and anticipation from spectators. The playing fields witnessed not only victory but also the agony of defeat.

Throughout these unforgettable weeks, the freshers endured moments of pain, pressure, and physical strain, which cultivated the sense of true sportsmanship in them. Through triumphs and setbacks, they learned to push past their limits, to fall and rise again and to support their teammates.

Nearly after about 3 weeks of sportsmanship and determination, the University of Colombo School of Computing was crowned as the overall champions with both the men's and women's championships at the closing ceremony which was held on 18th of February, at the New Arts Theatre with the participation of the Vice chancellor, Senior Professor H.D.Karunaratne and other distinguished guests.

The Faculty of Science won the overall Runners up while the Faculty of Management and Finance won the 2nd Runners up.

As the winning trophies were lifted, there was something deeper in the air, a shared sense of patriotism. The competition may have divided faculties temporarily, but it ultimately united everyone under a single banner, University of Colombo.

As the cheers settle and the champions celebrate, the memories made by freshers will be cherished forever.










Moments from the freshers' Championship 2024

Vaani Vizha 2024

Draped in tradition and glowing with spiritual excitement, Vaani Vizha 2024 lit up the New Arts Theater of UOC on the 13th of December, 2024.

UCSC set the stage for a cultural extravaganza with grand thoranas, exquisite decorations, and intricate photo booths that reflected the spirit of the celebration.

The ceremony began with a religious pooja and the traditional lighting of the oil lamp. Students and staff alike gathered to celebrate art, devotion, and cultural heritage.Opening with a soulful welcome dance, the event unfolded into a serene experience.The event continued with songs and harmony, dances and insightful documentary narrations.

The stage drama set the stage on fire with its powerful performances and engaging storyline leaving the audience entertained.A special mention goes to the orchestra, which set the air ablaze with energy, filling the venue with rhythms and melodies.With that, the day came to an end, gracefully concluding UCSC Vaani Vizha 2024.



Highlights from Vaani Vizha 2024

Career Fair 2025

The Career Fair 2025 organized by the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) was held on January 24, 2025, at the Marino Beach Hotel in Colombo.

This annual event, coordinated by UCSC's fourth-year undergraduates, serves as a platform connecting students with leading industry professionals. In addition to the final-year coordinators, students from all academic years actively volunteered, taking on a wide range of responsibilities including logistics, ushering, registration, and hospitality. Their collective effort played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth and successful execution of the fair.

The Career Fair saw the participation of several renowned companies, each offering unique opportunities for networking, real-time interviews, internships, and career guidance. It allowed students to engage directly with professionals, understand expectations, and gain insights into potential career paths.

The UCSC Career Fair 2025 was well organized and proceeded smoothly, marking yet another successful chapter in UCSC's efforts to bridge the gap between academia and industry.









Highlights from Career Fair 2024

Reid Handawa 2024

A musical extravaganza of Reid Handawa' 24 was a blast on January 10th, 2025 at New Arts Theatre (NAT). Presented by the Student's union of UCSC in collaboration with the Rekha Music Circle, the event was a real success due to the hard work of the second-year students of batch 20 with the help of first and third-year students.

It was a night of rhythm, voice and harmony. The evening began with a warm welcome extended to the honored guests, university administration, and faculty members, setting a respectful tone for the participants. The core of Reid Handawa' 24 was a concert that had non-stop musical performances by the second-year students. The stage came alive with energetic dances and short skits within the musical items. Faculty participation was an added bonus. All performances were seamless because of the compering team who introduced and connected the items.

From electrifying rock songs that had the crowd roaring to soulful melodies, the night offered a spectacular musical range. Classical songs, energetic pop mashups, and even original student creations filled the hall with energy and emotion.

The show was colourful and radiant, and the audience was engaged throughout the concert. The program started with a welcome speech and ended with a vote of thanks which was smoothly integrated into the music of the night. The audience clapped, cheered and swayed to the music in the air and became a part of the energy of the night and amplified it.

Reid Handawa' 24 is not just an event. It's a musical journey where we experienced harmony and memories that will never fade away. Even as the final stage lights faded into darkness, the energy of the night lingered, celebrating student creativity and a truly unforgettable experience.



Moments of Reid Handawa 2025



Short term Training Programs in UCSC

Computer Services Centre (CSC)

- **Training Course on Data Science with Python**
  Duration - 08 Saturdays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - Some experience in Data Analytics and experience in Programming.
- **Software Quality Assurance Using Test Automation Frameworks**
  Duration - 08 Saturdays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - Better if the participants have fundamental knowledge in JAVA programming
- **Training Course on Python Fundamentals**
  Duration - 08 Sundays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - Participants with little or no programming experience
- **Training Course on MERN Stack**
  Duration - 08 Sundays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - People with basic programming knowledge
- **Training Course on AutoCAD**
  Duration - 08 Sundays
  Course Fee - Rs. 30,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - People with basic programming knowledge
- **Administration and Financial Management Essentials for University Staff**
  Duration - 08 Sundays
  Course Fee - Rs. 25,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - People with basic programming knowledge
- **Java Application Development Using JavaSE**
  Duration - 08 Sundays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - People with basic programming knowledge

Advanced Digital Media Technology Centre (ADMTC)

- **Advanced Multimedia Web Design & Development Techniques**
  Duration - 08 Sundays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - Basic Computer Knowledge
- **Graphic Design & Creativity Development**
  Duration - 08 Saturdays
  Course Fee - Rs. 35,000/=
  Minimum Qualifications - Basic Computer Knowledge

University of Colombo
School of Computing

For more information
https://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/training-programmes

Postgraduate Degree Programs in UCSC

- **Master of Computer Science (MCS)**
  Duration - 2 years
  Next Batch Enrollment Dates - August to December 2025
- **Master of Science in Computer Science (MSc in CS)**
  Duration - 2 years
  Next Batch Enrollment Dates - August to December 2025
- **Master of Information Technology (MIT)**
  Duration - 2 years
  Next Batch Enrollment Dates - August to December 2025
- **Master of Information Security (MIS)**
  Duration - 2 years
  Next Batch Enrollment Dates - August to December 2025
- **Master of Business Analytics (MBAnalytics)**
  Duration - 2 years
  Next Batch Enrollment Dates - August to December 2025
- **Master of Cybersecurity (MC)**
  Duration - 2 years
  Next Batch Enrollment Dates - March to June 2026

External Degree Program in UCSC

- **Bachelor of Inforation Technology (BIT)**

  UCSC took the initiative to launch the three-year External Degree programme leading towards the award of Degree of Bachelor of Information Technology (External) in the year 2000. This degree programme has been redesigned according to ACM guidelines and Policy Framework for External and Extension programme introduced by the University Grants Commission in the year 2010. BIT Programme is designed to:

  - Produce qualified IT professionals through external mode in addition to the traditional University output.
  - Set professional standards and encourage students to obtain skills in commercial IT applications and in the usage of necessary tools.
  - Enable those who could not enter into a state university to read for a degree in IT due to severe competition in obtaining such a degree from a state university.
  - Provide an opportunity to those non-graduates already working in the IT sector to obtain a formal qualification through self-study.

  The minimum duration of the BIT degree programme will be 3 academic years.



University of Colombo
School of Computing

For more information
https://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/training-programmes



News to be sent to:
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