ISSN 2579 -1494



COMPUTING AT
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO
1967 - 2017

UCSC NEWSLETTER

March, 2018



INSIDE

Upcoming Events 2
UG Student Inauguration 3
UCSC New Building Opening....4
50th Anniversary Celebration..5
Student Diaries 6-7
ICTer 2017.....9
BEST Software Product 2017..10
BIT Convocation.....11

1st Edition
March 2018
Volume No 4
Issue No1

Editor-in-chief
Mr.S.T. Nandasara

Editorial Board
Prof.K.P. Hewagamage
Prof.N.D. Kodikara
Dr.D.A.S. Atukorale
Dr.G.D.S.P. Wimalaratne
Dr.(Mrs.)M.D.J.S. Goonetillake
Dr.Nalin Ranasinghe
Dr.Ruvan Weerasinghe

Copy Editor
Ms. L.O. Dodangoda

Designed by ADMTC
Ms.K.M.H.B. Abeyratne
Mr.K.A.R. Perera
Ms.M.G.A. Srimaalee

Photo Courtesy

Advanced Digital Media Technology Center

Pahasara UCSC Students' Blog

Upcoming events

Postgraduate Inauguration 2017/18

On 05th May 2018, at 9.00 am, the 2017/18 batch of Masters' Degree programme of the University of Colombo School of Computing will be officially inaugurated in a ceremony at Prof. Vidya Jyothi V.K Samaranayake Auditorium of UCSC. Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo and Prof. K P Hewagamage; the Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing will be heading the ceremony. The guest of honour Emeritus Prof. J B Dissanayake will address the students at this ceremony.

ICTer 2018

The 18th annual International conference ICTer (ICTer 2018) will be held from 27th to 28th September, 2018 at the University of Colombo School of Computing with the participation of prominent local and international figures in the field of Computing. In addition to the presentation of selected papers, the conference will include several keynote addresses by leading personalities of International repute in the domains of Computer Science and ICT. The conference will include several pre and post-conference workshops on the 26th and 29th of September, 2018 conducted by top experts in the cutting edge areas of Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology.

For more details: http://www.icter.org

Undergraduate Inauguration 2017



The 2016/17 batch of the two Degree programmes in Computer Science and Information Systems was officially inaugurated in a ceremony on 17th January 2018, at 9.30a.m at the New Arts Theatre of the University of Colombo. The students and their parents participated in this special occasion. Prof. K P Hewagamage, the Director of UCSC welcomed the gathering. The event was graced with the presence of Prof Lakshman Dissanayake; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Deshamanya Emeritus Prof. J. B Disanayake and Prof. K R R Mahanama, Dean, Faculty of Science. The conclusion of the ceremony was marked with the vote of thanks of Dr. D A S Athukorale, Deputy Director of UCSC. For more details: http://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/events/inauguration-ceremony-undergraduate-academic-year-20162017/

Postgraduate Convocation 2017

The University of Colombo held the convocation for the Postgraduate Courses on 23rd and 24th November 2017 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (B.M.I.C.H.). In this year, the UCSC has been privileged to announce a total of 150 Postgraduate Degrees including 34 Master of Computer Science, 48 Master of Information Technology, 17 Master of Science in Information Security, 24 Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science, 07 Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology and 12 Postgraduate Diploma in Information Security were awarded at this ceremony. Simultaneously, the Kingslake Award for the Best Student in Master of Computer Science was presented to MR. A. D. B. SILVA and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Award for the Best Student in Master of Information Technology was presented to Ms. W. V. C. N. Jayasinghe. MR. E. H. G. P. N Abeywardane won the Mr. T.H.A. De Zoysa Award for the Best Student in Master of Science in Information Security.

UCSC New Building Opening

The New five storey building for Vidya Joythi Prof. V K Samaranayake auditorium and lecture halls which is located in the UCSC premises was officially opened by Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, the Chancellor of the University of Colombo on 6th September 2017 as a part of the commemoration of 50 years of Computing at the University of Colombo. The commemorative plaque of the new building was unveiled by Prof. Mohan de Silva, the Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

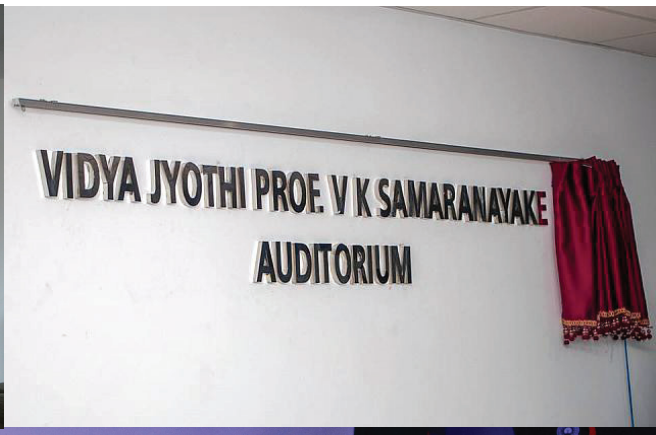




The building has been constructed comprising 03 lecture halls, an auditorium and two elevators. The auditorium, which is well furnished with modern facilities, has the seating capacity of 423 including balcony seating. The auditorium is equipped with the latest technologies such as high-end laser projector, video conference facilities, 4K multi camera system, JBL line array sound system, large project screen (24' X 8') and a digital podium. The new building has been designed as the entrance for the entire UCSC building complex whereas it is connected to the old UCSC building.

For more details: http://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/events/opening-new-building-auditorium/







50th Anniversary Celebration

06th September 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of teaching Computing at the University of Colombo which is another milestone in the history of the University. UCSC organized a series of activities to commemorate this special moment along with the most awaited three events; the opening of the new building and auditorium, Vidya Jyothi Prof. V K Samaranayake oration, and the inauguration of 17th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer). The main ceremony was held on 06th September 2017 at the new auditorium with the participation of the UGC Chairman, Prof. Mohan De Silva, the Chancellor of the University of Colombo, his grace Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Prof. Lakshaman Dishanayake, all Deans and Directors of the University of Colombo, former and present Vice Chancellors of Universities, Mrs. Sriya Samanayake the wife of Late emeritus professor V. K. Samaranayake and many other guests and renowned personalities in the domain. The commemorative plaque marking the golden jubilee of Computing at the University of Colombo was unveiled by Senior Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo.

In 1967, the University of Colombo started teaching Computing by introducing computer related subjects to the University of Colombo by the Department of Mathematics with the initial guidance of late Emeritus Professor Vidya Jyothi V.K Samaranayake: the founding Director of UCSC. In 1987, a separate institute called ICT (institute of computer technology) was established at the University of Colombo to share, disseminate and promote Information Technology beyond the boundaries of the University of Colombo. In 2002, the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) was established as the first higher learning centre of computing in Sri Lanka by merging the Institute of Computer Technology (ICT) and the Department of Computer Science of the University of Colombo.



Since the initiation, the computing studies at the University of Colombo have been rapidly expanding its areas and facilities. Thus, over fifty years, the University of Colombo has firmly established as one of the leading figures in Computer Science and IT education with the vision of being a global leader in Computing advancing the frontiers of new knowledge through learning and research. Most importantly, for the commemoration of 50 years, the UCSC launched a book under the title "Commemorative Volume 1967- 2017" including all the achievements, landmarks as well as those who involved in establishing Computing at the University of Colombo.

Student Diaries



Abhidhaara

"Abhidhaara- 2017 " The annual fresher's welcome was held on 30th of September 2017. This event is organized annually by the immediate senior batch to welcome the new freshers' batch. Songs, dramas, and many performing items were included in this event.



Alms Giving 2017

Almsgiving Ceremony of 50 Maha Sangha was held at the UCSC premises on Wednesday 2nd of August, 2017.This was held to bless the UCSC staff and students and In memory of the founder of UCSC Vidya Jyothi Prof. V.K. Samaranayaka.



Jayantha chandrasiri programe

"Kalaawa,Vichara buddhiya saha Thummulla kathikaawatha -2017" organized in collaboration with the students' counsellors' office and the students' office and the students' union of UCSC was held on March 22nd 2017 at the New Arts Theater.

Student Diaries

UCSC Pirith Ceremony 2017

The annual pirith chanting ceremony organized by the students of the University of Colombo for the future works of the University of Colombo and for all the students and the staff of the University of Colombo was held on 19th of December, 2017 at the University of Colombo School of Computing and to commemorate the founder of UCSC, Former Director and the father of Sri Lankan Information Technology, Vidya Jyothi Prof. V.K. Samaranayaka.



UCSC Talent show

The Ministry of Higher Education allocated the budget for the improvements of the students' activities under the physical education unit and the aesthetic skills. With the allocation, the UCSC purchased music instruments and other related electronic equipment which were a major requirement to uplift the talents of the students of the school. With the new instruments and equipment, UCSC held a concert on 15th February 2018 at Vidya Jyothi Prof. V K Samaranayake auditorium comprising the performances of the undergraduates and marking the starting point of their aesthetic activities at UCSC. This was a great opportunity for the UCSC students to show their talents to the students and the staff of the institute as well as to improve their skills during their stay at the university.



Tribute to Prof. Gihan Wikramanayake



It is with deep regret that we announce the demise of Senior Professor Gihan Nilendra Wikramanayake, BSc. MSc, PhD, FBCS, CITP, SMIEEE, MCS(SL), MNASSL (born January 17, 1960) who was the Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) from 24th May 2010 to 31st May 2016. Before that, he served as the Head of the Department of Information Systems Engineering from 2002-2005 and also as the Deputy Director of the UCSC from 2004-2006.

Educated at St. Aloysius' College Galle and Royal College Colombo, Professor Wikramanayake graduated from the University of Colombo with a BSc in Statistics & Mathematics with First Class Honours in 1984 and went on to gain an MSc and PhD in Computer Science from the University of Wales, College of Cardiff, UK in 1989 and 1996 respectively.

He began his career by joining the Computer Centre of the University of Colombo in 1987 as a trainee programmer, and then moved to the Department of Statistics and Computer Science as a researcher before becoming an Assistant Lecturer. In 1990 he became a Lecturer and then a Senior Lecturer in 1996. After moving to the new Department of Computer Science in 2000 he became its acting Head in 2002.

In 2002, Professor Wikramanayake became the Head of the Department of Information Systems Engineering, of the newly established UCSC and became its Deputy Director in 2004. From 2007 to 2008, he was the acting Head of the Department of Communication and Media Technologies. In 2010, he became the Director of the UCSC and a Professor of Computer Science. He served two 3-year terms as the Director of UCSC until May 2016. During this time, he served as the Chairman of the Theekshana Company (from 2010 to 2016).

He was a visiting scholar at the University of New Mexico, USA and Stockholm University and Umeå University in Sweden in the area of e-Learning. He also served as a board member of the Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN) from 2010 to 2016.

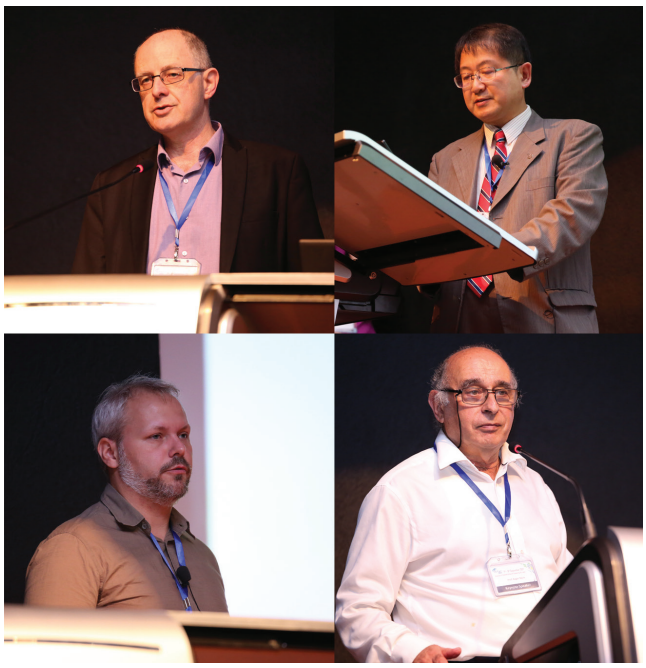
Late Senior Professor Wikramanayake who was a Fellow of the British Computer Society (BCS), served as the Chairman of the BCS, Sri Lanka Section for five years between 2007 and 2015. He also served Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) as an executive council member.

He was a member of the Sri Lanka Informatics Olympiad since 1998 and was involved in organizing International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) training since then. He took part as the Deputy Team Leader of the Sri Lankan team at IOI 1999 in Turkey and as Team Leader at several Olympiads in which Sri Lanka took part between 2001 and 2016. He served as a judge at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (APICTA) in several occasions between 2003 and 2016 and was the Chief Judge at APICTA in 2015.

He leaves behind his wife, Kishani, daughter Ishika and son Sherantha, as well as many of his colleagues at the University of Colombo School of Computing, the overall university community and the IT industry

ICTer 2017

17th International Conference on Advances in ICT for emerging regions (ICTer) has coincided with the commemoration of 50 years in Computing at the University of Colombo. The conference was held from 7th to 10th September at UCSC with the participation of prominent figures in the domain of Information and Communication Technology. The inauguration ceremony for ICTer 2017 took place on 6th September 2017 at Vidya Joythi Prof. V K Samaranayake auditorium parallel to the 50th anniversary celebration, opening of the new building and the auditorium as well as the annual Professor V K Samaranayake Memorial Oration.



As a part of the conference, 5 workshops were conducted on 6th and 9th September with the contribution of the Keynotes speakers and the academic staff of UCSC. The schedule for the 17th conference covered a wide range of remarkable events related to Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology.

International Information Technology Conference (IITC) which was initiated in 1998 as a concept of Late Professor V K Samaranayak was the foundation for the International Conference on Advances in ICT for emerging regions (ICTer). In 2010, ICTer succeeded the seminal international IICT with the aim of obtaining a wider international participation and promoting computing research in the fast emerging regions of the world especially in Asia-Pacific. With this conversion, ICTer grabbed the international recognition and emphasized the regional importance of this conference. Since the beginning, ICTer has been playing a leading role in creating a unique platform for those who are interested and skilled in the domain of computing to present their achievements and ideas.



In 2017, the UCSC invited five prominent experts as the keynote speakers of the 17th conference. They are Prof. Marcel Baunach, Institute of Technical Informatics from Graz University of Technology, Austria. Prof. Abhik Roychoudhury from the School of Computing, National University of Singapore, Prof. Kiyoshi Tanaka from the Faculty of Engineering, Shinshu University, Japan, Prof. Geoffrey Crisp from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and Prof. Roger Stern from the Statistical Service Centre, University of Reading, UK.

For more details: http://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/events/17th-international-conference-advances-ict-emerging-regions/

VK Sanaranayake momorial oration 2017



Since 2007, the UCSC has been annually conducting the Vidya Jyothi Professor V K Samaranayake memorial oration to express the gratitude and as an appreciation of the enormous service rendered by late Vidya Jyothi Prof. V K Samaranayake; the Founding Director of UCSC throughout his lifetime. In 2017, UCSC was privileged to have the presence of Emeritus Professor Roger D. Stern, the Director of the Statistics for Sustainable Development (SSFD), University of Reading as the Orator of the 10th Memorial Oration on "A glimpse of the history of Computing at the University of Colombo" which was held on 06th September 2017 at Vidya Joythi Prof. V K Samaranayake auditorium of UCSC parallel to the 50th anniversary of teaching Computing at the University of Colombo.



The Orator, Emeritus Prof. Roger D. Stern has received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from the University of Sussex in 1967, his Ph.D. from the University of Reading U.K in 1978 and D.Sc. (Honorary) from the University of Colombo in 1972. Since 1997 he has been a fulltime statistical consultant based in a self-financing centre (SSC) Reading University. His current role in the Statistical Service Centre significantly supports research activities in many fields.

For more details: http://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/vks-oration-2017/

BEST Software Product 2017



Best Software Product competition of 2nd year undergraduate group projects for year 2017 was held at ADMTC seminar room on11th January 2018. The judging panel comprised 6 experts with vast experience in different sub-domains from the industry.

BIT Convocation 2017

On 6th December 2017, the University of Colombo School of Computing held its 14th convocation for the students of the Bachelor of Information Technology – external (BIT) degree programme at Vidya Joythi Prof. V K Samaranayake auditorium. The most Rev. Dr Oswald Gomis, the Chancellor of the University of Colombo presided the meeting and the students and their families gathered for the occasion. The academic accomplishments of 771 students were recognized at this ceremony. In 2017, the UCSC was privileged to award a total of 217 degrees, 403 diplomas and 151 higher diplomas in Information Technology.

At this ceremony, Prof. V K Samaranayake Medal for the best Performance 2016 was awarded to Mr. Don Supun Jayaneththi, the award for the best individual project was presented to Mr. Thevarathanthrige Manoj Priyanga. Mr. M J P U Samanthilake Memorial Award 2016 was presented to Mr. Ponavilla Vidanalage Don Jason Mathew Saparamadu and Mr. Ranasinghe Mudalige Rahal Dhananjaya Ransinghe. The awards for the best e- Learner in semester 1, 2016 and the best e- Learner in semester 2, 2016 were presented to Mr. Wijethunga Ralalage Hansana Chamal Wijethunga.









50 Years of computing at University of colombo













ISSN 2579-1494