

1<sup>st</sup> Edition  
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# UCSC

# NEWSLETTER

August 2019



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**1<sup>st</sup> Edition**  
**August 2019**  
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# Upcoming events

## ICTer 2019

International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer) is an annual conference organized by the University of Colombo School of Computing from 1998. It is technically co-sponsored by IEEE Sri Lanka Section and it provides an ideal platform to the researchers and practitioners alike to showcase research and development activities carried out in Computer Science and Information Communication Technology domains.



The 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer2019) will be held from 03<sup>rd</sup> to 04<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. 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 02<sup>nd</sup> and 05<sup>th</sup> of September, conducted by top experts in the cutting edge areas of Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology.

*For more details:*<http://www.icter.org/conference/>

## Memorial Oration 2019

Since 2008, the UCSC has been annually conducting the Vidya Jyothi Professor V K Samaranayake Memorial Oration to express gratitude and as well as to appreciate the enormous service rendered by late Vidya Jyothi Prof. V K Samaranayake, the Founding Director of UCSC.



In 2019, UCSC is privileged and honoured with the presence of Professor Mahendran Velauthapillai, as the Orator of the 12<sup>th</sup> Memorial Oration on "The universal support hypothesis for natural languages" which will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019 at Vidya Joythi Prof. V K Samaranayake Auditorium of UCSC parallel to the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer2019).

Prof. Velauthapillai joined Georgetown University in fall' 86 after obtaining his Ph.D. in Computer Science from University of Maryland, College Park. His area of specialization was Learning Theory. He also holds two Masters Degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from Ohio University and Purdue University, respectively. He currently holds the McBride family endowed chair and was the chair of the Computer Science Department at Georgetown University from Sep.1997 to June 2001.

*For more details*

*<https://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/events/12th-annual-vidya-jyothi-professor-v-k-samaranayake-memorial-oration-2019/>*

# Undergraduate Convocation 2018

The Convocation Ceremony of the University of Colombo for undergraduate degree programs was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). A total of 237 graduands were awarded from the University of Colombo School of Computing on the first session of 24<sup>th</sup> July. This total included graduands from both a three year degree and four year honours degree; 117 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, 29 Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science, 10 Bachelor of Science Honours in Software Engineering, 62 Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and 19 Bachelor of Science Honours in Information Systems.

The excellence shown in academics and research work together with the extra-curricular activities have paved way for 14 graduands under 12 award categories to be awarded with Gold medals. In the Computer Science Degree Programme, the Virtusa academic excellence award for the best performance in three year degree 2018 was



awarded to Ms. D. H. L. R. Ariyasinghe, Prof. Mohan Munasinghe award for Computer Science 2018 was awarded to Ms. D. T. Fernando, ICTA award for the best Computer Science final year project 2018 was awarded to Mr. B. W. Kothalawala, David Pieris Group medal for the best performance in Industrial placement 2017 was jointly awarded to Ms. A. S. Arukgoda and Mr. D. J. N. Costa and David Pieris Group Gold medal for the best performance in Industrial Placement 2018 was awarded to Mr. H. G. N. C. Somasiri.



In the Software Engineering stream, Ms. A. A. T. G. Abeysinghe won both the IFS award for the best performance in BSc (Hons) in Software Engineering 2018 and Wimala Jayarathne Memorial award for the best performance in Software Engineering 2018. Some Goonetilleke Memorial award for the best final year project in BSc (Hons) in Software Engineering 2018 was jointly won by Ms. S. D. S. H. Dissanayake, Ms. S. D. M. H. Siyambalapitiya and Mr. R. M. R. Wanigasekara.

With relevance to the Information Systems degree program, Ms. J. N. F. Arafa won the Zebra Technologies academic excellence award for the best performance in three year degree 2018, Ms. M. S. Rathnadiwakara won the IFS academic excellence award for the best performance in four year degree 2018, and Ms. M. T. De Silva won the Sampath Bank awards for the best final year project 2018.

Marking a remarkable point in the University of Colombo School of Computing history, this year the Student of the year award from the University of Colombo was won by Mr. S. S. Vithanage, a USCS graduand from the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Information Systems degree program. He is also the winner of Prof. V. K. Samaranayake Memorial medal for the most outstanding graduate of UCSC 2018.



# Postgraduate Inauguration 2018/2019

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) presents a unique opportunity for those who are interested in obtaining a postgraduate qualification from a prominent metropolitan university and an internationally reputed institute of Computing in Sri Lanka. The Master of Science programme has a long history at UCSC, starting with the original programme nearly two decades ago. The postgraduate Inauguration of the 2018/19 batch of Masters' Degree programme of the University of Colombo School of Computing was officially inaugurated in a ceremony on 22nd June 2019, at 9.00 am, at Prof. Vidya Jyothi V.K Samaranayake Auditorium of UCSC. Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo and Prof. K P Hewagamage; the Director of the University of Colombo School of Computing headed the ceremony. The guest of honour Prof. A S Karunananda (UOM) addressed the students at the ceremony. Over fifty in-house lecturers and visiting professionals will conduct the course, leading to a globally recognized degree.



## Master's degree programme offered by UCSC,

*Master of Computer Science (MCS)*

*Master of Science in Computer Science (MSc in CS)*

*Master of Information Technology Degree Programme (MIT)*

*Master of Information Security Degree Programme (MIS)*

*Master of Cybersecurity*

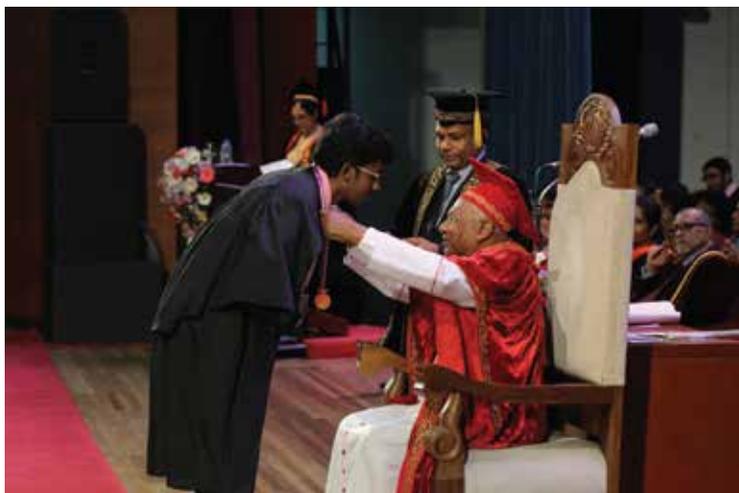
*Master of Business Analytics*



# Student of the Year 2018

Sameera Sulochana Vithanage completed his secondary education at Nalanda College, Colombo and he received the two awards of the college; “Best Nalandian Award” and “The Most Outstanding Sportsman of the Year Award” just before joining the University of Colombo.

Sameera was selected for B.Sc. in Information Systems degree programme conducted by the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) in 2015 and completed it successfully this year with First Class Honours. His final year dissertation titled “A Novel Approach to Detect Muscle Strength Imbalances via Motion Analysis Using Sensory Inputs” and a research paper based on this project was accepted by the European Journal of Computer Science and Information Technology.



During his four years at UCSC, he excelled in the sport of swimming, winning five silver medals and five bronze medals at national swimming championships, while becoming one of the top eight fastest breaststroke swimmers in the country for two consecutive years. Furthermore, Sameera represented Sri Lanka at World University Games which was held in Taipei in 2017 as one of the four swimmers. He also established a new record at Sri Lanka University Games 2016, and he is the only swimmer from the University of Colombo to have a standing record in the SLUG record book as of now.

These performances in swimming led to the awarding of Sri Lanka University Colours for swimming in the years 2015, 2016 and 2018. Sameera was the vice-captain in 2017 and captain in 2018 of the University of Colombo men’s swimming team which won several championships under his leadership. Hence, he was also awarded University of Colombo Colours for four consecutive years along with the Best Swimmer of University of Colombo award for three years.

During his stay at UCSC, he was an active member of the Computer Society of the University of Colombo, IEEE student branch of UCSC and UCSC Mozilla Club to promote computing among junior students and community. At the same time, he also participated in the international programming competitions such as IEEE Xtreme 10.0 and Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015 and 2016 representing UCSC.

In addition to his academic and sports achievements, he also took part in many cultural events at the UCSC. Furthermore, he worked towards enhancing the relationship between the industry and the university by contributing to workshops and conferences, including UCSC career fair 2018. While working for his achievements, he also committed himself for many social works such as educational workshops for school children and renovating a library of a rural school. Sameera has already received Professor V. K. Samaranyake Memorial Award which is awarded to the most outstanding student of the University of Colombo School of Computing.

# Student Diaries

## UCSC ISACA Student Group AGM 2019

The annual general meeting of UCSC ISACA Student Group was held on the 09<sup>th</sup> of February 2019, 9.00 am at E401 lecture hall. The appointment of the new executive board took place with the discussion about events planned for this year whilst appreciating the efforts of the former executive board for reaching goals set as planned.



## UCSC CRICKET ENCOUNTER 2K19

UCSC Cricket Encounter 2K19 organized by the 15<sup>th</sup> batch of UCSC was held on 20<sup>th</sup> of March at the university grounds from 7.30 am onwards. With over 150 spectators the 18 teams went head on to win the championship title. Team '13 Araliya' claimed the cricket championship while Team 'ekolahe set eka' acquired the second runners-up position.



## IEEE Computer Society AGM 2019

The annual general meeting of IEEE Computer Society of UCSC was held on 8<sup>th</sup> of February at the 4th Floor lecture hall in UCSC premises. The meeting commenced with around 100 participants including 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year chapter members. Executive members for the year 2019 were appointed alongside Prof K.P. Hewagamage, the advisor of the IEEE Computer Society Student Branch Chapter of UCSC.



## AGM of ACM Student Chapter 2019

The annual general meeting of the ACM Student Chapter of UCSC was held on 20<sup>th</sup> of February at the S202 hall in UCSC premises. The meeting commenced with around 100 participants from the university. Executive members for the year 2019 were appointed alongside Dr. D.N. Ranasinghe, the faculty advisor of the ACM Student Chapter of UCSC.



# Student Diaries



## **UCSC IEEE Student Branch AGM 2019**

The annual general meeting of UCSC IEEE Student Branch was held on 1<sup>st</sup> of March at the S202 hall in UCSC premises. Mr. G.P. Senevirathne attended the meeting as the advisor of the UCSC IEEE Student Branch. Executive members for the year 2019 were appointed for the AGM and the event plan for the new year was discussed.



## **Hackaholics 3.0**

Hackaholics 3.0, an inter university girls only hackathon organized by the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of UCSC was held successfully on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 at W001 and W002 in UCSC premises. The hackathon mainly focused on enhancing the skill set of female undergraduates in the tech field. The top 15 teams competed to create an innovative product enhanced by the use of Ideamart APIs. Team Codettes representing UCSC claimed the winning title while Team Amigos and Team Ecoist from University of Kelaniya claimed first and second runners up respectively.



## **Hackaholics 3.0 Pre-hack**

Hackaholics 3.0 Pre-hack organized by the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of UCSC was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 with over 60 participants from both private higher education institutes and state universities at W002 in UCSC premises. The main objective of the program was to brief participants about the hackathon and to provide an overview on how they can incorporate Ideamart APIs into their projects to make a winning proposal.



## **CompSoc AGM 2019**

The Annual General Meeting of CompSoc was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00 am in S202 lecture hall at UCSC. Executive members for the year 2019 were appointed at the AGM and the event plan for the new year was discussed.

# Student Diaries

## **PAHASARA UCSC AGM 2019**

PAHASARA is the student group at UCSC which provides the media coverage for the UCSC and UOC events and maintain the PAHASARA Students' Blog. PAHASARA Students' Group conducted their Annual General Meeting for 2019 successfully with the honorable participation of Prof. Kapila Dias. The new executive board was nominated at the AGM. The former president Madhusanka Perera and the executive board was awarded for their dedication towards the society. The students who contributed were awarded appreciating their commitment. The Online New Year Festival which was successfully conducted by PAHASARA UCSC Students' Group for another successful year, and the winners of those competitions were awarded their prizes the AGM.



## **Buddhabhiwandana 2019**

Marking the hallowed day of Poson, Buddhabhiwandana 2019 was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June at the new Open Area in the University of Colombo School of Computing. The event unfolded in the presence of over 400 students and staff members of UCSC, making it the first event to take place in the new Open Area. Bakthi Gee were recited by the undergraduates and staff members while Belimal and chickpeas were served, commemorating the significance of the Poson Full Moon Poya Day.



## **Annual Pirith Ceremony 2019**

In commemoration of Professor V. K. Samaranayaka, the founder of University of Colombo School of Computing and the father of Information Technology in Sri Lanka, the annual pirith ceremony and almsgiving was held on 18<sup>th</sup> of January at the rooftop in UCSC premises, with over 600 participants. The all night pirith ceremony was held to invoke blessings upon the students and staff members as well as to mark a successful year ahead.



# Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) and Higher Diploma in Information Technology (HDIT)

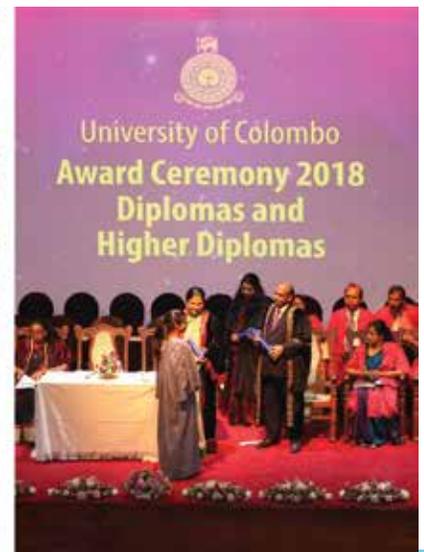
University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) held its 18th Awards Ceremony for the students of Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) and Higher Diploma in Information Technology (HDIT) - external at the Vidya Jyothi Professor VK Samaranayake Auditorium, UCSC on 10th August 2019. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijerathna, headed the ceremony. UCSC took the initiatives to the external Diploma in Information Technology (Initially known as Certification in Information technology, CIT) in 2001 by having the most advanced training resources and experience in the field of ICT with the expectation of developing the human resources in Information and Communication Technology. Some of the objectives for starting this programme can be stated as producing qualified ICT professionals in addition to the traditional university outputs, setting professional standards and encouraging students in obtaining skills in commercial ICT applications, giving an opportunity to obtain a degree in ICT for those who are unable to enter into the state universities and for those who are non-graduates but already working.



The Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) will be awarded after successful completion of the first-year examinations of the BIT degree program, and Higher Diploma in Information Technology (HDIT) will be awarded after successful completion of the second-year examinations. Since the inception of the programme, 8072 candidates were eligible for the DIT and 3734 candidates were eligible for the HDIT.

UCSC provides a well-defined and a gradually updated syllabus which is ultimately capable of fulfilling the industrial requirements. It also provides a wide range of job opportunities for both local and foreign DIT and HDIT holders.

It is a great pleasure for UCSC to mention that in the 18th Awards Ceremony held on 10th August 2019 for the DIT and HDIT, a total number of 556 students were awarded the diplomas.



# Convocation Ceremony

## Bachelor of Information Technology – (BIT )

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) took the initiatives to the external Degree in Information Technology in 2000 as the path for giving an opportunity for obtaining a recognized Information Technology Degree for those who could not enter a state university. Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) Degree will be awarded after the successful completion of the examinations during three years of the degree programme. Having considered the importance of knowledge updating, the BIT syllabus is revised once in three years. As the BIT is an external Degree, UCSC does not conduct lectures. However, students are provided with all the necessary guidance, lecture materials through the e-learning environment, and semester examinations are directly conducted for evaluations by the UCSC. At the same time, UCSC maintains a close relationship with the institutes who conduct lectures for the BIT students and monitor their standards.

From the initiation in 2000, a total of 2450 students have graduated with a Bachelor of Information Technology degree from the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). Among them, First Class for 35 graduates, Second Class Upper divisions for 129 graduates, and Second Class Lower divisions for 185 graduates were awarded in the BIT Degree. Simultaneously, the UCSC initiated the process for awarding Gold Medals and Awards for the best-performed graduates at the BIT Convocation. Accordingly, “Professor VK Samaranayake memorial medal for the Best Performance” and “Mr. MJPU Samanthilaka memorial medal for the Best e-Learner” have been awarded since the year 2010. In year 2019, “Prof. GN Wikramanayake memorial medal for the Best Performance in Software Development Project” was awarded for the first time.



The 16th Convocation Ceremony for the graduates of Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) Degree programme - external was held at the Vidya Jyothi Professor VK Samaranayake Auditorium, UCSC on 17th August 2019. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijerathna, headed the ceremony. The Convocation speech was delivered by Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya, former Vice-Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University.

In Convocation Ceremony, the BIT Degree was awarded for 177 graduates including Second Class Upper divisions for 7 graduates, and Second Class Lower division for 15 graduates. Furthermore, Mr. DSD Kaluarachchi was awarded the “Professor VK Samaranayake memorial medal for the Best Performance”, and “ Mr. MJPU Samanthilaka memorial medal for the Best e-Learner”. For the first time, “Prof. GN Wikramanayake memorial medal for the Best Performance in Software Development Project” was awarded to Mr. KHUM Ranasinghe.



**NEWS TO BE SENT TO**

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