1967 - 2017

50 years of computing at University of Colombo

UCSC Newsletter



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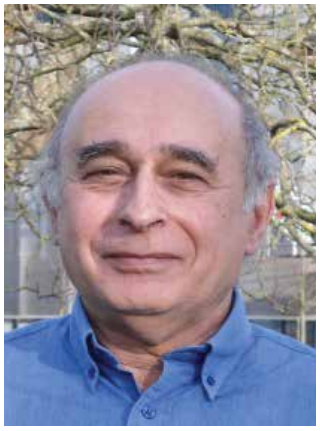
Pahasara UCSC Students' Blog

Upcoming Events

ICTer 2017

The 17th annual International conference ICTer will be held from 7th to 10th September with the participation of prominent local and international figures in the field of computing at the University of Colombo School of Computing. UCSC has decided to open the conference for the public in this year.

Oration 2017



The UCSC is going to conduct the 10th annual Vidya Jyothi Professor V K Samaranayake Memorial Oration parallel to the opening of the new auditorium building. The oration will be held on 6th September 2017 at the new auditorium building.

In this year, UCSC has been privileged to have Emeritus Prof. Roger D. Stern as the Orator of this momentous occasion. Prof. Roger D. Stern is the Director of Statistics for Sustainable Development (SSFD), University of Reading. He has received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from the University of Sussex in 1967, his Ph.D. from the University of Reading UK in 1978 and D.Sc. (Honorary) from the University of Colombo in 1972. Since 1997 he has been a full- time 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.

Past Events

Selection Test for BSc in Information System

The selection test for the Information System Degree programme for 2018 was held on 4th April 2017 at Technical college Maradana,Hindu College Colombo and Ramanathan Hindu Ladies College Colombo for around 2000 applicants. It has been decided by UCSC to enroll 100 students for the academic year 2018. Moreover the UCSC has decided to select 20 students among the 2018 intake for the honors degree programme based on their academic performance

New Year Celebration

The welfare committee of UCSC successfully held the New Year festival "Wassane Erabadu" at the roof top of the UCSC building complex on 20th April 2017 from 1 pm onwards with the participation of the academic, administrative and non academic staff members of UCSC. Mrs. T A Weerasinghe, the Chairperson of the welfare committee welcomed the staff members to the ceremony and it compromised of many traditional games and event. The end of the festival was marked with the prize giving event for the participants.



Workshop

Seizing Digital Opportunities in Higher Education



workshop on a project titled "Seizing Digital Opportunities in Higher Education: Building staff capacity for ICT driven innovation in Cambodia and Sri Lanka" was held on March 15 & 16 2017, in UCSC premises. It was supported by the Shenzhen Municipal Government within the UNESCO Shenzhen Funds In Trust Framework.

50th Anniversary Celebration

The University of Colombo School of Computing is looking forward to commemorate 50 years of the introduction of computer related subjects to the University of Colombo by the Department of Mathematics which was started in 1967. Over five decades, with all the achievements and determination, the University of Colombo has fulfilled its potentials by becoming one of the leading figures in Computer Science and IT education with a significant contribution to the development of the nation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

Therefore, in 2017, UCSC has organized a series of activities to celebrate its collective achievements reflecting the founding years and looking forward to the upcoming years.

The series of activities will start with the opening of the new auditorium building of UCSC on 6th September 2017. The Chairman of UGC and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo will participate in this occasion.

After the opening of the new auditorium building, the 10th annual Vidya Jyothi Professor V K Samaranayake Memorial Oration will be held on 6th September 2017 at the new auditorium building. In this year, UCSC has decided to invite Emeritus Prof. Roger D. Stern as the Orator of the ceremony.

As the 3rd main event of the series of activities, the most outstanding 17th annual International Conference ICTer will be held on 7th and 10th September at UCSC with the participation of prominent local and international figures in the field of Computing. The registration for the conference will be started at the end of the memorial oration on 6th September 2017.

Most importantly, for the commemoration of 50 years, the UCSC hopes to launch a book under the title "Commemorative Volume 1967- 2017" including landmarks as well as those who involved in establishing computing at University of Colombo.



ICTer 2017

International Information Technology Conference (IITC) which was created in 1998 as a concept of Late Prof. V K Samaranayake, the founding Director of University of Colombo School of Computing, was the foundation for the International Conference on Advances in ICT for emerging regions (ICTer).

In 2010, ICTer succeeded the seminal International IITC with the purpose of obtaining wider international participation and promoting computing research in the fast emerging regions of the world especially in Asia- Pacific. With the conversion, ICTer was able to garb the international recognition and emphasize 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. It also focused on creating an international forum for the local participants

Last year, UCSC proudly held the 16th conferene in the month September at the Hotel Jetwing Blue, Negombo bringing together local and international researchers and practitioners in computing. It was held with the special participation of Prof. P. S. M. Gunarathna, the Vice Chairman of the University Grant commission as the chief guest and Prof. Mohan Munasinghe as the guest of honour.

In 2016, ICTer had received 118 submissions from 6 countries which were double blind reviewed by 84 international and local reviewers. Based on the reviewers' feedbacks, 43 full papers and 05 posters had been selected for the main conference with the acceptance rate of 42%.

In 2017, along with the commemoration of 50 years in Computing, the University of Colombo School of Computing is going to hold its 17th ICTer from 7th to 10th September at UCSC with the participation of prominent figures in the domain of Information and Communication Technology.

In this year, the UCSC has decided to invite 5 Keynote Speakers. **Prof. Marcel Baunach**, Institute of Technical Informatics, Graz University of Technology, Austria.**Prof. Abhik Roychoudhury**, School of Computing, National University of Singapore.**Prof. Kiyoshi Tanaka** Faculty of Engineering, Shinshu University, Japan **Prof. Geoffrey Crisp** The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia **Prof. Roger Stern** Statistical Services Centre, University of Reading, United Kingdom are the Keynote Speaker of the conference.

The registration for the ICTer 2017 will start on 6th September at the end of Professor V K Samaranayake Memorial Oration. For the conference 2017, 92 full papers have been submitted. Most importantly, in this year, the UCSC has decided to open the conference for the public as much as possible.



UCSC Research Groups

Eloc: Locating Wild Elephants using Low-cost Infrasonic Detectors



Researchers from the University of Colombo School of Computing , Uppsala University (UU) and RISE SICS have received the best paper award at International Conference on Distributed Computing in Sensor Systems (DCOSS 2017) http://www.dcoss.org/ for the paper "Eloc: Locating Wild Elephants using Low-cost Infrasonic Detectors".

Authors are:

Asanka Sayakkara, Namal Jayasuriya, Tharindu Ranathunga, Chathura Suduwella, Nithila Vithanage, Chamath Keppitiyagama and Kasun De Zoysa (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka); Kasun Hewage (UU), Thiemo Voigt (UU, RISE SICS)

Social Life Networks for Developing Countries

Social Life Networks for Developing Countries (SLN4DC) research group at UCSC was launched in 2011 to address issues related to livelihood activities of farmers. This is an International Collaborative Research project involving researchers from the University of Colombo School of Computing, the University of Ruhuna in Sri Lanka, the University of Western Sydney, Macquarie University, Australian Catholic University in Australia, the University of Salerno in Italy, the University of California, Irvine in USA. The next generation of mobile social networks known as Social Life Networks (SLN) have the capability of providing real-time, context-sensitive local information by aggregating information from a variety of sources including SMS messages, sensor data and data from public sources.

Thus, the group focuses on the applications in the areas of agriculture to harness the rich information available in social networks, public data sources including patio-temporal sensor data as well as the emerging cloud infrastructure. They have developed and successfully deployed a Mobile based Agriculture Information System to support farming activities in Sri Lanka. It provides information required to support activities such as crop selection and cultivation planning in the context of farmer, farm location, season and task being performed.

This Mobile Agriculture Information System has the ability to transform the generic information into more meaningful information related to each user farmer's plot of land with the use of a crop-ontology. The crop-ontolo re-organize the published crop information so that it can be queried in context and processes to empower farmers.





Workshop at Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda

Workshop at Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda Computer Science Society of the University of Colombo with the association of undergraduates of UCSC and alumni of Dharmasoka College Ambalangoda conducted a workshop for O/L and A/L ICT students of the school on 6th of April 2017.

Introduction to Web Development

An introductory session was done for the 1st Year students of University of Colombo School of Computing to get acquainted with the tasks and events carried out by the IEEE Student Branch of UCSC and the CompSoc. Students gained knowledge on how these activities are organized and carried out by the undergraduates as well as how to take part in them.





How to git

The event was for undergraduates of UCSC to lay solid foundation on how to use git for version controlling

Shape your Career 2017

'Shape your Career'- the interactive Talk organized by IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of UCSC in collaboration with IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section was held on 15th May 2017 at Sysco Labs. The main session on facing challenges as women was conducted by the distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Jeewika Ranaweera, Principal Hardware Engineer of Oracle, San Jose, USA while the other session on leadership was conducted by Mr. Nirmal Kumarasiri, Director-Operations at Sysco Labs.



Student Diaries

Pahasara Online Awurudu



Sinhala and tamil new year is a must to celebrate and as the tradition continues Pahasara UCSC was able to organize the Online Awurudu event loaded with an agenda of fun activities. The event was held within the period from April 10th to 19th 2017. Online 'awurudu kumaraya and Kumariya' as usual took place giving a chance for the pretty young faces of the undergraduates whilst a new event was introduced this year, 'Kamba adeema' giving much attention and observed high competition! There were other activities such as choosing the best lie, counting the seeds of the papaw, finding the right spot of the eye of fox ('gini nariyata aha thabeema'), etc. The new year week was well spent with these thrilling online moments.

UCSC ACM Student Chapter Initiation



Association for Computing Machinery student chapter University of Colombo School of Computing was proudly initiated on 30th January 2017. It is representing the UCSC, thriving progress of intellectual stamina and advancement of technology for the benefit of the community.

They aim to create a platform for the young academia to claim opportunity of improving their knowledge on science related arena. Whilst seeking to identify their strengths they are being encouraged to widen their scope of intellectuality in the fields of science, design, development, construction, languages, management and applications of modern computing. They try to minimize the communication gap for individuals having interest at depth for computing and applications is minimized at utmost level. And also, keen on sharing and building the community not being bounded by the membership within.

The officer panel consists of Prof.K.P. Hewagamage (Faculty Sponsor), Mr. Chathura Jayalath (Advisor), Lahiru Senadheera (Chair), Thashira Batawalaarachchi (Vice Chair), Praneeth Perera (Treasurer) and Rajith Thennakoon (Web master).

Student Diaries



Padura 2017

The most awaited musical night of the year was held on May 5th 2017, bringing together vibrant colors of the 3rd year Undergraduates representing the 12th batch of UCSC. The night was decorated resembling the village traditional culture by giving a true indulge of it to audience which was the remarkable skills of the accompanying 14th batch undergraduates. Not just the students but singing skills of staff of academia was also exhibited. Night was embraced with drama and dance giving much sense to the voices heard and music played to the rhythm.

Session on startups by UCSC ACM Student Chapter

After initiation of the UCSC ACM Student Chapter they organized the first event contributing to enhance knowledge of startups among the fellow undergraduates. It was held on 16th May at the W002 hall and the session was conducted by Mr. Kanishka Weeramunda, the Director of Edulink motivating the students to take part in startups. The students were given freedom to discuss their doubts and beliefs whilst much guidance was given in answering such encouraging them to move forward in their entrepreneurial skills.





Vidu nethata dam sisila

'Vidu Nethata Dam Sisila' is an annual preaching event held to help the fresher students to start their academic life with a religious background. More than a religious preaching, this session was targeted to improve the humanitarian qualities and to teach how to balance the day today life while doing studies according to the sayings in Buddhism.

UCSC Soorya Udanaya

The first-year students of the University of Colombo School of Computing organized an awurudu festival on the 21st of April 2017. The event took place at the University Grounds, Colombo from 11 a.m onwards. All the spectators were marveled at the cultural 'Gami gedara' and the swing, which were the core attractions of the event. The event started off with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the invitees and a cultural dance by the first-years. The 'Awurudu kàma mesaya' and the 'Awurudu kreeda' made almost everyone retain until the end.



UCSC New Building

After 2 years of construction, the new five storey building for the auditorium and lecture halls for the University of Colombo School of Computing which is located at the centre of the city, will be officially inaugurated in the month of September 2017. With an investment of Rs. 285Mn, the building has been constructed comprising 03 lecture halls, a large well furnished auditorium with modern facilities as well as two elevators. The new building has been designed as the entrance for the entire UCSC building complex whereas it is connected to the old UCSC building.

The three lecture halls of the new building are finished with modern luxurious furniture and a variety of audiovisual equipment. The 1st and 2nd floor lecture halls have been designed to accommodate more than 400 students. The 3rd floor of the building is allocated for the staff.

The Auditorium which has the seating capacity of 420 including balcony seating is equipped with the latest technologies such as high and laser multimedia projector, video conference, 4K multi camera system, JBL line array sound system, large project screen (24 by 18 motorized screen systems) and a digital podium. The extensive construction of this building also includes elegant seating, the installation of air conditioning, acoustical treatments, modern lightning system which is flexible to accommodate various performance venues and warm wood finishes throughout. An acoustic control wall lining has been introduced with special attention to acoustical separation from surrounding spaces.

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The new building storey which has been perfectly designed for various purposes is ideal for public lectures, convocations, national and international conferences, meetings, industrial presentations, seminars, and any type of media presentations. Simultaneously, the auditorium is capable of facilitating event recording, video/ live video streaming (all events) and producing etc. The media enable comes with digital projector, DVD and blu ray players, recording system etc.



UCSC Achievements 2016

The Students' Award Ceremony of University of Colombo School of Computing was held on 24th of May, 2017 at New Arts Theater, University of Colombo. The students who showcased their talents in Sports, Hackathons and other competitions in the year 2016 were awarded at the ceremony.



The UCSC annually organizes this event with the aim of linking students' academic activities with extra-curriculum activities.



The chief guests of this occasion were Mr. Praneeth Peiris, Mr. Ruchira Samarasinghe, Mr. Uditha Jayasinghe and Mr. Sudeepa Wegapitiya all of whom were proud alumni of UCSC while Prof. K.P.Hewagamage, the Director of UCSC held the chair. The ceremony began with the observation of one minute silence in memory of Prof Vidya Jyothi V K Samaranayake.

This year 200 students were awarded for their special talents in the above mentioned fields. Mr. Praneeth Peiris delivered the guest speech and the ceremony ended with the vote of thank by Dr. D A S Athukorale, the Deputy Director.

For more details
http://ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/events/ucsc-achievements-2016/

Ninnada 2017 - *A night to remember*

"Ninnada 2017", the musical evening which was organized by the Exploration Club of the University of Colombo School of Computing was held on 26th of May at National Youth Theater, Maharagama. The musical extravaganza was organized with the aim of raising funds to establish a computer laboratory to increase the education level of rural school children as one of the projects that are being carried out by the society.



Kasun Kalhara, Umaria Sinhawansa and Sanuka Wickramasinghe added much color to the night with their amazing performances which took away the breath of the gathering for a while. The musical evening was a massive success indeed where thousands of people extended their helping hands to this noble charity event.



Vidya Jyothi Prof. V K Samaranayake 10th memorial Dhamma sermon

Vidya Jothi Prof. V K Samaranayake 10th memorial Dhamma sermon was held on 6th July 2017 at mini Mini-Auditorium,UCSC.



UCSC.TV

The undergraduates of UCSC have created a TV channel on You Tube under the name of "UCSC TV" in collaboration with the ADMTC. Through this channel, it is expected to provide the viewers with the basic concepts as well as other significant elements related to IT.

For more details : *https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdCRwT-gogQSbYLYQDrRHmtw/featured*



Seminar on Data Matching Research



A seminar on Data matching research at the Australian National University was held on 2nd June 2017 at ADMTC seminar room. The two renowned speakers of the seminar were Prof Peter Christen and Mr Thilina Ranbaduge. Peter Christen is a Professor at the Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Computer Science and Thilina Ranbaduge is a final year PhD student at the Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Computer Science. He is working on Privacy-preserving record linkage techniques (PPRL) for multiple databases.



Photography session

Photography session by Mr.Sagara lakmal de mel for the students of "Graphics Design and Creative Development" course was held on 23rd April 2017



"Graphics Design and Creative Development" Course

A Short course on "Graphics Design and Creative Development" Completed on 30th April 2017

Reminisces



1970 - Establishment of the Statistical Unit and Link Programme (1970)



1972 - Computer Programming Course Units for Non-Science Students



1981 - First Ever Split Ph.D. in Sri Lankan History



1981 - Purchasing a Mini Computer for the Statistical Unit



1981 - Computer Centre Was Formed



1983 - Computer Literacy Programme in Schools



1983 - Micro Computer Laboratory for the Computer Center



1985 - Fully Fledged Academic Department for Computing - DSCS



1982 - First ever Computer Courses for Public and Government Employees



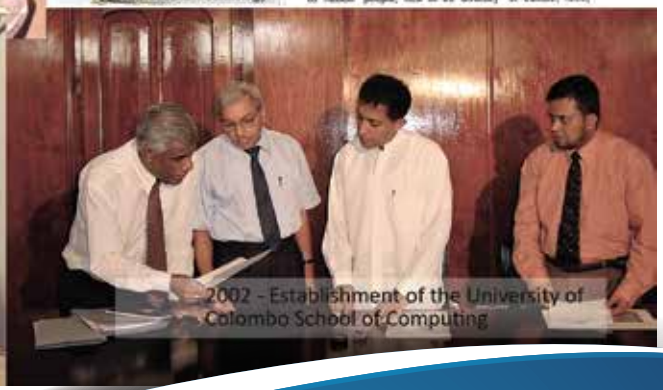
1987 - Establishment of Institute of Computer Technology - ICT



1996 - National Website for Sri Lanka



1989 - First Postgraduate Diploma and Mainframe Computer



2002 - Establishment of the University of Colombo School of Computing



50 YEARS OF COMPUTING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

1967 - 2017
50 years of computing at University of Colombo

A State-of-the-art Fully Equipped New Prof. V K Samaranayake Auditorium will be ceremonially opened on 6th September 2017

Undergraduate Degrees Offered by the UCSC

BSc in Computer Science
BSc Hons in Computer Science
BSc Hons in Software Engineering
BSc in Information Systems
BSc Hons in Information Systems
Bachelor of Information Technology (External)

Postgraduate Degrees Offered by the UCSC

Master of Information Technology
Master of Computer Science
Master of Science in Computer Science
Master of Information Security

10th Prof. V K Samaranayake Memorial Oration by Prof. Roger Stern will be held on 6th September 2017



Emeritus Professor of Applied Statistics, Roger Stern is a Mathematics and Physics graduate of the University of Sussex, with a PhD from the University of Reading in 1972. He was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Science Honoris Causa by the University of Colombo in 1984. Professor Roger Stern can be identified as a key figure who has worked closely with Prof. Samaranayake, in many of the later developments in the domain of Computing in Sri Lanka.

17th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer 2017) will be held on 7th & 8th September 2017

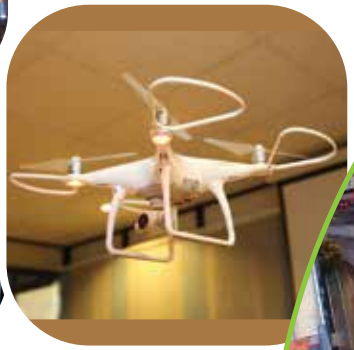
Keynote Speakers

Prof. Marcel Baunach - Graz University of Technology, Austria
Prof. Kiyoshi Tanaka - *Shinshu University, Japan*
Prof. Abhik Roychoudhury - *National University of Singapore*
Prof. Geoffery Crisp - *The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia*
Professor Roger Stern - *University of Reading, United Kingdom*
Prof. S. R. Subramanya - *National University, California*











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