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UCSC Postgraduate Inauguration 2023

UCSC Postgraduate Inauguration 2023 was successfully held on 21st January 2023 at the UCSC Prof. Vidya Jyothi V.K. Samaranayake Auditorium. The students of the following degrees participated in the session.

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





There were 210 students who had registered for the Master's programmes. Senior Professor HD Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo was the chief guest of the programme and presented the keynote address. Director/UCSC, Deputy Director/UCSC, Advisor/IQAC (UCSC), all Programme Coordinators, Deputy Registrar/Postgraduate, Senior Assistant Registrar/Exam, Coordinator/NOC, Coordinator/e-learning Center addressed the gathering.



Dr. Ajantha Atukorale Becomes the President of the CSSL

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) held its 34th Annual General Meeting, where the new Executive Council for the year 2022/2023 was elected. Leading the way as the newly elected President is Dr. Ajantha Atukorale.

Dr. Atukorale has been an active Council member of the CSSL since 2013/2014. His contributions extend beyond his professional growth, as he has served as the project coordinator for the Seoul Accord Degree Accreditation program of the CSSL, as well as the CSSL Awards for the year 2021. Moreover, he represents the CSSL at the prestigious Standing Committee on Computing and the Standing Committee on Technology of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The CSSL has long been a pillar of excellence in Sri Lanka's ICT industry, and its commitment to fostering standards and professionalism among ICT professionals is unwavering. It is a testament to the CSSL's reputation that it became the first South Asian professional body to be accredited by the International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3).

Dr. Atukorale's becoming the president of the CSSL not only marks a significant milestone but also brings glory to the UCSC. He was the first representative of the national university for the president's position. His appointment reflects the high quality of talent nurtured within the UCSC and sets the stage for a promising future of technological advancements and industry collaboration under his leadership.



UCSC Career Fair 2023

The "UCSC Career Fair 2023" concluded successfully on the 27th of January 2023, at the UCSC premises. Organized by the fourth-year undergraduates in collaboration with the Professional Development Centre of UCSC, the event served as a crucial platform for UCSC undergraduates and potential employers to engage and establish meaningful connections.

With the primary objective of providing a gateway for UCSC undergraduates to explore career opportunities in the industry, the annual event played a pivotal role in empowering students to gain invaluable insights, industry connections, and future career paths. By facilitating face-to-face interactions between students and industry experts, the UCSC Career Fair aimed to bridge the gap between academia and the professional world.

The event gave a prime opportunity for organizations to promote their company culture and highlight the diverse range of career prospects available. This benefit both the students seeking employment and the participating companies aiming to tap into a talented pool of individuals.

The event catered to a diverse audience, including undergraduates from both the four-year and three-year degree programs, recent graduates from previous batches as well as the final year students of the UOC Science Faculty who are studying Computing as a subject. As a result, the participating companies were presented with a rich talent pool consisting of several hundred undergraduates and graduates, each equipped with unique skill sets and potential contributions to offer. The UCSC Career Fair 2023 exemplified the commitment of UCSC and its student organizers to fostering meaningful connections between students and the industry. By bridging the gap and facilitating productive interactions, the event played a pivotal role in empowering students to make informed decisions about their future careers while enabling companies to discover and recruit top talent from within the UCSC community.

Cambio Healthcare Systems' Executives Visited the UCSC

Cambio Healthcare Systems' Group CEO - Rami Avidan, CFO - Johannes Fabo, COO - Arash Noujoumi, GM - Dharshana Jayawardena, and HR - Nalaka Illangaratne and Sandali Cooray undertook a significant visit to the UCSC on the 16th of February 2023. The discussions which occurred between the two parties proved to be a fruitful exchange of ideas and visions for future cooperation. During this visit, the final-year students of the UCSC presented their research work and engaged in valuable discussions. The executives of Cambio Healthcare Systems appreciated the talents of the students and were impressed with the facilities and resources available at the UCSC.



The primary focus of the discussions held during this encounter revolved around enhancing educational opportunities and empowering a greater number of students to pursue studies in Computing. The visit served as a platform for Cambio Healthcare Systems' executives to share their industry expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the academic curriculum and research initiatives undertaken by the UCSC. The intention behind such knowledge exchange was to identify areas of collaboration that could have a lasting impact on the educational landscape.





UCSC Strengthens Collaborative Endeavors through Strategic MOU Signings

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) entered into two significant MOU agreements during the year 2023, strengthening its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships and driving innovation.

The first MOU was signed with ZorroSign, a renowned company in the field. On the 5th of January 2023, both parties formalized their collaboration through the "General MOU between the University of Colombo School of Computing and ZorroSign". This strategic alliance aims to inspire UCSC's research and development (R&D) capabilities, creating a mutually beneficial environment that facilitates the realization of R&D initiatives with promising commercialization potential. Additionally, it also provides UCSC as a self-sustaining Ecosystem for its Research Incubator.

Similarly, UCSC signed another MOU on the 17th of February 2023, with SULECO (Pvt) Ltd. The MOU, titled "MOU between SULECO (Pvt) Ltd. and the University of Colombo School of Computing," establishes a strong partnership aimed at jointly developing local technical solutions. The collaborative efforts between SULECO (Pvt) Ltd. and UCSC will primarily focus on significant areas such as drone technologies, smart agriculture, and the Internet of Things (IoT). oreover, the MOU encompasses knowledge-sharing programs, reflecting the shared commitment to disseminating expertise and encouraging growth in these emerging fields.



These MOU signings represent UCSC's continuous pursuit of collaborative endeavors, developing interactions between academia and industry to drive technological advancements and address real-world challenges. By creating strategic alliances with esteemed organizations like ZorroSign and SULECO (Pvt) Ltd., UCSC is further establishing itself as a prominent player in research, innovation, and knowledge exchange within the academic and business realms.



UCSC Awurudu Asiriya - 2023

The University of Colombo School of Computing recently embraced the spirit of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, with a vibrant festival that brought together the entire staff. Held in April, just before the actual New Year, this lively event was a time of enjoyment and cultural celebration. The festival featured various games, activities, traditional cuisine, gift-giving, and a thrilling DJ party that left everyone with memories to cherish.



he atmosphere was filled with attractive decorations, including colorful banners, a traditional Sri Lankan home, a "Gami Gedara" and a beautifully decorated swing, adorned with flowers.





At the core of the celebration was the much-anticipated "Aurudu Kaama Mesaya". From the traditional Kiribath (milk rice) to the delicious Kavum and Kokis, everybody enjoyed all the "Kavili" sponsored by the Staff Welfare Society of the UCSC.

The festival ground was filled with laughter and cheer as staff members engaged in various traditional games and activities. From the exhilarating "Kana Mutti Bindeema" (blindfolded pot-breaking), "Aliyata Asa Thabeema"(Placing the eye on the elephant), "Sagaunu Amuththa Seweema"(searching for the hidden stranger), Passing water balloons, "Piti gode Kasiya Seweema" (Finding the coin in flour) to the "Aurudu Kumara/ Kumariya", the games not only brought joy but also rewarded the winners with special gifts, fostering a sense of accomplishment and celebration among all participants.

The event brought together the entire staff, fostering unity, joy, and appreciation for the cultural richness of Sri Lanka. As the UCSC community looks back on this enchanting festival, the memories of games, activities, delightful dishes, decorations, and the mesmerizing DJ party will remain in their hearts, inspiring the continuation of this cherished tradition in the years to come.

Empowering Students for an Enriching University Experience: UCSC Orientation Programme/Inauguration for the Academic Year 2021/2022

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) recently organized a dynamic orientation programme for its incoming students, aimed at equipping them with valuable insights and knowledge. The programme was held from 22nd May to 2nd June 2023, and it proved to be an essential prelude to the much-anticipated Inauguration Ceremony. The programme provided many informative sessions, featuring esteemed speakers from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that the students were well-prepared for their university journey and personal growth.

The students were privileged to be exposed to an impressive line-up of esteemed speakers during the orientation programme. These included Senior Lecturers from UCSC, past students who have successfully ventured into the industry, professional counsellors, a renowned gynaecologist, and a senior deputy inspector general. Each speaker brought unique perspectives and valuable insights to enrich the students' understanding of various aspects crucial to their university life.





The sessions covered a wide range of topics including, career paths within the computing industry, the degree programmes offered by UCSC, the significance of mental health and well-being with the necessary tools to navigate the challenges of university life and maintain a healthy balance, the examination processes and criteria for awards. Additionally, valuable insights into university life were shared, providing an overview of the extracurricular activities, sports, and clubs that enhance the overall university experience. The orientation programme also addressed the importance of a healthy lifestyle, focusing on alcohol and drug prevention. Students received guidance on making responsible choices and were provided with information on support services available within the university community.

After concluding two successful weeks of the orientation programme, the Inauguration Ceremony of the new entrants of the Academic Year 2021/2022 was successfully held, on 5th of June 2023 at the Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranayake Auditorium of the UCSC. This year, the number of students registered for the Computer Science degree programme were 228, and 118 for the Information Systems degree programme.

The event was graced by Senior Professor (Chair) H. D. Karunaratne (Vice Chancellor), Senior Professor Upul Sonnadara (Dean, Faculty of Science), Dr. Rajitha Silva (the Senior Student Counsellor), Dr. Ajantha Atukorale (the Director of the UCSC), Prof. Kasun De Soyza (the Deputy Director of the UCSC), Heads of the Academic Departments, Coordinators of Centres, and the academic, administrative, and non-academic staff members of the UCSC.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the dignitaries, followed by a minute of silence in honour of the late Vidya Jyothi Professor V. K. Samaranayake, the founder of the University of Colombo School of Computing. Dr. Athukorale delivered a speech welcoming all the dignitaries and the students present. The Vice-Chancellor addressed the gathering and provided some valuable insights into the student lifeat the University of Colombo. Professor Sonnadara addressed the gathering and elaborated on the collaboration between the Faculty of Science and the UCSC. Dr. Chamath Keppetiyagama (the Head of Internal Undergraduate Studies) presented an introduction to the Undergraduate degree programmes. Finally, Dr. Dinuni Fernando, the coordinator of the Orientation programme 2023 presented the vote of thanks concluding the ceremony successfully. In a noteworthy manner, the senior students of the UCSC entertained the audience with captivating performances, adding a touch of glamour to the event.

Convocation of External Degrees of the University of Colombo - Academic Year 2021

The Convocation of the External Degrees of the University of Colombo was held on the 12th of March 2023, at the Vidhya Jyothi Prof. V. K. Samaranayake Auditorium which is located at the University of Colombo School of Computing. This convocation celebrated the academic achievements of the graduands from three prominent external degree programmes, jointly administered by the University of Colombo School of Computing and the University of Colombo Cyber Campus





During this momentous occasion, a total of 207 students were conferred with the Bachelor of Information Technology degree, while 20 students were granted the Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Automation Technologies, and 40 students were awarded the Bachelor of Science in Financial Engineering degree.







The Convocation was graced by the presence of Professor H. D. Karunarathne, the esteemed Vice Chancellor of the University, who served as the chief guest for the event. In addition, distinguished attendees, including the Registrar of the University of Colombo, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, the Director of the Cyber Campus, the Director of UCSC, and the Deputy Director of UCSC graced the ceremony. Furthermore, key figures such as the EDC Coordinator of UCSC, Deputy Bursar - UCSC, Senior Assistant Registrar/Exams - UCSC, Senior Assistant Registrar/Cyber Campus, as well as other esteemed academic and administrative staff members from the University of Colombo School of Computing, were present to commemorate the occasion.



ICTer 2023

The 23rd International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer 2023) will be held from 7th to 10th November 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. ICTer is the successor to the International Information Technology Conference (IITC) held in Sri Lanka since 1998.

ICTer 2023 provides an ideal platform to the researchers and practitioners alike to showcase research and development activities carried out in the Computer Science and Information Communication Technology domains. 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 Information Communication Technology.

The keynote speakers of ICTer 2023 are,



Prof. Timothy Baldwin
Department Chair of NaturalLanguage Processing, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, United Arab Emirates

Prof. Peter Christen
School of Computing, National University, Australia





Prof. Patrick Olivier
Director of Action Lab, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

Prof. Thiemo Voigt
Professor of Computer Science, Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University





Prof. Italo Vignoli
A founding member of the Document Foundation and the Libre Office project/ the Chairman Emeritus of Associazione LibreItalia.



Dr. Ruvan Weerasinghe
Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo School of Computing, Sri Lanka

Mike Willburn
MITRE Corporation



High-quality papers accepted for presentation at the ICTer conference are potentially eligible for publication in a special issue of the Journal of the National Science Foundation (JNSF). Papers that are accepted to be presented at the conference, but not published in the JNSF, will be published in the ICTer journal.

This year, 250 final year undergraduate and postgraduate students who become victorious at the competition, “I am a Researcher” will be sponsored to attend the ICTer 2023.

Platinum sponsors for the ICTer 2023 will be LSEG, CAMBIO Software Engineering, Altria Consulting & WIA Systems Inc, Softlogic Information Technologies (Pvt) Ltd & and Dell Technologies. These distinguished sponsors will open up Innovative studios in the UCSC premises enabling those who are interested to explore. The conference will include several pre and post-conference workshops, conducted by top experts in the cutting-edge areas of Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology.



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