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PRATHIBHA



HOLY MASS



ANNUAL TRIP



STUDENT RESARCH FORUM



WEBINAR



MIYESI SENDEWA

Editorial

Welcome to the fourth Prathiba newsletter, highlighting activities and achievements of students of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.

We have had a busy few months since the end of the COVID pandemic and easing of social restrictions, with many activities taking place in the Faculty. It is heartening to note that our students are keen to actively participate in many of these events in the fields of sports, music, drama, and other extra-curricular activities, despite their busy academic schedules. We are also very happy to note the many awards and achievements of our students in diverse fields over the past few months.

We hope more students will become involved with the preparation of this newsletter in future.

Prof Shamila De Silva, Editor

Acknowledgement

We greatly appreciate the support given by the following persons in providing news and photographs.

Dr Manuja Perera

Prof Chamila Mettananda

Catholic Students Movement

Mr. Varnakulendran Anathiriyen

Ms. Tihara De Silva

Ms. Anjanika Diwyanjalee

Hindu Students Association

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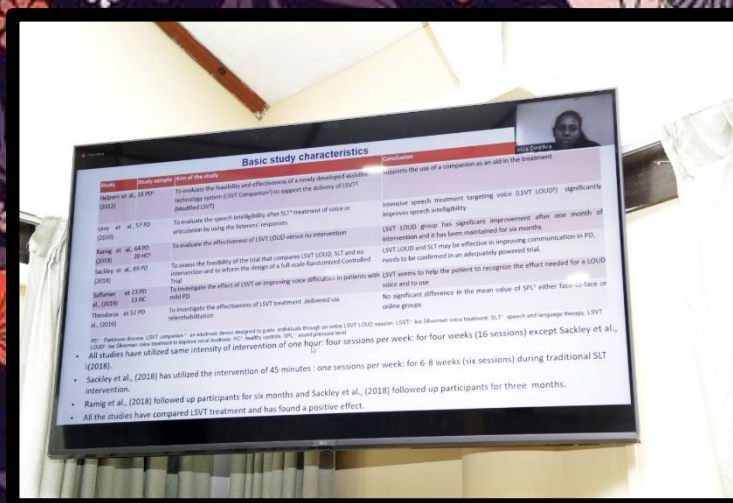
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InFocus 2022 student research forum

Batch 10 Speech & Hearing Sciences students in collaboration with the Centre for Disability Studies of the Department of Disability Studies organized a research forum to showcase student research. This was in response to working clinicians who requested for more access to current undergraduate research. The forum was held on the 6th and 7th of October 2022 at the Faculty Boardroom. The opening ceremony was graced by our Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, *Vidyajothi* Senior Professor Janaka de Silva, Professor Sachith Mettananda (Chairperson, Faculty Research Management Committee) and Dr. Dinushee Bakmeewewa (Head of Department), with our Dean Senior Professor Janaki Hewavisenthi joining us on the second day. We were honoured to have *Vidyajothi* Prof. Janaka de Silva as our keynote speaker and Professor Rajitha Wickremasinghe (Cadre Chair and Senior Professor of Public Health, Department of Public Health), Professor A. Pathmeshwaran (Senior Professor in Community Medicine, Department of Public Health), Prof. Mershen Pillay (Programme Leader: Speech & Language Therapy, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand; Honorary Professor, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) and Professor Barbara B. Shadden, University Professor Emeritus, Program in Communication Disorders, University of Arkansas, USA) as our invited speakers across the two-day event. The programme consisted of four research sessions of oral presentations, one discussion forum and two poster sessions. We are grateful for the technical support offered by our colleagues from the Audio-Visual Unit and the Health Data Science Unit as well as the Technical Officers of the Department of Disability Studies.





මියැසි සැදුව

2022



"මියැසි සැදුව 2022" was a cultural night organized by the Sri Lankan Catholic Students' Movement on the 28th of October at St. Anthony's Church Mount Lavinia. Students from various universities displayed their talents onstage, whilst forming new bonds and strengthening brotherhood amongst fellow colleagues.

The Students from CSM Ragama participated for this event showcasing their flairs through multiple items ranging from singing to dancing. This was quite the opportunity for the students to build their cultural talents.



Forming new bonds and strengthening brotherhood



SLCIM Future 2022 - 2nd Runner up

The 'SLCIM FUTURE' inter university internal medicine quiz 2022 organized by the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine was held on the 28th of September 2022. Twelve state medical faculties contested and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Kelaniya emerged as the 2nd runner up. The team comprised of students from the 28th batch and were under the guidance of Prof Chamila Mettananda.

The University of Kelaniya quiz team -

- Mr Kaveendra Pathirage
- Ms Hiruni Abeysinghe
- Mr Lahiru Chanaka
- Ms Madurangi Jayarathne
- Ms Pramesha Dilhari



THAI PONGAL 2023

Thai Pongal is a harvest festival which is widely celebrated each year by Tamils across the world. It is a tradition to thank Nature, the Sun, the earth, and cattle for giving a bounteous harvest. People worship God and the Sun by offering sweet Pongal, which is made with rice that has just been harvested. Distributing sweets among everyone and seeking blessings from elders mark the significance of the day.

Students of Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya celebrated Thai Pongal in the morning of January 22nd 2023 at the Basketball court. The celebration began with the lighting of an auspicious lamp and placing an earthen pot on the fire marking a traditional start, followed by colourful presentations of cultural programmes by the students.

The entire basketball court wore a festive look with colourful kolam, decorated pongal pots and sugarcane decorations. The students dressed in colourful ethnic wear enhanced the festive spirit.

The President and members of Medical Faculty Students union (MFSU) and students from all batches participated in this event.



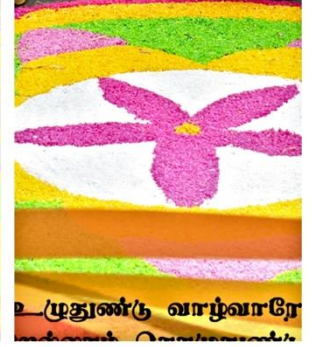
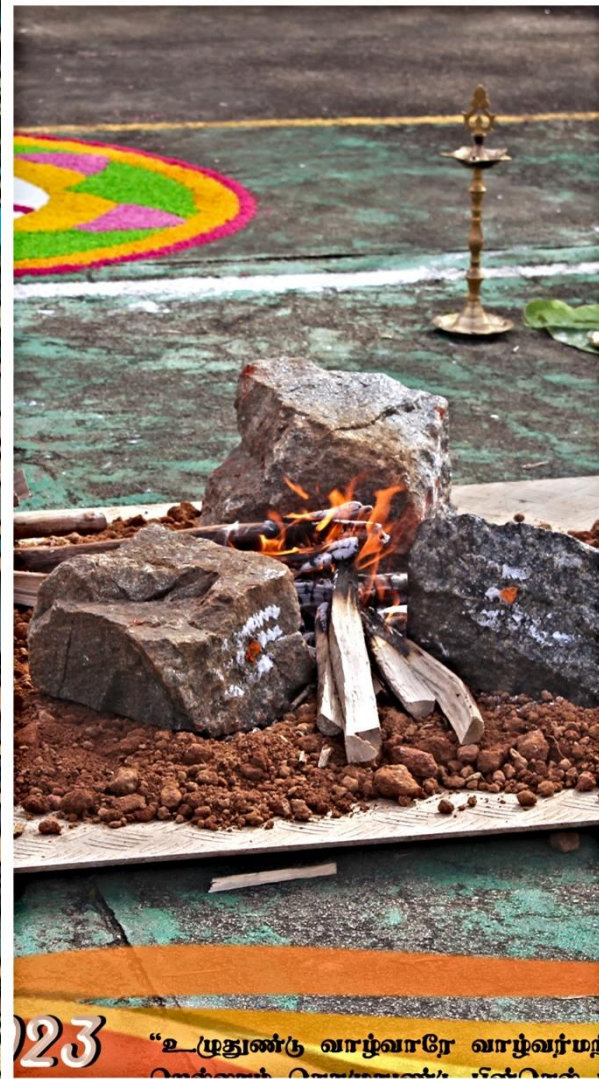
Cultural competitions like Kolam and many traditional fun games, along with making pongal were the significant events that were conducted during these celebrations, where students of various religions enthusiastically participated exposing their talents and exhibiting our true traditions and culture. As part of the celebration following pooja Sweet Pongal was distributed to everyone. Everybody left with great memories, marking the first celebration we had together as the day came to end with a vote of thanks.

We are grateful to our Dean gracing the inaugural Pongal celebrations held in over thirty years since the commencement of the Ragama Medical Faculty and for supporting our initiative of commencing a Hindu society. Our thanks are also due to the President of the MFSU - Ragama and other members for their contribution, guidance and encouragement. We also thank our brothers and sisters of various cultural backgrounds for their cooperation in making this celebration a resounding success.

Traditions and cultures are more about unity in diversity and power of celebrations. We are eager to conduct more such programmes in the future.

Hindu Students Association

Faculty of Medicine



January - Dhamma sermon



Enlightening the student population

Religion plays a major role in shaping a good citizen.

The Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya was established with the hope of enlightening the students of the faculty on the way of Buddhism. The Society engages in various activities in this regard one of which is holding a dhamma sermon every month, not only to reflect on the teachings of Lord Buddha but to use his teaching to shape the lives of students in a positive manner and invoke blessings on everyone.

To commemorate the monthly full moon Poya day the January dhamma sermon was held on the 26th in the new common room of the faculty. The sermon was delivered by Senior Lecturer Ven. Muwapetikehwala Pangnalo Thero of the University of Kelaniya. The sermon was enlightening and comforting to students exhausted with busy academic schedules. It was an evening of peace and healing.



Writing contest - 2022

The award ceremony of “Writers unleashed”, Inter- Medical and Dental faculty writing competition was held on 16th of November 2022. The competition was organized by the English Literary Association of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The winners were awarded with certificates by the Dean, Prof. Aloka Pathirana.

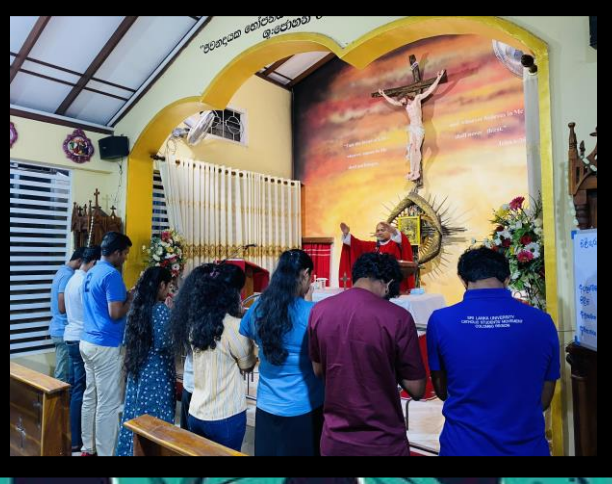


Nethra Theekshanari Silva, a 3rd year Speech and Hearing Sciences undergraduate of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, was placed first in the category of Creative writing at the ‘Writers’ unleashed – 2022’.

Nethra was also the winner of the inter-university article competition, “Edify 2021” organized by the Department of Industrial Management, University of Kelaniya. Her article “Establishing equity and accessibility in entrepreneurship” was published in the leading university business magazine ‘Exposition’ and blog last year. She has won many awards including state awards and all island championships as a writer. She has contributing to Sri Lankan Catholic newspapers and is currently writing for international disability magazine “Imagine World as One”.

Holy Mass

A Holy mass was held on the 22nd of November at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital Chapel to invoke blessings on students sitting their Final MBBS examination and on students sitting the Second MBBS Repeat and Part One Examinations. The mass was conducted by Rev. Fr. Saman Maximus and a special blessing was made afterwards. Spiritual guidance helps us to grow and become strong especially in difficult times such as major examinations. Through these blessings we hope our brothers and sisters sit the exams with confidence and perform to their maximum capacity.



'Sithru' (සිත් රූ), an inclusive art exhibition and advocacy programme was held at K-Zone, Ja-Ela on 24th September 2022. The event was organized by Batch 12 Speech and Hearing Sciences through the Centre for Disability Studies of the Department of Disability Studies, in collaboration with the Supported Employment Unit of the Ayati Centre.

With the participation of Speech and Language Therapy and Audiology Batches 12 and 13 students and members of the Ayati 'Young Adults Chat Group', the event marked the beginning of what we hope will become an annual awareness programme focusing on inclusion.



The event included an art exhibition, screening programme and advocacy programme.

1. An awareness programme regarding speech and language disorders and the importance of speech and language therapy.
2. An awareness programme regarding major diseases and disorders affecting hearing and the importance of audiology.
3. An awareness programme on disability rights.
4. A hearing screening campaign.
5. A speech and therapy screening campaign.

Sithru... 2022



The art exhibition featured a collection of artworks by young adults with disabilities and our students supporting the 'Young Adults Chat Group' making it an inclusive art exhibition.

The event created an opportunity for the members of this communication skills development group to use their communication skills with new people, to work in a team and to learn key lessons in entrepreneurship. All the proceedings from the sale were given to the artists themselves, giving each young person a sense of achievement and an appreciation for paid work.



Our Christmas with Prithipura Residents...

Christmas is all about showing kindness, affection, and spreading happiness, but unfortunately, not everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas spirit with loved ones because of the circumstances they find themselves in. Prithipura community is such a place, which provides a home to some of the most vulnerable Sri Lankans, children and adults with disabilities who have little or no family contact.

Since Christmas is a time of goodwill and sharing, Batch 12 Speech and Hearing Sciences students of the Department of Disability Studies organized an evening Christmas party on the 20th December 2022 for the Prithipura adult residents. With the guidance of our academic advisor Dr. Isuru Dharmarathne and with the participation of Ms. Niluka Gunewardena, Dr. Shyamani Hettiarachchi and Mr. Sumudu Ginigaddara our speech therapy demonstrator, students of Batches 12 and 13 were able to share a warm and joyous Christmas evening with the Prithipura adult residents.





The event was filled with fun and laughter, and consisted of a range of Christmas games, live music, performances from the residents and our students, much dancing and Christmas goodies, made complete by the arrival of Santa Claus with a bagful of Christmas presents. We did not forget to appreciate the very caring staff of Prithipura giving them an opportunity for rest and relaxation, an appropriate reward for their hard work.

The Prithipura residents in their joyous participation, boundless energy and vibrancy reminded us all of the importance of 'living in the moment' and of being grateful for our many blessings.

**To share a warm
and joyous
Christmas evening**



Annual Unit Trip 2022

A unit trip was organized by the Catholic Students' Movement of the Faculty of Medicine on 16th September. Fifty happy trippers comprising of MBBS, SHS, and OT batches embarked on the journey. They hiked the mountain called 'Peacock Hills' in the morning. The hike was tiring yet glorious with breath-taking and picturesque views. They had lunch and then had a dip in the Galpotha Waterfalls and returned in the night to Ragama. The aim of this trip was to build unity and strengthen bonds between members of the CSM family, while having a lot of fun.



Shramadana Program



Students of the “Green Society” participated in several Shramadana campaigns which were held at the Faculty vegetable gardens, in keeping with the second Sustainable Development Goal of Zero hunger.



