



University of Colombo Sri Lanka

Association of Science Faculty Batch of 1974

Thorathuru No: 5, March 2020



Photography & Design by Nihal Basnayake

Contributions to Thorathuru

Thorathuru is our Association's news-letter published periodically and circulated to the Science Faculty Batch of 1974. Please forward your thoughts, down memory lane stories, photographs, experiences, achievements and articles to Niranjana Selvadurai (Jn.selvadurai@gmail.com).

Current Office Bearers

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Prof. Gayanath Fernando (USA)

Sarath Wijekoon (SL)

Y.I.M. Hameez (SL)

Ajith Ariyaratne (SL)

Tissa Perera (Aus)

Dr.Gamini Vedage (USA)

Avanthi Jayathilaka(SL)

Sirisoma Nanayakara(SL)

History and Background:

During the inaugural batch reunion held in 2015, the need to establish a formal association was identified. The initial focus was to facilitate the establishment of a perpetual scholarship fund for students entering the Science Faculty of University of Colombo.

This association was setup and registered as a formal entity in 2016. The first AGM of the Association was held on the 4th of Feb 2018 at the Hotel Ocean, Colombo.

Primary Objectives:

- To organise activities promoting relationship among its members and their families
- To assist the science undergraduates of Colombo University in their studies by financial or other means, as agreed by the Management of University of Colombo
- To assist the Management of University of Colombo in carrying out the development activities related to either academic or welfare of the science undergraduates
- To assist its members and their families in emergency or distress situations

Batch Reunion 2021 – In the Planning

Much water has passed under the Kelani bridge since we had our first batch reunion in 2015. Lakshman (Lucky) Perera and Sarath (Peira) Peiris smiling in the image below are sadly no longer with us. In fact, Sarath Peiris was one of the pioneer Committee Members of our Association and the only member representing our Bio Batch in the committee. Some of us have hung up our boxing gloves after long careers while others still box-on gamely (or should we say lamely!). New interests, grand kids, and our lives go on...

The second batch reunion in Sri Lanka is in the planning. 2021 will be the year. After some deliberation **14th and 15th of August 2021** have been identified as suitable the dates. (No, the dates picked were not based on *nakath* or auspicious times)

Please email your thoughts and feedback on **Batch Reunion 2021** to Sisira Mayadunne (don.s.mayadunne@gmail.com).



Batch Mate Information Register

We are maintaining an information register of our batchmates which includes name, email address, location of residence and other contact details. Please email your details to secretary Dharmasiri (asdkaru@gmail.com). If you are aware of batch mates that do not receive our emails please request them to provide us with their relevant details.

Scholarship Fund - Financial Summary (as at 31 January 2020)

No. of Batch Mate Donors: 27	Total Donors: 32
Sampath Bank Fixed Deposit	LKR 3,218,183.75
Sampath Bank Transaction Accounts	LKR 156,213.54
Sampath Bank Rotary Funds	LKR 228,618.00
Funds in Rotary Australia	AUD 4,949.00

These funds are contributions from batch mates, Science faculty graduates from other batches and well wishes.

Scholarship Payments per month: LKR 40,000

No. of Students supported: 8

How to Donate

Life Membership: LKR 5000.00

Donation Amount: Based on your preference

Bank Name: Sampath Bank PLC, Nawala Branch, 143, Nawala Road, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

To become a Member deposit the money to the Membership Account as detailed below.

Name of the Bank Account: Association of Colombo Science Faculty Batch - 1974

Bank Swift Code: BSAMLKLM

Account No: 008260000072

To make a "Donation" deposit the money to the Donation Account as detailed below.

Name of the Bank Account: Association of Colombo Science Faculty Batch - 1974

Bank Swift Code: BSAMLKLM

Account No: 108261002087

When you make a deposit please send an email to Wasantha and Dharmasiri indicating the nature of your donation (if you want to be an anonymous donor or a life member, etc).

Wasantha: rmampage@yahoo.com Dharmasiri: asdkaru@gmail.com



Current Scholarship Holders

The Association of Science Faculty Batch of 1974 has commenced a program by which under graduate students experiencing financial hardship are offered scholarships through a selection process. Listed below are the current recipients:

Miss Chathuri Hansika Madushani
Dunukanage – Ratnapura (2016)

Miss R.D. Chathurika Madhumali
Dilrukshi - Bandarewela (2016)

Miss O.V.J. Chandula – Elpitiya (2017)

Miss L.R. Piyumi Harshanee –
Weligama (2017)

Mr R. Harithas - Kaluwankerny (2018)

Miss H.P.M. Dilhara – Galle (2018)

Mr Dileshan Prasad Buddhika –
Lunuwatta (2019)

Mr K. Kavithas - Point Pedro, Jaffna
(2019)

The Summary of Discussion

We intend increasing the total number of scholarships to nine by selecting three new undergraduates in 2020 after our first two recipients complete their studies.

We aim to invite the two graduating students to join the association as members, as it is one of the strategies to ensure this scholarship program is perpetual.

When we have our next reunion, we intend invite the scholarship recipients that have completed their studies.

Meeting with Scholarship Holders

The committee met the scholarship holders on 8 February 2020, as part of the ongoing process of fostering strong relationships with them and understanding their issues & problems when pursuing higher studies. The value of developing communication and presentation skills was emphasized to participants.



The First US patent to University of Colombo

by Nathasha De Alwis, 09 Jan 2020 | 12:21 am

(From: <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2020/01/09/the-first-us-patent-to-university-of-colombo/>)

A team of academics of the Faculties of Science and Medicine from the University of Colombo received the first US patent for their discovery of a compound that shows significant anti-cancer activities.

What was the invention?

The team from UOC has discovered a compound extracted from the mushroom *Fulviformes fastuosus* to show significant anticancer activity against Rhabdomyosarcoma, which is an aggressive and highly malignant form of childhood cancer.

According to UOC the invention is pertinent to “A novel method to isolate a potent anticancer compound inoscavin A from a Sri Lankan terrestrial mushroom, *Fulviformes fastuosus*, to treat rhabdomyosarcoma cancer”.

This novel method can be effectively used for the preparation of any antitumor medicinal preparation using inoscavin A.

The uniqueness of this compound, Inoscavin A, is that:

- It is active at nanogram levels where the control drug was active at mg levels
- Non-detectable toxicity to normal cells

The teams' future plan is to embark on new areas of Biotechnology research based on natural product and anticancer research that are relevant to the development of the industrial base in Sri Lanka within an internationally competitive landscape.

Team of Inventors:



Dr. Dilusha Fernando



Prof. Ravi Wijesundera



Prof. Preethi Soysa



Dr. Chandrika Nanayakkara



Prof. Dilip de Silva



Dr. Achyut Adhikari

Congratulations to our batch mate Prof. Ravi Wijesundera



The association plans to offer a Mentoring Program to undergraduates. It will initially assist scholarship recipients and then extended to other undergraduates in the faculty.

Mentoring programs help to develop and prepare undergraduates for the next steps in their lives and careers. They provide a formal mechanism for valuable advice and guidance to be exchanged between senior leaders with a wealth of experience in their chosen fields.

Mentoring can guide young graduates in articulating their goals, and assist them in achieving them. A Mentor will be assigned a Mentee and they will work together in achieving the objectives.

We have explained to some of the undergraduates who are recipients of scholarships of the Mentoring process and objectives. They are keen to have a Mentor who could guide them. Mentoring could be face to face or using Voice or Video communication using tools such as WhatsApp, Viber etc. The anticipated time that you may need to put aside would be an hour or two a month at most.

If you are interested in being a Mentor please contact Tissa Perera (Kalpage_perera@yahoo.com or +94433824366, Viber, WhatsApp).

Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2020

The Association has been awarding 2 scholarships since its inception in 2016 till 2019. From 2020 this will be increased to 3.

Over the next two months, 3 new scholarship recipients will be selected from the 2020 student intake. Scholarships will be awarded to these new recipients at a simple ceremony which is scheduled for **30 April 2020**.

All current and previous scholarship recipients, non-Member Donors and well-wishers, will be invited for this event.

Most of all, we request the highest possible participation by Members with their spouses and children!!

Reflection

Reflection

Colours

Two men of colours white and black

Battling as foes, lay dying on a track

Their colour and creed mattered none

For blood that gushed had colours one

- Niranjan

Our Website in sight



The Association Website is currently under development. It will facilitate the convenient sharing information among members, batchmates and well-wishers.