



University of Colombo Sri Lanka

Association of Colombo Science Faculty Batch of 1974

Thorathuru No: 7, November 2020



### 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 Tissa Perera  
Kalpage\_perera@yahoo.com

### Current Office Bearers

#### President

Dharmasiri Karunaratne

#### Secretary

Sisira Mayadunne

#### Treasurer

M. R. Wasantha

#### Vice President

Prof. Gayanath Fernando

#### Assistant Secretary

Avanthi Jayathilaka

#### Assistant Treasurer

Lakshman Rajapakse

#### Past President

Dr. W. Ramasinghe

#### Committee Members

Amal Wahab (Aus)

Dayantha Kurukulasuriya (USA)

Dr.Gamini Vedage (USA)

K Upasiri (SL)

Kanthi Wijetunge (SL)

M.M.M.Hilmi (SL)

Nimal Rajakaruna (Aus)

Sarath Wijekoon (SL)

Tissa Perera (Aus)

Y.I.M. Hameez (SL)

### Association News

The Association had a plan to convert the scholarships that are awarded to be perpetual scholarships. The intension was to handover sufficient amount of funds that would allow the payment of scholarships using interest generated from Fixed Deposits. As a initial step the Association intends handing over four scholarships to the university in about two years when we think we may have sufficient amount of money. This could be made possible only through the generosity of our batch mates and well wishes.

Currently we are supporting ten undergraduates; two of them will complete their studies in March 2021.

The Association would like to see more batch mates interact with the association and is considering opportunities to create more social interaction among batch mates.

The Association has had three meetings and an AGM using video technology allowing batch mates from Sri Lanka, Australia, USA and New Zealand to participate.

USA committee members have started a fund raising activity to boost the Association current funds.

Association is developing a Logo and a website .

## Primary Objectives of the Association:

- 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 organise activities promoting relationship among its members and their families
- 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

## Next Batch Reunion

At this stage its difficult plan for another reunion until the current epidemic is under control and all restriction are removed. If you have any thought of how and where we should organize our next batch reunion please drop an email to [secretary@uocsc74.com](mailto:secretary@uocsc74.com)

## Can you assist ?

We would like to connect with all batch mates. If you are in touch with any batch mates that do not receive the Association emails, can you please ask them to send an email to [secretary@uocsc74.com](mailto:secretary@uocsc74.com)

## The Summary of Scholarship Status

Currently the Association provides scholarship to eight undergraduates. Due to Covid there was a delay in advertising and receiving 2020 intake students' applications for a scholarship. All applications have been received and are being reviewed by the committee and another two students will be selected before end of November. Two of the current scholarship recipients will conclude their studies in March 2021,



Name	Hometown	Intake
Piyumi Harshani Loku Ralage	Weligama	2017
O.V. Jayani Chandula	Elpitiya	2017
Halpage Pramodya Manori Dilhara	Galle	2018
Harithas Ravikumar	Chenkalady	2018
Kumar Kavidhas	Jaffna	2019
Dileshan Prasad Buddhika	Lunuwaththa	2019
Lakshika Raveendranathan	Madampella	2019
U.Tharuka Janith Roopasingha	Karaveddy	2019

### **Scholarship Fund - Financial Summary (as at 30 Sep 2020)**

Total funds Collected – RS 4,549,696.01

Batch mates Contribution - LKR 2,452,385.55

Other University Graduates Contribution – LKR 463,910.46

Well Wishers Contribution – LKR 1,833,400

Scholarship Payments per month: LKR 40,000

No. of Students supported: 8

Amount handed over as Scholarships LKR 969,400

### **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 Maya indicating the nature of your donation (if you want to be an anonymous donor or a life member, etc).

Wasantha: [rmampage@yahoo.com](mailto:rmampage@yahoo.com)      Maya: [secretary@uocsc74.com](mailto:secretary@uocsc74.com)

## History The University of Ceylon



The University of Ceylon was established by the State Council on April 1942. The first Vice-Chancellor of the new University, Sir Ivor Jennings, hoisted the flag on July 1942 at the College House where his office and the central administration were located. The nucleus of the University was formed by amalgamating the Ceylon Medical College founded in 1870 and the Ceylon University College founded in 1921, both of which were incorporated into the University. Therefore, the history of the university goes back to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Medical College owed much to the generosity of philanthropists such as Mudaliyar S. Rajapakshe, Mr. Charles Henry de Soysa, Muhandiram A. Simon Fernando Wijegooneratne and Mudaliyar Vimala Gunawardana. In 1888, the Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery (LMS) of the College was recognized to produce fully qualified medical practitioners.

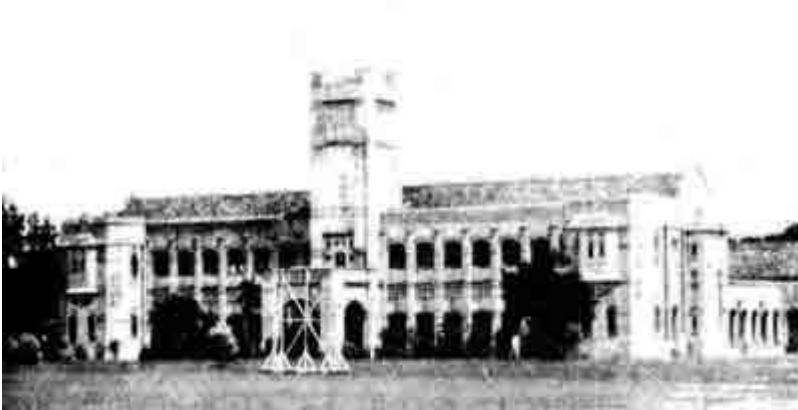


In 1920, the government purchased “Regina Walauwa”, now named “College House” on the recommendation of Sir Edward Denham. The University College was formally opened in January 1921. College House, the then “Regina Walauwa” which is today considered a national heritage site, was a family house that belonged to Arthur de Soysa, the grand son of the philanthropist Sir Charles Henry de Soysa. The library, established through Sir P. Arunachalam’s gift of his late son, Mr. A. Padmanabha’s books, was housed in a room at College House. The old Royal College buildings were taken over in 1923 and the library moved from College House to the Villa Venezia an Observatory provided in the College grounds. On the recommendation of the College Council, the Government declared a land in Buller’s Road, Colombo, as a University site in March, 1924. A Draft University Ordinance was prepared in June 1925. In early 1926 controversy arose over the location of the University. The Governor’s committee in February 1927 reported in favour of the Uyanwatte site in the Dumbara Valley, near Kandy and recommended that the University should be of the ‘unitary’ type in teaching and residential facilities.

Sir P. Arunachalam expired two months before the Legislative Council accepted the University in principle in February 1924. Mr. Marrs, the first Principal who gave nearly eighteen years of his life to the development of the College and the creation of the University of Ceylon, retired in July 1939.

## The University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

By 1950 the University of Ceylon had a reputation as an important centre of excellence in the Commonwealth. The Higher Education Act of 1966 established a National Council of Higher Education (NCHE) and later in 1972 under the University of Sri Lanka Act No. 1 of 1972 all universities were brought under one umbrella and made Campuses of a single university established as the University of Sri Lanka. The University of Ceylon, Colombo was named the Colombo Campus of the University of Sri Lanka. This system prevailed until 1977. University autonomy was weakened and as a result, a new Act was introduced in 1978. Under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 all Campuses of the then single University became independent Universities. Accordingly, the **University of Colombo**, Sri Lanka regained its autonomy in 1978.



It had Faculties of Medicine, Arts, Science, Education and Law. A Faculty of Graduate Studies was created by an Ordinance of the UGC in 1987, to further strengthen post-graduate education. Subsequently, the Faculty of Management and Finance was established. The Sri Palee Campus of the University was established by a Gazette notification in 1996. Institutes with financial autonomy were created by the earlier Act of 1972. When the single university was dissolved in 1978, the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, the Institute of Workers' Education and the Institute of Indigenous medicine were affiliated to the University of Colombo. The Institute of Computer Technology (ICT) was established in 1987. The University now has 7 Faculties with 41 Academic Departments, a Campus, a School, 6 Institutes and 5 centres.

The University has recognized the importance of linking with alumni especially in industry and the private sector, through the concept of voluntary mentoring and internal placements facilitated by the Career Guidance Unit. Subsequently, the ICT was renamed as the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) in 2002 and the IWE was renamed as Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA) in 2006.

The University of Colombo today is a National State University that offers education to some of the best students in the country who enter its portals with hopes and aspirations for a better future.

Courtesy of University of Colombo

*Association of Science Faculty Batch of 1974.*

*Dear Scholarship Donors,*

*I am honoured to be one of the recipients of your scholarship. This note is in appreciation for the generosity your association has shown, not only to me, but also to all other recipients in UOC. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support to undergraduates who need it most. By awarding me this*

*money scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of university, learning. It is not only financial help for me. Specially, I want to thank to Tissa sir and Vedage Sir. Your Scholarship had opened a door and the prospect of a brighter future and played a key role in shaping me into a successful person in future. Donors like you make life brighter for us and I can only hope that one day, I too will be in a position to bring a smile to another needy student. Thank you again and I hope that in the future I can be in position to pay this opportunity forward to someone else and make a difference in students' live as you have done with mine.*

*Sincerely,*

*R D C M Dilrukshi*

*2014/2015 Batch.*

**Our Website <https://uocsc74.com>**



The Association Website will facilitate the convenient sharing information among members, batchmates and well-wishers. Please check out and if like to get access please send an email to [secretary@uocsc74.com](mailto:secretary@uocsc74.com) with your name Telephone No

## **Some Photos from the Seventies**

