

A Report on THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA Organized by the Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA)

August 24, 2024

Kailasapathy Auditorium and Students' Complex, University of Jaffna

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna were an outstanding success, exceeding all expectations. The Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA) meticulously planned the event over several months, ensuring its flawless execution from start to finish. The remarkable dedication and tireless efforts of over a hundred FoSAA members played a pivotal role in making the celebrations an extraordinary achievement.

A synopsis of the events is included here in Chronological order

The event began with the grand entrance of the esteemed guests of honour former deans Professor R. Kumaravadivel and Professor K. Kandasamy and their spouses, celebrated and warmly welcomed by alumni, faculty, staff and students.

The Master of Ceremonies, Mr. R. Sharveshwara, captivated the audience with his eloquent and unadulterated Tamil, which was truly music to our ears. He



seamlessly guided the event, announcing programmes and participants, keeping track of time, and ensuring a well-orchestrated and engaging experience for all attendees. Assisting him on stage during the ceremony was Professor P. Thayaparan (USA), the founding Secretary of FoSAA.

This report follows the chronological sequence of events at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, held on 24th August 2024 at the Kailasapathy Auditorium, under the esteemed patronage of Vice Chancellor Professor S. Srisatkunarajah.

The event commenced with a solemn two-minute silence, observed in remembrance of the faculty members and martyrs who had paved the way for a brighter future.





The traditional lighting of the lamp was performed by the esteemed chief guests, including former Deans of the Emeritus **Professors** Faculty, Kandasamy Kumaravadivel, along with their wives; Vice-Chancellor Professor Srisatkunarajah and his wife; former Vice-Chancellor Professor Mohanadas; Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Ravirajan; Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Raghuram; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Surendrakumar; Dean of the Faculty of Business, Professor Kengatharan; Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Kaneshwaran; Council member and alumnus Mr. Uthayakumar; President of FoSAA, Mr. Gunaseelan; Secretary of FoSAA, Professor Gita Sathianathan; and Hindu College Principal and Chairman of the Golden Jubilee Action Committee, Mr. Senthilmaran. Additionally, Dr. S. Mahesan, representing the former academic staff of



the faculty, and Mr. Arunagirinathar, representing the former non-academic staff, were also cordially invited to light the oil lamp.

The Welcome dance was performed by Smt. Priyadharshini's students of Narthana Kshetra dance Academy very gracefully, with melodious voices singing Madurai's Saint Arunagirinathar's Athiththiru muthai tharu paadal. Thanks are due to Messers Priyadharshini Vaheesan, Adithya Jeyapalan, Arumainathan Shanmugapriyan, Sivagnanasundaram Jude, Kanishkuru Sharma and students at the dance school of Mrs. Priyadharshini Vaheesan.

Children of the guests were entertained in another hall with dance, drama and music under the guidance of Mr. Sasivarman, Mr. Sethuvarman and Kalanidhi Devananthan.



Speakers and esteemed guests of honour Professor Kumaravadivel, Professor Kandasamy, and their spouses, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Srisatkunarajah, the Dean / Faculty of Science, Professor Ravirajan and Mr. V. Gunaseelan, President of FoSAA were invited to be seated on the stage.

Speeches were then delivered thanking the past and present deans, vice chancellors,





professors, Lecturers and staff for their dedicated, unwavering, selfless sacrifices and yeomen service rendered to the students and the faculty of science at the University of Jaffna. They also addressed the past political strife and the issues of the day, with calls for support, unity and resources to further the goals of the Faculty of Science. Speakers also elaborated the importance of instilling values that uphold virtue in the education system and emphasized the importance of giving back to the Alma Mater.

The speakers included Mr. V. Gunaseelan, Dr. Gita Sathianathan, Mr. Senthilmaran, Professor R. Kumaravadivel, Professor K. Kandasamy, the Dean/Faculty of Science, Professor P. Ravirajan and the Vice Chancellor Professor Srisatkunarajah.

Mr. V. Gunaseelan, President of FoSAA emphasized the vital role education plays in shaping the character of the next generation. Hon. Ponnambalam Ramanathan's foresight in creating this great Institution has reaped numerous rewards for the cultural and cerebral upliftment of the community. He thanked the teaching and non-teaching faculty profusely for their magnanimous and profound service to the students and community. As Government funding is



uncertain during these times, he called on Alumni to become members of FoSAA and rally support for the programs implemented by the faculty.





Secretary of FoSAA Dr. Gita Sathianathan spoke about the determination and courage of the Administrators, Faculty members and staff who have been brave in the face of danger and crisis situations and have made this Institution a world-renowned University despite the numerous setbacks. The Institution has globally acknowledged scientists who bring fame and







name to the Institution with their research and student initiatives. She spoke of the war times in the late 1980 and 1990's with student arrests, deaths, etc. and the sacrifices of the faculty that kept the University functioning, providing a safe haven for students. The University has been built back brick-by-brick with unwavering sacrifice and dedication of the staff. She expressed deep gratitude to Faculty members who sacrificed lucrative careers abroad for the sake of uplifting the students and providing thousands of students with a life, livelihood and career.

Mr. Senthilmaran, Chairman of the Organizing committee and

the Principal of Jaffna Hindu College spoke next of the importance of education in our society. He pointed

out the conflict of interests in the community and the lack of unity thereby. Although there is a lot of effort towards building strong families, there is a lack of effort in community building. By providing a sound education, we can foster unity, brotherhood, nobility of character and strength within the community. As



science graduates we have a duty to the society to create a forward looking, united and wise community, away from materialistic traits and commercial traps that ruin the lives of youth.



Honourable Vice Chancellor, Professor Srisatkunarajah, eloquently discussed remarkable scientific contributions of the alumni in the fields of science, engineering, technology. His thought-provoking which seamlessly intertwined science metaphysics, encouraged the audience to contemplate the fundamental reasons for existence. He emphasised the crucial role of universities in bringing joy to society. Professor Srisatkunarajah highlighted that archaeological

finding in Jaffna, as ancient as those in Keezhadi, Tamil Nadu, underscore the deep-rooted educational culture in the region.

He further noted that the knowledge-driven world of the 21st century is propelled by advancements in computer technology and the emerging fields of research flourishing in universities. He described Science, Technology, and Engineering as the "Trident" that offers protection and progress. In a heartfelt tribute, he acknowledged the invaluable contributions





of professors such as Thurairajah, Kunaratnam, Mageswaran, Kandasamy, Kumaravadivel, Vigneswaran, Murugavel, and many others, who have laid the foundation of knowledge, quenching our thirst for wisdom through their sacrifices.

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA) members were invited to honor the esteemed Professors and Guests of Honor. They were garlanded, offered a golden shawl (Ponnaadai Porthal), and awarded a Plaque embedded with a miniature Bi Centenary commemorative monument. The audience gave a standing ovation throughout the honoring ceremony voluntarily.





FoSAA committee members Dr. V. Puvanendran (Norway) garlanded Professor Kumaravadivel, and Dr. Varathrasa Thiviyanathan (USA) offered the Ponnadai to honour Professor Kumaravadivel. Mrs Kumaravadivel was garlanded by Dr. Gita Government Agent Mr. Sathianathan (USA). Vethanayagam awarded the bi-centenary commemorative Plaque to Professor Kumaravadivel.

Surveyor General of the Northern Province Mr. Sivananthan garlanded Professor Kandasamy, Professor. Sinnathamby Karuna offered Ponnadai to Professor Kandasamy and Professor S. Sivananthan (Australia) awarded the bi-centenary commemorative plaque to Professor Kandasamy. Mrs. R Mahesan



garlanded Mrs. Kumaravadivel.



Professor Srisatkunarajah was garlanded by Mr. Senthilmaran, Alumni member Mr. Kumaran awarded the bicentennial Commemorative award to Professor Srisatkunarajah. Alumni Mr. Sadique, registrar of the Moratuwa University was called upon to honour the Vice Chancellor with Ponnadai.



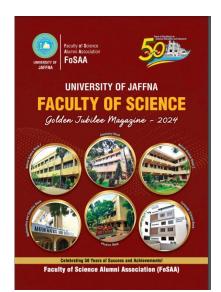


Mrs. Vigneswaran, wife of late Vice Chancellor and former Dean/Faculty of Science, Professor Vigneswaran and their two children were honoured with the bi-centenary plaque by Mr. V. Gunaseelan, President of FoSAA.

The Dean of the Faculty of Science, senior Professor P. Ravirajan was honoured by Mr. V. Sivananthan, Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna branch.



The Magazine release followed, with Professors Meena Senthilnanthanan, Gita Sathianathan and Mrs. Sivasakthy Mahesan offering the first copies of the Magazine to the esteemed guests of honor seated on the stage.



Professor Meena Senthilnanthanan gave a speech to commemorate the release of the bi-centenary Magazine. She thanked the guests of honor, FoSAA members, members of the magazine committee, trustees and council members of the University. In addition to describing the Chapter contents, she praised the Magazine as a product of a collaborative effort by FoS and the Alumni Association, to uphold the shared vision

and to place on record the shared past five decades of our journey. Short eats and soft drinks were served to the entire Audience during the Magazine



release by staff volunteers. Electronic copy of the Magazine will be made available on the alumni site.



The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Senior Professor P. Ravirajan, highlighted the faculty's historic achievements, significant milestones, and its profound contributions to science education. He warmly welcomed alumni from across the globe who had gathered to celebrate 50 years of dedication, resilience, and commitment to academic excellence. Acknowledging the challenges faced by the faculty, including the unsettled conditions and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic, Professor





Ravirajan emphasized how these trials have strengthened the faculty, shaping it into a centre of world-class education and research.

He spoke passionately about the newly formed alumni relationships, stressing their importance in strengthening the bonds between graduates and the university, while fostering valuable networks for student success and professional excellence. He commended the Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA) for organising this historic Golden Jubilee Celebration—the first grand reunion of its kind at the University of Jaffna. Reflecting on the faculty's legacy, Professor Ravirajan noted how its graduates have become leaders in academia, industry, and administration, bringing immense prestige to their alma mater. While honouring the past, he expressed great confidence in the future, calling for continued support, collaboration, and engagement. He extended heartfelt thanks to the FoSAA executive committee and all contributors for their unwavering dedication in making this momentous occasion a resounding success.

He also acknowledged the alumni's participation, especially those who traveled from across the country and abroad, making this celebration even more special. Looking to the future, he encouraged continued alumni involvement in supporting the growth and success of the Faculty of Science.

50th Memorabilia commemorating the Anniversary of the Faculty of Science were on sale outside the dinner venue in the Student Union Building. Commemorative and logo inscribed Magazines, mugs, Pens, and other items were made available to the guests at nominal prices. They will be made available online the **FoSAA** Website at https://sci.jfn.ac.lk/alumni/.





Mrs. Priyatharshini Vaheesan and students of the Narthana Kshetra staged a dance drama titled Veerabadhraswamy that was very energetic, awe inspiring and well received by the audience. This was followed by a very melodious Instrumental Music event by Science and Arts Faculty students combined, with Violin by Mr. Pathmanathan Shyamkrishna, Veena by Mrs. Kirupalini Sayendan, Flute by Mrs. Dhanenthrini, Mrudangam by Mr. Aranraj, Tabla by Mr. Janil Sankar, and vocalist and





musician Mr. Arunachalam. Guests were invited to dinner at the beautifully decorated student Union building following the program.

A dance program titled 'Aham Puram vaal Maravarhal by Narthana Kshethra senior students of Ms. Athithya Jeyapalan, Nilani Sivapalan, Vishali Thayalan, Karshika Sathananthan, Surabhia Ranjithkumar, Kishonika Mohanadas and Nivedhana Prabakaran wowed the audience.



Academic Staff who celebrated 25 years or more of service to FoS were honoured with a commemorative plaque, namely, Sivasanthy Professor Kuganathan (Fisheries), Professor Meena Senthilnanthanan (Chemistry), Professor S. Thavaranjith (Botany), Professor Sriharan (Chemistry), Prof. Nithyagowri Ratnasabapathy (Zoology), Prof Venkatesh Laxman (Zoology), Prof. Thabotharan (Computer Science), Prof Namagal Krishnapillai (Botany),

Professor Noble Surendiran (Zoology), Dr. S. Mahesan (Computer Science), Vice Chancellor Professor S. Srisatkunarajah (Mathematics), and Dean Professor P. Ravirajan (Physics).







This was followed by honoring 36 senior and retired non-academic staff who had rendered 25 years or more of sincere dedicated service to the Faculty of Science. The honorees were awarded a commemorative plaque by distinguished Alumni and eminent leaders in the community.





Golden Jubilee Celebration 24.08.2024

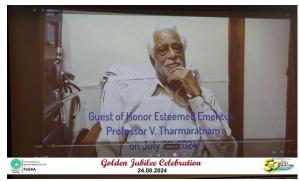


	Name	Academic entities	Status
1.	Mrs. R. Mahesan	Computer Unit	Retired
2.	Mr. Arulanandam Lakshman	Chemistry	Retired
3.	Mr Kandiah Sribandakaran	Zoology	Retired
4.	Mr. B. Narandran	Dean's Office	In service
5.	Mr. Veerasingam Jegathambikaipakan	Zoology	Retired
6.	Mr. Apputhurai Thaneswaran	chemistry	Retired
7.	Mr. Nellinathan Sabananthar	Botany	Retired
8.	Mr. Sinnathamby Thangarajah	Zoology	Retired
9.	Mr. K. Kanagalingam	Physics	Retired
10.	Mr. M. Rajendram	Computer Science	Retired
11.	Mr. M. Khalingarajah	Dean's Office	Retired
12.	Mr. Kanagalingam Somasegaram	Physics	Retired
13.	Mr. R. Jeganathan	Maths & Stats	Retired
14.	Mr. Ponnuthurai Vimalananthan	Zoology	Retired
15.	Mr. Nadarajah Bakeerathan	Zoology	Retired
16.	Mr. P. Amirtharajah	Computer Science	Retired





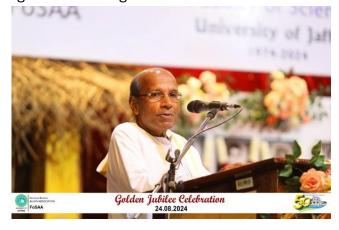
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17.	Mr. Karthigesu Kokulabalan	Maths & Stats	Retired
18.	Mr.P. Uthayakumar	Chemistry	Retired
19.	Mr. N. Tharmakulasingam	Maths & Stats	Retired
20.	Mr. Arunagirinathan	Botany	Retired
21.	Mrs. K. Brinthaban	Dean's Office	Retired
22.	Mr. K. Ambikapathy	Zoology	Retired
23.	Mrs.Gowry Shanmuganathan	Maths & Stats	Retired
24.	Mr. M. Yogendran	Chemistry	Retired
25.	Mr. V. Sellathurai	Physics	Retired
26.	Mr. Krishnasamy	Botany	Retired
27.	Mr.T. Thillainathan	Zoology	Retired
28.	Mr. S. Nanthakumar	Chemistry	Retired
29.	Mr. Vijayaratnam	Chemistry	Retired
30.	Mr. S. Santhirasegram	Chemistry	Retired
31.	Mr.I. Navaratnarajah	Chemistry	Retired
32.	Mr.A. Arulselvaratnam	Chemistry	Retired
33.	Mr. E. S. Thayaparan	Fisheries Science	Retired
34.	Mr. E. Amirthalingam	Zoology	Retired
35.	Mr. R. Selvaratnam	Botany	Retired
36.	Mr. N. Jeyachandiran	Physics	Retired



poor health.

Former Dean of FoS and acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, Professor R. Kumaravadivel spoke in English and Tamil to the audience sharing his wisdom, inspiration and unique experiences as Dean and Professor of the Department of Computer Science during tumultuous times. He praised the faculty as

Esteemed Professor V. Tharmaratnam was incapacitated and unfortunately could not attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. However, a video capturing his message of his good will and best wishes for the event was broadcasted to the audience. He expressed his regret at not being able to attend the event due to







second to none in the Island. He acknowledged the contributions of Professors Kanagasabapathy, K. Kunaratnam and others who toiled day-in and day-out, leading the way to establish the foundations of this great institution. The welfare of the Institution was their highest priority. They instilled a sense of service for the public good by their example. He spoke of the losses during the war days and the ways in which the faculty upheld the institution, through self-sacrifice, dedication and altruism. The stalwart leaders of the past have contributed to a largely principled and values-based. approach to administration. He emphasized the importance of placing academic freedom, autonomy and independence above narrow considerations of self-development



Former Dean and Competent Authority of university of Jaffna Professor K. Kandasamy spoke of establishing the Faculty of Science at the Jaffna College in Vaddukoddai in 1974, at the very inception of the University of Jaffna. He taught every subject offered at the Department of Mathematics, from classical mechanics to quantum mechanics, establishing an excellent reputation for Mathematicians graduating from the University of Jaffna. He led the way for graduates by example of his outstanding

research and work and inspired students to gain higher education, molding scientists into great researchers and ambassadors for science.

The Alumni Association generously donated a photocopier to the Science Faculty Student Union. A cheque for LKR 455,000 was presented by the President of FoSAA, Mr. V. Gunaseelan, along with the Secretary, Dr. Gita Sathianathan, and the Treasurer, Dr. P. A. Amalraj, to facilitate photocopying and printing services at concessional rates for the students of the faculty.





The final vote of thanks was delivered by Professor Eswaramohan, the founding President of FoSAA. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed Guests of Honour, the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean, and the members of both the academic and non-academic staff. He also extended his thanks to the President and Secretary of FoSAA, as well as the FoSAA Executive Committee members, Dr. Charles, Professor Ramanan, Chairman Senthilmaran, the





Editorial Committee, Dr. Gita Sathianathan, Professor Meena Senthilnanthanan, Mrs. Mahesan, Professor Ravirajan, Andra Printers, the advertisers, Lucvaa, Iyamiddun, the Bank of Ceylon, and fellow alumni who served in various sub-committees.

These included the Outreach Committee, Fundraising Committee, Golden Jubilee Action Committee, Publicity Committee, Magazine Committee, Theme-Song Committee, Event Management Committee, Food Committee, Musical Concert Committee, Blood Donation Committee, Financial Management Committee, Guest Honouring Committee, Academic Staff Honouring Committee, Non-Academic Staff Honouring Committee, Participant Registration Committee, Mementos Preparation Committee, Sports Committee, Cultural Competitions Committee, and School-Level Competition Committee.

Professor Eswaramohan also made special mention of Mr. Sharveswara, the coordinator, and the volunteers, as well as Mr. Ahilan of the Blood Bank at Jaffna Teaching Hospital, the organisers of the dance and music programmes, Mr. Suthakaran (Canada), donors and sponsors, Treasurer Dr. Amalraj, SSU volunteers, event coordinators, and cricket match organisers Dr. Prashanthan and Mr. Lambotharan. He further acknowledged the contributions of the Director of the Physical Education Unit, Mr. Ganeshananthan, Dr. Devanand for his role in active theatre, Mr. Kumaran of the Meals Committee, and the alumni and their families for their unwavering support and participation in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Following the vote of thanks, the guests were invited to a dinner hosted by the Student Union, where they were treated to a musical programme organised by Mr. Suthakaran, former President of the Jaffna University Alumni Association (JUAA) Canada.

A sumptuous complementary dinner was provided and enjoyed by all those attending the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Photos Courtesy of Dr. Velmurugu Puvanendran, Alumni from Norway.



The Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA) extends its heartfelt gratitude for your generous support and contributions towards making our Golden Jubilee Celebrations a truly memorable event. We are deeply appreciative of all who attended the function in person.





We would like to express our special thanks to the following groups and individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this milestone celebration:

- 1. **Event Coordination and Organizing Committees**: A special thank you to the 150+ alumni, students, and faculty members who worked in collaboration, managing 20 organizing committees to bring everything together seamlessly.
- 2. **Golden Jubilee Magazine**: Thanks to those who played a key role in compiling articles, departmental write-ups, biographies of esteemed former deans and department heads, batch photos, advertisements, and more, creating a 250-page commemorative magazine that captured the essence of our history.
- 3. **Fundraising and Sponsorships**: We are grateful to those who actively fundraised for the event through social media, networking with alumni, and securing advertisements and sponsorships to support the celebration.
- 4. **Event Logistics and Hospitality**: We deeply appreciate the efforts put into organizing an event that welcomed over 1,000 alumni and their families, as well as current and former faculty and students, from across Sri Lanka and the world. The coordination of meals and accommodations on campus was an essential part of the event's success.
- 5. **Honoring Distinguished Individuals**: A heartfelt thanks to those who helped honor the former deans and staff members who have served the Faculty of Science for 25 years, presenting them with commemorative plaques.
- 6. **Entertainment and Performances**: We are grateful to the performers who organized vibrant musical and dance programs that entertained attendees, adding to the celebratory atmosphere of the event.
- 7. **Blood Drive**: Thanks to all involved in organizing the blood drive held before the celebrations, making a meaningful impact on our community.
- 8. **Decor and Ambiance**: We appreciate the creative minds behind the thematic decorations in the auditorium and dining areas, which enhanced the overall atmosphere and spirit of the Golden Jubilee.
- 9. **Social media and Membership Drive:** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the membership drive, successfully adding over 800 new members, including 100 lifetime members, to FoSAA. Your efforts have played a vital role in strengthening our community.
- 10. **Traveling from Overseas**: We are especially grateful to those who traveled from abroad to attend and contribute to the event in person.





11. **Volunteers and Performers**: Many thanks to the volunteers and performers who took part in various tasks, ensuring everything ran smoothly, and those who provided entertainment during the event and dinner.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who volunteered and contributed in numerous ways, making the Golden Jubilee Celebrations a tremendous success. Your dedication and hard work were truly appreciated and made this event a remarkable achievement for the Faculty of Science Alumni Association.

Thank You!

Dr. Professor Gita Sathianathan, Secretary, Faculty of Science Alumni Association,
Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna

Videos and photos from the Golden Jubilee Celebration organised by FoSAA can be accessed here:

Video: Watch here

Photos: View here

Faculty of Science Alumni Association

Golden Jubilee Celebrations!

August 24th, 2024

KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM

University of Jaffna 4 PM to 8 PM followed by Dinner

Enjoy Dances, Music, Talks Cultural Events, Reunion, and more here!

